

## Administrative Backgrounder

<b>Title</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Smoky Lake County Presentation: Canadian Heritage Rivers System Designation for the North Saskatchewan River</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide background information on Smoky Lake County's efforts to include the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.
<b>Proposed Motion</b>	That Council refer Smoky Lake County's presentation regarding the North Saskatchewan River Canadian Heritage System Designation to Administration to provide a recommendation on partnering with Smoky Lake County on an Alberta Community Partnership grant related to promoting activities associated with the North Saskatchewan River.
<b>Previous Council Direction</b>	<u>January 26, 2021 Regular Council Meeting:</u> Motion 045/21: That Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to Smoky Lake County in support of a Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) designation for a portion of the North Saskatchewan River.
<b>Additional Background Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In October 2019, the Smoky Lake County Council Regional Heritage Board initiated a project to potentially designate a portion of the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.</li><li>• The Canadian Rivers Heritage System informs, inspires, and encourages Canadians to connect with the country's river heritage and share in its safe keeping.</li><li>• Achieving <i>Canadian Heritage Status</i> for the North Saskatchewan River is a symbolic designation with no associated statutory elements or considerations for the County.</li><li>• The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) had undertaken initial scoping with regards to heritage but did not pursue this designation.</li><li>• The NSWA has specific priorities and a workplan (endorsed by Alliance members) that does not include working towards this</li></ul>

designation or undertaking work to complete the required management and monitoring plans if the status is granted.

- Sturgeon County Council received a presentation on this topic in January 2021. Council supported the initiative, but with no commitment to financial aid or human resources.
  - Sturgeon County Council unanimously approved a motion to send a letter of support to Smoky Lake County for the designation project.
- Smoky Lake County is currently seeking support from other municipalities in their pursuit of an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant to fund initiatives/activities related to the North Saskatchewan River (river study, visitor economy, recreation opportunities, etc.).
- Administration recommends that Council refer Smoky Lake County's presentation to Administration to present a recommendation regarding potential support for the ACP application at a future Council meeting.

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**Attachment(s)**

1. Attachment 1: Presentation Request Form
2. Attachment 2: Smoky Lake County Letter and Presentation

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**Report Reviewed by:**

Jennifer Lavallee, Manager, Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Services

Travis Peter, Director, Development and Strategic Services

Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO