



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-489

From: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: April 4, 2024

Subject: Interprovincial Meeting Update

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize that staff no longer pursue setting up Interprovincial Meetings with Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County and the County of Grande Prairie at this time; further, that the Board's Strategic Plan be updated in alignment with this resolution.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On February 23, 2024, staff sent out an invitation for an April 2024 Interprovincial Meeting to Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Grande Prairie for a third time since 2019. Saddle Hills County and the County of Grande Prairie emailed the PRRD staff to state that they would not be able to attend as their Board had other commitments. On April 22, 2024, PRRD Staff called Clear Hills County staff who apologised for not getting back to the PRRD and stated that Clear Hills County would be unable to attend the meeting.

On October 26, 2023 the Board approved the 'Proposed 2024 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule'. The Interprovincial Meeting was not included on the schedule as staff did not have a meeting date at that time. On December 8, 2023 the 'Board Meeting Schedule – Additions' was approved by the Board, however the Interprovincial Meeting was not included on the schedule as again the date was unknown.

On May 16, 2019 the Board adopted the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan which included Inter-provincial collaboration with Alberta local governments as part of the Strategic Focus Areas. Adoption of the Strategic Plan provides Administration with the goals that have been deemed 'priority' by the Board. Priority areas receive the most staff resource time.

Previously on June 29, 2023 the Regional Board passed the following resolution after receiving Report ADM-BRD-421 '2023 Interprovincial Meeting Update':

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize that the 2023 Interprovincial Meeting that was tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2023 be deferred until 2024 to allow Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Grande Prairie to attend; further, that the meeting date is set in alignment with the 2024 annual meeting schedule.

On May 4, 2023 the Regional Board authorized that the Regional Board invite Saddle Hills County, the County of Grand Prairie, and Clear Hills county to an Open House Meet and Greet at the Peace River

Regional District (PRRD) Warehouse after the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association Annual Fall Fair Parade. Saddle Hills County and the County of Grande Prairie attended the PRRD Meet and Greet.

Previously on May 4, 2023 the Regional Board passed the following Resolution after receiving Report ADM-BRD-402 '2023 Interprovincial Open House meet and Greet':

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED

That the Regional Board invite Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County to an Open House Meet and Greet at the Peace River Regional District Warehouse after the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association Annual Fall Fair Parade.

In May of 2023, staff sent a Doodle Poll to the Regional Board to determine their availability for October and November 2023. Based on the results, a couple of options were sent to the Parties. Unfortunately, due to upcoming budgets and competing priorities, those dates did not work for the Parties. Staff continued to work with the Interprovincial counterparts to find new options for the Interprovincial Meeting. Staff recommended that the Regional Board authorize a meeting date to be set for an Interprovincial Meeting in April 2024, based on annual priorities of interprovincial meeting participants in 2024, allowing Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Grande Prairie to attend; and further, that the meeting date be set in alignment with the 2024 annual meeting schedule.

In December 2022, once the new Regional Board Members were sworn in and the 2023 meeting schedule was adopted, staff contacted Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County to find a meeting date for the rescheduled Interprovincial Meeting. Staff reviewed the Boards' availability and proposed a number of dates to the three Parties. Unfortunately, the dates did not work for the Parties, and the PRRD was informed that the proposed dates must be outside of the farming season.

On March 10, 2022, the Province announced that between March 11, 2022, and April 8, 2022, the Province would be lifting COVID-19 restrictions, including the requirement for indoor common area mask requirements for workplaces, showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access nonessential events, and the Workplace Safety Order. Due to a lack of available dates, and the 2022 General Local Government Election, it was decided to wait until a new Board was in place to find a meeting date.

The Interprovincial Meeting was then rescheduled for October 14, 2021. On October 7, 2021, the Regional Board again postponed the Interprovincial Meeting until the Order of the Provincial Health Officer – Gathering and Events and the Gathering and Events COVID-19 Order for Northern Health Authority were amended to allow the meeting to happen face to face without COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Previously on October 7, 2021 the Regional Board passed the following Resolution after receiving Report ADM-BRD-236 '2023 Interprovincial Meeting':

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED

That the Regional Board postpone the October 14, 2021, Interprovincial Meeting until the Order of the Provincial Health Officer – Gathering and Events, and the Gathering and Events

COVID-19 Order for Northern Health Authority are amended to allow the meeting to happen face to face without COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

On January 28, 2021, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Regional Board postponed the April 21, 2021, Interprovincial Meeting until the fall of 2021 to allow the meeting to be held in person.

Previously on January 28, 2021 the Regional Board passed the following Resolution at EADC on January 21, 2021:

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED

That the Regional Board postpone the April 21, 2021 Interprovincial Meeting until the fall of 2021 to allow the meeting to potentially be held in person.

Previously on October 22, 2020, the Regional Board passed the following Resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED

That the Regional Board host an Interprovincial Meeting with local governments in Alberta on April 21, 2021, with the format to be determined based on COVID-19 related measures.

In March 2020, COVID-19 hit, and the meeting was cancelled. On June 11, 2022, Clear Hills County proposed a new meeting date to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff worked with all the counterparts and were unable to find a date. On October 22, 2020, the Regional Board set April 21, 2021, as the new date for the Interprovincial Meeting.

In April 2019, the Regional Board participated in an Interprovincial Meeting with Saddle Hills County, the County of Grande Prairie, and Clear Hills County. At the time, the Directors who attended the meeting agreed to the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) hosting the next meeting. As such, the Regional Board scheduled an Interprovincial Meeting for April 15, 2020.

Staff have continued to work with the Interprovincial counterparts to find new options for the Interprovincial Meeting. Staff are recommending that the Regional Board authorizes that no further meeting dates be pursued as a result of not being able to solidify a date for a meeting over the last couple of years, despite multiple attempts.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Interprovincial Collaboration
- ☒ Coordinate the Re - Establishment of Inter-Provincial Meetings

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Not applicable at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The Peace River Regional District will work to accommodate a meeting date if Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Grande Prairie reach out for a meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.