

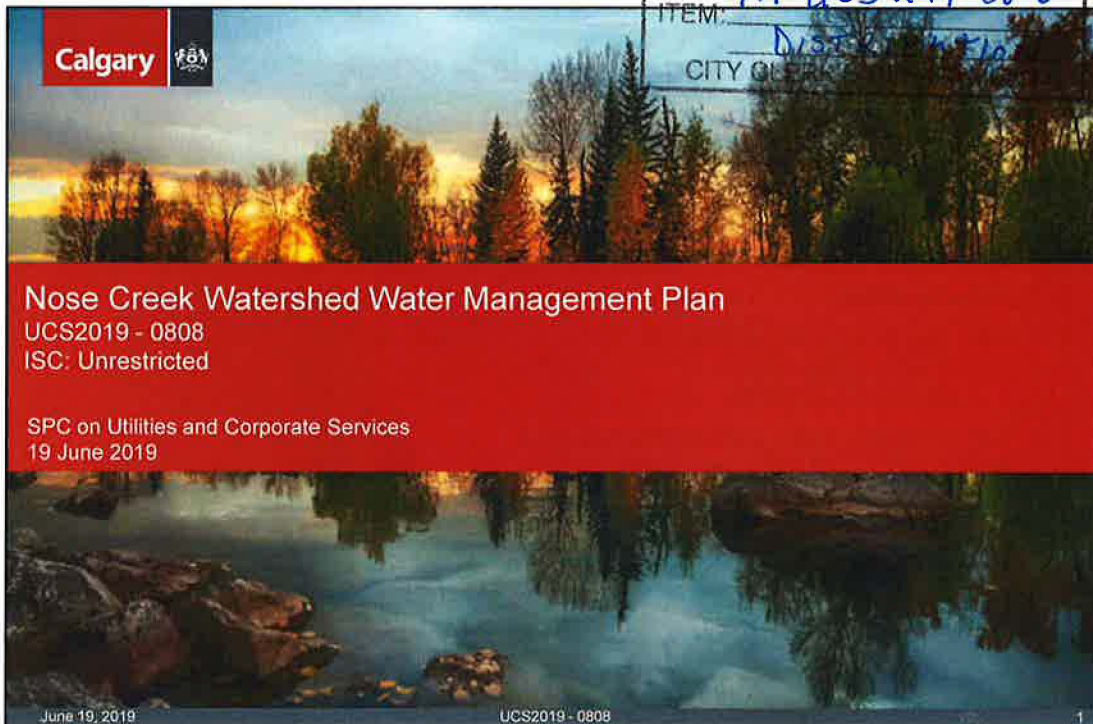
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 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

JUN 19 2019

7.1 UCS 2019-0808

ITEM:

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Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan
 UCS2019 - 0808
 ISC: Unrestricted

SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services
 19 June 2019

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Purpose

Purpose: To provide an overview of The Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan.

• **That the SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services recommend that Council:**

1. Approve the *2018 Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan* as a guidance document and planning tool; and
2. Administration reports back to SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services with a progress update on Plan implementation no later than 2020 Q3.

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Background on the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership

Taking action at the watershed level to protect water in a catchment experiencing high growth

- Formed in 1998
- Main objectives continue to be:
 - Protect riparian areas
 - Improve water quality
- City of Calgary, Rocky View County, City of Airdrie, Calgary Airport Authority are members
- Technical support from Bow River Basin Council (BRBC), Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)



The Plan and Policy Framework





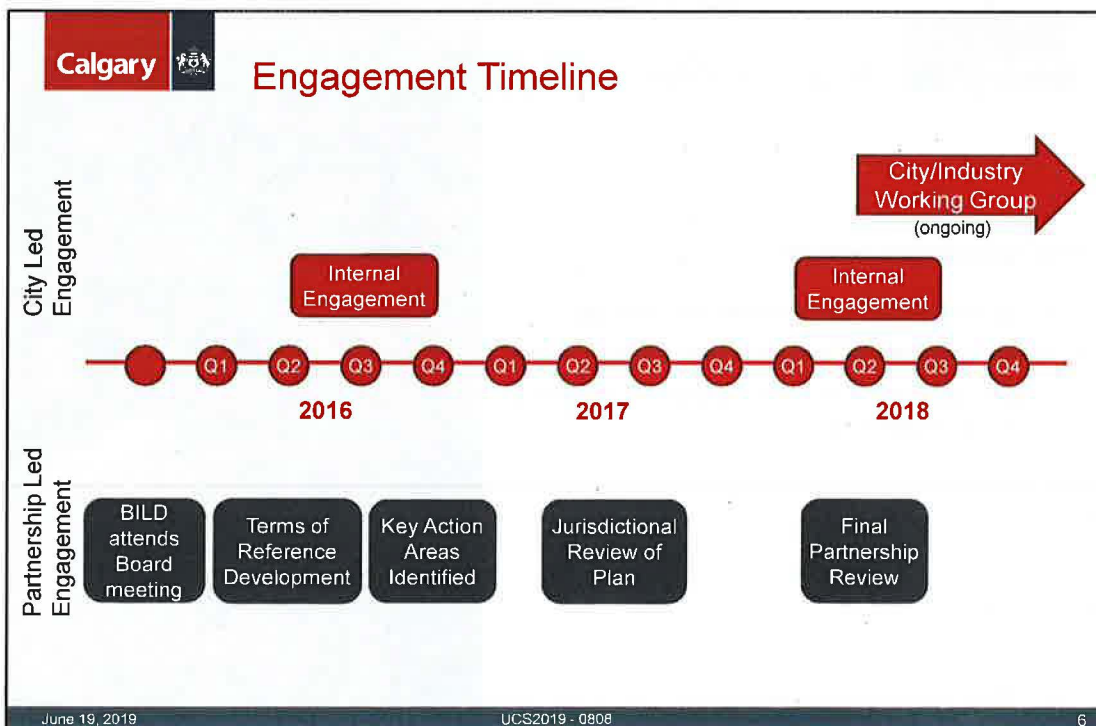
The Benefits of Participating in the Partnership





Why participate?

- City is greatest beneficiary of the Partnership
- Influence upstream jurisdictions
- Engage with AEP
- Leverage resources and knowledge
- Collaborate with partners to resolve watershed issues
- Evolve stormwater thinking

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Plan Overview



Plan Mission: Protect riparian areas and manage stream flows in the Nose Creek watershed to mitigate impacts of flood and drought and improve water quality for water users and aquatic life

Plan Outcomes:

- Clarify goals and objectives of the Partnership – balance needs of development industry
- Recognize implementation challenges and allow flexibility
- Address knowledge gaps




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Plan Overview

Plan Recommendations

- Delay 2017 stormwater volume control target
- Preserve ephemeral and intermittent watercourses
- Update restricted activity period to accommodate brown trout spawning



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Key Challenges



What are the challenges?

- Technical tools and regulatory policy have not evolved as quickly as originally envisioned
- Targets are unattainable for commercial, industrial or retail settings, high density or mixed use projects which have led to ad hoc exemptions
- Limited monitoring and data collection to understand implications of decisions

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Addressing the Challenges



What has The City been doing?

- Weekly meetings with development industry since summer 2018
- Advocated for Plan support to allow flexibility
- Propose to re-evaluate progress in Q3 2020
- Industry bulletin to outline options

What is the Partnership doing?

- Support local Plan approvals
- Initiating Partnership work program on modeling and monitoring

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Plan Direction and Next Steps





Key next steps for The City:

- Advance active pilots on stormwater management options
- Continue active research projects
- Continue to work collaboratively with development industry
- Continue to invest in riparian restoration on Nose Creek

Key next steps for The Partnership:

- Develop hydrologic / hydraulic and water quality modeling tool
- Implement coordinated and long-term water monitoring program and reporting
- Monitor erosion in watershed
- Report on watershed condition


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Risks of Not Approving the Plan

Risks:

- Loss of regulatory control and influence with AEP
- Counter to Council Directive on integrated watershed management and working regionally
- Loss of collective vision and common outcomes across jurisdictions
- Reputational damage as: 1) regional partner, 2) environmental steward, 3) leader in watershed management
- Reduced ability to collectively manage overland floods along Nose Creek
- Reverting back to 2007 Plan – loss of flexibility



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Administration Recommendations

That the SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services recommend that Council:

1. Approve the *2018 Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan* as a guidance document and planning tool; and
2. Administration reports back to SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services with a progress update on Plan implementation no later than 2020 Q3.