

**Subject: Bylaw No. 21/014 - Amendment to the Backyard Hen
Bylaw No. 21/006****APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

1. THAT Bylaw No. 21/014, being an amendment to the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006, be read a second time.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 21/014 be read a third and final time.

Summary:

On May 11, 2021 Council passed the following motion:

“THAT Administration bring forward for Council’s consideration an amendment to the *Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006*, to allow for more than four (4) Hens in the rural hamlets (Anzac, Conklin, Draper, Gregoire Lake Estates, Janvier and Saprae Creek), with the number of Hens on a Parcel to be capped at a ratio of one (1) Hen per 100 square meters of Parcel area, to a maximum of ten (10) Hens.”

Background:

On March 23, 2021, the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 was passed by Council. This bylaw allows for the keeping of hens within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) during the two-year pilot project which runs until April 30, 2023 and allows for the keeping of up to four (4) hens anywhere in the RMWB with an approved license.

It was requested that Administration explore the option of allowing more hens in the rural hamlets as they have larger lots that could accommodate more hens. Regardless of their location, all applications, must meet the requirements laid out in the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 to be approved for a license.

The pilot project allows for fifty (50) approved licenses to be issued in the RMWB. By allowing for an increased number of hens in the rural hamlets it is not anticipated that this will require an increase in the number of allowable licenses. As of May 21, 2021,

there were only ten (10) approved licenses issued.

During this process it was determined that the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) was not the appropriate mechanism for regulating an increase in hens for the rural area. The current LUB only permits the keeping of hens through issuance of a development permit for an “Intensive Agriculture” use, which is not available in many rural communities. The LUB would therefore require significant amendments to increase the locations where hens would be allowed, but also require significant additional regulations to be inserted, as “Intensive Agriculture” also permits several other animals in addition to hens. Attachment 2, the Keeping of Animals in the RMWB, explains what is permitted under the LUB for each community.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Administration is recommending that the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 be amended to allow for the keeping of up to ten (10) hens within the rural hamlets, excluding Fort Chipewyan.

In keeping with the parameters outlined in the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 it is recommended that the number of allowable hens be increased to a maximum of ten (10) based on the area of the lot at one (1) hen to a 100 square meters ratio.

The rural hamlet boundaries would be defined using maps that would be included as a schedule in the proposed bylaw amendment.

The rural hamlets are known to have larger lot sizes with an increased distance between neighbours. The rural areas would be more appropriate for the proposed increase in the allowable number of hens based on the area of their lot.

Administration will provide an annual report on the status of the project. Prior to the end of the project Administration will bring forward a recommendation to Council to either continue or discontinue allowing hens in the urban and rural areas of the RMWB based on the results of the pilot project.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

- 1. Bylaw No. 21/014 - Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 Amendment**
- 2. Keeping of Animals in the RMWB**