

MEDIA RELEASE

Woodlands County
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22 JUNE 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

Ted Weicker of Qatalyst Research Group Inc. provided updates to the draft Strategic Plan 2026 to 2030 to Council. The Strategic Plan project work plan and the associated Public Participation Plan set out a nine-phase process that combines Council, Woodlands County Departments, and public input. Council accepted the presentation for information. Council also directed Administration to schedule an additional full-day workshop with Qatalyst Research Group Inc.

Council passed Bylaw 642-26, being the Chief Administrative Officer Amendment Bylaw. Council also gave first reading to Bylaw 638-26, being the Procedural Bylaw, and directed Administration to provide further amendments and bring it back to the next Council meeting.

At its June 3, 2026, meeting, Council received a Notice of Motion directing Administration to develop a formal process to track, document, and communicate revisions to agenda packages after publication. At the June 18, 2026, meeting, Council received Administration's assessment of a formal change-management and revision-tracking process for information. The proposed process aligns with amendments Council has requested be incorporated into the Procedural Bylaw, and the matter will be addressed through the bylaw review process.

Whitecourt ISGA Tourism Association (WITA) requested a letter of support from Woodlands County to accompany a submission to Alberta Parks regarding the future of its disposition located adjacent to Little McLeod Lake (Goldfish Lake) within Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park. WITA currently operates a Tipi Village and provides Indigenous cultural tourism experiences and land-based educational programming. The organization advises that its current disposition expires in December 2026 and that Alberta Parks has indicated an extension may be contingent upon demonstrating continued public use and tourism activity. Council authorized a letter of support to the Whitecourt ISGA Tourism Association (WITA).

Council considered a sponsorship request for the 2026 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit, taking place July 19–23, 2026, in Edmonton. PNWER is a non-partisan public-private forum that brings together government, industry, Indigenous, and academic leaders from across the Canadian and U.S. Northwest to address shared economic priorities. Council recognized the value of supporting the event, particularly as the Annual Summit is being held in Edmonton, providing a unique opportunity to participate in and showcase regional interests close to home. Council approved a \$10,000 USD sponsorship for the 2026 PNWER Annual Summit and directed Administration to invite industry stakeholders and the Town of Whitecourt to attend.

Each year, Woodlands County attends the Annual Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) Ministry Dinner. This annual event brings together EDA members, stakeholders, ministers, and senior staff from the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta to network, share program information, and explore potential partnerships. Council approved that Councillors Karen St. Martin and Patricia MacNeil will attend this year's EDA Dinner.

Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE) has submitted an Attendance Request to Council for the Community Futures Network of Alberta (CFNA) Provincial Symposium. Council designated the Reeve to represent the County and provide welcoming remarks at the 2026 CFNA Provincial Symposium pre-event mixer and opening.

Council appointed the Chair, the Clerk, and the Certified Panellists to the 2026 Assessment Review Board.

Council received the 2026 Water and Wastewater Rate Review Interim Report for information and directed Administration to include stormwater in the review.



For more information:
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Council approved \$2,800.00, excluding GST, for a Joint Road Tour with the Town of Whitecourt and directed Administration to coordinate a joint planning discussion with the Town of Whitecourt on the objective and cost.

Council authorized the half-day closure of all Woodlands County offices on Friday, December 4, 2026, to allow for the County's Annual Awards Event.

Council appointed Councillor Peter Kuelken as Deputy Reeve for the term commencing June 29, 2026, and ending February 27, 2027, in accordance with Motion No. C-15-378-2025 regarding the Deputy Reeve rotational schedule. Councillor Kuelken graciously accepted the appointment.



Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, July 16 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 22 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, August 13 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

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