



Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee

Jubilee Centre Council Chamber
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Agenda

In Camera (3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

- Advice from Officials (Mitigation Opportunities)
(in camera pursuant to Section 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

Call To Order

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Meeting - October 12, 2016

Presentations

2. Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead re: Regional Mitigation Opportunities
3. Diane Shannon and Chantal Beaver, Social Recovery Taskforce re: Progress and Priorities within the Social Sector
4. Melanie Soler, Canadian Red Cross, Andrea Haley, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Steve Osselton, Marsh Canada re: Programs to Support Small Businesses

New and Unfinished Business

5. Sub-Committee Reports
6. Wildfire Recovery Team Update

Adjournment

Approved Minutes of a Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: J. Bancarz, Chair
M. Farrington
M. Giles
M. Hodson
K. Jenkins
A. Vinni, Councillor

Absent: K. Fluery
S. Germain, Councillor
K. McGrath, Councillor,

Administration: D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead
J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services
S. Soutter, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Chair J. Bancarz called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and sent regrets on behalf of K. Fluery, Councillor S. Germain and Councillor K. McGrath.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by M. Hodson that the Agenda be amended by changing the title of Item 3 from Long Term Recovery to Wood Buffalo Recovery Plan – Update and that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee - October 5, 2016

Moved by M. Farrington that the minutes of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Meeting held on October 5, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentations

**2. Kelly Hansen, Recovery Task Force re: Small Business Week Update
(5:07 p.m. – 5:18 p.m.)**

K. Hansen, Manager, Economic Development, Recovery Task Force and A. Haitas, Manager, Economic Development, provided an update on Small Business Week which is taking place October 17, 2016 to October 20, 2016.

New and Unfinished Business**3. Wood Buffalo Recovery Plan - Update**
(5:18 p.m. – 5:32 p.m.)

D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead, provided an update on Wood Buffalo Recovery Plan highlighting key projects, activities and scheduling.

4. 2017 Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee and Task Force Budget Request
(5:44 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead and **M. Power, Recovery Task Force**, provided a presentation and overview of the 2017 Budget Request for the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee and the Recovery Task Force.

Moved by Mark Hodson that the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee and Task Force 2017 Operating Budget request of \$17,152,661 and cash flow request of \$38,591,316 be forwarded for inclusion in the Municipality's 2017 budget process for consideration by Council.

J. Rogers, resident, spoke to a matter unrelated to the 2017 Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee and Task Force Budget Request.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Sub-Committee Reports
(6:38 p.m. – 6:41 p.m.)

K. Jenkins, Chair, Rebuild Sub-Committee, provided an overview and update of the meetings held to date.

M. Giles, Chair, Mitigate Sub-Committees, provided an update noting that a presentation from the Mitigation Sub-Committee could come forward at the next Committee meeting.

6. Wildfire Recovery Team Update
(6:41 p.m. – 6:44 p.m.)

D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead, provided an update and overview of the "Here For You" engagement session being held on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Chair J. Bancarz declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Chair

Chief Legislative Officer

Regional Mitigation Opportunities

October 19, 2016

Dana Woodworth, Team Leader
Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force



Agenda

- Background
- Process and Recommendations
- Alternate Egress and Evacuation Routes
 - Regional Level
 - Local Level
- FireSmart, Protecting the Region, and Fire Crew initiative
- Budget/Financial Implications
- Timing and Next Steps

RMWB 2016 Wildfire Recovery – Campaign Plan

THE PRIMARY QUESTION

How does the RMWB recover from the 2016 wildfire in a timely manner while maintaining the confidence of its residents, the support of key stakeholders including Indigenous peoples, and setting the conditions for a region that is economically and environmentally superior to the pre-disaster conditions?

The following are associated components of the primary question:

- Decreasing the number of people who fly-in and fly-out of the region versus living and working within it.
- Enabling the return of our residents and attracting others to the region.
- Maximizing the opportunity to achieve increased resiliency.
- Stabilizing the economic downturn and diversifying economic opportunities.
- Rationalizing the quantity and location of infrastructure to better support the community's needs.



Recovery Best Practices:

- Recovery demands local leadership
- Recovery is a whole-of-community effort
- Kick-off recovery in parallel to response
- Designate the recovery lead
- Gather information to define the scale of recovery
- Establish a Municipal Recovery Team
- Accept ambiguity; work through the "grey" together
- Identify external recovery stakeholders
- Support community recovery groups
- Establish planning and communications processes
- Establish financial procedures and processes
- Support people and promote self-care
- Reach out to municipalities, governments, and private sector personnel with recovery experience
- Think long-term: recovery takes time and patience

KEY ACTION AREAS

People

Enhance the well-being of all RMWB residents:

- Ensure our children have access to quality education throughout recovery.
- Ensure all have the opportunity to actively participate in locally organized leisure, sports, and recreational activities.
- Provide opportunities for the region to gather and celebrate our spirit, pride, and resilience through arts, culture and spiritual activities.
- Provide emotional support through the implementation of a robust, community-based psychosocial recovery plan focused on wellness and resiliency.
- Ensure residents are engaged and well informed.

Environment

Assess and remediate the environmental impacts of the wildfire:

- Ensure the safety of our residents while promoting strong environmental stewardship.
- Implement a process to identify, assess, remediate, and measure wildfire affected areas.
- Ensure the proper disposal of waste and debris generated by the fire while seeking opportunities to capture and recycle materials.
- Re-establish and actively promote the development of green spaces.
- Seek to implement transformative opportunities during the rebuild that better the environment of the RMWB, such as a carbon neutral community.

Economy

Reinvigorate economic activity:

- Enable businesses (urban, rural and Indigenous) as they return and recover from the consequences of the wildfire.
- Support oil and gas production within the RMWB by minimizing wildfire impacts on the local work force.
- Maximize the local economic benefits of recovery operations to the RMWB business community.
- Reaffirm and enhance our ability to provide regional services and programs.
- Seize diversification opportunities as part of recovery.

Rebuild

Rapid reconstruction of our community to address and repair wildfire damages:

- Understand and address the full extent of wildfire damage across the RMWB.
- Enable the insurance and banking industries, Canadian Red Cross, and other agencies to effectively fulfill their roles.
- Implement an interim housing plan to support the community through the reconstruction process.
- Make timely policy decisions that enable reconstruction by removing obstacles and barriers.
- Consider local workforce re-training to support reconstruction.

Mitigate

Implement mitigation measures with a view to improving resiliency:

- Fully understand and mitigate any health risks associated with the wildfire.
- Consider transformative opportunities through land-use planning that better positions the RMWB from both public safety and future growth perspectives.
- Consider, identify, and pursue opportunities for disaster risk reduction from an all-hazards perspective, effectively mitigating known risks to our community.
- Examine potential egress/bypass routes with a view to increasing safety, speed, and access during future disaster situations.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- All children receive quality education in the RMWB.
- The RMWB is a unified region, with all residents supportive of one another.
- Recovery increases the health, safety, and well-being of our residents.
- Residents are engaged and actively supporting the recovery of their region.

- The environmental impacts of the wildfire relative to air, land, water, and biodiversity are understood and remediated.
- Opportunities to minimize the environmental impact on the Region are seized during the recovery.
- Innovative environmental initiatives were implemented.

- Our economy displays no lasting negative impact associated with the 2016 wildfire.
- We have maximized opportunities for regional businesses to assist in the recovery of our community.
- Localized oil and gas production is supported by a labour force that resides in the region.
- Support from the Province's Disaster Recovery Programme was maximized.

- All wildfire damage has been repaired or remediated.
- Outside agencies fulfilled their role in the rebuilding of RMWB.
- Residents were able to live in the RMWB during the recovery process.
- Policy decisions allowed us to build back better.

- Health risks associated with the wildfire are known, understood and effectively mitigated against.
- FireSmart and programs like it are explored and implemented where appropriate.
- Routes deemed to improve resilience are built.

END STATE

The RMWB has fully recovered from the 2016 wildfire. We are a safe, resilient community where a heightened sense of pride and spirit exists across the region. The resident population and regional economy are sustainable. The environmental impacts of the wildfire are remediated.

Risks:

- Complications with insurance cause delays to recovery.
- The need for post-wildfire toxicology analysis delays the ability of the RMWB leadership to make informed land-use planning decisions.
- The pre-disaster economic downturn coupled with the impact of the fire on local businesses deters a full recovery of the region.
- The return of residents to the region was deterred by affordability, uncertainty, or other factors.
- Insufficient local capacity to rebuild in a timely manner.
- A temporary increase in fly-in/fly-out of oil and gas workers becomes embedded and the new norm.

Performance Indicators:

- Regional population trends
- Regional economic output levels
- Long-term environmental impact
- Confidence of our residents
- Time to achieve whole of community recovery
- Regional disaster risk reduction is improved from pre-fire levels
- The health and well-being of our residents
- The satisfaction of insureds with their claim payouts

Narrative: The RMWB is recovering from a devastating wildfire that threatened the lives of our people and the very existence of our community. We suffered the loss of two residents while evacuating, thousands of homes were destroyed, as well as some public infrastructure. Many of our residents were evacuated for over one month while first responders bravely fought the fire and set the conditions for their return. We choose to move forward, not backwards. We will rebuild once areas are safe. We will accommodate all families who want to move home as soon as possible. We will advocate for adequate community egress routes and a bypass to improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation network. Achieving these outcomes requires sound planning and strong governance. We will establish and empower a recovery task force led by Council. We will develop short and long term recovery plans that consider the needs and desires of our regional communities, industry, citizens and Indigenous peoples. We will create a roadmap to guide decision making and provide transparency and shared understanding of who decides what, when. We face a long and difficult road to recovery, but we face it together. We must work collaboratively, supporting one another, and caring for one another's mental and physical health. We see a region that is ready to bloom. We see a vibrant and tightly connected region where people want to stay and live an entire life.

Process

- Mitigation opportunities were identified with the intent of requesting support from other levels of government to implement
- Opportunities were prioritized with the lens of increasing regional resiliency and their likelihood to be supported by the Province

Prioritized Mitigation Opportunities

Mitigate Pillar Primary Objectives

Implement mitigation measures with a view to improving resiliency:

1. Fully understand and mitigate any health risks associated with the wildfire
2. Consider transformative opportunities through land-use planning that better positions the RMWB from both public safety and future growth perspectives
3. Consider, identify, and pursue opportunities for disaster risk reduction from an all-hazards perspective, effectively mitigating known risks to our community
4. Examine potential egress/bypass routes with a view to increasing safety, speed, and access during future disaster situations.

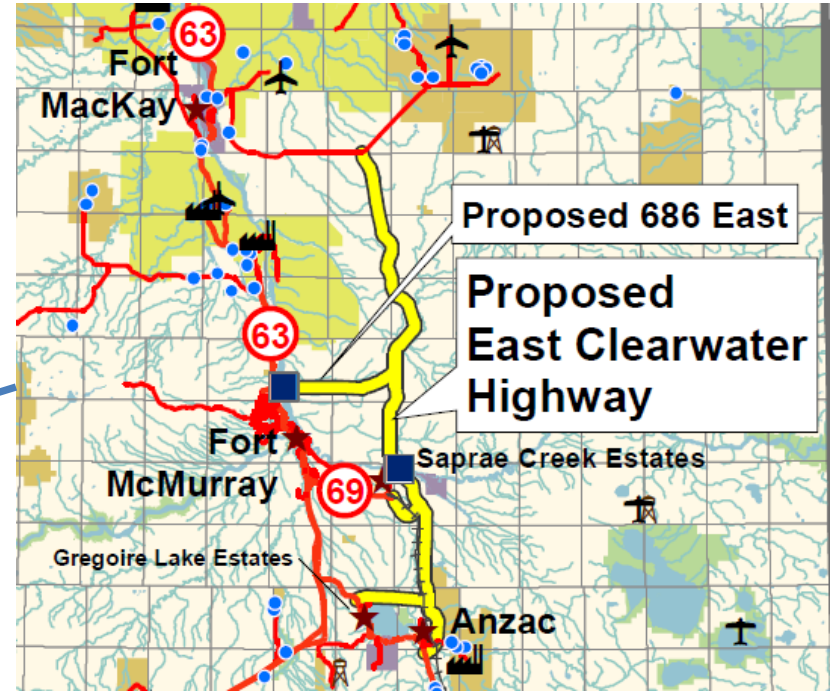
- East Clearwater Highway
- Neighbourhood Egress
- FireSmart
- Protecting the Region: Rural Hamlets and West Flank of the Urban Service Area
- Mirror and expand the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Firecrew capacity developed for Slave Lake

Regional-Level Evacuation Route

- Previous reports and studies
- Resiliency and public safety

“A further benefit of the Clearwater East Corridor would be the construction of a secondary route parallel to Highway 63, which could be used for mixed traffic in emergencies, the need to which was illustrated in 2011 during the Slave Lake fire” – Regional Structure Action Strategy, 2014

Attachment 1



Local Level: Neighbourhood Egress

- Developing secondary or emergency egress routes for communities is a top priority for mitigation
- Administration has already engaged pre-design efforts and this is the subject of a separate Council report
- WBRTF supports this requirement as an important mitigation effort

Specific Recommendations

- That Council direct Administration to participate in a pre-design for the proposed East Clearwater Highway with a focus of improving resiliency and public safety for the residents of the Municipality; building on previous and ongoing initiatives including any work done by related Committees
- That Council direct Administration to budget \$5M in the proposed 2017 budget as the Municipality's contribution to the overall pre-design costs for the proposed East Clearwater Highway, subject to a commitment from other partners on the remainder of the pre-design costs
- That Council solicit the Government of Alberta for 2017 funding support for the pre-design which includes cost-sharing opportunities for the proposed East Clearwater Highway

FireSmart, Protecting the Region, Fire Crew Initiative

- Request that a letter be sent to the GOA consisting of three elements:
 - FireSmart
 - Determine the best means of protecting the region from a WUI Fire
 - Funding support to mirror and expand the WUI Firecrew capacity developed in Slave Lake

Budget/Financial Implications

- 2017 budget consideration for \$5M towards the cost of the pre-design
- Budget demonstrates the Municipality's pledge to the highest priority mitigation project
- Pre-design must consider cost-sharing options so that requests for construction dollars can be included in the 2018 budget deliberations for all levels of government, if desired

Timing and Next Steps

- Opportunity to request budget dollars in 2017 from the GOA for mitigation priorities
- Approval of the recommendations by the WBRC requesting that Council approve the motions
- Council consideration Tuesday, October 26th

Questions



WOOD BUFFALO RECOVERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: October 19, 2016

Subject: Regional Mitigation Opportunities

APPROVALS:

Erin O'Neill, Operations Lead
Dana Woodworth, Team Leader

Recommendations:

THAT the following be recommended to Council for approval:

THAT Council support the development of a regional-level alternate egress and emergency evacuation route (to be termed “East Clearwater Highway”) as its highest priority mitigation requirement; and

THAT Council direct Administration to participate in a pre-design for the proposed East Clearwater Highway with a focus of improving resiliency and public safety for the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (the Municipality); building on previous and ongoing initiatives including any work done by related Committees; and

THAT Council direct Administration to budget \$5M in the Proposed 2017 Budget as the Municipality’s contribution to the overall pre-design costs for the proposed East Clearwater Highway, subject to a commitment from other partners on the remainder of the pre-design costs; and

THAT Council solicit the Government of Alberta (GOA) for 2017 funding support for the pre-design which includes cost-sharing opportunities for the proposed East Clearwater Highway, with the intent of improving resiliency and public safety for the residents of the Municipality; and

THAT the Mayor send a letter to the GOA consisting of three elements:

- Support for the GOA’s comprehensive FireSmart plan for the Municipality that is currently under consideration;
- A commitment to work collaboratively to determine the best means of protecting the rural hamlets and the western flank of the Urban Service Area from a Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) fire; and
- A request for GOA funding and support for a collaborative initiative between the GOA and the Municipality with respect to the training and permanent staffing of a WUI Fire Crew similar in concept to that existing in the Lesser Slave Lake region.

Summary:

Leveraging the lessons learned from similar disasters and drawing on expertise across the Municipality, GOA, and industry; the Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force (WBRTF) created a list of potential mitigation opportunities. The list was reviewed and prioritized by the WBRTF, the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee (WBRC) and Mayor & Councillors. This report reflects the outcome of those prioritization efforts and makes recommendations to the WBRC regarding the path forward for review, support, and implementation of these mitigation efforts.

The mitigation efforts herein do not reflect the entirety of mitigation activities; they are in fact complementary to ongoing work by Administration including the review and update of the Emergency Management Plans and addressing Flood Mitigation for the region. The combination of all these mitigation efforts will assist in the creation of a more resilient community, thus reducing the risk of losses from any kind of future disaster.

The recommended projects in order of priority are:

- 1) Alternate Egress and Evacuation Routes; and
- 2) Take the steps required to become a recognized FireSmart community by applying all seven disciplines of FireSmart; collaborating with the GOA to determine the best means of protecting the Municipality from a WUI fire, specifically the rural hamlets and the western flank of the Urban Service Area; and mirroring and expanding the WUI Fire Crew capacity developed for Slave Lake.

Background:

The WUI fire that burned through the Municipality and destroyed approximately 2,000 structures in May of 2016 also forced the evacuation of approximately 88,000 people. As we recover from this devastating event and become more resilient, our focus is on rebuilding and strengthening our community along the five pillars of recovery.



Figure 1 - Resilient Communities as defined in a Government of Alberta presentation

A critically important element of any recovery is to implement a mitigation strategy that improves regional resilience. Resilience can be achieved by implementing mitigation measures that reduce the probability of a devastating event and/or provide increased overall safety for residents should such an event occur. A mitigation strategy includes several layers of protection measures beginning with physical controls to reduce the risk (FireSmart); then adding layers of protection including administrative plans (Emergency Response Plans); and lastly, ensuring a safe and secure mechanism for moving the population away from the risk (egress and evacuation). With this approach to mitigation in mind, 16 opportunities were considered and prioritized according to their individual merit in terms of increasing regional resiliency and their likelihood of being supported by the GOA. The recommendations in this report reflect the outcome of that analysis and prioritization.

Priority 1 – Alternate Egress and Evacuation Routes

The highest priority mitigation measure involves the egress and evacuation of residents in the case of a wildfire or other event that requires swift evacuation of large portions of the population. There have been many fires over the years and climate change will likely increase the probability of future fires threatening the Municipality. Therefore, a subsequent WUI fire cannot be discounted and we must ensure that people can safely and quickly evacuate the area by addressing alternate routes at the regional and local level.

Regional-Level: East Clearwater Highway

Currently, there remains only one route available, Highway 63, to enable a regional evacuation. There are numerous scenarios that could prevent or severely restrict traffic movement on this route during an emergency evacuation. This includes, but would not be limited to, a fire or a severe traffic incident blocking the route.

During the evacuation in May 2016, more than 25,000 residents were directed north. They were subsequently evacuated by air or waited until they were able to travel south. It is conceivable that the north route could have been blocked and the challenges with having only a single evacuation route could have been disastrous.

There have been numerous studies and reports developed over the years that have examined potential alternate transportation routes in the region. These studies include the *Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Plan for the Athabasca Oil Sands Area* (AOSA, 2014) and the *Regional Structure Action Strategy* (Municipality, GOA, and Oil Sands Industry, 2014).

While some of these studies have referenced increased public safety, it is important to note that there is no study that evaluated transportation routes on the value of an alternate evacuation route for public safety in the event of an emergency. One study, the *Regional Structure Action Strategy*, did however comment that, “*A further benefit of the **Clearwater East corridor** would be the construction of a **secondary route** parallel to Highway 63, which could be used for mixed traffic in emergencies, the need for which was illustrated in 2011 during the Slave Lake fire.*”

The WBRTF has developed the following evaluation criteria to select a recommended alternate route:

- 1) Must not rely solely on Highway 63 for exit from the region;
- 2) Must be accessible by the majority of the population in the region;
- 3) Must have sufficient capacity to manage the efficient evacuation of a large percentage of the regional population;
- 4) Must be a sufficient distance from the current route (Highway 63) such that a disaster affecting Highway 63 would be unlikely to threaten this route as well; and
- 5) Must align with existing long term transportation planning and provide a benefit to the region when we are not in emergency situations.

Based on the review of the transportation studies referenced above, the WBRTF recommends that the best alternative route for egress is a new route that will be referred to in this report as the East Clearwater Highway (Attachment 1).

The request to the GOA is to, in collaboration with the Municipality, fund the pre-design work for the East Clearwater Highway. Pre-design would confirm the alignment of the East Clearwater Highway; perform any geotechnical work related to the alignment; provide a traffic model that considers evacuation of the region; perform any required stakeholder engagement; and determine the project scope, project cost and project schedule to construct the East Clearwater Highway. The pre-design needs to consider any previous and ongoing work including complementary connecting arterial roadways within the Urban Service Area that support the project; however, the previous work needs to be reviewed from a public safety lens with the intent of improving the resiliency of the Municipality.

As it is not anticipated that the Municipality would fund the entirety of the project costs of the East Clearwater highway, cost-sharing opportunities should be identified as part of the pre-design work. Other partners need to be identified including various levels of government and industry. The pre-design must consider these cost-sharing options so that requests for construction dollars can be included in future years' budget deliberations for all levels of government, if desired.

Local Level: Neighborhood Egress and Evacuation

The issue of providing alternate emergency routes applies not only to the region, but also to several neighborhoods within the Municipality. Administration has already engaged pre-design efforts for these alternate and emergency access routes, and this is the subject of a separate Council Report. The WBRTF supports this requirement as an important mitigation effort.

Priority 2 – FireSmart, Protecting the Region and Fire Crew Initiative

FireSmart is living with and managing for wildfire on our landscape. The seven FireSmart disciplines help us to address the threat of wildfire:

- 1) Education;
- 2) Vegetation management;

- 3) Legislation and planning;
- 4) Development considerations;
- 5) Interagency cooperation;
- 6) Emergency planning; and
- 7) Cross training

The Municipality has been in contact with Agriculture and Forestry and are aware that a comprehensive FireSmart program is being considered for the region. The WBRTF agree with this initiative and recommend that support for the program be included in a letter to the GOA.

The WBRTF recommends collaboration between the Municipality and the GOA, leveraging the experts, to determine the best means of protecting the rural hamlets and the western flank of the Urban Service Area from a WUI fire.

As an outcome of the 2011 Slave Lake wildfire, the Town of Slave Lake, supported with resources by the GOA has pursued a WUI firefighting capability. This expands on FireSmart Element 5, *Interagency Cooperation*, through things such as joint training on techniques and equipment. It is recommended that the Municipality mirror and expand the initiative that was developed for Slave Lake.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Budget Implications refer to the Municipality's budget only:

Notwithstanding the Municipality's commitment to infrastructure improvements as part of the Master Services Agreement; the 2017 budget request of \$5M towards the cost of the pre-design, demonstrates the Municipality's pledge to the highest priority mitigation project.

Given an estimated overall project cost for the East Clearwater Highway of \$1.5B, the pre-design represents 1% of the overall project costs of \$15M. Thus the Municipality's commitment to \$5M would represent a third of the cost of the pre-design work.

The pre-design must identify cost-sharing options so that requests for construction dollars can be included in future years' budget deliberations for all levels of government, if desired.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Wildland fires are a reality of our environment. It is likely that there will be wildfires that threaten our region in the future. Increasing community resilience to a wildfire must be part of recovery and we should learn from the past by taking action to increase public safety and reduce the potential of future catastrophic losses.

The recommendations in this report highlight the mitigation pillar of recovery while supporting many pillars of recovery:

People

- These mitigation activities would not only improve public safety; they have a positive psychosocial impact on the residents of the Municipality.
- They would provide an alternate route for dangerous goods around the major population areas of Fort McMurray.
- They would provide an incentive to living in the region as an alternative to fly in-fly out for new and existing operations.

Economy

- The alternate regional route would increase efficiency for the transportation of goods in and out of operating sites.
- The alternate regional route would provide access to at least two currently planned in-situ operations and a large area of the oil sands resource base that is currently isolated.
- The alternate route would also provide an opportunity for increased commerce and transportation options between First Nation and Metis communities.

Rebuild

- Alternate subdivision evacuation and community level secondary routes could be staged to be used as temporary construction and haul routes during the major rebuild activity.

The recommendations in this report will increase regional resilience by reducing the potential of a Wildland/Urban Interface fire while enabling the safe movement of our residents should another disaster necessitate evacuation. Furthermore, the combination of all mitigation efforts will assist in the creation of a more resilient community, thus reducing the risk of losses from any kind of future disaster.

RMWB 2016 Wildfire Recovery Campaign Plan Linkages:

Action Area 1 - People

Action Area 3 - Economy

Action Area 4 - Rebuild

Action Area 5 - Mitigate

Strategic Plan Linkages:

Pillar 2 - Building Balanced Regional Services

Pillar 3 - Building a Vibrant Economy Together

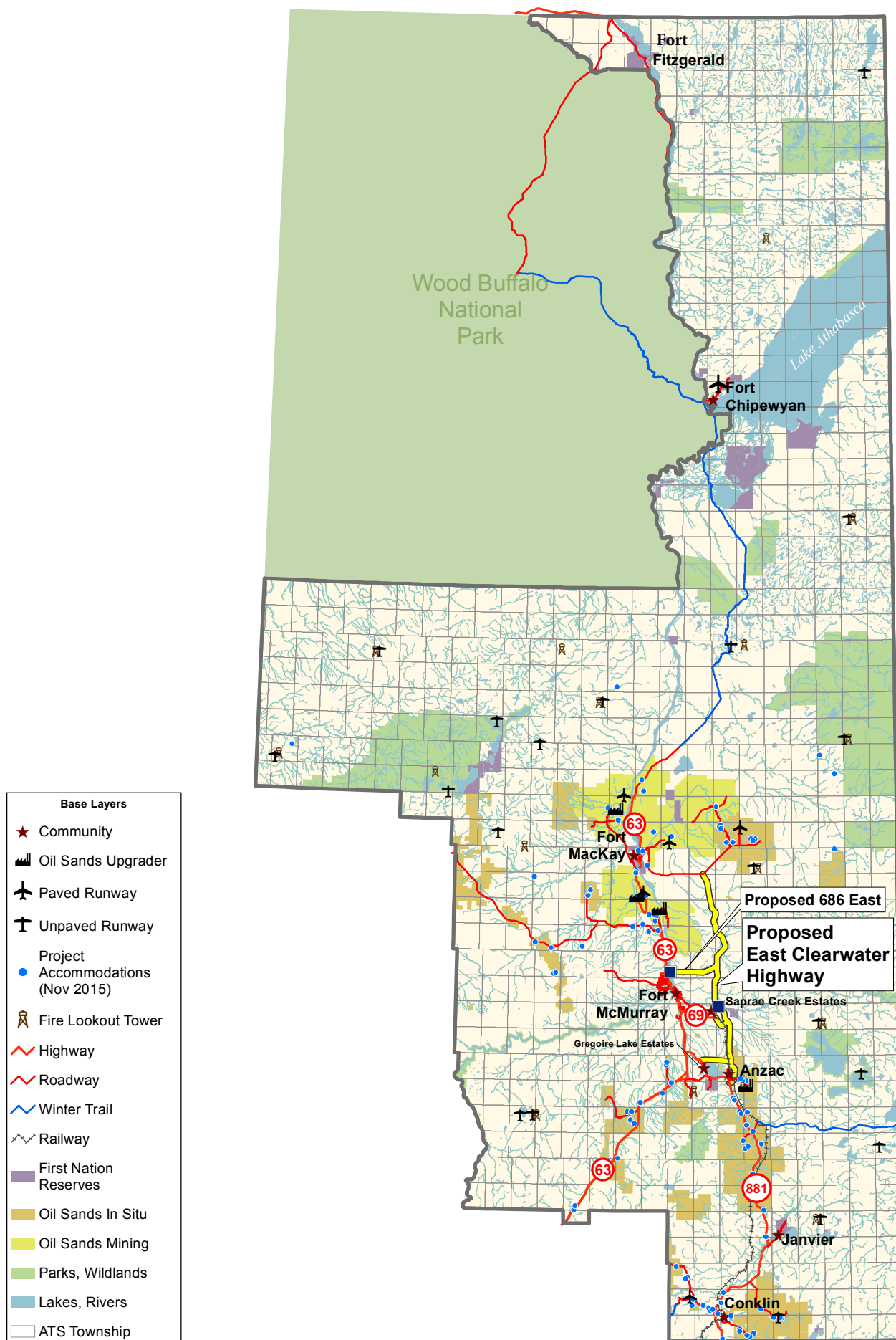
Pillar 4 - Building an Effective Land Strategy

Pillar 5 - Building a Reliable Transportation System

Pillar 6 - Building a Sustainable Region

Attachments:

1. Regional Mitigation Proposed East Clearwater Highway Map



Proposed East Clearwater Highway

For Conceptual Purposes Only

- Highway + Connectors
- Major River Crossing



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Map produced by the Geographic Information Systems Group on October 17, 2016

Document Path: C:\Users\dean\Desktop\Proposed East Clearwater Highway Regional Map.mxd



Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Request for Presentation

Completed requests to make a public presentation must be received by 12:00 noon on the Monday immediately prior to the scheduled meeting. **Presentations are a maximum of 5 minutes in duration.**

Presentation Information	
Preferred Date of Presentation	October 19, 2016 – Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee
Name of Presenter(s)	Diane Shannon and Chantal Beaver
Organization Represented	Social Recovery Taskforce (formerly Interagency Recovery)
Topic	Progress and priorities within the social sector
Please List Specific Points/Concerns	Update being provided on gaps and concerns identified
Action Being Requested of Council	For information only at this time
<p>Are you providing any supporting documentation (ie: Powerpoint)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, the documentation <u>must</u> accompany this request, as handouts will not be distributed at the meeting. To ensure that your documents meet minimum standards, please see presentation guidelines on the next page.</p> <p>Supporting documents may be e-mailed to Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca.</p>	

As per Procedure Bylaw No. 14/025, a request to make a presentation may be referred or denied.

Social Recovery Taskforce

FORMERLY: RECOVERY INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The Objectives of Social Recovery Taskforce (SRT) include:

- To bring together social profits, NGO's, relevant government agencies, and the municipality to share operational challenges
- To bring forward and resolve unmet client needs
- To exchange information with the council appointed post wildfire recovery committee, the REOC and/or other relevant entities with clear communication flow
- To establish a clear set of strategic priorities for the SRT membership to achieve

Membership:

RMWB, AHS, government, and recovery organizations, & Social Profit 'Sub-Sectors' including:

(partial list)

Addictions & mental wellbeing

Animals

Child Care

Culture

Disabled population

Disaster Recovery

Domestic Violence

Donation Management

Early Years/Children

Faith Based Community

Family

First Nations

Food Security

Francophone Community

Health

Homelessness

Housing

Mental Health

Metis

Multicultural

Newcomers

Education

Post Secondary

Seniors

Sports & Recreation

Volunteerism

Youth

Shared Needs Assessment

- MOU between agencies
- Client Access Card
- Increases efficiencies
- More dignified for individuals

Card Number

Full Name

Issued Date



PATH CARD

Priorities & Gaps

- **Misalignment between social profit/client needs and recovery priorities**
- **Mental Health including Compassion Fatigue**
- **Financial Literacy of clients/community members**
- **Lack of early learning professionals able to support that sub-sector**
- **Increased need imminent for winter coats, boots, accessories**
- **Christmas Hamper – Gift/food increased demands**

Priority Gap *(Urgent need)*

A Local Donated Goods Distribution Centre



Social Recovery Taskforce

THANK YOU



Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Request for Presentation

Completed requests to make a public presentation must be received by 12:00 noon on the Monday immediately prior to the scheduled meeting. Presentations are a maximum of 5 minutes in duration.

Presentation Information	
Preferred Date of Presentation	Wednesday, October 19, 2016
Name of Presenter(s)	Melanie Soler, Andrea Haley, Steve Osselton
Organization Represented	Canadian Red Cross (M.Soler), RMWB (A. Haley), Marsh Canada (S. Osselton)
Topic	Programs to support small businesses
Please List Specific Points/Concerns	Presentation for information regarding the roll-out of Phase 2 of the Canadian Red Cross' Support to Small Business program and the RMWB's Small Business Workforce Support Program
Action Being Requested of Council	No action requested at this time.
<p>Are you providing any supporting documentation (ie: Powerpoint)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, the documentation <u>must</u> accompany this request, as handouts will not be distributed at the meeting. To ensure that your documents meet minimum standards, please see presentation guidelines on the next page.</p> <p>Supporting documents may be e-mailed to Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca.</p>	

As per Procedure Bylaw No. 14/025, a request to make a presentation may be referred or denied.

SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY THE ALBERTA FIRES



**CANADIAN
RED CROSS**



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Canadian Red Cross – Melanie Soler, Associate VP, Disaster Management, Alberta
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo – Andrea Haley, Economic Development
Steve Q. Osselton – Managing Director, Marsh Canada

October 19, 2016

OVERVIEW

- Total Investment
- Accountability
- Collaborative Approach
- Red Cross Phase 2: Program
- RMWB Workforce Support Program
- Required Information & Documents
- Information Sessions & Application Supports

TOTAL INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

\$45 Million

Canadian Red Cross



RMWB



*Including \$15 million
matching from the
Government of Alberta*

ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Canadian Red Cross**

- Accountable to donors
- Canada Revenue Agency guidelines and laws

- **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

- Accountable to Council
- Public funds



OVERVIEW OF RED CROSS & RMWB PROGRAMS

RED CROSS PHASE 1: REVIEW

Partnered with Economic Developers of Alberta and RMWB to distribute emergency financial assistance

4,134 businesses registered

3,296 eligible businesses received assistance

15,669 calls received and made by the Hotline

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Two Programs, One Application

- Same website to apply for both programs
- Same application start and end date for both programs
 - **October 19 - December 16, 2016**
- Same Helpline for both programs
- Same administrator for both programs

RED CROSS: PHASE 2

SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Vendor Selection

- CRC held an open tender process for the service provider
- Sought expertise in customer service, provision of aid, case management
- RMWB as key members of Selection Committee
- Marsh Canada awarded contract

RED CROSS: PHASE 2

SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Objective

- To provide financial assistance for fixed expenses as a result of interrupted business operations, and for new expenses due to the wildfires.
- Eligible businesses will receive financial assistance to support direct, real, actual and justifiable expenses *up to* \$8,000.

RED CROSS: PHASE 2

SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Minimum requirements to apply

1. Have an active “resident” RMWB business licence
Exceptions for businesses located on First Nations’ lands
2. Operating within the RMWB on May 3, 2016
3. Filed a tax return within the last 3 years reporting business income with the Canada Revenue Agency
4. Be a small business defined as less than 50 employees
5. Be located or headquartered in the RMWB
6. Have intent to resume operations in the RMWB
7. Be in need of financial assistance

RED CROSS: PHASE 2

SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Disbursement

- Timeframe to receive financial assistance
 - Including when/how much financial assistance will be received
- Start disbursing funds before December 16, 2016
- Cheques will be issued in legal name of business and mailed to business owner

RMWB PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Council approved the allocation of \$15 million for a Small Business Workforce Support Program
- Program delivery will be divided into two parts:
 - Part A: Immediate Response - \$5 million
 - Part B: Long-term Recovery- \$10 million



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RMWB PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

PART A: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE (\$5 million)

- Directly responds to the most urgent needs
- The goal of the program is to help small business employers by providing timely financial assistance to offset costs related to attracting, hiring and keeping employees.



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RMWB PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Minimum Requirements to Apply:

1. Have an active “resident” RMWB business licence
*Exceptions for businesses located on First Nations’ lands.
2. Was operating within the RMWB on May 3, 2016
3. Filed a tax return within the last 3 years reporting business income with Canada Revenue Agency
4. Be a small business defined as having 1- 49 employees
5. Complete survey questions in the application



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RMWB PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

RMWB “Resident” Business Licence

1. 2015 Business Licenses valid until December 31, 2016
2. Can apply for a business licence during the program
 - Suggested to apply ASAP
3. How to apply for a business licence:
 - <http://www.rmwb.ca/BusinessLicensing>
 - RMWB Planning & Development Office, 309 Powder Drive



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RMWB PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Disbursement

- Amount of financial assistance to each business is based on:
 - The number of applicants to the program
 - The information collected in the application
- The amount will be determined after December 16, 2016 when the application period closes
- Applicants will be notified in January



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CLARIFICATION ON DIFFERENCES

▪ Disbursements

- Canadian Red Cross before December 16, 2016
- RMWB after December 16, 2016

▪ Number of Employees

- Canadian Red Cross 0 – 49 (includes self-employed)
- RMWB 1 – 49 (minimum of 1 employee)

APPLICATION SYSTEM & PROGRAM INFO

- Online application form can be found at:
www.YMMSmallBizRecovery.ca
- Program information can be found at:
 - Red Cross: www.redcross.ca/albertafiresbusiness
 - RMWB: www.choosewoodbuffalo.ca/smallbizsupport

REQUIRED INFORMATION & DOCUMENTS

Some information to prepare for the application:

- RMWB Resident Business Licence number
- Canada Revenue Agency Business Number (BN)
- Alberta Worker's Compensation Board Account number
- Total number of full-time and part-time employees
- 2015 Income Tax documents
- 2015 Income Tax Assessment

INFORMATION SESSIONS & AVAILABLE APPLICATION SUPPORTS

- Business Recovery Hotline now called **Helpline**

**1-855-RMWB-BIZ
(1-855-769-2249)**

*To provide support and information to applicants
for both programs*

INFORMATION SESSIONS & AVAILABLE APPLICATION SUPPORTS

Daily Information Sessions

- Back to Business Resource Centre, 9816 Hardin St.
 - First session October 19 @ 2:00 pm
 - Twice per weekday October 20 to October 28
 - Schedule and sign-up can be found at <https://smallbizsupport.eventbrite.ca>
-
- “Here for You” for Small Businesses
 - October 27, 2016 at Shell Place, MacDonald Island

INFORMATION SESSIONS & AVAILABLE APPLICATION SUPPORTS

- Rural Communities Schedule
 - Anzac, Conklin, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Janvier, Saprae Creek
 - November 1 – 10, 2016
 - Schedule found at www.choosewoodbufaalo.ca/smallbizsupport

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPLY

- We want everyone to apply for both programs
 - **Give us as much information as you can**
 - There is “fluidity” within the application to ensure circumstances are taken into account
 - “Having Your Say”
 - There is a spot at the end of the application that is an open field that allows you to explain your circumstances

QUESTIONS?



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