



Heather Cobbett March 2017



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

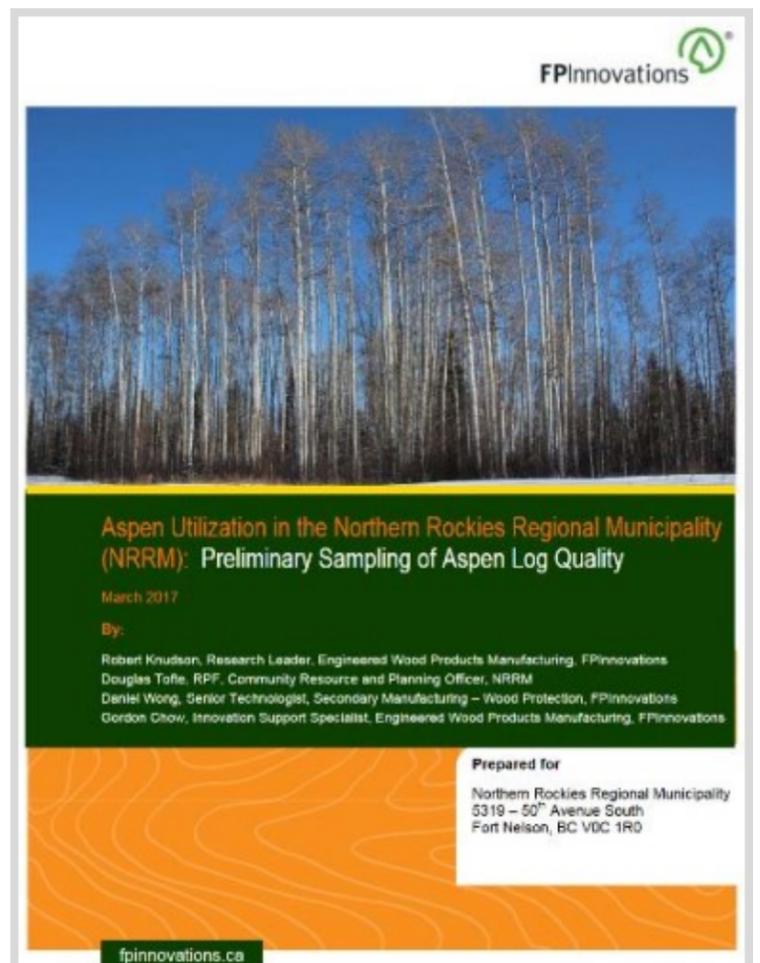
March 27, 2017

NRRM and FPInnovations Aspen Log Quality Project

The NRRM has undertaken a multi-phase Aspen Log Quality Project with the primary focus aimed at providing science-based evidence of the superior quality of the regional deciduous timber supply.

The results are available in the March 2017 report titled, [Aspen Utilization in the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality: Preliminary Sampling of Aspen Log Quality](#). Results were even better than expected and it is important that people understand that, according to FPInnovations, “NRRM aspen is a high quality resource, considerably higher than the aspen in other parts of Canada”

Council supported future phases of the aspen quality study and work will begin to identify financing through grants for the next stages of the aspen quality project. All efforts will be made to reduce the NRRM’s contribution where possible, through available potential funding sources including the Province in their FPInnovations funding as well as the Rural Dividend Fund and the Forest Enhancement Society. [More information](#)



New Summer Work Program Proposed



DURING THE FEBRUARY 25 BUDGET MEETING, an alternate option to hiring Summer Student Labourers was presented to Council in the form of a Work Program. Council requested additional information regarding the proposed program.

To help address the local economic situation, Council decided to utilize the budget that is normally allocated towards hiring Summer Students and instead hire local residents who are unemployed. Objectives of the program would be to ensure that required landscaping and summer maintenance needs are met while providing employment to local residents

who are out of work. Utilizing the service of the local Employment Office would also assist with the identification of potential candidates that would be eligible for any wage assistance programs to help offset the costs of running the program. Many of the wage assistance programs are attached to specific candidates and the amount of assistance is unknown at this time; however, by working with the Employment Office, staff could ensure that any and all opportunities for funding are taken advantage of.

The program will require union concurrence and all candidates hired would have to abide by regular NRRM employment standards with regards to safety, attendance, behaviour, and work performance. [More information](#)

Also of note...

- REGIONAL COUNCIL RECEIVED THE Northern Rockies Regional Municipality [February 2017 Crime Statistics](#) for information.
- REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce’s [request](#) for a waiver/grant-in-aid of up to \$350 to cover the Phoenix Theatre rental fee for the All Candidates Meeting. [More information](#)
- THE AIRPORT TERMINAL AND OPERATIONS Building Janitorial Services contract was awarded to Ola Shine Cleaning (Alexandra Belair) for a one-year term in the amount of \$2,285 per month plus applicable taxes. [More information](#)
- THE SOLID WASTE CURBSIDE COLLECTION CONTRACT with Wide Sky Disposal (1989) Ltd. was extended for an additional two years ending July 1, 2019, at an annual cost of \$156,504 plus annual increases governed by the Consumer Price Index—Vancouver. [More information](#)
- SCOTT BARRY, DEPUTY CAO OPERATIONS/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS was appointed as the NRRM’s representative to the Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement (IDCA) Management Committee, replacing CAO Randy McLean whose employment with the NRRM is ending due to his retirement.



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Learn more about what is happening in and around the community on the [NRRM website](#):

Engage Northern Rockies