



ADMINISTRATION

REPORT #64/24

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Author: L. Thompson, DRDP

Approved for Agenda: CAO Barry

To: CAO; for Regional Council
Re: Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

Recommendation: “That Regional Council establish a FireSmart and Wildfire Resiliency Advisory Committee focusing on initiatives throughout the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality; **AND**, that staff initiate a public Expression of Interest to solicit members to the committee for Regional Council’s appointment; **AND**, that a Terms of Reference for the Committee is drafted for Regional Council’s consideration.”

Issue:

Information is provided for Regional Council’s consideration regarding the establishment of a local Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee.

Background:

Based on interest expressed by Regional Council at the [August 12, 2024](#) and [October 28, 2024](#) Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings to actively engage the public concerning Firesmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives, Regional Council requested that staff provide further information concerning the establishment of a Committee of Council.

Analysis:

Information concerning the types of Committees of Council was provided in [COTW Report #15/24](#).

It is recommended that an Advisory Committee, similar to Select Committees (*Community Charter Sections 142*) would be the most appropriate form of Committee, and would be consistent with other established Committees of Council such as the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Tourism Action Committee.

Where a Select Committee typically exists for a specific period of time or for a specific project (after which they cease to exist), an Advisory Committee typically has a longer tenure, being assigned a matter of Council’s strategic priority, and would be leveraged to provide community-based input into the decision-making process by way of advice or recommendations to Council as defined through the terms of reference. As an Advisory Committee is not a form recognized within legislation, the assignment and voting power of Council membership is at Council’s discretion, and it would be recommended that the procedures of Select Committees be followed as outlined in the [Regional Council Procedure Bylaw](#).

Should Regional Council wish to establish a FireSmart and Wildfire Resiliency Committee as a Committee of Council, the following would be undertaken:

1. Initiation by staff of a public Expression of Interest to solicit members to the committee for Regional Council’s appointment;
2. Review by staff and recommendations to Regional Council concerning membership; and
3. Drafting of a Terms of Reference for Regional Council’s consideration.

The establishment of a local Community FireSmart and Resiliency Advisory Committee could assist in strengthening collaboration between Regional Council and key partners that have a direct influence on planning, with those that may undertake or have experience implementing wildfire risk reduction activities.

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 committing to building relationships with neighboring communities and partners.*
 - *By committing to Reconciliation*
- *The NRRM will make informed decisions to ensure the sustainability of our community services and programs by providing and maintaining the appropriate infrastructure to do so.*
 - *By developing comprehensive and effective risk reduction strategies to mitigate the impact of wildfires, floods, and severe heat and cold climates.*
- *The NRRM will safeguard the health and safety of the land and people through action and innovation while demonstrating leadership, accountability, and integrity.*
 - *By promoting environmental literacy through engagement and empowerment, and raising awareness among residents, local non-profits, schools, and businesses.*

Options:

1. Recommended: That Regional Council establish a FireSmart and Wildfire Resiliency Advisory Committee focusing on initiatives throughout the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality; AND, that staff initiate a public Expression of Interest to solicit members to the committee for Regional Council's appointment; AND, that a Terms of Reference for the Committee is drafted for Regional Council's consideration."

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Thompson, Director Regional Development & Planning