

## **Environmental Framework Committee Report To The Grasslands Naturalists AGM 2024**

This committee's work is virtually completed now that the City of Medicine Hat is in the process of enacting legislation to adopt an Environmental Framework. This framework is designed to guide all city departments and actions to perform within parameters that will ensure environmentally friendly governance.

The Grasslands Naturalists Society has been advocating for such an action for many years. Finally, under our new City Mayor and Council such action has been taken and they mandated the creation of such a framework. An engineering consulting firm WSP was hired to develop the framework and the Grasslands Naturalists Society was designated a Key External Stakeholder to advise and monitor the actions of WSP as the framework was developed.

The Grasslands Naturalists created this Environmental Framework Committee to perform as our stakeholder consultant. During the process we made submissions to WSP advocating on many matters, some of which were adopted and some were not. Our committee sought input from many GN members beyond our committee so that a broad range of ideas came from our society.

The framework has now been adopted in principle by City Council and it has been sent to every city department to create Action Plans based on the framework requirements. These City Departments are to have their action plans completed by June of 2024. Following that step, later this year, the Environmental Framework will go back to City Council and be officially adopted and become law.

A framework of this kind will only be of value if it is assiduously applied. Time will tell if our city with all its departments will follow its directions. Enacting this legislation is a major step to protecting the environment in which Medicine Hat citizens live. We applaud our city government for moving forward with this new vision.

Grasslands Naturalists Society members can see the latest draft of the Environmental Framework on the City of Medicine Hat website. The members of this committee included myself, Marty Drut, Gerry Ehlert and David Gue along with input from many other GN members.

Submitted By  
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Chairperson