

Request for Decision

Title	Resource Extraction Regulatory Review: Phase 3 Public Engagement Plan
Proposed Motion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council approve the attached Resource Extraction Regulatory Review - Phase 3 Engagement Plan. 2. That Council direct Administration to implement the Resource Extraction Regulatory Review - Phase 3 Engagement Plan, and report back to Council with a summary of stakeholder feedback following engagement. 3. That Council approve the allocation of \$14,000 from the Planning Reserve to support the implementation of the Resource Extraction Regulatory Review - Phase 3 Engagement Plan.
Administrative Recommendation	<p>That Council direct Administration to conduct a third phase of public engagement in Spring 2022 according to the attached Resource Extraction Regulatory Review – Phase 3 Engagement Plan, and report back to Council with the results of this engagement.</p> <p>The third phase will provide more information on the Final Report and allow the community an opportunity to provide meaningful input on the report’s recommendations.</p>
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<p><u>February 22, 2022 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 046/2022: That Council direct Administration to bring an updated Resource Extraction Regulatory Review Engagement Plan to a Council meeting in March 2022 to host an in-person and virtual open house session on the east side of the County, inclusive of all elements recommended within the Request for Decision.</p> <p><u>April 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 202/2021: That Council direct Administration to extend the Resource Extraction Regulatory Review stakeholder engagement process to support additional engagement inclusive of continued availability of administrative officials for questions, continued engagement with the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee, continued collection of inputs from operators, and a new in-person and virtual open house to be held in the east of Sturgeon County at a date contingent on Alberta Health Services and County COVID-19 restrictions; and that Council</p>

	<p>approve \$19,000 for additional Resource Extraction Regulatory Review public engagement, to be funded from the Planning Reserve.</p> <p><i>Note: Previous Legislative History excluded for brevity – available on website or previous reports as required.</i></p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgeon County contains high volumes of valuable sand and gravel resource deposits, and resource extraction is a key local industry. Sturgeon County's aggregate resources are valued because of their high quality and their proximity to local and regional markets. • Resources will eventually be depleted, uneconomical to extract, and limited by land use regulations. Of the known aggregate deposits within the Sturgeon River watershed, about 50% have been extracted and approximately 20% are under active extraction and processing. Only half of the remaining area is likely to be mined in the future due to economic conditions or inaccessibility due to current restrictions. • Concerns have also been raised regarding matters pertaining to resource extraction in some areas / 'legacy' operations, related to noise, traffic, environmental stewardship, reclamation, communications, enforcement, and more. • In 2020, Council launched the Resource Extraction Regulatory Review (RERR) to consider these factors and a competitive balance between economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes related to the regulation and operation of aggregate industries within the County. Council noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A modernization of regulations could represent an opportunity to apply technologies and new performance standards that better protect quality of life; and ○ Competitive approaches to regulation support investment certainty, create or protect jobs, and generate new municipal revenue for important community services. • An expert consultant (B&A Planning) was engaged to provide advice and coordinate stakeholder engagement. The RERR scope included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the County's largest ever public engagements (9+ months of comprehensive consultation in two phases, hundreds of staff hours, public survey, committee meetings, direct interviews, ongoing contact lines, open houses, etc.); ○ Collection of inputs from industry and other key stakeholders (regional municipalities, governments, etc.); ○ Completion of a jurisdictional review of practices in over 20 comparable municipalities; ○ Completion of a review of aggregate best management practices across western Canada; and ○ Development of a Final Report with specific recommendations for Council consideration

- The Final Report and recommendations were finalized in March 2021. The final RERR Report and What We Heard documents are available on the Sturgeon County website at sturgeoncounty.ca/ResourceExtraction
- Eight (8) specific recommendations were made, including details of all findings and best practices. Recommendations included:
 1. New Municipal Regulatory Model
 2. New Municipal Permitting Process
 3. Operator Reporting and Municipal Enforcement
 4. Updated Municipal Processes
 5. Municipal Communications and Information Platform
 6. Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy Review
 7. Representative Committee Membership
 8. Transition Plans for Existing Operations
- At the February 22, 2022 Council meeting, Council directed Administration to bring an updated Resource Extraction Regulatory Review Engagement Plan to a Council meeting in March 2022 to host an in-person and virtual open house session on the east side of the County.

External Communication

- The Resource Extraction Regulatory Review – Phase Three Engagement Plan (see Attachment 1) outlines various engagement tactics proposed. These include:
 - Public Open House (in the east of Sturgeon County, as the first open house was held in the western area)
 - Online Information Session / Call A Planner Sessions
 - Opportunities for Written Submissions
 - Fulsome Advertising (including a mail-out, road signage, newspaper ads, social media, website advertising, and emails) to ensure stakeholder awareness and participation
- If approved, Council could use the input gathered throughout the public engagement process to help determine next steps and the future of the Resource Extraction Regulatory Review.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- Federal and provincial legislation and requirements heavily shape municipal regulatory frameworks. This includes Code of Practice, provincial approvals through Alberta Environment and Parks, etc.
- Sturgeon County Land Use Bylaw

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:

The Resource Extraction Regulatory Review relates to all five of Council's strategic community outcomes – Planned Growth, Thriving Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Collaborative Governance, and Operational Excellence.

	<p><u>Organizational:</u> Administration has the capacity to complete a third phase of public engagement.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> Budget for incremental engagement activities (mail out, open house venue and materials, advertising, etc.) of approximately \$14,000 is required, net of remaining RERR engagement funding from 2021.</p>
Alternatives Considered	<p>Council could:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not proceed with further public engagement, but direct Administration to move forward to implement all or some recommendations (such as those recommendations that appear to have broader support based on analysis and prior engagements). 2. Not proceed with further public engagement, and direct Administration to cease further work on this matter until further notice.
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This option could result in several modernizations and process improvements as noted in the RERR Report; however, could miss some benefits depending on which recommendations are advanced. Discontinuing engagement at this time could also risk stakeholder understanding and support for the directed approach, particularly with residents in the eastern part of the County. 2. This option would miss the opportunity for modernized regulation, supporting both resident and stakeholder interests. Discontinuing further engagement could also result in some missed understanding of the matter, particularly with residents in the eastern part of the County. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration has the capacity to bring forward required bylaws, policies, or budget requirements to implement desired recommendation(s). 2. Administration would take no further action and would not require additional financial or human resources. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific financial implications would be dependent on the recommendation(s) advanced. 2. None.
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Execute the RERR Phase Three Engagement Plan (Multiple Departments, April – May, 2022). 2. Submit What We Heard Report back to Council for their consideration (Multiple Departments, expected June 2022).

Attachment(s)	1. Attachment 1: Resource Extraction Regulatory Review – Phase Three Engagement Plan
Report Reviewed by:	<p>Bonnie McInnis, Manager, Planning & Development Services</p> <p>Lucas Warren, Manager, Corporate Communications</p> <p>Travis Peter, General Manager, Development & Strategic Services</p> <p>Scott MacDougall, Acting County Commissioner – CAO</p>

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.*

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern broadband and digital capabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thriving Communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Governance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>