

Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association Membership**Report Purpose**

To present Council with the final documents from the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) and to seek Council approval on membership and representation.

Recommendations

1. THAT Strathcona County request membership in Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA); and
2. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Executive Director of Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) requesting Strathcona County become a member; and
3. THAT Councillors Glen Lawrence and Bill Tonita be put forward as the Strathcona County Primary and Alternate Board Members respectively on the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA), for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and continuing throughout the term set out by Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) bylaws, but not to exceed the organizational meeting in 2021, provided they continue to serve as a Councillor throughout the term of the appointment; and
4. THAT Councillors Glen Lawrence and Bill Tonita act as the Primary and Alternate voting representatives respectively at the meetings of the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) members, for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and continuing throughout the term set out by Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) bylaws, but not to exceed the organizational meeting in 2021, provided they continue to serve as a Councillor throughout the term of the appointment.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships
Governance Requirement

Report

On September 4, 2019, the BHBRA was incorporated as an Alberta society pursuant to the *Societies Act*, RSA 2000, c S-14. This entity is the successor to the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI). A small number of persons signed the application to create the society, and the BHBRA is now working through a transitional period to, among other things, confirm membership and its Board of Directors.

As part of this transitional period, Administration has been working with the BHBRA leadership to transition various responsibilities from the County to BHBRA. These transition matters include working to establish BHBRA as the convenor organization for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Biosphere Reserve Designation, working through a process related to future expenditure of grant funds held by the County for qualifying BHBRA projects and initiatives, and the transfer of the BHI non-grant related funds to BHBRA.

At present there is no membership fee for the BHBRA. Section 6.0 of the BHBRA Bylaws indicates that any membership fee would be ultimately approved by the BHBRA members. A copy of the BHBRA Bylaws and of the BHBRA Application to Form a Society are attached to this report as Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2. This matter is brought before Council so that Council can determine whether the County will become a member of the BHBRA.

Council and Committee History

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| March 5, 2019 | Council endorsed membership in the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) Society be approved, subject to Council's approval of the final BHBRA Bylaws and Application. (2019/45). |
| May 8, 2018 | Council endorsed the formation of a Part 9 Company to be known as Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Limited, and that administration work with the municipalities of Beaver County, Lamont County and Leduc County to finalize incorporating documents for consideration by the respective Councils. (2018/166). |
| July 4, 2017 | Council directed that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write a letter to Beaver County, Lamont County and Leduc County indicating Strathcona County's support for the establishment of a Part 9 Company for the Beaver Hills Biosphere |

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Planning and Development Services, Legislative and Legal Services and Financial Services will work with the BHBRA on the transition.

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Enclosures

- 1 Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association Bylaws
- 2 Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association Application