

Topic: Professional Biologist position

Introduction:

Parkland County's Council has directed Administration to develop the work scope and funding for a potential professional biologist position within the Environment & Community Sustainability Service Area.

Facts (Background Information):

On April 19th 2016, Council requested that Administration develop the work scope and funding for a potential professional biologist position, as a result of recommendations from the Municipal Planning Commission.

Analysis:

The proposed scope of work of a full-time biologist would include:

Environmental Management (50%)

- Stewardship programs (eg. ALUS, Green Acreages, County Lands naturalization Projects)
- Wetland Management
- Stewardship Tools (eg. Conservation Easement program)

Land Use Planning and Development Support (40%)

- Review of the biophysical assessments that are part of various planning and development applications
- Provision of biophysical assessments for smaller-scale applications

Other Support (10%)

- Consultation and advice on environmental issues related to in-house or community-lead efforts and initiatives.

The scope of work involves responsibilities that are ongoing, so a full-time position would be warranted. It is anticipated annual costs for this position would be approximately \$120,000.

Alternatives:

- I. That Council not approve the proposed professional biologist position.

Conclusion/Summary:

If created, the professional biologist position would greatly assist the County in further developing a comprehensive developer and resident focused environmental management framework, leading to increased effectiveness in service delivery and greater value to the ratepayer.

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Date written: 5 July 2016