

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – WABASCA
JULY 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity Council was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at the Wabasca Council Chambers.

COUNCIL PRESENT:	Marshall D. Auger (Reeve) Leo Alook Kevin Bigstone Marcel C. Auger Cecil Gladue	Brendan Powell (D/Reeve) Darlene Jackson Gerald Johnson Roy Yellowknee
COUNCIL PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:	Robin Guild	
COUNCIL ABSENT:	Louis A. Cardinal <i>(Authorized Leave of Absence)</i>	
STAFF PRESENT:	Chad Tullis William Auger Lee Bissell Everett Gottfried Angela Lightning Nancy Cardinal Trina Mineault Ryan Musch Rolanna Auger Loretta Beaver Earl Gullion Kimball Newberry	Chief Administrative Officer Manager of Municipal Enforcement & Security Regional Fire Chief Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance Director of Recreation & Culture Administrative Assistant for Recreation & Culture Chief Financial Officer Director of Finance Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services Assistant Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services Director of Utilities Director of Public Works
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Lynda Gray	Executive Assistant to Administration
MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:	Armaan Khanna	Lakeside Leader
Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Reeve Marshall D. Auger	
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>0282-2026-17MDC</u> Moved by Gerald Johnson that the agenda for the July 15, 2026 regular meeting of council be approved with the following additions: 11c. Golf Tournament 18c. iii. Closed Session under Labour - Contracts CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	
Approval of Minutes (June 22, 2026):	<u>0283-2026-17MDC</u> Moved by Robin Guild that the minutes of the delegation meeting of council held on June 22, 2026 be approved as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	
Administration Report:	Chief Administrative Officer, Chad Tullis presented the Administration Monthly Report. <u>0284-2026-17MDC</u> Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Chief Administrative Officers report be accepted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	

- Municipal Enforcement:** Manager of Municipal Enforcement & Security, William Auger presented the Monthly Report.
- 0285-2026-17MDC**
Moved by Brendan Powell that the Municipal Enforcement & Security report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Regional Fire Department:** Regional Fire Chief, Lee Bissell presented the Fire Department Monthly Report.
- 0286-2026-17MDC**
Moved by Leo Alook that the Regional Fire Department report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Capital Projects:** Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance, Everett Gottfried presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).
- 0287-2026-17MDC**
Moved by Brendan Powell that the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Contract Award for New Community Signs (Phase 1):** **0288-2026-17MDC**
Moved by Gerald Johnson that Administration be authorized to award the contract for Phase 1 of the New Community Signs project to Blanchett Neon Ltd. for \$642,760.00, with funding from GL 4-32-00-00-610-15.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Eagle Point Golf Course Clubhouse Deck Repair:** **0289-2026-17MDC**
Moved by Gerald Johnson that Administration be authorized to amend the 2026 Capital Budget by reallocating \$400,000 from the All-Community Signage project, GL 4-32-00-00-610-15, to the Eagle Point Golf Course deck repair capital project to fund preliminary planning, detailed estimating, required structural repairs, and project contingency.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Delegation (Virtual): (11:00 a.m.)** Athabasca Corridor – Peter Scholz
Round table introductions were held.
- The delegate was in attendance to present the Athabasca Corridor Project Orientation. also known informally as the Northern Lights Corridor, though it is expected that the Nations along the alignment will ultimately choose the permanent name.
- The corridor is planned to run from Scotford, Alberta to the Ladue River at the Yukon-Alaska border, and onward through Tok and Fairbanks to the ports of South-Central Alaska. The anticipated Alberta route follows the west side of the Athabasca River north to approximately Little Buffalo Creek, then tracks the Highway 686 alignment before turning northwest toward Vermilion Chutes. This alignment is approximately 50 kilometres shorter than alternatives through Wabasca or Red Earth Creek, though those options remain under consideration.
- The business model is designed from inception to be Indigenous-owned, through a right-of-way management consortium. Indigenous partners are envisioned as having a defined ownership role in shortline and community passenger services, structured separately from the transcontinental trunk line, which operates under its own governance framework. The MD of Opportunity stands to benefit directly from corridor access.

Beyond freight economics, early engagement positions the MD as a partner in decisions that matter at capital construction — including the siting of logistics nodes, transload yards, and community service facilities along the Alberta alignment. Our pre-feasibility program includes a specific workstream assessing community logistics node opportunities at several Alberta locations, and the MD's position along the corridor makes it a natural candidate. A letter of support at this stage costs nothing and opens that conversation.

They are applying to the federal Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (TDCF), due July 31, 2026, covering the transcontinental trunk line including this segment, and are seeking letters of support from municipalities and regional organizations along the corridor.

Council thanked the delegate for his attendance. Delegate left at 11:25 a.m.

**Delegation:
(11:27 a.m.)**

Northland School Division – Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier
Round table introductions were held.

The delegate was in attendance to present the Friends of Education Award to MD Council. The MD of Opportunity was nominated by Northland School Division as the recipient of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Friends of Education Award. This award recognizes individuals and organizations that make a special contribution to education in Alberta.

MD of Opportunity has supported students and the communities that Northland School Division serves. Support included evacuations, debris removal and the restoration of utilities after the wildfire. These efforts played an important role in helping Chipewyan Lake School reopen safely.

Council thanked the delegate for his attendance. The delegate left the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Letter of Support:

0290-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that Administration be directed to draft and provide a letter of support for the Athabasca Corridor Pre-Feasibility and Trade Connectivity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation & Culture:

Director of Recreation & Culture, Angela Lightning presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0291-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Recreation & Culture report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wabasca Eagle Point Golf
Course Wedding Venue
Proposal:**

MD of Opportunity had received a proposal to use the Wabasca Eagle Point Golf Course as a Wedding Venue on August 6-7, 2027.

Administration got direction from council to engage with Mat Cardinal for use of the golf course for the wedding.

MD/BCN Golf Tournament:

0292-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration be authorized to register five teams for the upcoming MD of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation joint fundraising golf tournament on August 7, 2026. This registration will consist of two council teams and three administration teams, representing Calling Lake, Wabasca, and Red Earth Creek.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

Closed Session:**0293-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that Council move into closed session at 12:25 p.m. with the Chief Administrative Office, Director of Recreation & Culture, and Recording Secretary in attendance to discuss the following items: a) Contract Proposal, b) Cheri Courtorielle Consulting Inc., and c) Contracts, as per Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, of the Access to Information Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director of Recreation and Culture left at 12:46 p.m.

0294-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that council return to open meeting at 1:22 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 1:22 p.m. and reconvened at 1:32 p.m.

Finance Report:

Chief Financial Officer, Trina Mineault and Director of Finance, Ryan Musch presented the monthly report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0295-2026-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Write-Off Confirmed Prior-Year
GIPOT Funding Reduction
Balances:****0296-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson the write-off of confirmed prior-year Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) funding reduction balances in the amount of \$284,251.23, subject to final Finance review and confirmation prior to posting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Repeal Borrowing Bylaw
2025-12 and Replace with
Bylaw 2026-10:**

Being a Bylaw of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 to allow Borrowing for Municipal Expenditures.

**First Reading to Bylaw
2026-10:****0297-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that first reading be given to Bylaw 2026-10, being the Borrowing Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Second Reading to Bylaw
2026-10:****0298-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that second reading be given to Bylaw 2026-10, being the Borrowing Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Unanimous Consent to Bylaw
2026-10:****0299-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Robin Guild that unanimous consent be given to Bylaw 2026-10, being the Borrowing Bylaw, to proceed to third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Third Reading to Bylaw
2026-10:****0300-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Leo Alook that third and final reading be given to Bylaw 2026-10, being the Borrowing Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Family Community Support
Services (FCSS) Annual Cultural
Days:**

0301-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration be authorized to go over budget by the additional funding request amount of \$200,000 for the Annual Cultural Days in September 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Corporate & Regulatory
Services Report:**

Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services, Rolanna Auger presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0302-2026-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Corporate & Regulatory Services report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Amend P.1 Personnel Policy
Section F and Schedules D & E:**

0303-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration be authorized to amend the P.1 Personnel Policy with changes to include that acting pay is considered pensionable income and move the Payroll Analyst and Taxation Clerk up one scale and move the General Accounting Coordinator up one scale.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Amend P.4 Hiring Policy and
Procedures:**

0304-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that Administration be authorized to amend the P.4 Hiring Policy and Procedures by removing section 2h in its entirety: "Former employees who left the MD without proper notice, or whose employment was terminated for disciplinary reasons, shall not be eligible for re-employment for two (2) years" and change "AAMDC" to RMA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Repeal Bylaw 2025-01 and
Replace with Subdivision and
Development Appeal Board
Bylaw 2026-11:**

Being a Bylaw to establish the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17.

**First Reading to Bylaw
2026-11:**

0305-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that first reading be given to Bylaw 2026-11, being the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Second Reading to Bylaw
2026-11:**

0306-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that second reading be given to Bylaw 2026-11, being the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Unanimous Consent to Bylaw
2026-11:**

0307-2026-17MDC

Moved by Robin Guild that unanimous consent be given for Bylaw 2026-11, being the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw, to proceed to third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Third Reading to Bylaw
2026-11:**

0308-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that third and final reading be given to Bylaw 2026-11 being the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Request to Operate a Mobile
Concession Stand on MD
Properties:**

0309-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the request from Judy Stewart to operate a mobile concession stand on Municipal District of Opportunity properties within the hamlets of Wabasca, Sandy Lake and Calling Lake be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proclamations:

0310-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that Administration be authorized to issue proclamations on behalf of the Municipal District of Opportunity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Sandy Lake Fireguard Proposal
2026:**

0311-2026-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that administration be authorized to proceed with planning for a 150m wide with a 3020m (3.02km) length operational fireguard for the community of Sandy Lake.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Red Earth Fireguard Proposal
2026:**

0312-2026-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that administration be authorized to proceed with planning for six 100m wide operational fireguards with a total length of 6283m (6.283kms) in the community of Red Earth.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Works Report:

Director of Public Works, Kimball Newberry presented the Monthly Report.

0313-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Utilities Report:

Director of Utilities, Earl Gullion presented the Utilities Monthly Report.

0314-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Utilities report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Round Table:

0315-2026-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Council Round Table discussions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Information/Correspondence: 0316-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Calendars:

0317-2026-17MDC

Moved by Marcel C. Auger that the calendars be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Dates:

Delegation Council Meeting
July 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Sandy Lake Community Hall

Regular Council Meeting
August 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Wabasca Council Chambers

Adjournment:

0318-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the meeting be adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Marshall D. Auger, Reeve



Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer