

Topic: Wabamun Lake Ice Heaves 2018

Introduction:

On January 8, 2018, Administration was notified by members of the Wabamun Watershed Management Council that there had been some significant damage to properties surrounding Wabamun Lake due to some abnormal levels of ice heaving the week before. While ice heaves causing various levels of damage is typically an annual occurrence, this is **an extraordinary event**.

Background Information:

Various member of staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture, Agriculture Services and Public Works attended a joint meeting in the Summer Village of Seba Beach on January 22, 2018. Representatives from the Summer Village, Wabamun Watershed Management Council and the Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) were all in attendance to **investigate** the damages on the west end, and to discuss next steps, particularly as it pertains to gaining permission from AEP to repair damages to property.

Subsequently, tours of Parkland County owned lands around the lake took place, both on the north and south side of the lake. Various levels of damage were noted on the various parcels, with some of the more significant ones being flagged for potential remediation. Many of the parcels had minimal impact, and will likely return to their natural state in the spring. **However**, it was felt that other areas may require remediation for **the following** reasons:

1. Repairs to damaged lands left in a dangerous state, impacting access to the lake or impacting adjacent property owners; **and**
2. Prevent erosion into the lake.

It was further determined that **an additional visit** of Parkland County owned lands would be required in the spring, to gain a better understanding of the impacts and level of damage as well as to develop a proposed action plan.

The Communications Department assisted in reviewing and revising information intended to **be circulated** to the public regarding the event and steps to take to obtain permission to repair the damage that occurred. Parkland County posted information and links to the AEP website for our residents to easily find the information and forms they required to complete as part of the approval process.

Information was also shared via a direct **mail-out** to adjacent **landowners** to Wabamun Lake, as well as through social media outlets and the County website. Residents were directed to a specific webpage dedicated to the event with all of the information relative to **three (3)** scenarios:

1. Residents own property directly adjacent to the lake (required to work with the Province directly).
2. **Parkland County owns land between the residents property and the lake (register concerns with Parks, Recreation and Culture).**
3. Parkland County owns lands adjacent to the lake that have been damaged resulting in a change of access to the lake (register concerns with Parks, Recreation and Culture).

Parks, Recreation and Culture was contacted by approximately **forty** (40) landowners, of which **fifteen** (15) owned lands directly adjacent to the water and **twenty-five** (25) were either adjacent to Parkland County owned lands and/or were concerned about Parkland County owned lands that were previously used to access the lake.

Staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture, Public Works, Engineering, Community Sustainability, Agriculture Services and Enforcement Services revisited all of the sites over two **(2)** different days in May, 2018 and met numerous times subsequently to review the information gathered and develop a proposed implementation plan. The intention was to leave the properties as natural as possible while ensuring that any major access changes, safety and/or erosion concerns were addressed. The proposed plan of action relative to Parkland County owned lands is attached along with high level cost estimates, included contingency funding should the proposed work cost higher than anticipated or additional action be required.

It should be noted that Administration has been in contact with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency and have filed an application for Disaster Recovery Assistance. **While the status won't be known for a number of** months, it was felt it was prudent to file the claim, not only for Parkland County lands but potentially for damages to primary residences of Parkland County landowners.

Analysis:

Administration is recommending the proposed plan of action as it is felt it provides a good balance of addressing safety and/or erosion concerns as well as major changes to access while maintaining a balance of allowing nature to take its course. Should Council approve the plan of action, Administration would work to communicate with residents and begin the work as soon as possible.

Alternatives:

- I. Council not approved the proposed plan of action as proposed.

Conclusion/Summary:

The ice heaving that occurred in 2018 is an extreme event that is not typical and has required a fairly significant amount of staff time across various departments. The collaborative effort has allowed for an action plan that balances safety and erosion concerns with the desire to leave lands as natural as possible.

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