

Report PDR-PCD-08-14

To: Chair Wright and Members of the Planning & Community Development Committee
From: Sarah Morrison, Intermediate Planner
Meeting Date: January 21, 2014
Subject: **Coyote and Nuisance Beaver Compensation Programs**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution PCD25-14 January 21, 2014; Endorsed by County Council February 4, 2014 per Resolution CC23-14;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS recent changes have come into effect whereby authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources to compensate hunters or trappers for hunting or trapping coyotes or other fur bearing animals is no longer required;

AND WHEREAS the Corporate Strategic Plan promotes collaboration and exploring ways to more effectively and efficiently deliver services and programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report PDR-PCD-08-14 regarding the identification of a process that staff will use to investigate if there are opportunities to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of the existing compensation process for hunters and trappers be received for information.

Background

The County has been authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Act, 1997, to provide a compensation payment to a hunter or trapper, for the killing of a predatory coyote or wolf, subject to a number of terms and conditions.

On July 1, 2013, a regulation came into effect whereby the requirement for Ministry authorization to compensate hunters or trappers for hunting or trapping coyotes or other furbearing mammals are no longer required by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Manager. The amending regulations (665/98), reads as follows:

133.2 (1) *Clauses 11 (1) (b) and (d) of the Act do not apply to a municipality that hires or employs a person to hunt or trap furbearing mammals within the boundaries of the municipality.*

(2) *Clause 11 (1) (a) of the Act does not apply to a person who is hired or employed by a municipality to hunt furbearing mammals within the boundaries of the municipality if,*

(a) the person holds a valid hunting license for the furbearing mammal he or she is hunting; and

(b) the person is hunting in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license.

(3) *For greater certainty, nothing in this section authorizes a person to pay or accept a bounty contrary to clause 11 (1) (e) of the Act.*

Based on the changes made by the MNR and the recent acquisition of this portfolio moving from the Clerk's Department to the Planning Department, staff are proposing to investigate if there are opportunities to make the existing process more efficient, to provide potentially better customer service for the hunter/trapper.

Staff will research the current process and what is currently involved, and determine if there are areas or opportunities to make the process more efficient. We will engage local municipalities, Conservation Authorities, hunters and trappers and roads departments (including County Transportation Services) to seek their input on whether changes to the existing process should be considered. Staff will also research how other Counties administer their programs (particularly Bruce County). Once all the above information has been gathered, staff will bring forward a report for Committee's consideration.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

Depending on the findings by staff and direction of the Committee from the proposed research there could be financial and/or staffing impacts. There are no anticipated legal or IT considerations at this time.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Action Item 5.3 of the County's strategic Plan speaks to collaborations with the public, stakeholders, and other governments to improve the delivery of services. This proposed research would result in more efficient delivery of services to these groups.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Intermediate Planner

Director Sign Off: *Randy Scherzer*