



**Date:** 04/01/2024

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Nigel Whitehead, Manager of Planning Services

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Jan12\_2024

**File:** 0360-20

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## Short Summary:

Consideration of requests from the CRD Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC)

## Voting:

Corporate Vote – Unweighted

## Memorandum:

CRD Staff have received a number of requests from the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC).

1. ADAC has requested CRD to initiate developing a Drought Preparedness Plan and a Drought Emergency Response protocol. Currently, the CRD does not have an active response to drought in our region, and it is dealt with at the Provincial level. Staff recognize that prolonged periods of dry weather can result in crop damage and shortages in water supply for livestock. There is online information and provincial guidance available to help producers prepare and manage drought. The CRD Emergency Programs Department will consider attendance at workshops and events regarding agricultural resiliency to help educate producers about existing resources available.
2. ADAC has proposed an allocation of staff time to investigate the development of Livestock Exclusion Fencing as a Local Service Area Function. For background, the CRD Board endorsed the Agricultural Policy in 2016 which requires a fencing and buffering covenant on title for all new subdivision and rezoning proposals that are adjoining lands located in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) or properties with active agricultural operations including Crown range, Crown land leased or tenured for agricultural purposes. As per our policy, it is the responsibility of the landowners to install and maintain fencing along the non-agricultural side of the edge. Investigation of a Livestock Exclusion Fencing Service is not considered in the 2024 Business Plans.

3. Staff support the ADAC suggestion to publish information regarding fencing responsibilities within a Livestock District in the Spring 2024 edition of the CRD UpFront newsletter. The information may include related resources such as the Livestock Act, the Trespass Act, the Forestry and Range Practice Act, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Right to Farm legislation, and the CRD Agricultural Policy. Planning staff will work with Communications department to provide information in Spring 2024 UpFront. This action does not require Board Direction.

### Attachments:

1. Letter to CRD Board regarding Drought Emergency Planning.
2. Letter to CRD Board regarding Fencing as a Local Service Area Function.
3. Letter to CRD Board regarding Communications materials for fencing in a livestock district.

### Financial Implications:

Both establishing a Local Fencing Service and developing a Drought Preparedness Plan would pose significant financial implications for the CRD.

### Policy Implications:

None

### Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ **Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- ☒ **Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- ☒ **Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- ☐ **Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

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### CAO Comments:

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### Options:

- 1) Action as directed by the Board;
- 2) Defer.

**Recommendation:**

*Action is at the discretion of the Board.*