Press Briefing

January 24, 2017

A Three-year Retrospective on Vision Pontiac 2020

At MRC Pontiac Council’s request, general management published a three-year retrospective report on the MRC’s major projects and accomplishments under the Vision Pontiac 2020 strategic plan.

Twenty initiatives impacting the Pontiac’s five key development sectors were highlighted in the report. Among them:

- The MRC’s flagship project, the Biomass Conversion Centre (CVB), which is expected to relaunch the Pontiac’s forest industry through innovation in resource transformation. The project has been in the works for three years.
- Investments of close to $1.0 million in local business start-up and development through grants and loans.
- Agricultural diversification initiatives, such as the technical and financial support provided to the Hops Cooperative for the purchase of a hops pelletizer, and the launch of the Landlink service.
- Ongoing tourism industry support through infrastructure development and maintenance, and marketing.
- Social and community development initiatives such as the creation of the Pontiac Organisation of Seniors and Retirees management table, and the Heritage Guide for local municipalities.

Vision Pontiac 2020 strategic plan was adopted at council in 2010 and updated in 2014. The vision document is the result of an exhaustive diagnostic study of the Pontiac’s five key economic sectors conducted in consultation with local industry and social community stakeholders throughout the MRC Pontiac in 2009.

The next strategic plan update is scheduled for 2017 and will, in part, reflect the MRC’s evolving economic and societal concerns, prioritize actions for the last four years of the plan, and establish measurable objectives and targets.

More information is available at mrcpontiac.qc.ca.
Warden Durocher Updates Council Members on his Meeting with Provincial Government Officials Concerning the CVB Project

At the January 17 plenary committee session, MRC Pontiac Warden, Raymond Durocher, updated council members on his December 16, 2016 meeting with the minister responsible for Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Luc Blanchette and Pontiac MP, André Fortin, a meeting that Warden Durocher has qualified as “very encouraging for the future development of the Pontiac’s Biomass Conversion Centre (CVB) project.”

The purpose of the meeting was to brief Minister Blanchette on this flagship project, which, for the last three years, has been at the core of the MRC’s plan to relaunch the Pontiac economy. CVB project manager, Pierre Vézina, who attended the meeting with Mr. Durocher, presented the industrial structure of the CVB, including its major components, project milestones, such as the technology tour in Sweden and the USA, required investments, potential future partners, and the MRC’s intention to transfer the project to the community in 2017.

MRC Pontiac Council Appoints Four Members of Fibre Pontiac Corporation

MRC Pontiac Council has appointed, by resolution, four members of the new not-for-profit organization, Fibre Pontiac, including local businessman, Denis Larivière, Martin Boucher, General Manager of Groupement forestier du Pontiac (GFP), Richard Vaillancourt, former general manager of the municipalities of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes and Chichester, and Pierre Vézina, consultant in charge of the CVB project and representative of the MRC Pontiac. These four local representatives are joined by Professor Philippe Nolet of the department of Science and Research of the Université du Québec en Outaouais.

The mission of Fiber Pontiac is to put in place all the conditions conducive to the development of the wood fibers sector in the MRC Pontiac.

Currently, the most important project for the relaunch of the forest industry is the Biomass Conversion Centre. This new corporation will oversee the future development of the CVB.
MRC Pontiac Plans to Close its Laurentian Bank Accounts

MRC Pontiac Council resolved to terminate its business relationship with Laurentian Bank of Canada (BLC) if the BLC closes its Pontiac branches. For reasons both practical and detrimental to its mission of territory development, the MRC will not accept to move its bank accounts to a remote branch.

To the extent possible, the MRC promotes local purchasing. By closing its Fort Coulonge and Campbell’s Bay branches, the BLC is disqualifying itself as a local financial services provider.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The MRC Pontiac is pleased to welcome Marie-Pier Romain to the team. Marie-Pier was hired as Receptionist and License Bureau Clerk on Monday, January 23rd.

Marie-Pier, who is originally from Fort-Coulonge and currently residing in Mansfield-et-Pontefract, left the region in 2006 to pursue her education at CEGEP de l’Outaouais. She has since worked in the federal government and most recently at TransporAction in Campbell’s Bay as an accounting assistant.