



BYLAW

REPORT #242/25

Meeting Date: November 24, 2025

Author: R. Adhikari, RP

Approved for Agenda: CAO Barry

To: CAO; for Regional Council
Re: NRRM Official Community Plan (OCP)
Attachments: 1) Community Profile
2) Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 242, 2025

Recommendation: *"That the First and Second Readings be given to the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 242, 2025, and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for December 8, 2025."*

Issue:

The purpose of this report is to present the *Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 242, 2025* for First and Second Readings.

The proposed new Official Community Plan bylaw will replace *Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 64, 2011*, adopted in 2011, with an updated plan that reflects current community values, emerging land use and development trends, updated technical information, and compliance with new legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act* and related provincial statutes.

Background:

The update to the Official Community Plan (OCP) began in November, 2023. Since initiation, the project has included multiple phases of public and stakeholder engagement, including community open houses, interviews, virtual engagement, online surveys, pop-up engagements, and several meetings with the OCP Advisory Committee.

Given the changes in community values, demographics, and strategic priorities since 2011, the proposed OCP is substantially rewritten. The OCP Advisory Committee has been instrumental in shaping the proposed policies and providing community-based perspectives throughout the drafting process.

The Community Profile is a background document that provides baseline demographic, socio-economic, and housing data (**Attachment 1**). The Community Profile provides historical context and important background information that supported the development of OCP policies.

A summary of updates provided to Regional Council throughout the development of the new OCP is presented below.

Date	Meeting Type	Description
November 14, 2023	Regional Council Meeting	Administration Report #64/23 Project Kick Off
November 22, 2023	Committee of Whole (COTW)	OCP 101 Presentation
November 27, 2023	COTW	Council Engagement Session
January 8, 2024	Regional Council Meeting	Council Appointment to OCP Advisory Committee
February 12, 2024	Regional Council Meeting	Administration Report #03/24

		Advisory Committee and Gap Analysis Update
July 15, 2024	Special Regional Council Meeting	Administration Report #36/24 Phase I Engagement Summary and Project Update
February 7, 2025	COTW	Draft OCP Presentation
September 2, 2025	COTW	Administration Report #18/25 Phase II Engagement Summary and Legal Review

Analysis:

Legislative Context:

Preparation, adoption, and amendment of an Official Community Plan are governed by [Part 14, Division 4 of the *Local Government Act*](#) (Sections 471-478).

[Section 477](#) of the *Local Government Act*, outlines the procedure for the adoption of an OCP, including requirements for:

- Consideration of the plan in conjunction with the financial plan and waste management plan
- Referral to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) if the plan affects lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Requirement for a public hearing prior to final adoption.

Referrals:

In accordance with Sections 477(3)(b) and 475(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act*, the draft OCP was referred to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) on November 17, 2025.

Public Hearing and Notification:

In accordance with [Sections 466–469 of the *Local Government Act*](#), a public hearing must be held prior to Council's consideration of Third Reading and Adoption. Should Council give First and Second Readings, staff recommend scheduling the Public Hearing for December 8, 2025. Notification will be issued in compliance with statutory advertising and mailing requirements.

Conclusion:

The updated Official Community Plan represents a significant milestone in aligning the NRRM's land use planning framework with community aspirations, updated technical information, and legislative requirements. Staff recommend proceeding with First and Second Readings to enable continued progress toward adoption.

Strategic Priorities Impacted:

- *The NRRM will incorporate governance practices that support our service delivery, and we will effectively engage with our community and community partners.*
 - *By investing time and resources into continual policy review and modernization of the NRRM's legislative framework.*
 - *By designing and implementing an effective community education and engagement strategy.*
 - *By committing to building relationships with neighboring communities and partners.*
 - *By committing to Reconciliation.*

Option:

1. **(recommended)** That the First and Second Readings be given to the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 242, 2025, and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for December 8, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Radha Adhikari', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Radha Adhikari
Regional Planner