

Agenda Item: D.1

Request for Decision

Report Background Information

- Aspen Land Group Inc., on behalf of Lehigh Hanson Materials Limited, has applied to amend the Calahoo Villeneuve Sand & Gravel Area Structure Plan (CVASP) Bylaw 922/01 and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) 1385/17 for sand and gravel operation on a portion of the SW-21-54-26-W4M & Block 1; Plan 3310RS that is west of the Sturgeon River.
- The subject lands fall within the Environmental Protection policy area of the CVASP and the Development Constraint Overlay of the LUB. To identify the riparian area and appropriate setbacks the applicant had a Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA) completed. The proposed mining blocks follow the recommendations of the BIA.
- According to Lehigh, the reason they are interested in extracting aggregate from this area is because there is a viable amount of non-renewable aggregate in the ground that is relatively close to the Edmonton Region market. Before Lehigh moves onto a new area, they want to ensure that they remove as much of the material as they possibly can, so they don't sterilize the material or must come back in the future to extract it.
- If the applicant is successful with the proposed amendments, they propose to close a portion of Range Road 264. RR 264 is a dead-end road, and the proposed closure would impact one property. The

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applicant has proposed to provide the affected landowner with alternate means of access, and that landowner has agreed to this.

- Section 7.2.2 of the CVASP allows extraction to be permitted within 400m of an individual residence where provisions are made regarding site specific mitigation of noise, dust, visual, traffic, lighting and other effects of the operation, as agreed to by the resident in writing.
 - There is only one residence within the 400m of the proposed operation, and the landowner owns the Block 1; Plan 3310RS, which is proposed to be rezoned as part of these amendments.
- The proposed amendments were sent to the Calahoo Villeneuve Gravel Extraction Committee on September 21, 2018. No comments were received by the committee.
- There were several other comments that were received from internal departments and external agencies, which are detailed in nature and are dealt with at the time of the development permit. These comments focused around the proposed road closure, the alternative access design standard, how the proposed closure will impact the haul route for the extraction in the area, and ground water monitoring/response plan.
- Administration has reviewed this amendment against the Ministerial Order No. MSL: 111/17 "Regional Evaluation Framework," and has determined that a REF application is not required to be submitted to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board.

External Communication

- The application has been circulated to the County's internal departments and to external agencies such as, but not limited to, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Environment & Parks.
- Prior to the Public Hearing, landowners within 800m of the subject lands will be mailed an invitation to the hearing, as well, newspaper ads will be placed for two consecutive weeks in the local papers (Free Press and St. Albert Gazette).

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

Policy

- Municipal Development Plan 1313/13 (MDP), Section E.4 Economic Health
 - This section of the MDP identifies aggregate extraction as a significant economic contributor for this area of the County.
- Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Extraction Area Structure Plan 922/01,
 - Section 7.2.2 Separation Between Sand and Gravel Extraction and Residential Development.

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- The Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000 c.M-26, and amendments thereto (MGA) authorize Council to establish and amend Bylaws.
- Provision 692 of the MGA requires that a municipality hold a public hearing prior to giving second reading to a proposed bylaw that is to amend a land use bylaw.

Ministerial Order No. MSL: 111/17 (Effective October 26, 2017)

The Order lays out when a statutory plan amendment must be submitted as an application to the EMRB in accordance with Regional Evaluation Framework (REF) process.

Practice

According to the Bylaw Amendment Process approved by Council on August 26, 2003, as amended March 2008, the next step in the process is to schedule a public hearing date for the proposed bylaw.

Implication of **Administrative** Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:

Planned Growth and Prosperity – Allowing the applicant to extract the sand and gravel demonstrates that Sturgeon County has a business environment that supports a strong economic foundation, without negatively affecting its current residents.

Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities – the CAP levies collected from this operation will go directly back into the Calahoo – Villeneuve community.

Organizational:

Administration will coordinate the necessary requirements regarding advertising and notification for the Public Hearing.

Financial:

This application would enhance the amount of money the County would receive under the CAP Levy.

Alternatives Considered

- 1. Council can refer the bylaw back to Administration for more information, prior to considering first reading of the bylaw.
- 2. Council can refuse to grant first reading of the bylaw, which would result in the current application being terminated.

Implications of **Alternatives**

Strategic Alignment:

Alternative 1: Administration believes that there is enough information for Council to approve first reading of the bylaw, thereby advancing to a Public Hearing to gather public input on the proposed amendment. This also provides the affected landowners opportunity to state any concerns or support that they may have.

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Organizational:

- Alternative 1: Administration will work with the applicant as required.
- Alternative 2: Administration will close the amendment file and ensure that the applicant operates within the current approved area.

Financial:

- Alternative 1: This will require additional staff time.
- Alternative 2: Administration will close the amendment file.

Follow up Action

Administration will coordinate the scheduling and advertising of the Public Hearing.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Bylaw 1424/18 CVASP Amendment
- 2. Bylaw 1424/18 Schedule A
- 3. Bylaw 1425/18 LUB Amendment
- 4. Bylaw 1425/18 Schedule A
- 5. ASP Figure 7-1
- 6. Location Map

Report Reviewed

by:

Colin Krywiak, Manager Current Planning & Development

Collin Steffes, General Manager, Integrated Growth

Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner - CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)			
 Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation 			×
 Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan. 			\boxtimes
 Manages growth for current and future developments through: transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development 			×
 targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas 			×
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are provided with access to opportunities and quality of life. (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)			×
 Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life 			⊠
Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets			×
Supports the safety of people and property			\boxtimes
Strong Local and Regional Governance			
We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)			
 Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement 			×
Considers fiscal stability and sustainability			\boxtimes
 Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships 			\boxtimes
Community Identity & Spirit			
We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)			×
 Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County 			\boxtimes
 Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region 		\boxtimes	
Environmental Stewardship			
We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)			×
 Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas 			×
 Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County 			\boxtimes

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