

MEDIA RELEASE

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25 May 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

Council met with Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI) regarding the Woodlands County Fire Services review in closed session. Council then directed Administration to invite TSI to the August Governance & Priorities Committee meeting to discuss their report further.

Karim Zariffa, Managing Director of Sustrio, and Chris O'Neil of Sustrio, presented the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline (WCOP) project to Council. Alberta's government is expected to submit a proposal for the project to the Major Projects Office by July 1, 2026. Council expressed its support for the WCOP project and directed Administration to prepare a letter of support and to invite adjacent municipalities to endorse the initiative by signing on to the letter. The presentation can be viewed on Woodlands County's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@Woodlands-County>. Regular Council Meeting, May 21, 2026.

Council passed Bylaw 643/26, being the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) Amendment Bylaw. The amendments in this Bylaw allow for the appointment of a Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk who is not an employee of Woodlands County, as well as a member of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Council appointed Denis Meier as a member of the Subdivision Development Appeal Board. Denis Meier is a trained and certified SDAB Member with extensive experience in SDAB hearings. Council directed Administration to investigate the option of an Intermunicipal SDAB partnership and report those results back to Council at a future meeting.

Council referred Policy 6204, being the Relief Assistance for Catastrophic Events, to Administration and the Emergency Management Committee for review and recommended amendments, with the recommendations to come back to Council in July 2026.

Council appointed Dawn Fortin, Shawna Banks, Shari Calahesin, and Charlie Brendzan as municipal inspectors under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act and the Alberta Weed Control Act for Woodlands County for the 2026 season.

Council approved the revised Northern Region Economic Development (NRED) Implementation Plan as presented, and authorized Administration to submit the corresponding NRED Change Order, as amended. Council also approved an increase to the 2026 operating budget for the Economic Development NRED Project in the amount of \$149,500, to be funded from previously received grant revenues, and authorized Administration to apply any realized project savings toward completion of a regional workforce study within the approved funding envelope.

Council deferred the Host Delegation from the County Government of Tana River, Kenya, to a later date, pending additional information regarding visa approvals, final scheduling confirmation, and budgeting amounts.

The Q1 Operating and Capital Variance Reports were presented to Council and received for information.

Matthew Ferris, Chief Administrative Officer, presented a verbal update on the Woodlands County Strategic Plan. Council received that update for information and directed Administration to report back to Council on the status of the draft for the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 3 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 10 @ 5:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in-person at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and live-streamed on the Woodlands County [YouTube channel](#). Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County [CivicWeb Portal](#).

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For more information:
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