



NRRM Councillor Danny Soles speaks in favour of a resolution at the 2017 North Central Local Government Assn. (NCLGA) Annual General Meeting on May 4, 2017 in Terrace, BC



May 8, 2017

Rural Official Community Plan



AFTER A YEAR OF PLANNING AND CONSULTATION, the Northern Rockies has adopted a Rural Official Community Plan (ROCP). This guiding document will bring the vast region outside of Fort Nelson into the NRRM's sphere, allowing for municipal consultation regarding development processes that were previously only under the auspices of the provincial government.

Significant consultation was conducted with regional stakeholders ([see consultation summary](#)), and a public hearing was held to collect feedback prior to the official adoption. [More information](#)

Council Approves Submission of Grant Application for Vermicomposting Trial



AS PART OF THE NRRM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP), Council previously approved a solid waste diversion goal of 20% by 2021.

One of the strategies explored to divert waste from the landfill is a Vermicomposting Pilot Project. Although the budget for the Pilot Project was not approved at the February Budget meeting, staff have now identified a grant opportunity from the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), that will cover 70% of the cost if approved.

The trial would commence upon grant approval and run for approximately 16 months on a 50 m² plot located in the fenced portion of the landfill (to avoid attracting bears and other animals). Several local businesses and the municipality would participate by contributing cardboard and organic waste (food scraps). Local resident and business owner, Wilf Hoath, is an enthusiastic advocate of vermicomposting, who will lead the trial and provide expertise on the cultivation of the red wiggler worms that are integral to the composting process.

The NDIT funded 50% of a [vermicomposting feasibility study](#) completed in 2015. This pilot is an anticipated next step in the effort to find an economical way to deal with cardboard waste, which is prohibitively expensive to transport to recycling depots located in the southern part of the province. [More information](#)

Toad River Lots for Sale

11 LOTS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY BEEN DEVELOPED at Toad River by the Municipality. With the subdivision and road access complete and BC Hydro power scheduled for installation by July 31, 2017, the eleven lots were posted for sale on April 4 on a cost-recovery basis, at upset prices from \$71,000 to \$116,500.

As only one lot has been confirmed sold to date, Council resolved to list the properties with local real estate agencies. [More information](#)



Northern Rockies Boaters Association Delegation

NORTHERN ROCKIES BOATERS ASSN. MEMBER Jennifer Barkved, appeared as a delegation to express concerns about the fate of the Skooks Landing boat launch at Mile 522 (KM 835) of the Alaska Highway. Skooks Landing currently provides access to the waterways in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA). [See maps](#)

The Skooks Landing boat launch has been included as part of an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) with area First Nations, which may restrict future use by boaters once the launch is no longer Crown land, and becomes privately owned.

Council agreed to provide a letter in support of having the launch property (as well as several other publically used boat launches throughout the NRRM) designated as a recreation site under the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) (FRPA) so that public access to this diverse wilderness area is assured in the future. [More information](#)



Gataga River—Picture courtesy of W. Sawchuk

Also of note...

- REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED a grant-in-aid request from the Fort Nelson Public Library. The \$1,000 grant will be used to help fund the library public access computer upgrade project. [More information](#)
- THE EXTENSION OF THE LANDFILL OPERATIONS CONTRACT (expiring August 31, 2017) with Wide Sky Disposal Ltd. to September 2018 was approved by Council. The extension will allow for the identification of operating needs as the Solid Waste Management Plan is implemented. [More information](#)
- ALTHOUGH COUNCIL DID NOT APPROVE the replacement of street banners in the 2017 Budget, a savings opportunity was discovered when purchasing banner hardware. Council approved the use of the existing budget to be applied to the purchase of replacement banners. [More information](#)
- STANTEC CONSULTING LTD. WAS AWARDED consulting services to represent the NRRM's interests with regard to understanding, analyzing and interpreting provincial and federal initiatives with regard to boreal caribou habitat within the municipality. [More information](#)
- COUNCIL SUPPORTED DCDP JAYLENE MACIVER's application to the Local Government Management Association's Overseas Manager Exchange Program for the 2017/2018 year. [More information](#)
- NRRM BYLAW NO. 138, 2017—Officer Positions and Delegation of Authority was adopted, taking into account the recent staffing changes at the municipality. [More information](#)



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