

# Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

## Request for Decision (RFD)

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting of Council  
**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2023  
**Originated By:** Scott Kovatch, Economic Development Specialist  
**Title:** Alberta Community Partnership Grant – Partnership Application Requests

### **PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND**

The Northeast Alberta Information Hub Ltd (The Hub) is seeking a resolution from nine of its rural members including the M.D. of Bonnyville to support an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) joint grant application for development and implementation of a Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings dataset.

The STEP Economic Development Alliance through the County of St. Paul is seeking a resolution from the M.D. of Bonnyville to support an ACP joint grant application to undertake a Stranded Asset Use Case project.

### **DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS**

The Hub has developed marketing materials highlighting site selection criteria required by potential investors. However, providing accurate and timely descriptions of available industrial and commercial land and buildings has been a challenge. Also, communities active in investment attraction that possess robust up to date commercial industrial listings have a distinct advantage over communities that do not. The proposed Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings dataset project will research best practices to assist in building a platform to promote land and building sales to site selectors and government departments that focus on investment attraction.

The project will be led by the County of Vermillion River and cost approximately \$50,000 for research and \$125,000 for implementation to be funded fully through the ACP grant if successful. Specifically, the research component will identify the best technologies, data, and practices to gather commercial and industrial land and buildings data, and potentially incorporate GIS systems to bolster the data offering to site selectors. The research will not only identify the technical support to develop the platform but will help develop a plan to promote the increased effectiveness and efficiency of the platform to potential investors

The proposed Stranded Asset Use Case project to be led by the County of St. Paul is applying for \$95,000 through the ACP grant to complete a research study that will qualify and quantify resources and produce a rudimentary transient model that will explore various avenues of use within an industrial ecosystem that could provide economic benefit for the region. The resources involved are stranded SAGD facilities owned by Strathcona Resources physically located in St Paul County and the Municipal District of Bonnyville.

The project will examine the opportunities to create industrial or commercial ventures that mimic a food ecosystem using these stranded assets. The study will conduct a resource inventory of these assets and explore potential avenues to put those resources to use. The Alberta greenhouse industry will be used as a surrogate for the model. Ultimately, the information from the study would help determine if steam produced and released into the atmosphere could be used to grow food in a greenhouse.

## **REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 1: Building a viable and diversified regional economy.

Objective 1: Develop and economic development strategy inclusive of business and industrial attraction, retention, and expansion while maintaining our rural influences.

## **REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

## **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING**

The Alberta Hub Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings dataset project costs \$125,000 to be funded through the ACP grant.

The County of St. Paul/STEP Stranded Assets Use Case project costs \$95,000 to be funded through the ACP grant.

## **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

## **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION**

THAT Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program by Northeast Alberta Information HUB Ltd for a Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings Dataset Project and furthermore that Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program by the County of St. Paul for a Stranded Assets Use Case Project.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

1. THAT Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program by Northeast Alberta Information HUB Ltd for a Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings Dataset Project and furthermore that Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program by the County of St. Paul for a Stranded Assets Use Case Project.
2. THAT Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program Collaboration Stream by Northeast Alberta Information HUB Ltd for a Regional Industrial Commercial Land Buildings Dataset Project.
3. THAT Council supports a grant application to the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership Program Collaboration Stream by the County of St. Paul for a Stranded Assets Use Case Project.
4. That Council accepts the 2023 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application Support Requests report as information.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Alberta Community Partnership Grant Applications.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 7, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Esther Quiambao

Stephanie Severin