



# REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

Meeting: June 9, 2025

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## Outdoor Watering Schedule

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

Councillor Cutler has asked that Council consider an outdoor watering program for the Town of Claresholm. The Town currently has a Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP), which is a water conservation tool during periods when water levels in Pine Coulee Reservoir (the Town's water supply) fall below the 1046m level. The Town utilizes the WSRP during times of drought and/or water shortage. A potential Outdoor Watering Schedule would apply across the Town when water levels are favourable and above the 1046 level; an Outdoor Watering Schedule could be viewed as a proactive water conservation tool.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Drought conditions in the region over the last few years led to lower levels in Pine Coulee Reservoir and the implementation of the Town's Water Shortage response plan. The plan was in effect for most of 2023 and at the start of summer in 2024, representing the first time the Town has implemented a water shortage response since the Town started utilizing Pine Coulee for its water supply. The Town is currently not in a water shortage situation, as the water level in Pine Coulee Reservoir sits at 1047.17m. If the Town implemented an Outdoor Watering Schedule it would be in place, with the WSRP possibly being implemented if/when the water level hit 1046m.

Okotoks and Stavelly have outdoor watering schedules, and a potential schedule for Claresholm could be modelled after either of those schedules.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:**

Some questions that Council should consider:

- What is the impact of the Town's collective outdoor watering on water levels in the Pine Coulee Reservoir
- The Town works closely with the MD on water issues, consider MD input/engagement
- Okotoks and Stavelly have outdoor watering schedules, what are their programs and what are the conditions that led to the creation of their programs?
- Public appetite for a watering schedule

If Council is interested in implementing an Outdoor Watering Schedule for Claresholm, we will require a motion directing administration to conduct research and report back via a Request for Decision. If Council is not interested in pursuing this further, then no motion is required.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION:**

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that administration research an Outdoor Watering Schedule for the Town of Claresholm and report findings to Council at a future meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1.) Claresholm Water Shortage Response Plan

