

MEDIA RELEASE

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WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

Council reviewed and adopted two Policies: the Tangible Capital Asset Policy (F-5.209), which permits capitalization of assets. The policy is intended to formalize existing practices, address audit recommendations, and align the County's asset accounting framework with current PSAB standards and guidance. The other Policy is the Acceptance of Donations and Donated Assets Policy (F-5.208). This policy establishes a governance framework for the acceptance, management, and use of monetary donations and assets donated to Woodlands County. For further information and to view these policies, please visit our website at <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/bylaws-policies>.

Council directed Administration to forward a letter of support to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, urging reconsideration of the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre, given the impact its closure would have on producers within Woodlands County. This was determined from a letter dated January 23, 2026, from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) announcing the slated closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre, resulting in the loss of approximately 100 positions after more than a century of agricultural research and innovation.

Woodlands County is currently advancing the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) projects that require multiple provincial and federal regulatory approvals prior to tendering and construction. These projects must be completed within program timelines to maintain eligibility for DRP funding and to restore damaged infrastructure. Council directed Administration to prepare and send correspondence to the two local MLAs, relevant Provincial Ministers, the local Member of Parliament, and relevant Federal Ministers requesting expedited review of regulatory approvals required for Woodlands County Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) for the projects scheduled for completion in 2026.

Woodlands County launched a social media survey inviting residents to provide feedback on the 2026/2027 RCMP Community Policing Priorities. The results were compiled and presented to Council. The survey concluded that the top three priorities in the County are: Police Community Relations & Visibility, Traffic Safety and Crime Prevention. The survey results will be forwarded to the RCMP for compilation into their annual Community Priorities Plan. Council also directed Administration to promote the RCMP's Community Assisted Policing Through Use of Recorded Evidence (CAPTURE) Program to county residents.

Alberta Parks & Forestry gave a presentation to Council on the Recreation, Education, and Partnership Program, along with an overview of the recently completed Center of Alberta Walking Trail, and the obligations of becoming a Trail Manager. Trails are designated under the Trails Act and the Public Lands Act. The Public Lands Administration Regulation introduces new rules to enhance the management of provincial trails. Further information will be provided to Council at an upcoming Regular Council Meeting.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, March 26 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – April 9 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 15 @ 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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