



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

TO: Council

DATE: February 23, 2021 **DIVISION:** All

FILE: N/A **APPLICATION:** N/A

SUBJECT: Emergent Report: Request from Wheatland County regarding Regional Growth Plan

POLICY DIRECTION:

The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) came into force on January 1, 2018, (Section 708 of the *Municipal Government Act*) and is intended to provide for integrated and strategic growth in the Calgary Region. The CMRB is required, by legislation, to create a Regional Growth and Servicing Plan that will guide growth and development in the Region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On February 17, 2021, Rocky View County received a request from Wheatland County regarding the establishment of a Council opinion on the draft Regional Growth Plan (Attachment A). Both Foothills County and Wheatland County have passed resolutions of Council to establish their positions on the growth plan.

The following motion was passed by Wheatland County on February 16, 2021:

THAT Wheatland County does not support the draft Regional Growth Plan dated Feb 2nd, 2021 as submitted and presented by the Consultant, HDR Calthorpe and Wheatland Council is concerned that significant portions of the Growth Plan have not been submitted as required; and further

THAT the contract between the CMRB and the consultant is worth over one million dollars and stipulates the submission of the Regional Growth Plan, the Regional Servicing Plan and the Regional Evaluation Framework; and further

THAT Wheatland County is greatly concerned that none of this work has been satisfactorily completed; and further

THAT Wheatland has contributed over \$165,000.00 worth of staff and elected officials time over the past 13 months towards this project; and further

THAT Wheatland Council requests an analysis of time and money spent by all member municipalities as contributions towards the work of this consultant for review and discussion at the next CMRB Board meeting, prior to any further funding of this project by CMRB and Province of Alberta, Wheatland Council is of the opinion that an accounting of all the project costs to date and the project work submitted be provided; and further

THAT the CMRB board should review the draft submissions under the lens of the Provincial mandate of Red Tape Reduction and other Provincial Economic Strategies.

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider Wheatland County's request and provide direction to Administration. Council can determine if they wish to pass a resolution, at this time, establishing an opinion or wait until the next stage of the process. Administration has prepared two options for Councils consideration.

Administration Resources

Amy Zaluski, Legislative Services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budget implications at this time.

OPTIONS:

- Option #1 THAT Rocky View County does not support the draft Regional Growth Plan dated Feb 2nd, 2021 as submitted and presented by the Consultant, HDR Calthorpe and Rocky View Council is concerned that significant portions of the Growth Plan have not been submitted as required; and further
- THAT the contract between the CMRB and the consultant is worth over one million dollars and stipulates the submission of the Regional Growth Plan, the Regional Servicing Plan and the Regional Evaluation Framework; and further
- THAT Rocky View County is greatly concerned that none of this work has been satisfactorily completed; and further
- THAT Rocky View County has contributed over \$250,000.00 worth of staff and elected officials time over the past 13 months towards this project; and further
- THAT Rocky View Council requests an analysis of time and money spent by all member municipalities as contributions towards the work of this consultant for review and discussion at the next CMRB Board meeting, prior to any further funding of this project by CMRB and Province of Alberta, Rocky View Council is of the opinion that an accounting of all the project costs to date and the project work submitted be provided; and further
- THAT the CMRB board should review the draft submissions under the lens of the Provincial mandate of Red Tape Reduction and other Provincial Economic Strategies.
- Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

“Amy Zaluski”

Director
Legislative Services

Concurrence,

“Al Hoggan”

Chief Administrative Officer

AZ/rp

Attachment A – Wheatland County Council resolution regarding Draft CMRB Growth Plan

**ATTACHMENT 'A': WHEATLAND COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
REGARDING DRAFT CMRB GROWTH PLAN**

Amy Zaluski

From: Division 7, Daniel Henn
Sent: February 19, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Amy Zaluski
Cc: Al Hoggan
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] - Wheatland County Council Resolution regarding Draft CMRB Growth Plan

Thanks

Dan Henn

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amber Link <amber.link@wheatlandcounty.ca>
Date: February 17, 2021 at 10:33:41 PM MST
To: "Division 7, Daniel Henn" <DHenn@rockyview.ca>
Cc: Brian Henderson <brian.henderson@wheatlandcounty.ca>, Matthew Boscariol <Matthew.Boscariol@wheatlandcounty.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Wheatland County Council Resolution regarding Draft CMRB Growth Plan

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Good day Reeve Henn,

Wheatland County Council passed the following motion at our February 16, 2021 Council Meeting following the high level presentation of the draft Growth Plan (no Servicing Plan or REF Process were presented):

MOTION ARISING

THAT Wheatland County does not support the draft Regional Growth Plan dated Feb 2nd, 2021 as submitted and presented by the Consultant, HDR Calthorpe and Wheatland Council is concerned that significant portions of the Growth Plan have not been submitted as required; and further

THAT the contract between the CMRB and the consultant is worth over one million dollars and stipulates the submission of the Regional Growth Plan, the Regional Servicing Plan and the Regional Evaluation Framework; and further

THAT Wheatland County is greatly concerned that none of this work has been satisfactorily completed; and further

THAT Wheatland has contributed over \$165,000.00 worth of staff and elected officials time over the past 13 months towards this project; and further

**ATTACHMENT 'A': WHEATLAND COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
REGARDING DRAFT CMRB GROWTH PLAN**

THAT Wheatland Council requests an analysis of time and money spent by all member municipalities as contributions towards the work of this consultant for review and discussion at the next CMRB Board meeting, prior to any further funding of this project by CMRB and Province of Alberta, Wheatland Council is of the opinion that an accounting of all the project costs to date and the project work submitted be provided; and further

THAT the CMRB board should review the draft submissions under the lens of the Provincial mandate of Red Tape Reduction and other Provincial Economic Strategies.

We have grave concerns regarding the Growth and Servicing Plans as drafted. The entire plan is based on a premise we fundamentally disagree with. It is reprehensible to us that we are putting forward a statutory plan that will drive investment out of Alberta. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is critical that we are united in reducing red tape, committing to fiscal efficiency, and strategically attracting investment rather than stifling or outright stopping economic development in any municipality in Alberta. We must be laser focused on job creation, reducing taxes, and economic recovery.

We respectfully request Rocky View County Council consider their position on the draft plans and consider a resolution establishing that Council position.

With kindest regards,

Amber Link, Reeve

Division 2 Councillor, Wheatland County



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