

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

October 7, 2020

Report prepared by: Alyssa Robb, Environmental Coordinator



Wetland Replacement Program Participation

Recommendation from Administration

That the Board approve option 3 as described in the attached report, being to participate in wetland replacement through promotion of existing efforts in Wheatland County rather than participating in the Provincial Wetland Replacement Program at this time.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: N/A

Municipalities in Alberta have been presented with an opportunity to become actively involved in wetland management through the Province of Alberta's new Wetland Replacement Program. The Province is attempting to secure municipal involvement and has approached Wheatland County directly due to our high priority location for wetland replacement. Municipal involvement in the Wetland Replacement Program requires that Wheatland County sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province committing us to seek wetland replacement opportunities, submit a minimum of one application for a wetland replacement opportunity per year, and carry out wetland replacement work that is approved and 100% funded by the province.

Wheatland County staff have participated in conference calls with provincial staff responsible for the program to obtain further information and have initiated critical thought about the fit of the Wetland Replacement Program within our operations. We now require the Board's direction in determining how best to proceed with respect to the wishes and interests of Wheatland County's agricultural community. To this end, we present three possible courses of action and a recommendation as described in the attached report.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Alberta Wetland Policy (2013); Water Act, RSA 2000, c W-3; Wheatland County Agriculture and Environment Policy 3.4.1, Environmental Policy

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

The Wetland Replacement Program is a new opportunity presented by the Province to municipalities. Strategic analysis is included in the attached report.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

Described in the attached report.

Organizational

Described in the attached report.

Financial

Described in the attached report.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

Described in the attached report. There are no expected impacts to staff or public safety associated with any of the three response options.

Follow-up Action / Communications

The attached report outlines three possible response options. Depending on the option chosen by the Board, administration will follow up accordingly with Council, Alberta Environment & Parks, and/or Ducks Unlimited Canada, as necessary.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Wetland Replacement Participation.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wetland Replacement Program Brief FINAL.docx- AEP WRP Info Sheet.pdf- DUC Wetland Restoration fact sheet.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 22, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russel Muenchrath', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russel Muenchrath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ziehr', with a long, horizontal, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ziehr