

From: Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug

Sent: September 10, 2020 2:18 PM

Subject: Wetland Replacement Program MOU follow-up question

Mayor & Council,

Thank you for supporting the partnership between Strathcona County and Alberta Environment and Parks to implement the Wetland Replacement Program. As a follow-up to your question during the Council presentation and debate, we can provide the following information on historical wetland losses within Strathcona County and the potential funding projections from Alberta Environment and Parks.

From 2008 to 2016, approximately \$2.3 million was collected by Ducks Unlimited Canada from developments occurring in Strathcona County. This is an average of \$287,500 per year. Since 2017, funds were being provided to the province as the transition from Ducks Unlimited Canada was underway, therefore we do not have an accurate account since then.

Alberta Environment and Parks has indicated that there are currently 54 ha within the County that have been prioritized for replacement, which totals just over \$1 million in fees collected. However, the province is focused on the replacement area (ha) outstanding, and less focused on the fees collected. As well, replacement fees continue to be collected, so the fund can change daily, and as they start to expend some of those funds, it will fluctuate. Therefore, annual project projections from Strathcona County are important for the province to be able to create an annual budget. The province will ensure that there is enough budget to cover all MOU agreements for the given year.

To summarize, there are significant funds accessible for replacement wetland design and construction on our landscape. We look forward to presenting you with our first project in early 2021!

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug, M.Sc., P.Ag., P.Biol.

[Manager, Environmental Planning](#)

Strathcona County