

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 19, 2016, commencing at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: K. McGrath, Councillor

Administration: D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead
J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services
R. Marshall, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Chair J. Bancarz called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by M. Giles:

- that the Agenda be amended by adding the following as Item # 2 – Regional Mitigation Opportunities;
- renumbering the remaining items on the agenda accordingly; and
- that the Committee waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed addition; and that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

Moved by M. Farrington that the minutes of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Meeting held on October 12, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentations

**2. Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead re: Regional Mitigation Opportunities
(5:04 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.)**

Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead, provided a presentation with respect to regional mitigation opportunities that could reduce the probability of a devastating event and/or provide increased safety for residents should such an event occur.

Moved by M. Giles that the following be recommended for Council 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
- 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.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in support of the regional mitigation opportunities.

Voting then occurred on the motion:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 2. Diane Shannon and Chantal Beaver, Social Recovery Taskforce re: Progress and Priorities within the Social Sector**
(5:45 p.m. - 6:06 p.m.)

Diane Shannon, Chair, Social Recovery Taskforce and **Chantal Beaver, Vice-Chair**, provided a presentation as to work the taskforce has been doing in the social sector since the wildfire in May.

Exit

K. Jenkins exited the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

- 3. Melanie Soler, Canadian Red Cross, Andrea Haley, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Steve Osselton, Marsh Canada re: Programs to Support Small Businesses**
(6:06 p.m. - 6:48 p.m.)

Melanie Soler, Canadian Red Cross, Andrea Haley, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and **Steve Osselton, Marsh Canada**, provided a presentation as to the launch of the small business program to support small businesses in the region post wildfire.

Exit and return

Councillor S. Germain left the chamber at 6:43 p.m. and returned at 6:44 p.m.

New and Unfinished Business

- 4. Sub-Committee Reports**

There were no sub-committee reports.

- 5. Wildfire Recovery Team Update**

Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Leader, spoke to the rebuild process and reconstruction of the community.

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Chair

Chief Legislative Officer