

Regional Mitigation Opportunities

October 25, 2016

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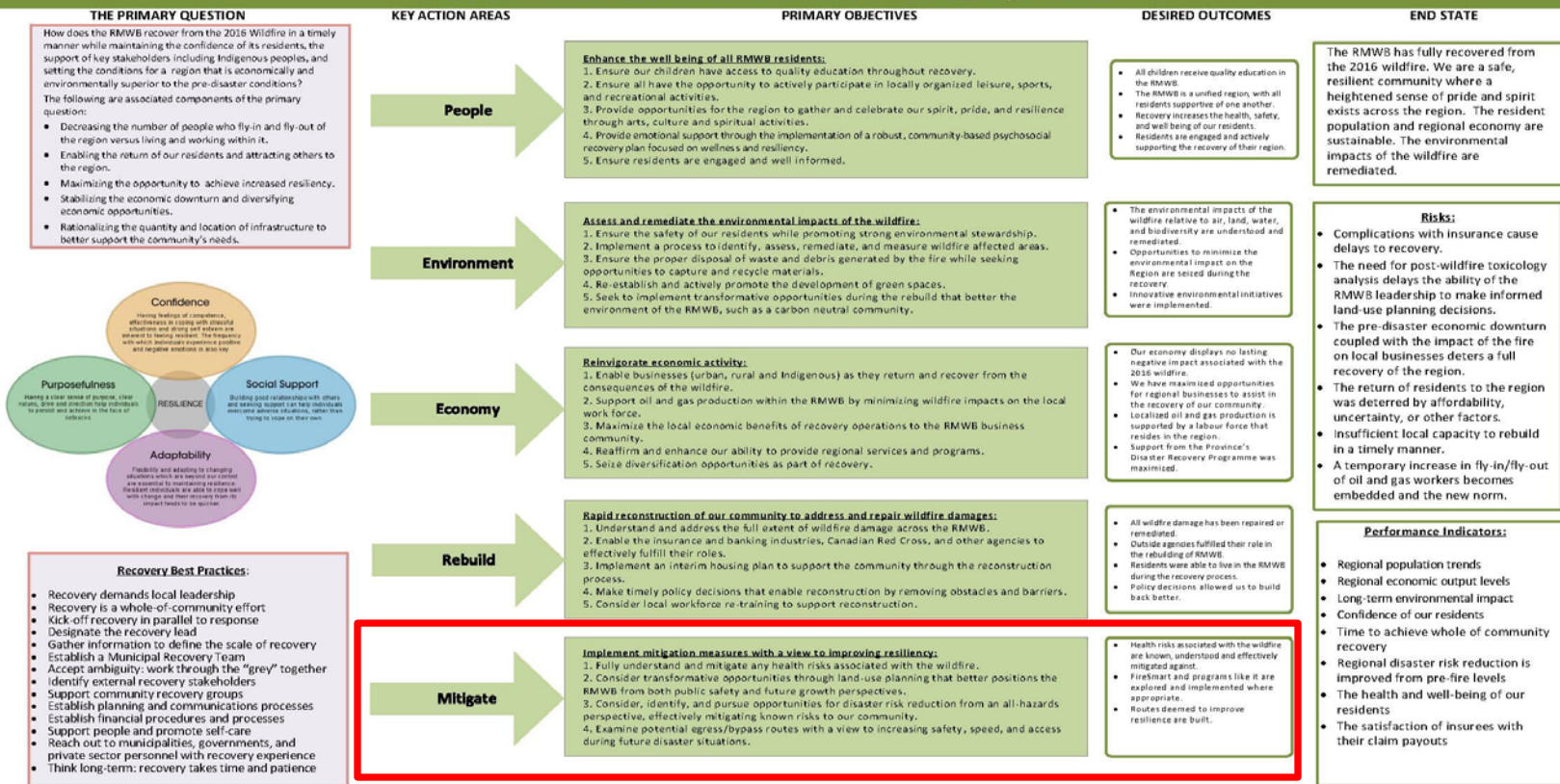
Agenda

- Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee
- Campaign Plan
- Mitigate Pillar Primary Objectives
- Identify and Prioritize
- Description of Mitigation Opportunities
- Budget/Financial Implications
- Summary

WBRC Mandate/Responsibilities

- Bylaw 16/013
- Governance of the Task Force
- Engagement related to recovery from the wildfire
- Recommend to Mayor and Council

RMWB 2016 Wildfire Recovery – Campaign Plan



- Recovery Best Practices:**
- Recovery demands local leadership
 - Recovery is a whole-of-community effort
 - Kick-off recovery in parallel to response
 - Designate the recovery lead
 - Gather information to define the scale of recovery
 - Establish a Municipal Recovery Team
 - Accept ambiguity: work through the "grey" together
 - Identify external recovery stakeholders
 - Support community groups
 - Establish planning and communications processes
 - Establish financial procedures and processes
 - Support people and promote self-care
 - Reach out to municipalities, governments, and private sector personnel with recovery experience
 - Think long-term: recovery takes time and patience

Narrative: The RMWB is recovering from a devastating wildfire that threatened the lives of our people and the very existence of our community. We suffered the loss of two residents while evacuating, thousands of homes were destroyed, as well as some public infrastructure. Many of our residents were evacuated for over one month while first responders bravely fought the fire and set the conditions for their return. We chose to move forwards, not backwards. We will rebuild once areas are safe. We will accommodate all families who want to move home as soon as possible. We will advocate for adequate community egress routes and a bypass to improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation network. Achieving these outcomes requires sound planning and strong governance. We will establish and empower a recovery task force led by Council. We will develop short and long term recovery plans that consider the needs and desires of our regional communities, industry, citizens and Indigenous peoples. We will create a roadmap to guide decision making and provide transparency and shared understanding of who decides what, when. We face a long and difficult road to recovery, but we face it together. We must work collaboratively, supporting one another, and caring for one another's mental and physical health. We see a region that is ready to bloom. We see a vibrant and tightly connected region where people want to stay and live an entire life.

Mitigate Pillar Primary Objectives

Implement mitigation measures with a view to improving resiliency:

1. Fully understand and mitigate any health risks associated with the wildfire
2. Consider transformative opportunities through land-use planning that better positions the RMWB from both public safety and future growth perspectives
3. Consider, identify, and pursue opportunities for disaster risk reduction from an all-hazards perspective, effectively mitigating known risks to our community
4. Examine potential egress/bypass routes with a view to increasing safety, speed, and access during future disaster situations.

Identify and Prioritize

- Relevant lessons learned were reviewed.
- An initial broad list of mitigation opportunities that could improve regional resiliency were identified.
- The broad list was reviewed by multiple stakeholders.
- A narrow, prioritized list was created.

Mitigation Opportunities

- FireSmart
- Protecting the Region: Rural Hamlets and West Flank of the Urban Service Area
- Mirror and expand the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Firecrew capacity developed for Slave Lake
- Neighbourhood Egress Routes
- Regional-Level Egress

FireSmart, Protect the Region, and WUI Firecrew

- Request that a letter be sent to the GOA consisting of three elements:
 - Financial support for a comprehensive Regional FireSmart Program
 - Determine the best means of protecting the region from a WUI Fire
 - Funding support to mirror and expand the WUI Firecrew capacity developed in Slave Lake

Neighbourhood Egress

- Developing egress and secondary routes for communities is a priority for mitigation
- Administration has already engaged pre-design efforts and this is the subject of a separate Council report
- The WBRC supports in principle this requirement as an important mitigation effort

Regional-Level Egress

Previous reports and studies referenced:

- The Fringe Area Development Assessment Urban Service Area 2007
- The Radke report 2009
- The CRISP report 2011.
- The 2011 Municipal Development Plan
- The Transportation and Infrastructure Alternative Delivery Solutions 2013

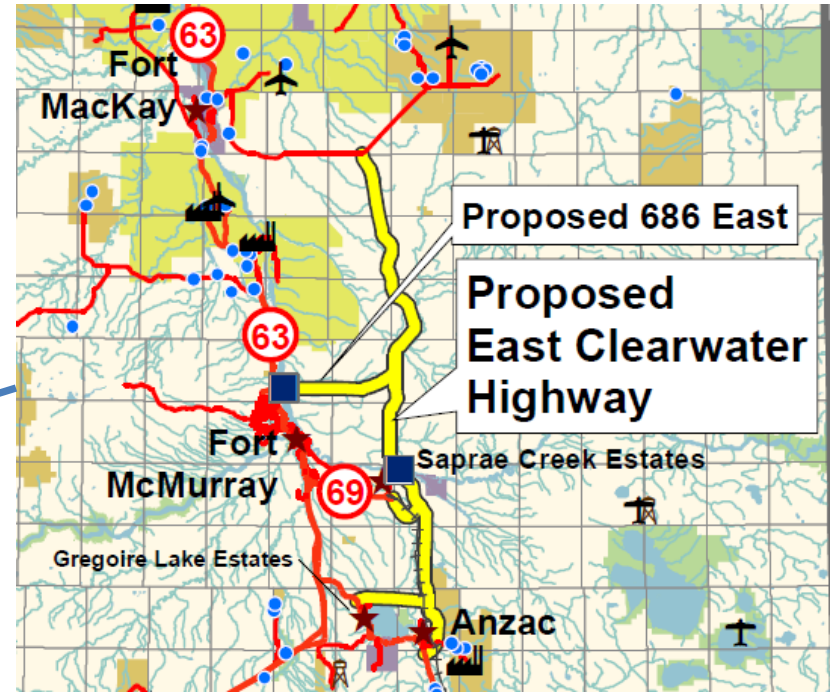
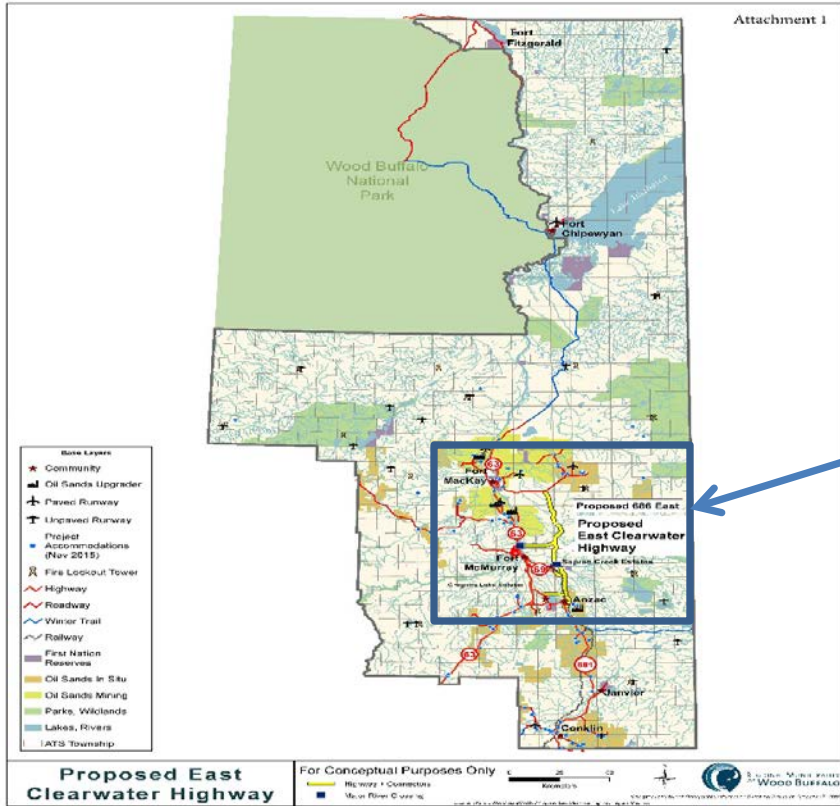
Regional-Level Egress....

- The Costs and Benefits Analysis: East Corridor Multi-user Access Road (EUCMAR) - 2014
- "Protecting the Investment in Our Future - Managing the Socio-Economic Impacts of Oils Sands Development in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo from 2015 to 2025" (October 2015).

Regional Egress - Evaluation Criteria

- Must not rely solely on Highway 63 to exit from the region
- Must be accessible by the majority of the population in the region
- Must have sufficient capacity to manage the efficient evacuation of a large percentage of the regional population
- Must be a sufficient distance from the current route (Highway 63) such that a disaster affecting Highway 63 would be unlikely to threaten this route as well
- Must align with existing long term transportation planning and provide a benefit to the region when we are not in emergency situations.

Regional Level Egress



Stakeholder Engagement

- Fort McMurray First Nation #468
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, etc.
- McMurray Metis
- Fort McKay First Nation
- Industry
- RMWB Municipal Government
- RMWB Leadership
- Ongoing...

Alignment with Campaign Plan

- People Pillar
- Economy
- Mitigate
- Rebuild

Budget/Financial Implications

- 2017 budget consideration for \$5M towards the cost of the pre-design
- Budget demonstrates the Municipality's pledge to the highest priority mitigation project
- Pre-design must consider cost-sharing options so that requests for construction dollars can be included in the 2018 budget deliberations for all levels of government, if desired

Summary

Questions