



June 21, 2016

Parkland County Mayor and Council
53109A HWY 779
Parkland County, AB, Canada, T7Z 1R1

Re: 2016 ACP Grant Cost Sharing

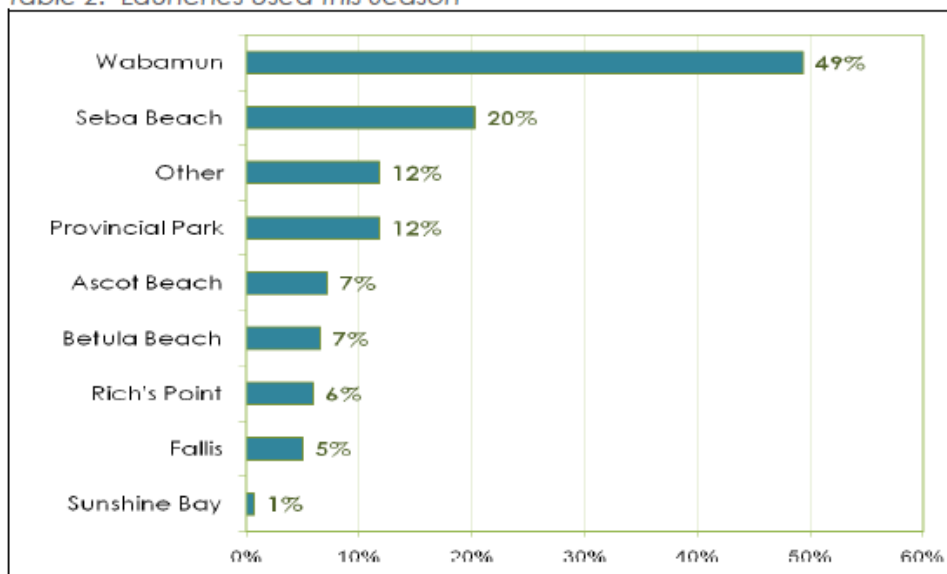
Mayor and Council,

In 2012 Parkland County commissioned EDA Collaborative Inc. to carry out a study of Wabamun Lake Boat Launches. The study, completed in May of 2013, was precipitated by ever increasing demands for recreational boating access to Lake Wabamun. The study provided an inventory of existing opportunities, an analysis of what had been completed and recommendations for improvements required moving forward. The advisory group consisted of Parkland County, members of affected Summer Villages, First Nations, the Village of Wabamun along with Alberta Environment and Trans Alta Generation.

Half of the respondents surveyed for the study had used the Village of Wabamun boat Launch, by far the highest percentage of all launches on the lake.

Over three-quarters (78%) of respondents have launched a boat onto Lake Wabamun this year. Almost half (49%) used the launch in the Village of Wabamun.

Table 2: Launches Used this Season



'Considering the Wabamun launch, almost three –quarters (73%) of users cited the quality of the launch itself as a reason to use it more frequently than others. The water depth (64%), distance from home (26%), and existing support amenities (15%) were also mentioned.' (May 2013 Wabamun Lake Boat Launch Study, P. 17)

'Based upon traffic, the present amenities, and the ability to expand, the recommended location for enhanced launching is at the Village of Wabamun.' (May 2013 Wabamun Lake Boat Launch Study, P. 25)

Recommendations coming out of the study stated that the Village of Wabamun should:

- A. Increase the number of launches in conjunction with the redevelopment of the public pier
- B. Expand existing parking and improve vehicle circulation to accommodate increased use

The study further recommended that partners in these improvements should consist of the Village, Parkland County along with the Provincial and Federal Governments. (May 2013 Wabamun Lake Boat Launch Study, P. 49)

Based on the recommendations of the Study, commissioned by Parkland County, in November of 2014 the Village, with the written support of Parkland County, submitted a multi-year Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant application to the Province of Alberta. The application was for a three year funding regime from ACP equalling \$1,050,000 of the total project costs of an estimated \$1,881,600. These figures and the improvements in the application were based on the 2013 Study. \$831,600 was proposed by the Village to be spilt over a three year period between the County and Village. A support letter for the application was provided by the County but the application was unfortunately unsuccessful.

From 2012 to 2015 the Village, using capital reserves and MSI allocations funded upgrades to the boat launch area in excess of \$300,000 without the financial support of the county or other user groups.

In January of 2016 another round of funding for ACP applications was announced but multi-year funding had been eliminated and grant maximums were set at \$350,000 with matching funding required.

The Village revamped their application to meet the new funding regime and while the funding reduction affected the overall plan to some degree the project could still be undertaken and meet many of the required targets, namely, improving launch times by adding a third launch lane, improving the visitor experience by upgrading park furnishings, improving washroom facilities, adding floating docks, site ID features, accessibility upgrades for the handicapped and the lighting, repairing and protecting of our 380' pier. One addition was made to the revised application which was to promote public awareness of invasive species by increased signage to protect our lake from invasive weeds and mussels. The new application sought to maximize ACP funding by applying for \$350,000 to be matched by the Village and its partners for a total project cost of \$700,000. The Village again approached the County Council for support and a supporting letter was provided but no funding was committed to by the County at that time.

In March of 2016 our ACP application was approved for funding of \$350,000, which requires us to match with \$350,000 to enable us to complete the proposed work. As evidenced by the 2013 study, the usage of our boat launch area is largely from those in the County and Capital Region.

As a result, at this time we are asking the County Council to give strong consideration to supporting this project by allocating \$165,000 of the \$350,000 matching dollars required to allow us to complete this project and achieve many of the recommendations set out in the 2013

study. The Village is prepared to carry the costs until 2017 allowing for the county to commit to capital funding from their 2017 capital budget or MSI allocation.

To provide your Council with some background on this project and the launch area in general we have enclosed copies of the 2016 ACP application, the letter of approval, a copy of your supporting letter and motion along with the project costing spreadsheet which has been adjusted based on recent engineering information regarding the pier. The Waterfront Park has also recently experienced a line failure in our sanitary sewer line running out of the launch area, a challenge we are currently dealing with outside of this project, so suffice as to say the village is committed to maintaining and improving the launch area for the enjoyment of all users, including those from the village, county and beyond and we hope the county shares that desire.

With the loss of the power plant and the transitioning of the coal economy in Alberta it is vital that our village focus on new horizons including taking advantage of the recreational and logistical opportunities available in this area and in our village in particular. We appreciate the support the county has provided in the past and we look forward to your response and to continuing our positive and mutually beneficial relationship far into the future.

Sincerely,

Charlene Smylie
Mayor
Village of Wabamun

Encl.

2016 Application
Letter approving the ACP grant
Supporting letter and motion from Parkland County
Costing Spreadsheet on 2016 Launch Upgrades

Cc - Ken Van Buul, General Manager, Community Services
Cc - Dave Cross, Manager - Community and Protective Services