

Special Council meetings are scheduled outside of the regular Council meeting schedule when emergent and timely issues arise.

### **Delegations**

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council to speak on a particular issue, or with whom Council has requested a meeting.

#### Dr. J. Beck—Fluoridation of Public Water

- Council has recently been debating the pros and cons of continuing fluoridation of the County's drinking water.
- Council met with Alberta Health Services representatives at the June 16, 2015 Public Works Committee meeting to discuss their evidence supporting the benefits of fluoride and recommendation to continue adding fluoride to the County's water supply. In order to improve and maintain the dental health of children in the community, particularly children from lower socio-economic background, AHS recommends that fluoridation be continued in Lac La Biche.
- At the July 21 2015 meeting, Council met with Dr. James Beck, Professor of Medical Biophysics at the University of Calgary to discuss his efforts to lobby the City of Calgary to discontinue fluoridation. The City of Calgary discontinued fluoridation in 2011.
- Dr. Beck questions the ethical validity of fluoride as a "compulsory preventative medicine" since most of the population derives no benefit from it, and questions the long-term effects of fluoride exposure.
- Council directed Administration to return with more information on the benefits and risks of potable water fluoridation, including study results from a currently ongoing Edmonton/Calgary study. The study is comparing the dental health of Grade 1 and 2 students in Edmonton and Calgary—Edmonton fluoridates its water supply, Calgary does not.

### **New Business**

#### Fire Smart Project Update

- In 2014, the County applied for and received provincial funding for three FireSmart projects.
- The first project will update the existing draft Lac La Biche County Wildland/Urban Interface Plan. A Registered Professional Forester or Registered Professional Forestry Technician will be

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- contracted to prepare the document which will be a comprehensive Firesmart plan to reduce the threat of wildfire development in the County.
- The plan will be used to request and support further FireSmart funding from the province.
- The second project will create a 100-metre brush reduction buffer on the north and west sides of the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
- The final project will see up to eight hectares of County-owned property north of Deer Ridge targeted for brush reduction in order to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- Total provincial funding for the three projects total \$220,500.