

Topic: Parkland County Enforcement Services Water Safety Initiative Pilot Project

### Introduction:

On February 21, 2012 Council directed Administration to seek enforcement authorities under the Canada Shipping Act and conduct patrols on selected waterways throughout the summer of 2012.

### Facts (Background Information):

February 21, 2012 Council directed Administration to do marine patrols on a pilot project basis and report back to Council in the fall. Community & Protective Services obtained enforcement authority under the Canada Shipping Act through Transport Canada. The original target was two patrols per month May – September. Fire Services was directed to provide the watercraft and the appropriate trained operators. Transport Canada trained the Community Peace Officers.

### Analysis:

Parkland County Fire Services provide the watercraft and trained operators. Enforcement Services used one on-duty officer and one off-duty officer, (paid overtime) to conduct the patrols. The initial bodies of water identified were: Jackfish Lake, Mayatan Lake & Mink Lake.

- June 30, 2012 – Jackfish Lake
  - o 11 boats were checked
  - o 5 written warnings were issued (2 – lifejacket, 2 - license, 1 no distress equipment)
  - o 1 liquor ticket
- July 1, 2012 – Wabamun Lake
  - o 14 boats were checked
  - o 9 written warnings were issued (1 – careless operation, 4 –license, 2 – vessel registration, and 2 liquor)
- August 18, 2012 – Mayatan lake
  - o Fire Services unable to attend – patrol cancelled
- August 31, 2012 – Wabamun Lake
  - o Enforcement Services partnered with Alberta Fish & Wildlife
  - o 9 vessels were checked
  - o 4 written warning were issued under the Fisheries Act
  - o 2 vessels were stopped for careless; Alberta Fish & Wildlife Officer arrested both for suspected impaired operation (alcohol)
  - o 1 liquor ticket

- 1 Environmental Enhancement & Protective Act – improperly dispose of waste
- 1 Promise to Appear for careless operation of watercraft
- September 8, 2012 – Jackfish lake
  - 15 vessels checked
  - 5 “Positive Tickets” were issued to youth wearing lifejackets
  - 6 written warnings (4 – operator license, 2 vessel registration)
  - 2 liquor tickets
  - 1 Promise to Appear – careless operation of water craft

Enforcement Services had hoped to conduct 10 patrols, only four actually occurred. Three with Fire Services and one with Fish & Wildlife. Illegal activities at Range road 23 pit, Range Road 33, and the Pembina River kept staff extremely busy through the summer, add to this summer is the prime vacation time. All these factors prevented Enforcement Services from conducting more than four patrols. The summer time challenges have been and are expected to be similar each year.

### Alternatives:

1. Council direct Administration to discontinue the Pilot Project.
  - a. Rationale; Parkland County does not have sufficient staff to maintain marine patrol activity.
  - b. The RCMP and Fish & Wildlife do have authority to provide enforcement on waterways and do, when resources permit, engage in that enforcement activity.

Estimated Cost: None

2. Council direct Administration to continue the pilot project for a second year, to gather more data during a second boating season.

Estimated Cost: Cost absorbed as part of annual Department Operating Budget.

3. Council direct Administration to continue marine patrols on a go forward basis purchasing a boat and trailer, utilizing current staff.

Estimated Cost: \$55,000 (\$32,000 Boat, \$23,000 Training)

4. Council hire additional staff to implement a S.A.V.E. Unit (Snowmobile, All-Terrain, Vessel, Education/Enforcement), as well as purchase of necessary equipment and training.
  - a. An additional officer is already being proposed as part of the 2014 budget process.

Estimated Cost: \$140,000 (\$85,000 staff, \$55,000 boat/training)

### Conclusion/Summary:

In conclusion, Administration supports the discontinuation of the pilot project, based on current staffing level, summer time demands. Enforcement on water bodies is a role for the RCMP and Fish & Wildlife.

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