

Subject: Bid to Host the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board Meeting on September 12-15, 2017

APPROVALS:

David Leflar, Director
Marcel Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo submit a proposal to host the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board Meeting in Fort McMurray on September 12-15, 2017.

Summary:

Council Members have expressed an interest in hosting the September 12-15, 2017 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board Meeting. FCM requires that a resolution of Council be passed supporting the proposal.

Background:

The FCM has issued a request for proposals for member municipalities to host Board Meetings in 2017. Proposals are evaluated by FCM's Standing Committee on Conference Planning based on established criteria approved by the Board and on a regional rotation. These criteria include, but are not limited to availability of hotel accommodations, conference facilities, transportation, and municipal support and equipment.

The Municipality previously submitted a proposal to host the September 2015 Board Meeting, but was not selected as the host community for that particular event.

Budget/Financial Implications:

The host municipality is responsible for costs associated with shuttle transportation for delegates to and from the conference facility, and the costs associated with hosting both a Welcome Reception and a dinner for delegates. The event host is also required to provide computer equipment, copying services and event planning support. If the Municipality is successful in its bid, the cost of the event would be brought forward in the 2017 Operating Budget.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Hosting an FCM Board Meeting would bring 100-120 elected and municipal officials from across Canada to the region and provide the Municipality with an opportunity to profile initiatives such as Zero Waste, and showcase municipal facilities such as Shell Place and the Suncor Community Leisure Centre. Hosting will also provide an opportunity to dispel some of the erroneous perceptions that have arisen as a result of less than positive media coverage about the region in the past several years.