



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee

Jubilee Centre Council Chamber  
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray

Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

---

### Agenda

#### **In Camera** (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

- Policy Options  
(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 - September 14, 2016

#### **Presentations**

2. Erin O'Neill, Recovery Branch Lead re: FireSmart Update
3. Melanie Soler, Canadian Red Cross and John Evans, United Way re: Community Partnerships Table
4. Crystal Lewis-Wilton and Greg Elsasser, Uninsured Destroyed Housing Strategy Working Group re: Uninsured and Underinsured Rebuild and Repair Options

**New and Unfinished Business**

5. 2016 Budget Request - Year Remaining  
- delegations
6. Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Secondary Suites  
- delegations
7. Sub-Committee Reports
8. Wildfire Recovery Team Update

**Adjournment**

**Unapproved 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, September 14, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** J. Bancarz, Chair  
M. Farrington, Vice-Chair  
K. Fleury  
S. Germain, Councillor  
M. Giles  
M. Hodson  
K. Jenkins  
K. McGrath, Councillor

**Absent:** A. Vinni, Councillor

**Administration:** J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services  
A. Gulamhusein, Legal Counsel  
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer  
D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

**Call To Order**

Chair J. Bancarz called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the Agenda be amended by adding the following as Item #2 – Firebreak Properties; 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 - September 7, 2016**

Moved by K. Fleury that the minutes of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Meeting held on September 7, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Conflict of Interest:**

K. Jenkins indicated that he has a conflict of interest pertaining to the next agenda item and exited the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

**2. Firebreak Properties**

(6:05 p.m. – 6:11 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the following be recommended to Council for approval:

- That the Chief Administrative Officer and the Interim Recovery Team Leader work together to develop a program designed to ensure that property owners who suffered loss or damage to their property during the wildfire of May 2016 as a direct result of actions taken on their property:
  - (a) by employees, agents or contractors acting on behalf of either the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo or the Province of Alberta; and
  - (b) in an effort to suppress the wildfire or to delay or prevent movements of the wildfire will be fairly compensated for their losses; and
- That Administration report back to Council with details of the program so developed, for Council's review and approval, not later than October 4, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Return:

K. Jenkins returned to the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

**Presentations****2. Guy Choquet, Canadian Red Cross re: Alberta Fire Recovery Services**

(6:11 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.)

**Guy Choquet, Director, Operations, Canadian Red Cross**, presented information on the services provided by the Canadian Red Cross to date, the various programs available and the long-term plans, including community partnerships.

**New and Unfinished Business****3. Wood Buffalo Recovery Campaign Plan**

(6:46 p.m. – 7:02 p.m.)

Moved by M. Farrington that the RMWB 2016 Wildfire Recovery Campaign Plan be accepted as information.

**Jim Julien, Recovery Coordination Team**, provided an overview of the elements of the recovery campaign plan, noting that it is an overarching guide to provide a common understanding and coherence to the complex task of recovery.

Exit and Return:

Councillor S. Germain exited the meeting at 6:52 p.m. and returned at 6:53 p.m.

Voting then occurred on M. Farrington's motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**4. Sub-Committee Reports**

(7:02 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.)

Sarah Murrant, Public Affairs, provided an update and overview of the community engagements held to date, as well as the upcoming engagements scheduled throughout the Municipality.

**Establishment of Sub-Committees** – Chair J. Bancarz spoke to aligning the sub-committees with the key action areas in the recovery campaign plan – people, environment, economy, rebuild, mitigate – which would enable stakeholders to better understand the sub-committee mandates. Committee members were asked to indicate their preference of sub-committees and to elect a Chair for each.

People Sub-Committee

M. Farrington, M. Hodson and Councillor K. McGrath requested to be members of the People Sub-Committee. M. Hodson nominated M. Farrington as Chair, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominees, M. Farrington was declared Chair by acclamation.

Environment Sub-Committee

M. Farrington and M. Hodson requested to be members of the Environment Sub-Committee. Councillor A. Vinni, while not in attendance, had previously indicated his preference to be a member of the Environment Sub-Committee, and that he would let his name stand for the position of Chair. As there were no other nominees, Councillor A. Vinni was declared Chair by acclamation.

Economy Sub-Committee

M. Giles and M. Hodson requested to be members of the Economy Sub-Committee. Councillor A. Vinni, while not in attendance, had previously indicated his preference to be a member of the Economy Sub-Committee. K. Jenkins nominated M. Giles as Chair, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominees, M. Giles was declared Chair by acclamation.

Rebuild Sub-Committee

K. Fleury, K. Jenkins and Councillor K. McGrath requested to be members of the Rebuild Sub-Committee. K. Fleury nominated K. Jenkins as Chair, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominees, K. Jenkins was declared Chair by acclamation.

Mitigate Sub-Committee

K. Fleury, M. Giles and K. Jenkins requested to be members of the Mitigate Sub-Committee. K. Fleury nominated M. Giles as Chair, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominees, M. Giles was declared Chair by acclamation.

**5. Wildfire Recovery Team Update**  
(7:20 p.m. – 7:24 p.m.)

**Dana Woodworth, Interim Recovery Team Leader**, provided an update on the various tasks undertaken by the Recovery Task Force to date, including preparation of a proposed budget to the end of the fiscal year.

**Adjournment**

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Chair J. Bancarz declared the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Legislative Officer



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

# **FireSmart Initiatives**

**Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee**

**21 September 2016**

# **Contents**

- **FireSmart Principles**
- **RMWB Post-Fire Hazard Assessment**
- **Mitigation Strategies**
- **Implementation**

# FireSmart Principles

- FireSmart helps protect homes and communities from the threat of wildfire.
- FireSmart is performed on 3 scales:
  - Landscape
  - Community
  - Wildland Urban Interface

# **Seven Disciplines of FireSmart**

- 1. Education**
- 2. Emergency Planning**
- 3. Development Options**
- 4. Legislation**
- 5. Interagency Cooperation**
- 6. Cross Training**
- 7. Vegetation Management**

# FireSmart to date

- In December 1998, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development submitted a report to the Municipality outlining recommendations for proactive Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) planning in and around Fort McMurray. The report was accepted by Council in principal.
- In April 2000, RMWB Council authorized the formation of a committee to develop and submit an implementation plan regarding proactive WUI initiatives.
- The committee was also directed to identify, as an emerging issue “areas deemed to be high hazards by March 1, 2002”.

# FireSmart to date

- Wildland/Urban Interface Committee has worked to research and recommend a strategy to implement Wildland/Urban Interface initiatives that will assist the Municipality in creating safer communities.
- To date, all the identified hazardous areas within Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, Anzac, Conklin and Janvier have been treated.
- This accounts for approximately 90 hectares of treated areas in Fort McMurray and 65 hectares in the rural hamlets.

# FireSmart to date

- Successfully applied for and received grant funding, including a the FireSmart Community Grant from the Province which was allocated towards updating the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy in 2010.
- The 2010 mitigation strategy analyzes the fire potential in the Municipality, identifies levels of risks, and makes recommendations to mitigate those risks.
- The 2010 mitigation strategy was valuable in providing direction to the Wildland/Urban Interface Committee and recommendations were incorporated in the Engineering Servicing Standards and the 2011 Municipal Development Plan.

# Recovery Campaign Plan

## 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 workforce.
- 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.

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

### DESIRED OUTCOMES

### END STATE

- 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 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.
- Private agencies fulfilled their role in the rebuilding of housing.
- Residents were able to live in the RMWB during the recovery process.
- Policy decisions allowed us to build back better.

#### 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 insurers with their claim payouts

- Health risks associated with the wildfire are known, understood and effectively mitigated against.
- Fire smart and programs like a fire explored and implemented where appropriate.
- Routes deemed to improve resiliency are built.

**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 forwards, 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.

# Rebuild: Post Fire

- Due to the May wildfire the focus and priorities of FireSmart has shifted to create more aggressive boundaries in the interface areas.
- Post-Fire Wildfire Hazard Assessment was conducted in May 2016.
- The project objectives were to
  - identify wildfire hazard and risk,
  - determine mitigation priorities and options, and
  - implement activities to reduce threat in high hazard areas.

# Rebuild: Hazardous Tree Removal

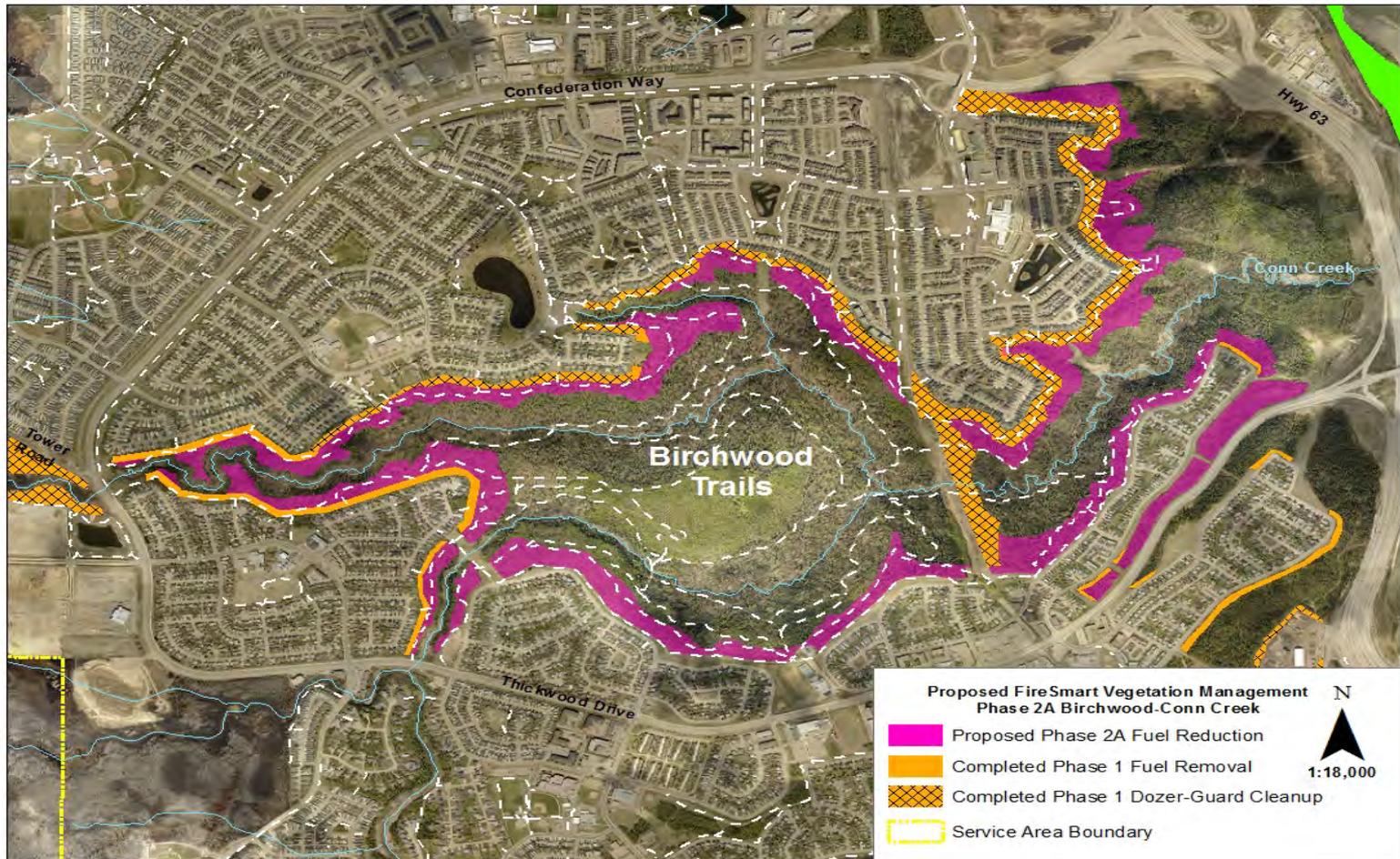
- Remove imminently hazardous trees along perimeter trails, roadways, municipal property, parks infrastructure and homes in damaged neighbourhoods
- Includes burnt trees that have fallen, those with burnt roots that are leaning but have not fallen, and trees that are partially burnt near the base and have little to no structural support.
- Areas of focus
  - Thickwood
  - Abasand
  - Beacon Hill
  - Downtown
- To be complete by end of October

# Rebuild: Dozer Guard Areas

- Dozer guards and the new directive in clearing 30 metres have changed the FireSmart boundaries that were previously created.
- The dozer guard areas cover approximately 20 km x 30m to 50m in the Urban Service Areas.
- Design of the drainage work to channel water to appropriate locations to avoid water pooling is complete.
- Contractor will be secured to complete the work by early November.
- Grading and landscaping will be performed in 2017 & 2018.

# Mitigate: FireSmart

- Phase 1 Complete. Phase 2A approved by Council
- Phase 2B and Phase 3 have been identified



# **Post-Fire Hazard Assessment**

- **Goal - Identify post-fire green islands within & adjacent to developed areas & identify wildfire threat to development from those green islands**
- **Trees in burned and under-burned areas will eventually die and blowdown creating future fire hazard**

# **Support for Post-Fire Assessment**

- **Agriculture and Forestry supports RMWB initiatives**
- **Mitigation work not DRP eligible thus funding proposal put forward to the Ministerial Task Force**

# Implementation

- **A three year FireSmart implementation strategy is proposed for the RMWB**
- **The strategy incorporates ongoing wildfire recovery mitigation efforts through Alberta's FireSmart program.**

<b>FireSmart Discipline</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>Education and Outreach</b>	<b>Develop communications and engagement strategy</b>	<b>January 2017</b>
	<b>Develop and maintain RMWB FireSmart website</b>	<b>February 2017</b>
	<b>FireSmart education programming and materials</b>	<b>March 2017</b>
	FireSmart home assessments	On Going
	Identify and construct FireSmart demonstration areas	November 2017
	Community information sessions	March / September
	Advertising and signage	On Going
<b>Vegetation Management</b>	Hazardous fuels reduction activities - 575 ha/yr	On Going
	Residential debris disposal services	On Going
<b>Legislation</b>	Review and update municipal development bylaws	Fall 2017
<b>Development Options</b>	Review and update municipal development engineering standards	Spring 2018
<b>Emergency Planning</b>	Update community FireSmart plans	Fall 2018
	Update regional/municipal emergency response plans	Spring 2018
	Assess infrastructure systems to ensure they are independent power capable	Fall 2018
	Interface emergency response equipment	Spring 2019
<b>Interagency Cooperation</b>	Hire Municipal FireSmart crew	January 2017
	<b>Hire FireSmart Regional Activity Team project manager</b>	<b>December 2016</b>
	<b>Establish FireSmart Regional Activity Team</b>	<b>November 2016</b>
<b>Cross-Training</b>	Mock wildfire response exercises	Fall 2019
	S215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface	On Going
	Incident Command System training	On Going
	Sprinkler Deployment Workshop	On Going

# Implementation

- **Create a FireSmart Regional Activity Team to implement Post-Fire plan and FireSmart initiatives**
  - **Expand current FireSmart Committee**
  - **RMWB to be the lead agency**
  - **Support from Agriculture & Forestry**

The background is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons. The color palette is warm, ranging from deep reds and oranges at the bottom to bright yellows and light oranges at the top. The shapes are semi-transparent, creating a layered, textured effect. The overall impression is one of dynamic energy and modern design.

**Thank you**

## **FireSmart Background**

Alberta's FireSmart program engages and supports municipalities and Indigenous communities in public education, legislation, interagency cooperation, cross-training, emergency planning, and vegetation management to reduce wildfire hazard and risk through a proactive balance of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and preparedness activities. When implemented, FireSmart improves a community's ability to better withstand a wildfire event; improving public and firefighter safety and suppression capability, minimizing potential wildfire damage and loss.

Removing, reducing or converting hazardous forest fuels (vegetation) between developed areas and a possible wildfire has the potential to reduce wildfire intensities, rates of spread and fire ember transport (spotting); thereby mitigating the potential impacts and wildfire loss that can result when an extreme wildfire event threatens a community

## **The Scales of FireSmart**

The practice of FireSmart can be carried out on many different scales. Generally, projects and initiatives fall into one of three scales:

Landscape FireSmart (generally occurs outside of a municipalities jurisdiction)

- Generally revolves around large scale removal of hazardous fuels
- These projects require extensive planning, consultation, education and strong partnerships
- Industry partnerships and fire management planning

Community FireSmart (occurs within a municipalities jurisdiction, 10 km radius around town)

- All seven disciplines of FireSmart are viable and important at this scale
- Vegetation management is only one piece of a successful FireSmart program. Community level FireSmart must consider all of the seven FireSmart Disciplines.

WUI FireSmart (occurs on private property and within town)

- Vegetation management in the form of pruning, removal of dead and down and mowing
- Education around structural considerations such as roofing and siding material
- Education around maintenance of eaves and cleanliness of roofs
- Homeowners should be encouraged to complete work to make their properties more resilient.

## **Introduction to the Seven Disciplines of FireSmart**

In general, all FireSmart initiatives and projects will fall into one of the seven FireSmart Disciplines:

- Emergency Planning – ensures human life is preserved as priority on in wildfire emergencies
- Education – raising awareness of risks and opportunities for prevention and mitigation
- Cross Training – required for seamless teamwork during a wildfire emergency
- Legislation – allows for requirement of mechanisms which promote wildfire resiliency
- Inter-agency Cooperation – necessary for managing all stages of a wildfire emergency
- Development – considerations for promoting the survival of homes and infrastructure
- Vegetation Management – removal, reduction and conversion of hazardous fuels

## **Emergency Planning**

FireSmart Emergency Planning generally takes the form a Wildfire Preparedness Guide (WPG). Agriculture and Forestry encourages ALL communities within the FPA to have at minimum a WPG in case of a wildfire emergency

- This document is used by Emergency Responders when a wildfire threatens a community
- The WPG supports a unified command structure, recognizing that responsibilities during wildfire emergency are shared by different agencies
- It is essential that all stakeholders are engaged during the creation of a communities WPG, as wildfire emergencies require response from multiple agencies
- The WPG should compliment any existing emergency planning, standard operating procedures and policies
- This document should be reviewed and updated annually prior to fire season. All agencies identified in the plan should have a copy readily available.

## **General Plan Contents**

- Planning area description (fuels, fire behavior potentials, existing containment lines, etc.)
- Values at Risk identification (critical infrastructure, dangerous good, etc.)
- Fire Operations (roles, communication details, structure protection strategies, water supply etc.)
- Auto order lists
- Contact lists
- Operations Maps

## Education

Education is the cornerstone of a successful FireSmart program. Without proper education around the risks associated with wildfire and ways to mitigate this risk, FireSmart will fail to achieve the support it needs to be effective.

Education must be tailored to the audience. Examples of possible audiences include:

- Elected officials and municipal staff
- Community members including homeowners and school children
- Specific local interest groups (OHV operators, farmers, etc.)
- Industry

There are many FireSmart education resources available to municipal government, homeowners and other groups. Contact your local Forestry office for details.

## Cross Training

Cross training refers to agencies working together to garner a shared understanding of responsibilities, strengths and limitations and work on communications.

Examples of Cross training:

- Table top & real world exercises such as mock disasters
- Incident Command training, Wildland Urban Interface training
- Site visits and tours, equipment demonstrations

Examples of Agencies who should be involved:

- Wildfire Management
- Local Fire Department
- Municipal Emergency Services
- RCMP
- Local Industry (utility, oil and gas, etc.)
- Area specific stakeholders who may become involved in wildfire response

## Legislation

FireSmart specific legislation is necessary to implement items and mechanisms that are critical to the prevention of wildfire or the loss of structures due to wildfire.

There are a few different avenues for approaching FireSmart from this direction:

- Municipal Bylaw – setting or amending bylaws to reflect FireSmart principles;
- Architectural Guidelines – already used to control appearance of homes in some developments. Can be used to limit flammable exteriors, firewood storage and the types of vegetation used by homeowners;
- Subdivision, Engineering and Development Standards – building guidelines with can be integrated into new developments or upgrades to existing developments;
- Building Code and Fire Code Regulations – minimum construction standards, training and equipment standards.

## **Interagency Cooperation**

Strong partnerships are essential to successful FireSmart. Communities should consider creating a FireSmart Committee with representation from stakeholders to coordinate FireSmart initiatives.

FireSmart Committees can coordinate:

- Review and updating of planning documents
- Mock disasters and emergency exercises
- Regular updates to community and stakeholders regarding current FireSmart projects and initiatives
- Educations campaigns

FireSmart committees provide an opportunity for stakeholders to come together to drive a communities FireSmart program in a coordinated fashion.

Strong partnerships and input from stakeholders is essential for the successful implementation of a communities FireSmart program.

## **Development Considerations**

In general, development can be broken down into two categories: structural and infrastructure opportunities. Homeowners have a great deal of control over structural FireSmart while the municipality will generally drive the implementation of infrastructure FireSmart initiatives.

Examples of Structural FireSmart:

- Roofing: rated shingles, asphalt, metal, etc.
- Siding: stucco, brick, concrete, etc.
- Decks and porches: treated non flammable materials
- Eaves and vents: screened with fine mesh
- Yard design: use of non flammable vegetation, vegetation placement
- Yard maintenance: regular mowing, pruning, removal of dead vegetation

Examples of Infrastructure FireSmart:

- Home and subdivision access (for emergency vehicles)
- Multiple routes of egress (for evacuation)
- Access to water supply
- Open spaces such as parking lots and golf courses (for defense or refuge)

## **Vegetation Management**

Vegetation management refers to the removal, reduction and conversion of hazardous fuels around a community, in a subdivision or on private property. Vegetation management is the most costly of all FireSmart disciplines, and the most visible. Extensive planning and consultation should be carried out prior to beginning these projects on a community and landscape scale.

The scale of vegetation management can vary greatly:

- Homeowner – pruning trees and removal of hazardous vegetation on private property
- Community – pruning trees, thinning conifers in municipal reserve and parkland areas
- Landscape – occurs outside of community jurisdiction and will likely cover many hectares, removing hazardous fuels to create firebreak and defensible space.

### Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo FireSmart Strategy 2016 - 2019

A three year FireSmart implementation strategy is proposed for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The strategy incorporates ongoing wildfire recovery mitigation efforts through Alberta's FireSmart program.

FireSmart Discipline	Deliverable	Target Date
Education and Outreach	Develop communications and engagement strategy	January 2017
	Develop and maintain RMWB FireSmart website	February 2017
	FireSmart education programming and materials	March 2017
	FireSmart home assessments	On Going
	Identify and construct FireSmart demonstration areas	November 2017
	Community information sessions	March / September
	Advertising and signage	On Going
Vegetation Management	Hazardous fuels reduction activities - 575 ha/yr	On Going
	Residential debris disposal services	On Going
Legislation	Review and update municipal development bylaws	Fall 2017
Development Options	Review and update municipal development engineering standards	Spring 2018
Emergency Planning	Update community FireSmart plans	Fall 2018
	Update regional/municipal emergency response plans	Spring 2018
	Assess infrastructure systems to ensure they are independent power capable	Fall 2018
	Interface emergency response equipment	Spring 2019
Interagency Cooperation	Hire Municipal FireSmart crew	January 2017
	Hire FireSmart Regional Activity Team project manager	December 2016
	Establish FireSmart Regional Activity Team	November 2016
Cross-Training	Mock wildfire response exercises	Fall 2019
	S215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface	On Going
	Incident Command System training	On Going
	Sprinkler Deployment Workshop	On Going

**CONTACT:** Paul St. John, Wildfire Prevention Officer, Fort McMurray Forest Area,  
(780) 743 7209



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## 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 September 21, 2016
Name of Presenter(s)	Melanie Soler and John Evans
Organization Represented	Canadian Red Cross (M.Soler) and United Way of Fort McMurray (John Evans)
Topic	Community Partnerships Table
Please List Specific Points/Concerns	Presentation for information on Community Partnerships Table
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 <a href="mailto:Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca">Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca</a>.</p>	

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

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TABLE



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

Canadian Red Cross – Melanie Soler, Associate VP, Disaster Management, Alberta  
United Way – John Evans, Board VP, Community Investment Committee Chair

*September 21, 2016*

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TABLE

- Introduction & Background
- Mandate
- Objectives
- Application Cycles
- Table Meetings
- Membership
- Additional Information



# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) has allocated \$50 million to support community groups through the Community Partnerships Program.
- United Way of Fort McMurray (UWFM) has received approximately \$3 million in Wildfire-related donations.
- Both agencies will accept applications from eligible community organizations as the community identifies needs throughout the recovery process.



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- Acts as advisory Table for Wildfire-related initiatives for eligible community organization applications
- **Funding already provided**
  - CRC: 19 applications with \$5,997,000 funded
  - UW: 12 applications with \$540,000 funded
- All other areas of CRC/UWFM business, including Fire Recovery Programs, are outside the scope of this table



# MANDATE

- To evaluate pre-qualified funding applications which have been submitted to the CRC and/or UWFM and make strategic recommendations regarding those applications in a collaborative, transparent manner.
- Table members may also note trends in gaps, vulnerabilities and needs of the community.
- The Table may make recommendations to action these trends to the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee as representatives of community stakeholders.



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate all applications where \$100,000 or over is being requested of CRC or UWFM (or both).
- Provide transparent and unbiased recommendations to the CRC and UWFM on each application
- Work collaboratively to share information and identify emerging trends, as individual members and through the Social Recovery Task Force findings
- Provide recommendations to action these needs and trends to the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee



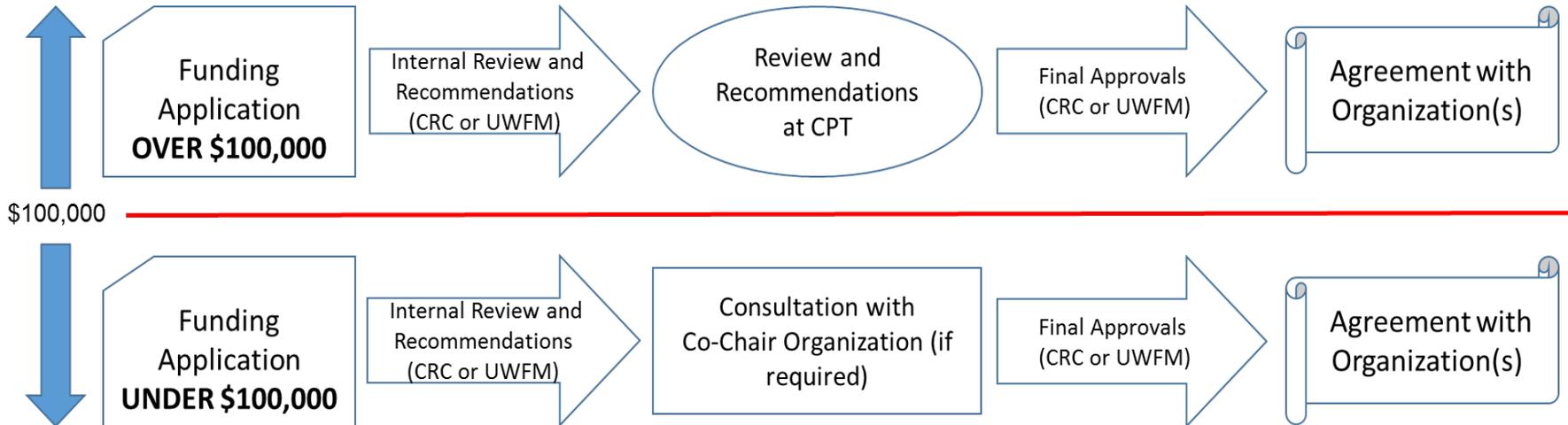
**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# OBJECTIVES

- **Important:** Funding applications less than \$100,000 can be submitted to either CRC or UWFM. Only those \$100,000 and over will come to the Table.



# APPLICATION CYCLES

- At least five scheduled Application Cycles in Year 1.
- Two expedited Application Cycles in the fall of 2016 to ensure any immediate needs in the community are addressed.
  - September 26 – October 16
  - November 1 – November 30
- Application Cycles and schedule will be adjusted, if necessary, based on the amount of applications and needs of the community.



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# TABLE MEETINGS

- Community Partnerships Table will meet at least five times per year, coinciding with the Application Cycles.
- The meeting schedule will be adjusted, if necessary, based on the amount of applications and needs of the community.
- The location of meetings will be in Fort McMurray.
- The length of meetings will be 1 to 2 days, based on the number of applications received



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# MEMBERSHIP

- **Canadian Red Cross** (1 place, co-chair)
- **United Way of Fort McMurray** (1 place, co-chair)
- **Indigenous Leadership** (2 places)
- **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Administration** (1 place)
- **Government of Alberta** (1 place)
- **Industry Recovery Working Group** (1 place)
- **Social Recovery Task Force** (2 places)
- **Community Wellness and Resiliency Committee** (1 place)



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Applications can be found at:**
  - Red Cross - [www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships](http://www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships)
  - United Way - [www.fmunitedway.com](http://www.fmunitedway.com)
- **Applications can be submitted to:**
  - Red Cross - [www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships](http://www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships)
  - United Way - [recovery@fmunitedway.com](mailto:recovery@fmunitedway.com)
- **Community Partnerships Table**
  - FAQ can be found [www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships](http://www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships)
  - Questions can be sent to [CPTable@redcross.ca](mailto:CPTable@redcross.ca)



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



**United Way**  
Fort McMurray

**THANK YOU**  
***QUESTIONS?***





REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

## 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	September 21, 2016
Name of Presenter(s)	Crystal Lewis-Wilton, Greg Elsasser (?)
Organization Represented	Uninsured Destroyed Housing Strategy Working Group
Topic	Support Opportunities Available + Under Investigation For Uninsured/Underinsured Homeowner Rebuilds/Repairs
Please List Specific Points/Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gift Opportunities</li><li>- Financing Options</li><li>- Labour Force (Volunteer) Support</li></ul>
Action Being Requested of Council	TBD
Are you providing any supporting documentation (ie: Powerpoint)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>TBD</b>	
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.	
Supporting documents may be e-mailed to <a href="mailto:Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca">Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca</a> .	

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

# Uninsured and Under Insured

September 21, 2016

Presented by:

Greg Elsasser, Acting President/CEO  
Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation

Chrystal Lewis-Wilton, Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity Wood Buffalo

# Uninsured or Under Insured

Purpose is to assist those who have damage or lost homes due to the wildfire and cannot rebuild or repair their homes because they don't have:

- insurance or
- enough insurance

# Uninsured and Under Insured

These families are facing significant personal loss and cannot rebuild or return to the community.

For these families to stay in the community some assistance needs to be provided.

# Uninsured or Under Insured

## Concept

Assemble of group of organizations to assist in a low cost rebuild and repair of their homes combined with other forms of support such as financial assistance, gifts in kind and donated labour

# Uninsured and Under Insured

## Potential Solutions

- Rent to Own
- Bank Refinancing
- Second Mortgage
- Bankruptcy

# Uninsured and Under Insured

- NSUUR Group (NGO's Supporting Uninsured Underinsured Recovery) Habitat for Humanity, Mennonite Disaster, World Renew, Samaritan's Purse, Fuse Social
- Canadian Red Cross
- Wood Buffalo Housing & Development
- Money Mentors
- Bankers & Mortgage Insurers
- Local Builders
- Other Businesses

# Uninsured and Under Insured

## General Qualifying Criteria

- Must be homeowners (excluding revenue properties) at the time of the fire
- Must have equity in their home
- Must intend to stay or return to the community
- Participants must contribute to their recovery

# Uninsured and Under Insured

## Project Needs

- Data to build the program criteria
- Staffing for a project co-ordinator and administrator
- Office & storage facilities
- Awareness campaign

# 2016 Proposed Budget

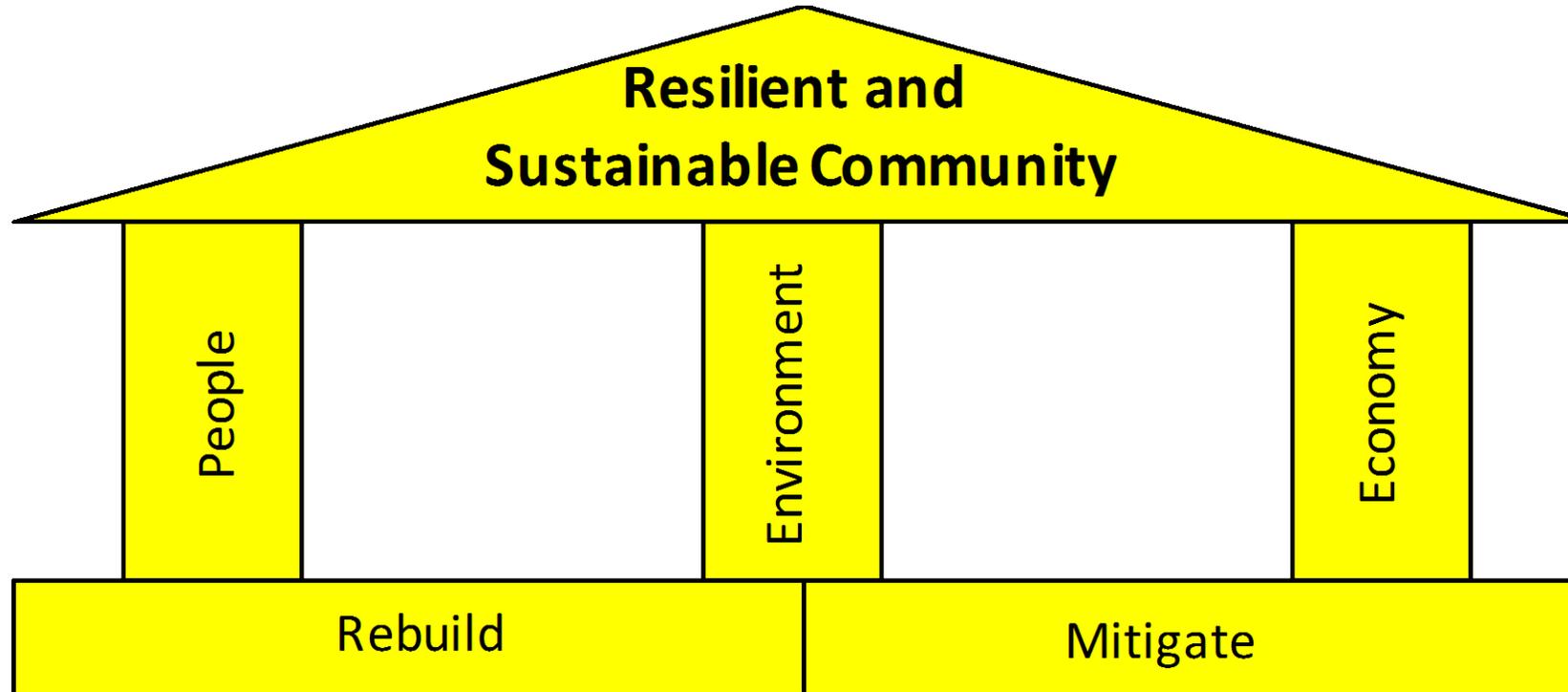
Division: Council

Department: Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee

Team Lead: Dana Woodworth

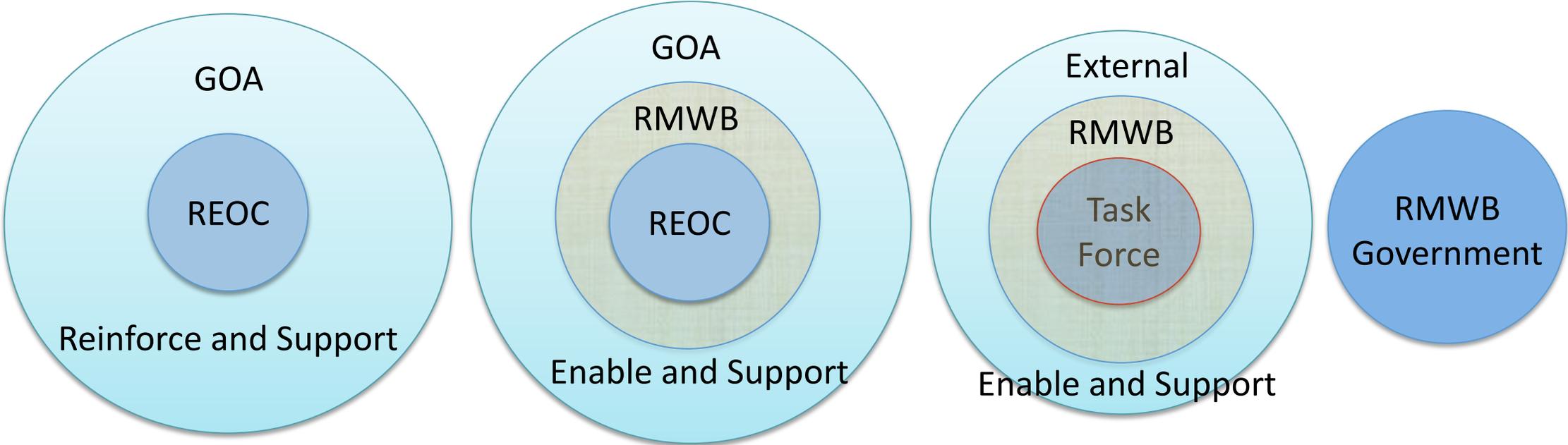
# Recovery Framework at a Glance

# Five Recovery Pillars



Desired outcome – a resilient and sustainable community

# RMWB 2016 Wildfire Recovery Framework



# Recovery Committee

# Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Mandate:

- Consult and work with: Municipal business units, private and NFP sectors, other levels of government and government agencies, and other stakeholders including affected residents
- Select and execute measures to ensure that the Municipality and its residents will be well established on a path to recovery from the devastating 2016 wildfire in the shortest time practicable, having regard to the magnitude of the task

# Recovery Committee is tasked with:

- Gathering relevant information within a reasonable time on all aspects and ramifications of the situation faced by severely impacted neighbourhoods and subdivisions
- Establishing and leading a process and thorough consultation with affected property owners and other community stakeholders to understand their needs
- Considering policy and legislative options for rebuilding, re-developing or re-inhabiting
- Making recommendations to Council resulting from this process

# Recovery Task Force

# Operations at a Glance

## Major Initiatives for 2016

- Provide recommendations to the committee for steering and priority setting
- Oversee the implementation of regional recovery operations
- Communicate and engage residents regarding recovery activities
- Design and use an overarching Recovery Campaign Plan
- Provide executive accountability for the development and implementation of the recovery plan including the budget, long term organizational structure, and long-term recovery plan

# Operations at a Glance

## Recovery Task Force Summary: Integration

- Recovery Task Force works collaboratively with other Municipal Departments and groups.
- The entire Municipality is involved in recovery efforts.
  - Some groups are heavily involved, e.g. Engineering, Economic Development, Environmental Services, Land Administration, to name a few.
  - These and other groups will have recovery related costs arising from joint and separate efforts.
  - Some portion of costs incurred by other groups will likely be DRP eligible costs.
- Therefore, the Municipality's recovery related costs will be greater than the amount budgeted within the Recovery Task Force.

# Operations at a Glance

## Recovery Task Force Summary:

### Resourcing

- The committee was established by Bylaw in July 2016
- Dana Woodworth has been appointed Interim Team Lead.
- Municipal employees have been seconded to the Recovery Task Force.
- Support from academia (U of A – soils analysis and advice).
- Support from industry (communications and recovery planning) to bolster the team.

# Operations at a Glance

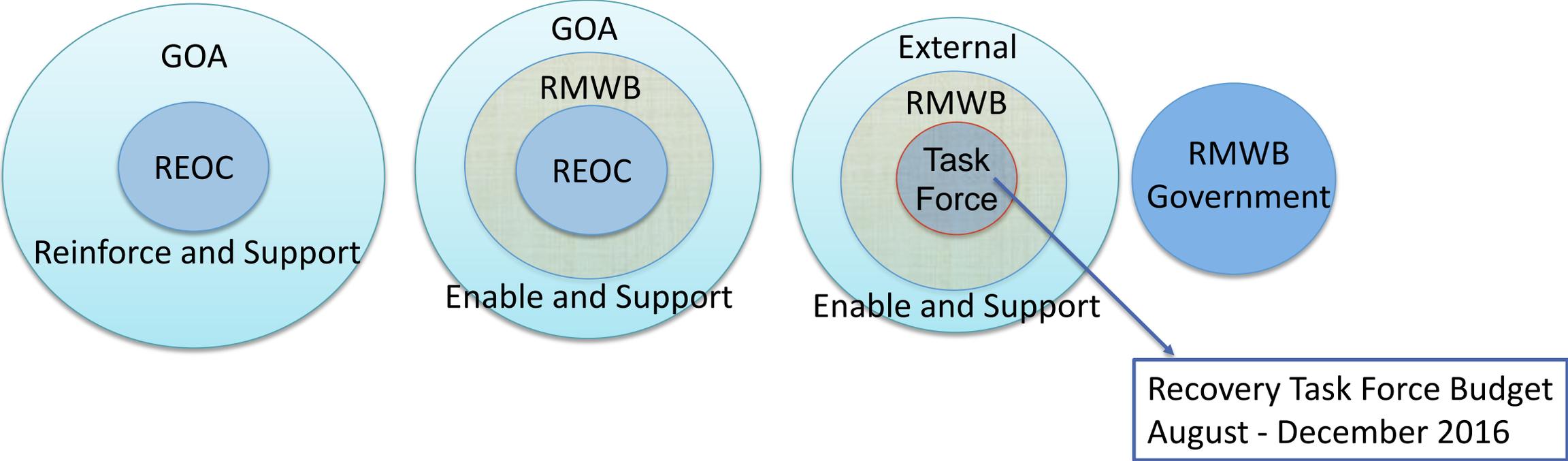
## Recovery Task Force Summary: Branches

- Administration
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Communications
- People Services
- Economic Development
- Operations – Environmental, Rebuild and Mitigate
- Plans
- Project Services

# Operating Budget

# Operating Budget Assumptions

- Budget scope is limited to the Recovery Task Force for the period Aug. – Dec. 2016



# Operating Budget Assumptions

- Recovery Committee was established with a \$4 M preliminary budget as startup funding.
- Budget is based on an August – December 2016 operating period.
- Workforce numbers are based on the organizational structure designed in September 2016 to deliver the Wood Buffalo Wildfire Recovery Campaign Plan V2.6.
- The majority of operating expense is identified as DRP reimbursable expense. A GOA representative was involved in budget review, but there is no guarantee that all expenditures will be reimbursed until they have been submitted, reviewed and approved through the DRP.

# Operating Budget

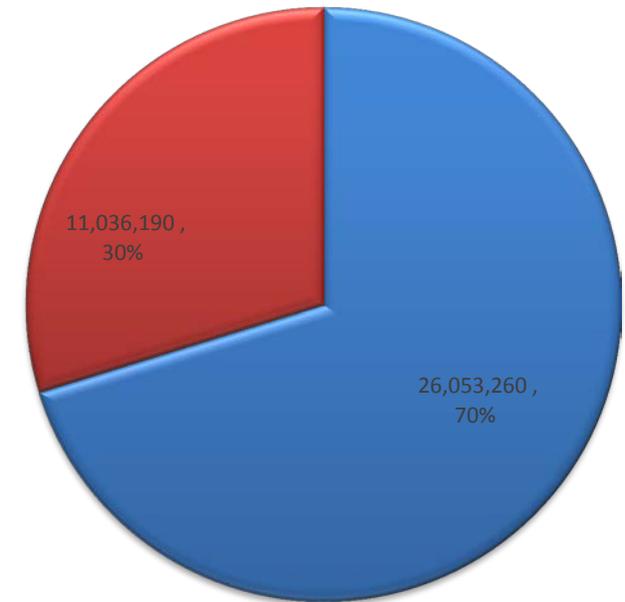
## OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

Recovery Task Force	Aug - Dec 2016 Proposed Operating Budget	Operating Budget Breakdown	
		GOA (DRP)	RMWB
Revenues	\$ 26,053,260	\$ 26,053,260	-
Expenses	37,089,450	26,053,260	11,036,190
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (11,036,190)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (11,036,190)</b>

\*as at August 2, 2016

\* \$11,036,190 is the amount of expense that is potentially non-recoverable through DRP. However the Recovery Task Force has been provided provisional funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 and therefore the net impact of this budget ask is \$7,036,190.

## Operating Budget Expense Breakdown



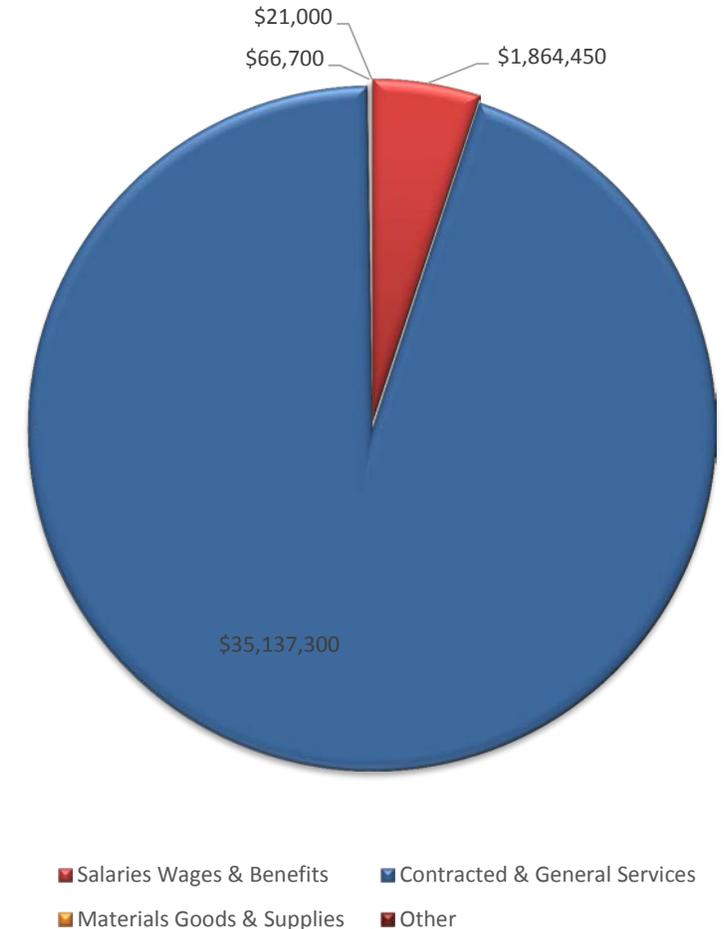
■ GOA (DRP) ■ RMWB

# Operating Budget

2016 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET BY BRANCH AND EXPENSES CATEGORY					
Recovery Task Force	2016 Proposed Operating Budget				
	Salaries Wages & Benefits	Contracted & General Services	Materials Goods & Supplies	Other	Total 2016 Operating Projection
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Committee	31,300	-	17,100	-	48,400
Administration	526,900	430,600	20,000	5,000	982,500
Stakeholder Engagement	68,750	236,900	11,200	-	316,850
Communications	206,250	555,900	-	-	762,150
People Services	240,600	62,300	15,000	-	317,900
Economic Development	68,750	52,100	1,600	-	122,450
Operations	412,500	33,376,600	1,800	16,000	33,806,900
Plans	68,750	422,500	-	-	491,250
Project Services	240,650	400	-	-	241,050
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,864,450</b>	<b>\$ 35,137,300</b>	<b>\$ 66,700</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>	<b>37,089,450</b>

\*as at August 2, 2016

## 2016 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET BY EXPENSES CATEGORY



# Contracted & General Services

<b>Security</b>	\$11,500,000
<b>Infrastructure Repairs and Restoration<sup>1</sup></b>	8,132,800
<b>2016 Firebreak Homes Allowance</b>	7,000,000
<b>Completion of Demolition Work</b>	4,500,000
<b>Other Branch Contracted &amp; General Services</b>	2,632,500
<b>Landfill Operations</b>	1,372,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,137,300</b>

Note 1: Retaining Wall Assessment & Construction	\$ 211,500
Hazardous Tree Removal & Disposal	525,000
Curb and Sidewalk Repairs	922,654
Street Sign Replacement	302,400
Firebreak Drainage	3,000,000
Additional Contract Staff	60,000
RV Park at Abraham Landing	440,000
Temporary Facilities for Compliance Officer	80,000
Electronic Message Board Rental Charges	160,000
Trail Restoration / Dozer Guard Assessment	600,000
Water & Waste Water Inspection & Restoration Work	193,717
Other Contracting Services	422,000
Contingency	1,215,529
Total Infrastructure Repairs and Restoration	<u>\$8,132,800</u>

# Personnel Budget

# Personnel Budget

## 2016 Personnel Cost

<b>2016 Proposed Cost <sup>1</sup></b> (\$)
\$1,864,450

## 2016 Number of FTEs

<b>2016 Proposed FTEs</b> (#)
58

Note 1 – Recovery group salary cost for Aug. – Dec. 2016 is \$3.6 M but personnel budget is carried by other departments. Backfill is expected by mid-October resulting in Recovery Task Force expense of 50% of total.

## 2016 Proposed Budget

Branch / Group	Proposed FTE <sup>1</sup>
Committee	0.0
Administration	14.0
Stakeholder Engagement	4.0
Communications	6.0
People Services	7.0
Economic Development	2.0
Operations	12.0
Plans	6.0
Project Services	7.0
	58.0

Note 1 - The Recovery Task Force relies on the Municipality for Shared Services in areas such as IS, Stakeholder Engagement, etc. No headcount has been included in Recovery Task Force for these Shared Services.

# Questions

## **Subject: 2016 Budget Request – Recovery Committee and Task Force**

### **APPROVALS:**

Dana Woodworth, Recovery Task Force Team Lead

### **Recommendations:**

1. THAT the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee (WBRC) recommend to Council that funding in the amount of \$7,036,190 be allocated from the 2016 Municipal Operating Budget surplus, if it exists, to support the additional cash flow requirements related to the operations of the WBRC and the Recovery Task Force (RTF); and
2. THAT in the event this funding cannot be accommodated in the 2016 Municipal Operating Budget surplus, funding be allocated from Emerging Issues Reserve or any other funding source as determined by the Municipality.
3. THAT the WBRC recommend to Council that the Municipality provide \$26,053,260 in cash-flow requirements to the WBRC and RTF in advance of the formal submission to the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) for reimbursement.
4. THAT the WBRC make a submission to the Government of Alberta for an advance in DRP funding.

### **Summary:**

The purpose of these funds is to ensure that the objectives and goals as outlined in the Wood Buffalo Wildfire Recovery Campaign Plan be implemented throughout the remainder of 2016. These funds will be utilized to support the operations of the WBRC and RTF.

It should be noted that a Provincial representative for the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) was involved in the review of the budget, however there is no formal guarantee that all expenditures will be reimbursed until they have been submitted, reviewed and approved. The RTF anticipates that the majority of costs will be reimbursable, but there is no reliable statistical data through the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) to indicate the percentage of DRP submissions that will be reimbursed. To remain conservative, the RTF has made an assumption that 80% of all costs submitted to DRP will be reimbursed and the remaining 20% will be a true funding requirement from the RMWB.

### **Background:**

The WBRC was established by Municipal Bylaw in July 2016 and a provisional budget of \$4M was approved as startup funding. The Recovery Task Force Interim Team Lead has been

selected. Municipal personnel reporting to the Team Lead have been seconded to staff the Recovery Task Force and implement the goals of the Committee and the direction of Council.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

The WBRC and the RTF require the entire \$33,089,050 additional cash flow for operations up – front. All eligible costs will be submitted to the DRP program for reimbursement. The breakdown of overall funding is shown below.

- Gross expenses		\$37,089,450
- Funded by:		
o Provisional funding	\$ 4,000,000	
o Additional Municipal funding	<u>\$ 7,036,190</u>	
<b>Total RMWB funding requirement</b>	<b>\$11,036,190</b>	
o DRP reimbursable	<u>\$26,053,260</u>	
Total Funding Sources		\$37,089,450

**Rationale for Recommendations:**

The Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee’s mandate is to consult and work with: Municipal business units, private and not-for-profit sectors, other levels of government, government agencies, and other stakeholders, including affected residents. The Committee, will select and execute measures to ensure that the Municipality and its residents will be well established on a path to recovery from the devastating 2016 wildfire in the shortest time practicable, having regard for the magnitude of the task. This funding request is necessary to carry out these activities for the remainder of the year.

**Strategic Plan Linkages:**

Providing funding to the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government
- 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
- Pillar 7 – Building for a Healthy and Active Lifestyle