



Request for Decision

Council Meeting Date: September 9, 2008

Topic:

Proposed Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Crossbow hunting season

Administrative Recommendation:

- 1) Council withdraw their support for the use of muzzleloaders and shotguns and support the use of crossbows for the proposed hunting season in that part of Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 248 that falls within Parkland County.
- 2) Council give first and second readings to bylaw 52-2008. Being a bylaw to restrict the discharge of specific guns or firearms for specific uses in any specified part or parts of Parkland County.

Background:

At the regularly scheduled Council meeting on February 26, 2008, Council approved a request for decision to support Sustainable Resource Development's (SRD) Fish & Wildlife Division in the implementation of a muzzleloader, shotgun and crossbow hunting season in that part of WMU 248 (that falls within Parkland County). At the same time Council rescinded by-law 44-97 being a bylaw to prohibit the discharge of guns or other firearms in any specified part or parts of Parkland County. This bylaw was specific to firearms. Both of these recommendations were originally approved by the Agricultural and Rural Life Advisory Committee prior to going to Council.

As a result of these decisions a public meeting was scheduled and held on July 10, 2008 at Garden Valley Hall. A consultant was hired to chair the meeting as well as to capture the information that was presented at the meeting (report attached). There were approximately 108 people at the meeting, that registered their preference on how the proposed season should proceed. As part of the process phone calls were also tracked as to whether the person was opposed or in support of the proposed season. (See attached graph on public meeting and phone call statistics).

In the consultants report (stakeholder disadvantages identified at the July 10th meeting) there is no issue with the addition of crossbows. The concerns are with firearms (muzzleloader and shotguns).

Third reading of the by-law will be required after approval is received from the Honourable Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

IMPLICATION OF DECISION

Financial Implications:

Cost	Source of Funds
N/A	N/A

Policy and/or Legislative Implications:

No foreseeable implications

Alternative Options:

- Status quo – leave as is
- Support crossbows and shotguns but not muzzleloaders

Attachments:

- Consultants Report and Meeting and phone call statistics

REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL

Report Author: _____ **Date:** _____

Department Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

General Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____ **Date:** _____