

Date: November 1, 2013
To: Mayor and Council
Copy: Pat Vincent, CAO
From: Martin Frigo, Long Range Planner, Planning & Development Services
Subject: **Sturgeon River Watershed Partnership**

In April 2013, Parkland County was contacted by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and the City of St. Albert. This contact was to discuss a partnership between Sturgeon River watershed municipalities to develop a Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan and municipal partnership arrangement. A significant component of the northern half of Parkland County is located in the Sturgeon River Watershed area (see attachment 1).

Since April 2013, Parkland County, along with other watershed municipalities have met regularly to develop a partnership Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR, along with the proposed partnership, builds on the successes that the Watershed Alliance has had in preparing the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River, and the Vermillion River Watershed Management.

Administration supports the creation of the Sturgeon River Watershed Partnership and Terms of Reference. The Partnership and Terms of Reference supports several Parkland County initiatives:

1. Environmental Conservation Master Plan (ECMP) Update - Administration is currently updating the County's ECMP. Partnership findings and technical information provided by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance can be used to accurately map and identify sensitive areas near the watershed.
2. Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) – Partnership findings and technical information would support county-wide (non-development related) sustainability initiatives for Parkland County including the planned 2014 update to County's ICSP.
3. Municipal Development Plan (MDP) – the MDP re-write begins in 2014. Collaboration between watershed municipalities and the Watershed Alliance will assist Administration in creating development policies that reflect the sensitivity of the Sturgeon Watershed.
4. Parkland County Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) – the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan (once complete) can act as a means to promote the County's alternative Land Use Services Program as a non-regulatory approach for achieving the County's conservation goals on private land located in Parkland County.

Administration also supports a County staff member to sit on the partnership Technical Subcommittee.

Financial contributions toward the Partnership, as well as a completion date for the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan are unknown at this time.

Att. 1 – Sturgeon River Watershed area

Att. 2 – Sturgeon River Watershed Municipal Partnership Terms of Reference

/Al McCully, General Manager, Development Services
Paul Hanlan, Manager, Planning & Development Services