

March 21, 2018



Memo

TO: Colin Smith, CAO

FROM: Shane Thomson, Director, Economic Development

RE: Southeast Regional Service Commission Initiatives

Background

Staff (Directors of Ec Dev, Engineering, Finance and P+R) recently met with planning staff at the South East Regional Service Commission (SERSC). The SERSC has offered to work with the Town on two initiatives as follows:

- i) GIS mapping for Town (linear) assets
- ii) Natural Asset Initiative

GIS Mapping

This initiative will import the Town's existing asset management data, currently saved in computer-aided design (CAD) and Excel file formats, into a more robust, user friendly GIS mapping system. This will provide staff with the ability to reference the Town's various linear and non-linear assets in a more useful and effective way providing the opportunity to easily update valuable information relative to each Town asset.

Natural Asset Initiative

The SERSC is entering into an agreement to participate in a pilot project with the Smart Prosperity Institute at U of Ottawa and is looking for 2 municipalities to participate at this time so they can then commit their participation. Riverside-Albert has also confirmed its participation and staff is recommending that the Town do the same.

The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) is helping local governments to protect nature's services by identifying, valuing and accounting for municipal natural assets within existing financial and asset management programs. This will put natural assets on the same level as all other engineered assets, ensuring they are accounted for in the decision-making process. Historically, the term asset has only applied to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment plants, and drainage pipes. Yet nature, or natural assets, provides many of the same services as engineered infrastructure. In this capacity, from a service perspective, a natural asset is a municipal asset no different from other forms of infrastructure and should therefore be included in the long-term financial and asset management planning of local governments.

The above initiatives are being developed simultaneously, but independently of each other and can start immediately. The Natural Asset initiative is expected to take approximately 18 months.

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CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: N/A

Financial: There will be no financial outlay to the Town to participate in the initiatives. The requested commitment is for Town staff time to work on these initiatives.

Policy: The town's strategic plan sets policy goals in the area of natural assets and built infrastructure

Stakeholders: N/A

Interdepartmental Consultation: Each of the Directors have committed their time/resources to ensuring the timely completion of these initiatives and are in agreement that the Town can benefit from participation.

Communication Plan:

RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF

That Council endorse Town staff participation in the above initiatives with periodic reporting on their progress.