



Tetsa River Regional Park, Campsite



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

April 12, 2021

BC Residents to have Priority at Local Regional Parks

Regional Parks, Andy Bailey and Tetsa River became Northern Rockies Regional Parks in 2005. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic in early 2020 the parks were closed. In May 2020 a decision was made to reopen the parks for the 2020 Season following the Provincial Health guidelines and orders, the parks were open with a preference to residents of BC.

Some of the amendments made to Tetsa River Regional Park Operations for the Pandemic Exposure Control processes were:

- Reservations and site bookings were set up for contact tracing and to minimize close contact between staff/contractors and the public.
- Increased daily cleaning/sanitizing of high contact points and washrooms
- Safety and protocol signage installed throughout all Regional parks

Andy Bailey Regional Park was maintained as part of the NRRM's normal operations and online reservations were started.

In planning for the 2021 camping season, it was recommended that the NRRM follow some of BC Parks' policies/practices including:

- British Columbians are given priority access to reservations. Non-residents will be able to make reservations as of July 8th .
- Reservations for residents is now available.
- Single site capacity limits remain the same for the 2021 season with a max of 8 individuals including day use visitors.
- Onus is on campers to follow Provincial Health Orders
- Double and group camp sites will be available for families/households/core bubble only to a maximum of 16 individuals
- Picnic shelters and cook shelters will continue to be closed until the gatherings and events orders allow for larger groups

With continued compliance during the COVID-19 Pandemic Regional Council has approved that the Regional Parks be open for registration, with priority to BC residents, following similar policies to BC Parks and safety practices in 2020; and that a drop in booking process be developed for the 2021 season that blends with the processes developed in 2020. [Administration Report No 15/21](#)

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



Plow Truck Purchase for Public Works

Regional Council approved the recommendation for the purchase of a tandem axel plow truck from Diamond International Trucks. Minimum specifications were outlined in the RFQ to be met by the proponents including a requirement for local servicing. Diamond International met all the minimum specifications with the exception of local servicing of the chassis, which will need to occur in Dawson Creek. The engine servicing can be provided for locally. Diamond International offers an extended warranty that provides for rural/remote locations and will provide 5 years of unlimited mileage and offsetting for towing costs up to \$1,100 a tow if the truck needs to be serviced in Dawson Creek. Within the approved 2021 Municipal Budget, an amount of \$290,000 was established for the purchase. At a total cost of \$245,545 plus taxes, the purchases falls within the approved budget, to be funded from the Mobile Equipment Reserve Fund. [Administration Report No. 18/21](#)

Animal Control & Pound Keeping Services

Regional Council received the information brought forward by the NRRM staff regarding the current contracts for Animal Control and Pound Keeping services. Regional Council may consider options such as;



1. Varying the bylaw enforcement process to take a more direct action rather than late-stage response where repeat incidents occur.
2. Explore opportunities to highlight the NRRM Animal Control, Pound and License Bylaw services available within the community and provide public education.

In response to the options Council resolved to organize an opportunity for current local services providers around animal control to come together and seek solutions in a more coordinated approach in the NRRM and Fort Nelson. [Administration Report No. 17/21](#)

Also of note...

- Regional Council approved the request from Image Tech Holdings Ltd to purchase a portion of vacant land adjacent to the west of the Public Works building at fair market value plus costs related to the transfer. [Administration Report 16/21](#) • [Attachment 1](#) • [Attachment 2](#)
- Recreation Statistics for [March 2021](#) were received for information.
- Regional Council resolved to have staff investigate any agreements for support made by previous Councils at the time the Community Trail was established which overlapped the areas formally developed and used by off-road vehicle enthusiasts locally. Also, Council resolved that Staff research possible solutions to address concerns identified by the Fort Nelson Snowmobile Club, further to their [presentation](#).

- Bruce Deinstadt was appointed as the Alternate Director to the Fort Nelson First Nation/Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Community Forest Partner Corporation.
- Regional Council approved a letter of support to Villers Air regarding a [Medical Transportation Program](#) to provide both services and support to patients requiring planned care not available locally and to advocate the project where applicable.
- Council Information Packages were received for information: [March 24](#) • [March 31](#) • [April 7](#)
- Regional Council approved a letter from Mr. Bob Zimmer, MP for Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies Re: Support for an National Suicide Prevention Hotline. [Attachment](#)

