

From the Bear Pit

March 22, 2021

Review of Corporate Sustainability Policy

The Corporate Sustainability Policy is intended as a Council policy with an aim to guide the NRRM in reducing environmental impacts caused by the Municipality's operations in all areas. The flexibility of the policy allows for best practices to be updated as permitted in relation to organizational sustainability.

At the [November 12, 2019](#) meeting Regional Council directed staff to proceed with a draft Corporate Sustainability Policy for review. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the review was re-prioritized. An update was provided at the [October 13, 2020](#) meeting with a deadline to have a draft for Regional Council by the first quarter 2021. In preparation for a final policy staff are seeking some feedback from Regional Council:

1. Does Regional Council support a 10% price differential to allow for alternative product selection that increases the sustainability of the corporate operations? An example of this could be purchasing mainly recycled paper products over the cheapest option or purchasing paper plates instead of Styrofoam or plastic even if there is up to a 10% price increase. Purchasing practices are mentioned under bullets 8 and 9 of the Policy Objectives.
2. Does the draft policy generally meet the expectations and goals of Regional Council

Although there were some concerns regarding the quality of recycled products and their cost and that additional discussion may need to occur regarding further review on the policy Regional Council approved both question above.

[Administration Report No. 13/21](#) • [Attachment](#)

Municipal Operational Review

Regional Council discussed the motion brought forward by Councilor Andrews regarding a Municipal Operational Review due to members of the Public approaching Councilor Andrews with concerns. A discussion ensued as members of Regional Council offered their perspectives on the merits of such a project. Although some thought it could be of benefit there was also views of discussing a review of this type within the scope of Council's Strategic Planning Process. Ultimately, once votes were cast, the motion to proceed with a Municipal Operational review was unsuccessful.

Did you know that you can watch Regional Council meetings (even special meetings) from the comfort of your own home? Click to visit the municipal YouTube channel by searching NRRM or accessing www.NorthernRockies.ca/councilcast



Nonda Tower View Point, Photo Courtesy of Ryan Dickie

Nonda Creek Tower Road

The decommissioning of the Nonda Creek Tower last fall by Northwestel (NWTel) has raised discussions on the deactivation plans for the road that accessed the tower site.

The original road built in the early 1950's by Canadian National Telecommunications (which eventually became NWTel) had the Bailey bridge installed across the Toad River. A portion of the Tower Road is located within the boundaries of Muncho Lake Provincial Park and the remainder is Crown Land located outside the park boundaries but within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA). The M-KMA was designated as a globally significant area of wilderness, wildlife and cultures to be maintained in perpetuity. Motor vehicle travel is limited to specific routes in the M-KMA however the Nonda Creek Tower Road is one of the designated motorized access routes to within 400 meters of the road.

Following the decommissioning of the Tower, there have been concerns raised by various stakeholders that the road will be deactivated and the bridge removed without adequate public input. The road and bridge provide access to a private property, other tenure holders, and is heavily used for hunting, recreation, and tourism. The NRRM is uncertain whether the Province has consulted with any potentially impacted First Nations. The road allows properly equipped vehicles access to a unique alpine and high mountain wilderness viewpoint. The vital importance of this access route for residents and tourism in the region has prompted the NRRM to treat this issue with a high measure of priority as discussions between the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD), BC Parks and NWTel have been ongoing since 2020.

Recently MFLNRORD and BC Parks senior staff advised that representatives from NWTel and the province will continue discussions concerning the status of the road and bridge. These discussions may result in the need for an estimate of future maintenance costs to maintain the road in a safe, if only rustic condition. Regional Council is waiting to receive more information while considering reaching out to BC Parks for a partnership to help alleviate the cost of maintenance of the road and bridge. [Administration Report No 12/21](#)



Did you know that 911 is now an active service in the Northern Rockies? Find out more at www.NorthernRockies.ca/911

Also of note...

- Regional Council approved the Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District 2021 Annual Budget Adoption [Bylaw No. 75, 2021 Report](#) • [RHDBL75 Annual Budget Bylaw 2021](#)
- Council Information Packages were received for information: [March 10](#) • [March 17](#)

- Regional Council Rose and Reported to enact the Property Maintenance Bylaw as a result of the situation in the Villers Trailer Park regarding the removal of 119 dogs.
- An update on Council Resolution No. 47/21 for the 72 hour hold on Impounded Animals was approved to be suspended from the Bylaw.
- Regional Council approved the Update for the Tourism Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. [Administration Report No. 14/21](#) • [Attachment](#)

