



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

### Participation in an Alberta Community Partnership Grant – Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

#### Introduction:

To participate in an Alberta Community Partnership Grant to complete data analysis and background projects in support of the completion of the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

#### Facts (Background Information):

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On February 11, 2014, Council confirmed Parkland County's participation on the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance. The ultimate purpose of the group is to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Sturgeon River, and to provide advice to participating member municipalities on how to implement findings from the Watershed Management Plan.

#### PURPOSE

There are four supporting (background) projects proposed to be completed under this grant application, all of which will provide additional information needed to complete the Sturgeon River Watershed Plan. Projects are anticipated for 2016, and will provide information on how to protect and improve water resources and natural areas within the Sturgeon River watershed.

#### Analysis

The Sturgeon River Watershed is under growing pressure due to urbanization, rural residential development, recreational use, industrial development and agricultural activities that are located adjacent to the river and in the watershed.

Completion of projects identified in the grant application will help the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (and participating municipalities) gain a thorough understanding of the extent and impact of land use decisions on water resources and watershed functions. These projects, once complete, will provide core information needed to support the Watershed Alliance and member municipalities as they complete the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

#### **GRANT APPLICATION**

The Summer Village of Silver Sands will act as the project lead for the grant application.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION PROJECTS**

The Alberta Community Partnership Grant application anticipates the completion of four (4) key projects:

1. “*Sturgeon River Watershed Natural Areas Review*” would provide an inventory of all natural areas within the watershed including environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands and riparian areas, and provide a preliminary assessment of features such as biodiversity, ecological health and habitat fragmentation. This report would allow identification and prioritization of areas in need of restoration or enhancement, or protection through policy or bylaw changes.

2. "*Sturgeon River Water Quality Review*" would integrate and assess existing water quality information, identify monitoring needs and provide guidance to support the improvement of water quality within the watershed. This report could assist in future municipal planning matters as it considers the effects of all land use decisions on water quality.
3. "*Sturgeon River Hydrological Review*" would support the water quality review by integrating and assessing existing information on water supply and demand, identifying future demand, and providing guidance to support the planning and long-term management of water resources in the watershed. This information would be vital for municipal, regional and provincial planners charged with managing future growth pressures in the area.
4. "*Overview of Gravel Operations in the Sturgeon River Watershed*" would provide a review of current gravel operations and a preliminary assessment of the cumulative impacts of this activity.

### Conclusion/Summary:

Participation in this Alberta Community Partnership Grant will assist in the completion of four (4) documents needed to support the completion of the Sturgeon River Watershed Plan. These projects will also provide needed guidance to the Sturgeon River Watershed Allegiance, participating municipalities, and the Government of Alberta to support planning for sustainable growth and the protection of water resources in the Sturgeon River watershed.

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