

Blackmud Creek Multi-Stakeholder Initiative**Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval for an application to the Alberta Community Partnership Fund Program.

Recommendation

THAT Strathcona County's participation in the application for a Watershed Drainage Plan, to be submitted by Leduc County on behalf of members of the Blackmud / Whitemud Water Planning Group (Edmonton, Strathcona County, the City of Leduc, County of Leduc and the Town of Beaumont), be approved.

Council History

December 8, 2015 – Council approved the 2016 Consolidated Operating Budget for Municipal, Utility, Library and Pioneer Housing Foundation Operations.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Applying for provincial or federal funding programs for eligible infrastructure demonstrates strong fiscal management.

Governance: Working collaboratively with other municipalities in the region on this ACP grant application will allow Strathcona County to achieve efficiency through partnerships in stormwater management.

Social: n/a

Culture: n/a

Environment: A Watershed Drainage Plan will ensure protection of Irvine Creek's stability as well as the receiving watercourse (North Saskatchewan River).

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: n/a

Summary

The BWWPG is a cooperative municipal initiative prompted by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and facilitated by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. The members are: Leduc County, Strathcona County, City of Edmonton, City of Leduc, and Town of Beaumont.

Large portions of the Blackmud / Whitemud Creek watershed are expected to be intensively developed in the foreseeable future. In particular, this will be in the corridor along Highway 2 from the City of Edmonton to the City of Leduc and the International Airport as well as areas to the east between the City of Edmonton and Beaumont. Before it will issue the required Water Act Approvals, AEP requires assurance that the cumulative effects on the watershed are understood and will be appropriately mitigated and managed. It would also prefer to issue a single "fenceline" approval for the projected development area, or major portions of it, rather than for individual land parcels as they are developed.

An application has been made to the ACP grant program for the funding required to proceed with this project (\$500,000). If the application is successful, Strathcona County would receive \$23,333 grant funding towards a total commitment from the County of \$33,333 (\$10,000 net cost). Utilities operating budget has funds to support this work as part of our regular updates to master plans for water, wastewater and stormwater.

The purpose of this project is to prepare a Watershed Drainage Plan in accordance with the Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta and the Alberta Wetland Policy (September 2013). A subsequent project or projects will then prepare Master Drainage Plan(s) for the development areas based on the direction provided by the Watershed Drainage Plan.

Enclosure

1 Blackmud Creek Drainage Basin Map

