

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.

Lac La Biche Regional Humane Society

- The Lac La Biche Regional Humane Society Board Chair met with Council to discuss the society's future plans and to discuss partnership opportunities with the County.
- The Humane Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization on October 2, 2014. Their purpose is to enable the provision of humane treatment of animals who are suffering neglect or mistreatment through both education and direct intervention.
- The stray/feral cat problem in Lac La Biche was discussed. The Humane Society has plans to intervene by starting a foster program for stray cats and to trap, neuter and return feral cats to their original environment.
- The society is also looking at creating a foster program for stray dogs.
- The Humane Society discussed the various ways the municipality can partner with the organization and made three specific requests:
 - That Council consider amending the County's Animal Control Bylaw to a Responsible Pet Owner Bylaw (inclusive of cats).
 - That Council consider donating or providing land for a permanent regional animal shelter to be operated by the Human Society.
 - That Council consider insuring the society and its programs under the County's insurance umbrella.

New Business

Land Use Secretariat Invitation

- Lac La Biche County is one of two municipalities invited to take part in a regional planning compliance course provided by the Land Use Secretariat.
- All municipalities located within the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) boundaries will be required to implement the regional plan and provide a statutory compliance declaration by September 15, 2017.
- Council accepted the invitation to take part in the compliance course that will aid the County in preparing for the implementation of the regional plan. As one of the two pilot municipalities in the compliance course, the County will be able to provide feedback to the Land Use Secretariat

on the implementation process and act as a regional plan implementation champion for the Lower Athabasca region.

Hamlet of Plamondon Area Structure Plan (ASP)

- The County is working on an Area Structure Plan for the hamlet of Plamondon.
- The purpose of the ASP is to provide a land use policy framework that will guide future growth and development in the hamlet of Plamondon. An ASP usually includes permitted land uses in a particular area and the location of roadway and public utility infrastructure. It is used to make informed decisions about future growth in the area.
- The Plamondon ASP project started in 2011, when public input sessions were held. A draft ASP was created and revised to include the guidelines in the County's Municipal Development Plan, which was adopted in 2013.
- Council met with Plamondon ASP consultants this week and decided that since a few years had passed since the start of this project, it would be necessary to increase the scope of the project to include newer developments that lie on the outskirts of the hamlet.
- Administration will work with consultants to expand the boundaries included in the Plamondon ASP.
- Once complete, a draft Plamondon ASP will be presented to the public for their input at future open houses.

South Oil Sands Regional Coalition Report On Supply Chain Development Opportunities

- The South Oil Sands Regional Coalition, of which Lac La Biche County was a member, was given funding assistance from the Alberta Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education to complete a study regarding the challenges and opportunities facing oil sands supply chain companies in the region in 2013.
- A third party group conducted the study, which looked at the experiences of existing supply businesses, reasons for locating in the South Athabasca Oil Sands Region, the degree to which oil sands affects business and opportunities for expansion and other industry-specific data.
- The study is complete and Council was provided with highlights from the report. Council directed Administration to supply the full report for their review.

Draft Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Amendments

- County staff and consultants have been working for the past year to update the municipality's Land Use Bylaw. The County's Land Use Bylaw is a zoning bylaw that governs what kinds of land use activities can happen in a particular area and the requirements for all types of development, including industrial, commercial and residential structures and uses.
- At the end of January, the County held two open houses—one in Lac La Biche and one in Plamondon—to get feedback from the public about the changes proposed for the Land Use Bylaw.
- Consultants compiled the feedback received from Council, the public, and other stakeholders. They prepared some potential revisions, recommendations and options for Council's consideration that would better meet the needs of the community based on the feedback that was received and presented them to Council.
- One of the major concerns expressed about the proposed changes to the LUB by local industry was the issue of work camps in the County. In the first LUB draft, Council discussed having all work camps located 30 kilometres outside the major hamlet boundaries, and 10 kilometres outside the smaller hamlets and rural subdivisions.
- Local industry and business owners made it clear during consultations that this large buffer zone would impede their ability to effectively run their businesses.
- In response to the needs of local business owners, Council will consider removing the 30-kilometre buffer zone, and continuing to allow work camps in industrial areas.
- Downtown commercial parking was another important issue for local business owners. In the draft LUB, concerns were raised that the parking requirements, particularly for retail development, were too high and would be a deterrent to new business or expansion of existing businesses. Local business owners expressed concern at the amount of parking required for downtown development, and the lack of available room to create the required parking spaces in the busy downtown commercial areas of Lac La Biche and Plamondon.
- Council discussed options for easing the burden on downtown commercial development, for example, reducing the required parking from 3.5 stalls to 1 stall for every 100 square metres of development.
- Council also discussed possible changes to the Cash in Lieu option—where businesses pay a certain amount in lieu of creating the required parking spaces for their new or renovated business.
- Council will be discussing these and other issues in future meetings and providing direction to the consultants about what changes should be made to meet the needs of residents. Before the bylaw is given final approval, Council will be holding a formal public hearing, and the public will be advised of the proposed changes in advance. This should happen over the next few months.