



## Town of Onoway Request for Decision

Meeting:	<b>Council Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2023
Presented By:	Gino Damo, Director of Corporate and Community Services
Title:	Partners in Progress Initiative

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL**

The Onoway/Lac Ste. Anne Partnership (Partners in Progress) Steering Committee was initiated in 2016-2017 between the Town of Onoway and Lac Ste. Anne County (LSAC) to take advantage of working together to enhance economic development opportunities in the region.

In 2018, a Steering Committee was formalized and began a process of building a strong regional partnership to support business development within the region. This was the first step for the Steering Committee.

In 2020, the committee successfully received an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant through the Intermunicipal Collaboration Component stream to the amount of \$129,900 for a project to hire a consultant to coordinate and develop an economic development strategy and communication plan. The project is to be completed by December 31, 2023 and that the following work is to be carried out

- Hire a consultant to coordinate and develop an economic development strategy and communication plan.
- Hire a consultant to undertake any related activities which may include:
  - stakeholder consultations;
  - supporting plans and studies;
  - development of agreements;
  - development or amendment of bylaws; or
  - project specific research and administration.

To date, approximately \$80,085 of grant expenses have incurred. Approximately \$49,815 balance remains held in deferred fund by the town.

### **DISCUSSION / OPTIONS / BENEFITS / DISADVANTAGES**

The Partners in Progress Steering Committee along with Administration met on August 9, 2023 to discuss a proposed Economic Development project brought forward by Lac Ste. Anne County. The project would hire a consultant to carry out the following work:

- A. Understand a community's economic ecosystem.

- B. Identifies opportunities for economic development that is suitable to the municipality.
- C. Identify potential areas that are best suited to development of economic sectors such as logistics & transportation, commercial, retail, energy, etc. based upon what is identified through outcomes of A & B.

As discussed with LSAC, the above work will pertain and benefit both LSAC and the Town of Onoway. The project should result in valuable information that will greatly assist in decision-making pertaining to economic development moving forward.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$90,135 (excluding GST). The committee proposes to utilize the remaining \$49,815 balance of the ACP grant towards the project. These are deferred funds held by the Town. A portion of these funds are held in deferred revenue and the remainder will be received after the grant final report is submitted. If approved by LSAC Council at their August 17 meeting, LSAC will contribute the remaining \$40,320. The above proposal meets the grant project requirements.

The proposed completion of the project is estimated to be February 2024. Based on this completion date Administration has spoken with a grant advisor from the province and they recommend to submit an extension request for December 31, 2024 to be conservative in the event the project is not completed as stated.

Administration recommends Council approve the use of the remaining \$49,815 balance of the ACP grant towards the proposed project. This recommendation is based on the following:

- Meets grant requirements.
- Meets all the objectives within the Town of Onoway Strategic Plan priority focus area - Economic and Business Growth.
- Grant funds are required to be fully utilized by December 31, 2023. Extension request submission is required.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

Economic and Business Growth

**COSTS / SOURCE OF FUNDING**

ACP Grant portion	\$ 49,815
LSAC proposed contribution	\$ 40,320
Approximate total cost of proposed project	\$ 90,135

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. That Council approve the use of the remaining \$49,815 of the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant through the Intermunicipal Collaboration Component stream towards the Economic Development project proposed by the Partners in Progress Steering Committee.

2. (Or some other direction as given by Council at meeting time).

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A