

Special Meeting Agenda for Friday, July 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, in the Town Hall Complex, at 240 Main Street, Milk River, Alberta



1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Special Meeting Business

- A) Appointment of interim CAO County of Warner CAO - Shawn Hathaway
- B) Golf Course watering
- C) Discussion

4. Adjournment

Request for Decision

## Interim CAO Appointment

July 11, 2025



### RECOMMENDATION

That Shawn Hathaway be appointed as the Interim Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Milk River as of July 16, 2025.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act Section 205(2)

### BACKGROUND

Due to the resignation of Kelly Lloyd, current CAO for the Town of Milk River, Council is required to appoint an individual to carry out the powers, duties, and functions of the position of chief administrative officer.

### RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Council may provide further direction on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.
2. Council may direct Administration on any item contained in the report.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

### ATTACHMENTS

None

Request for Decision

## Golf Course Watering

July 11, 2025



### RECOMMENDATION

That Council directs Administration to \_\_\_\_\_.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Boundary Waters Treaty

International Joint Commission 1921 Order

Water Act

Municipal Government Act

Riverside Community Golf Society Irrigators Licence

Town of Milk River Water Licences (including temporary diversion licence)

### BACKGROUND

Since June 17, 2024, the Town of Milk River has not been operating under normal conditions as it pertains to the Town's water supply, due to the siphon break on the St. Mary's Diversion Canal.

The Town of Milk River obtained approval on May 29, 2025, for a temporary diversion licence (TDL) from Alberta Environment. The purpose and approved application for the TDL is to top up the reservoirs only. This TDL expires on October 31, 2025. Operations began using the TDL on June 10. Pumping additional water through the TDL has been completed during the day using a diesel pump. With the addition of the TDL, the reservoir levels have not gained as more water is going out than what is coming in. Council has asked residents to voluntarily mind their water consumption.

With that Council is exploring alternative locations for relocating the pump associated with the TDL direct withdrawal from the Milk River, as well as an electric pump to increase the pumping time daily and over the weekends.

The St. Mary's Diversion Canal opened the end of June and water arrived in Milk River around June 30<sup>th</sup>, with high turbidity. As a result, the raw water pumping was turned off as the well was dropping due to the turbidity in the river that was slowly choking out the intake galleries.

As of July 7, the galleries were blown out and pumping to the reservoir resumed. At that time, the reservoirs were at 93% full. In June, one of the sand filters that requires maintenance was circulated and emptied. When the time comes for it to be refilled, the anticipated level of the reservoirs will drop about 6".

The St. Mary's Diversion Canal will be shut down on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the Town of Milk River will be back to working with the natural flow of the river. Based on last years numbers after the irrigation season ceased, flow to the infiltration gallery increased from 6 L/s to 21 L/s. Potentially there may be enough natural flow to continue being able to pump water to carry the municipality through the winter months.

The Riverside Community Golf Society has an irrigators licence to allow drawing water from the Milk River. As of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Accredited Officers for the Canadian Government and the US Government required the cessation of irrigation on the Milk River, thus ending the irrigation of water to the golf course ponds. The Golf Society can pump from two locations, one of them being the intake galleries. In discussion with Golf Course management, 141,750 L/day has been requested, which translates into 6.5 hours per day of water to the golf course.

Administration has advised Council that operationally, filling the reservoirs is the priority due to known and unknown variables. Once the sand filter and reservoirs are full, and the water situation has been evaluated, operations would like to see the intake pump at 25 L/s before giving water to the golf course. With the completion of a flow test, the calculations show that it would take 12 hours of pumping to give the full amount of water the golf course is looking for.

Administration fully supports the golf course and is looking for a strategic approach to ensure the golf course remains a sustainable, profitable, and well supported initiative that satisfies both the operational side and the community aspect as it pertains to water.

#### **RISKS/CONSEQUENCES**

1. Council may direct Administration on any item contained in the report. Council shall be specific in the direction it provides.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

None

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

Request for Decision

Discussion

July 11, 2025



## RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the discussion regarding \_\_\_\_\_ as information.

## LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

## BACKGROUND

As per Mayor Liebelt's request, the item of discussion is on the agenda.

## RISKS/CONSEQUENCES

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2. Council may direct Administration on any item contained in the report.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

## ATTACHMENTS

None