

Briefing Note

Title	2:00 p.m. Continuation of Public Hearing – Bylaw 1622/23 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 – Redistricting of a Portion of N-27-54-27-W4M from AG - Agriculture District to RE - Resource Extraction District
Issue	To receive comments from the public regarding proposed Bylaw 1622/23 which proposes to facilitate the expansion of an existing resource extraction operation.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<u>April 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 137/23: That Council give third reading of Bylaw 1608/22. <u>March 28, 2023 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 093/23: That Council give first reading of Bylaw 1622/23. <u>July 10, 2017 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 351/17: That Council give third reading to Bylaw 1385/17, Land Use Bylaw.
Report	<u>Background Information</u> • An application has been received to amend Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 to facilitate a natural resource extraction operation on a portion of N-27-54-27-W4M. • The proposed redistricting mostly includes lands within NE-27-54-27-W4M; however, also includes a small sliver of land within NW-27-54-27-W4M, totaling 6.19 hectares (15.30 acres). The subject area is currently districted AG – Agriculture and the applicant intends to redistrict to the RE – Resource Extraction. The parcels would continue to be split zoned. • Most lands adjacent to this area have already been designated for natural resource extraction, and this application intends to make some minor additions to this area. The area includes a small area of trees and a portion of agricultural land. The applicant noted that the additional areas will allow for greater operational efficiencies and maximize the recovery of the resource. • The configuration of the proposed additional land meets the minimum 800m setback from any multi-lot subdivision or hamlet. There are two residences within 400m of the proposed additional areas. While no concerns are anticipated given the previous approvals on the same quarter section, written consent from these residents must be

submitted prior to the issuance of a future development permit.

- Two options for the proposed haul route are being considered for this application. Option A would be an internal haul road that runs parallel with Township Road 544A, which then crosses Range Road 272. Option B would have the applicant enter into an agreement with Sturgeon County to upgrade a portion of Township Road 544A and seek a road closure from Range Road 272 west to Range Road 273. Both options are being considered and will be required prior to development permit approval for the updated operational area.
- The applicant has submitted a land reclamation plan which will return the subject area to an acceptable agricultural designation following the completion of the natural resource extraction.
- While recommendations through the County's Resource Extraction Regulatory Review are under consideration, the applicant has chosen to proceed with this redistricting.

Area Structure Plan Amendment

- The applicant also submitted an amendment to the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Extraction Area Structure Plan. However, Bylaw 1608/22 – Repeal of the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Extraction Area Structure Plan received third reading on April 20, 2023. Therefore, no amendments to the ASP are required, and the application fees have been refunded.

Referral Comments

- The redistricting will allow the applicant to apply for a development permit that will be subject to the Code of Practice for Pits. The comments received for this application are noted below:
 - The applicant must enter into a Development Agreement with Sturgeon County and provide detailed engineering design drawings for the Zone 5 approved haul route.
 - Gravel extraction within Zone 5 will require the removal of a well in close proximity from the ground water monitoring program.
 - The zones in this area have excellent agricultural production and therefore it is important that the lands are returned to agricultural use as soon as extraction is complete.
 - The development permit can address timelines for progressive reclamation of lands.

External Communication

- Newspaper advertisements for the Public Hearing were placed in the *Morinville Free Press* and *Redwater Review* for two consecutive weeks (April 26 and May 3, 2023). Further advertisements were placed in the same newspapers on May 10 and May 17, 2023 to advertise the continuance of the Public Hearing on May 23, 2023.
- There was a deficiency in sending notifications to adjacent property owners within a 1600-meter radius (double the standard). Therefore, Council kept the Public Hearing open and continued to receive

submissions for the May 23, 2023 Council Meeting to ensure all affected persons have the opportunity to address Council.

May 9, 2023 Public Hearing

- The applicant spoke in support of the proposed bylaw amendment.
- The Public Hearing was recessed to the May 23, 2023, Regular Council Meeting to allow residents a further opportunity to provide feedback.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices

- The *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) authorizes Council to establish and amend bylaws.
- Section 692 of the MGA requires that a municipality hold a public hearing prior to giving second reading of a proposed bylaw.
- Policy 5.3.6 of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) notes that the County *“Shall encourage the extraction of Natural Resources prior to any development that may confine future extraction opportunities...”*
- Policy 5.4.9 of the MDP notes that the County *“Should ensure that existing infrastructure and road corridors are able to accommodate the proposed growth identified by the Non-Residential development.”*
- Section E.4 Economic Health (Municipal Development Plan)
 - *Ensuring that proposed non-Primary Industry in the Neighbourhood (outside of the Hamlet of Villeneuve), will have limited adverse impacts on the Primary Industry operations, activities or industry.*
 - *Recognizing the importance of aggregate extraction as a significant economic contributor, by restricting proposed development until resource extraction is complete.*
 - *Requiring aggregate resource extraction operations to comply with an approved reclamation plan. Development permits for aggregate resource extraction will ensure that sites will be returned to their former agricultural capability, or other post-extractive use, as the County and the Province deem appropriate.*

Implication

Strategic Alignment

Planned Growth – Supporting resource extraction demonstrates Sturgeon County’s commitment to a key industry and related economic development and jobs, without negatively affecting its current residents.

Collaborative Governance – The Land Use Bylaw amendment process is legislated by the MGA. Those affected by the proposed bylaw are provided the opportunity to comment during the Public Hearing, ensuring communities are consulted and engaged. Decisions made by Council are transparent and based on policy after respectful and informed debate.

Environmental Stewardship – The applicant has outlined a land reclamation plan which will return the subject area to acceptable agricultural land use following the completion of the natural resource extraction.

	<u>Organizational</u> Administration has capacity to implement the proposed Land Use Bylaw amendment. <u>Financial</u> Financial implications have included the cost of advertising of the Public Hearing.
Follow Up Action	1. Bring the Bylaw back to Council for consideration of second and third readings (Planning & Development Services, June 2023).
Attachment (s)	1. Attachment 1: Bylaw 1622/23 2. Attachment 2: Public Hearing Process
Report Reviewed by:	Martyn Bell, Program Lead, Current Planning, Planning & Development Services Bonnie McInnis, Manager, Planning & Development Services Travis Peter, General Manager, Development & Strategic Services Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO

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			
Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation	☐	☒	☐
Modern broadband and digital capabilities	☐	☐	☒
Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations	☐	☒	☐
Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning	☐	☒	☐
Thriving Communities			
Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient	☐	☐	☒
Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride	☐	☐	☒
Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life	☐	☐	☒
Environmental Stewardship			
Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities	☐	☒	☐
Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems	☐	☒	☐
Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions	☐	☐	☒
Collaborative Governance			
Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships	☐	☐	☒
Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities	☐	☐	☒
Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale	☐	☒	☐
Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes	☐	☒	☐
Operational Excellence			
Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership	☐	☒	☐
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	☐	☒	☐
Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges	☐	☒	☐
Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning	☐	☐	☒