



September 13, 2021

## Wetland Reserve Fund – Allocation Request

Prepared by: Konrad Dunbar, Engineering Services Manager  
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Department: Engineering Services

### **Report Summary & Recommendation**

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In 2017, Council approved the creation of the Wetland Enhancement Fund. This fund (approximately \$540,000) was created to meet our regulatory obligation under our provincial Water Act Approval for replacement of disturbed wetlands that meet Alberta Environment & Parks requirements.

Engineering Services and Parks & Public Works have worked to identify areas where enhancements could be preformed over the next two years that could be funded from the Wetland Enhancement Fund.

Administration recommends Council approve the expenditure of \$75,000 to be funded from the Wetland Enhancement Fund for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands that meet Alberta Environment & Parks requirements and directs Administration to apply for any additional funds that may be available from Alberta Environment & Parks.

### **Proposed Resolution**

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Resolved that Council of The City of Red Deer having considered the report from Engineering Services dated September 13, 2021 re: Wetland Reserve Fund – Allocation Request hereby approves \$75,000 from the Wetland Enhancement Fund for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands to meet Alberta Environment & Parks requirements and directs Administration to apply for any additional funds that may be available from Alberta Environment & Parks.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

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1. The Wetland Enhancement Fund can only be used for wetland activities.
2. The preliminary plans are in place for enhancement of wetlands at locations identified by administration that meet Alberta Environment & Parks requirements.
3. By initiating the use of the Wetland Enhancement Funds, additional funding from Alberta Environment becomes available.

### **Discussion & Analysis**

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In 2017, Council approved the creation of the Wetland Enhancement Fund. This fund (\$540,000) was created to meet our regulatory obligation under our provincial Water Act Approval for replacement of disturbed wetlands in the Queens Business Park. This Wetland Enhancement Fund can only be spent on

wetland restoration or creation activities as mandated by Alberta Environment & Parks under their Wetland Policy.

In addition to the Wetland Enhancement Fund held in trust by The City, Alberta Environment & Parks is also providing grants to eligible wetland enhancements and restorations. However, for The City to apply for these additional grant monies, we first need to approve the usage of a portion of the Wetland Enhancement Fund.

Engineering Services and Parks & Public Works have worked to identify areas where enhancements could be preformed over the next two years that could be funded from the Wetland Enhancement Fund. Parks & Public Works already has preliminary plans to enhance and restore the wetland located within the Queens Business Park, Edgar Industrial park and other areas around the City. This work can be partially completed with City forces and expertise, thus maximizing the amount of work completed with both the Fund and Grant money.

Administration recommends Council approve the expenditure of \$75,000 to be funded from the Wetland Enhancement Fund for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands that meet Alberta Environment & Parks requirements.