# CLEARWATER COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA February 25, 2014 10:30 A.M. Council Chambers 4340 – 47 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House AB

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#### B. AGENDA ADOPTION

## C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

# D. PUBLIC WORKS

- 1. 2014 Winter Gravel Program Fuel Adjustment Review
- 2. Additional Use of Funding to the 2014 Grader Pool Program

## E. AG SERVICES & LANDCARE

1. Dispersal of Surplus Used Equipment

## F. COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- 1. 2014 Annual Fire Guardian Appointments
- 2. Tour of Alberta Roadrace Funding Request
- 3. Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference
- 4. Hospital Committee Proposal Document

# G. PLANNING

1. South Saskatchewan Regional Plan – Overview and Feedback

# H. CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1. Request for Tax Penalty Waiver
- 2. Well Drilling Equipment Tax Update

#### I. MUNICIPAL

- 1. By-Election: Incapacitated Voters
- 2. Appointment of Alternate Member to the Intermunicipal Cooperation Committee

# J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

## K. INFORMATION

- 1. Public Works Director's Report
- 2. Accounts Payable Listing
- 3. Councillor Remuneration

#### L. ADJOURNMENT

#### **TABLED ITEMS**

<u>Date</u> <u>Item, Reason and Status</u>

04/10/12 Arbutus Hall Funding Request

To allow applicant to provide a complete capital projects plan.

STATUS: Pending Information, Community and Protective Services

09/10/13 **Repair of Bridge BF01963** 

• Reallocation of funds from bridge rehabilitation for the James River Bridge repair

STATUS: Pending Information, Alberta Transportation/Public Works



Project: 2014 Winter Gravel Program Fuel Adjustment Review		
Presentation Date: February 25th, 2014		
Department: Public Works	Author: Kurt Magnus/Marshall Morton	
Budget Implication: ☐ N/A ☑ Funded by Dept. ☐ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: Infrastructure & Asset Management	Goal: To effectively manage the financial and physical assets of the County in order to support the growth and development of the County while obtaining maximum value from County owned infrastructure and structures.	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
<ul><li>☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)</li><li>☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)</li></ul>		
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council review the information provided and approves the adjustment of the winter gravel program tonne/mile rate in relation to fluctuating diesel (dyed) fuel prices.		
Attachments List: N/A		

# Background:

The budgeted amount for the 2014 Winter Gravel Program is \$1,106,600.00. The 2014 program, presently, has been determined to be \$1,063,045.82.

In November 2013, when the truck operators were contacted and agreed to participate in the program, diesel fuel (dyed) pricing for Clearwater County was \$1.144 per liter. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, diesel prices had increased to \$1.211 per liter. The last time a temporary fuel adjustment was made to the Winter Gravel program was in 2012. The price of diesel fuel, at that time, was \$1.093 per liter. Hence, the price of dyed diesel fuel has increased 12 cents per liter.

As a result, the administration of Clearwater County contacted several of the Winter Gravel contracted truck & pup owners and inquired into their average amount of diesel fuel usage per day (based on a 10 hour day). Consequently, their responses were compared with Clearwater County's average amount of diesel used per day (again

based on a 10 hour day) and found the usage to vary between 370 to 400 liters per day. For this exercise administration is using an average of 385 liters per day.

Hence, as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, diesel fuel pricing for 385 liters per day, at \$1.211 per liter equals \$466.235. The cost of fuel, in 2012, at \$1.093 per liter at 385 liters per day equals \$420.805 totaling **an increase of \$45.430.** So as to account for any further change in the price of diesel fuel, Clearwater County will index the winter gravel program tonne/mile rate in relation to fluctuating diesel (dyed) fuel price. If the diesel fuel price (dyed) fluctuates by 0.03 cents or more a liter the County will adjust the tonne/mile rate accordingly. The County will increase, hold or decrease the tonne/mile rate depending on the fluctuation. The rate will be adjusted as follows;

Fuel Increase/decrease (\$)	tonne/mile increase/decrease(\$)
0.01	0.001
0.02	0.002
0.03	0.003
0.04	0.004
0.05	0.005
0.10	0.010
0.11	0.011
0.12	0.012

The following example is provided.

**Example**: If diesel fuel price (dyed) increased by \$0.12 per liter the Contractor would receive a \$ 0.012 per tonne per mile increase to the winter gravel program rate. The following formula has been utilized.

\$0.12 per liter diesel fuel price (dyed) fluctuation

\$0.012 increase to tonne/mile rate

\$0.267 plus \$0.012 = **\$0.279/tonne/mile rate adjustment** 

The increase or decrease of fuel pricing will be based on the pricing of diesel fuel (dyed) that the County receives from its suppliers and will be checked on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month.

The projected total amount for the trucking on the 2014 Winter Gravel Program is estimated at \$270,792.11 dollars. The impact on the 2014 budget of an additional \$0.012/tonne/mile rate increase will be approximately \$284,989.84. This is equivalent to an increase of \$14,197.73.



Project: Additional Use of Funding to the 2014 Grader Pool Program		
Presentation Date: February 25th, 2014		
Department: Public Works	Author: Kurt Magnus/Marshall Morton	
Budget Implication: ☐ N/A ☒ Funded by Dept. ☐ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: Infrastructure & Asset Management	Goal: To effectively manage the financial and physical assets of the County in order to support the growth and development of the County while obtaining maximum value from County owned infrastructure and structures.	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
<ul><li>☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)</li><li>☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)</li></ul>		
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council provide direction to administration as to how best to use the increase in funding to the Grader Pool Program.		
Attachments List: Existing Grader Beat Map Grader Beats Draft Revisions Map		

# **Background:**

The budgeted amount for the 2014 Grader Pool Program is \$3,046,050.00. In an effort to try and keep up with existing service levels, the proposed 2014 program, by direction of Council, was increased by \$250,000.

As Clearwater County roads are seeing more traffic in general, particularly industrial traffic, there are a number of options which, the additional \$250,000, can best be utilized so as to effectively impact our road maintenance strategy. The options are as follows:

# Option A. - Additional Contract Grader Beat (See also attached maps)

- i. A total of approximately 1760 km of gravel roads are maintained by 10 grader beats (excluding beat 512 which only encompasses Ya-Ha Tinda & the Red Deer River access for a total of 42 km, and, beat 511 which is the County floater grader). At present, the average kilometers per grader beat is approximately 176 kilometers (Beat 501 at 143 km to Beat 506 at 223 km). In a 12 hour summer day, <u>under ideal conditions</u>, on average, the grader operator will cover approximately 20 km/day, or 1.67 km/hr. Conversely, it takes, on average, approximately 106 hours or about nine days to complete a beat.
- ii. By bringing in an additional grader beat, this would decrease each beat by approximately 17 km to an average of 159 km/beat. Again, at 20 km/day, or 1.67 km/hr. at 12 hours per day, this is equivalent to approximately 96 hours or eight days to complete a beat.
- iii. Hence, an additional beat will save each existing grader one day from an average of nine days to complete a beat to eight days (1 day = 12 hours).

# **Option B. - Additional Contract Floater Grader**

- i. At an average rate of \$96.00 per hour, this is equivalent to approximately 2604 hours of additional time to be utilized where needed, according to priorities.
- ii. Over 52 weeks, this would be an additional 50 hours per week.
- iii. At 1.67 km per hour, road coverage would be approximately 84 km per 50 hour work week.

# **Option C. - Additional Time To Each Existing Grader Beat**

- i. At an average contract rate of \$96.00 per hour, this is equivalent to 2604 hours of additional time towards all the grader beats.
- **ii.** Presently, at 11 beats, this would increase each beat time by approximately 237 hours per year.
- iii. Over 52 weeks, this would be an additional 4.6 hours per week per beat.

# Some additional information to consider;

# Advantages and disadvantages to having an additional floater grader(s):

- Available as needed
- Focus on areas of increased priority
- Available for special projects
- Travel time is down time
- Possible animosity from regular contract grader beats
- Public discomfort (i.e.: unfamiliar with new grader operator)

# Advantages and disadvantages of having an additional grader beat:

- Increased visibility
- Decreased turn-around time per beat
- Initial unfamiliarity with new beats
- Public discomfort (i.e.: unfamiliar with new grader operator)

Presently, Clearwater County utilizes the services of 10 contract graders.

Contract expiry dates are as follows:

Beat 504 - March 31, 2014

Beat 501 - April 30, 2014

Beat 508 - April 30, 2014

Beat 510 - April 30, 2014

Beat 507 - March 31, 2015

Beat 505 - April 30, 2015

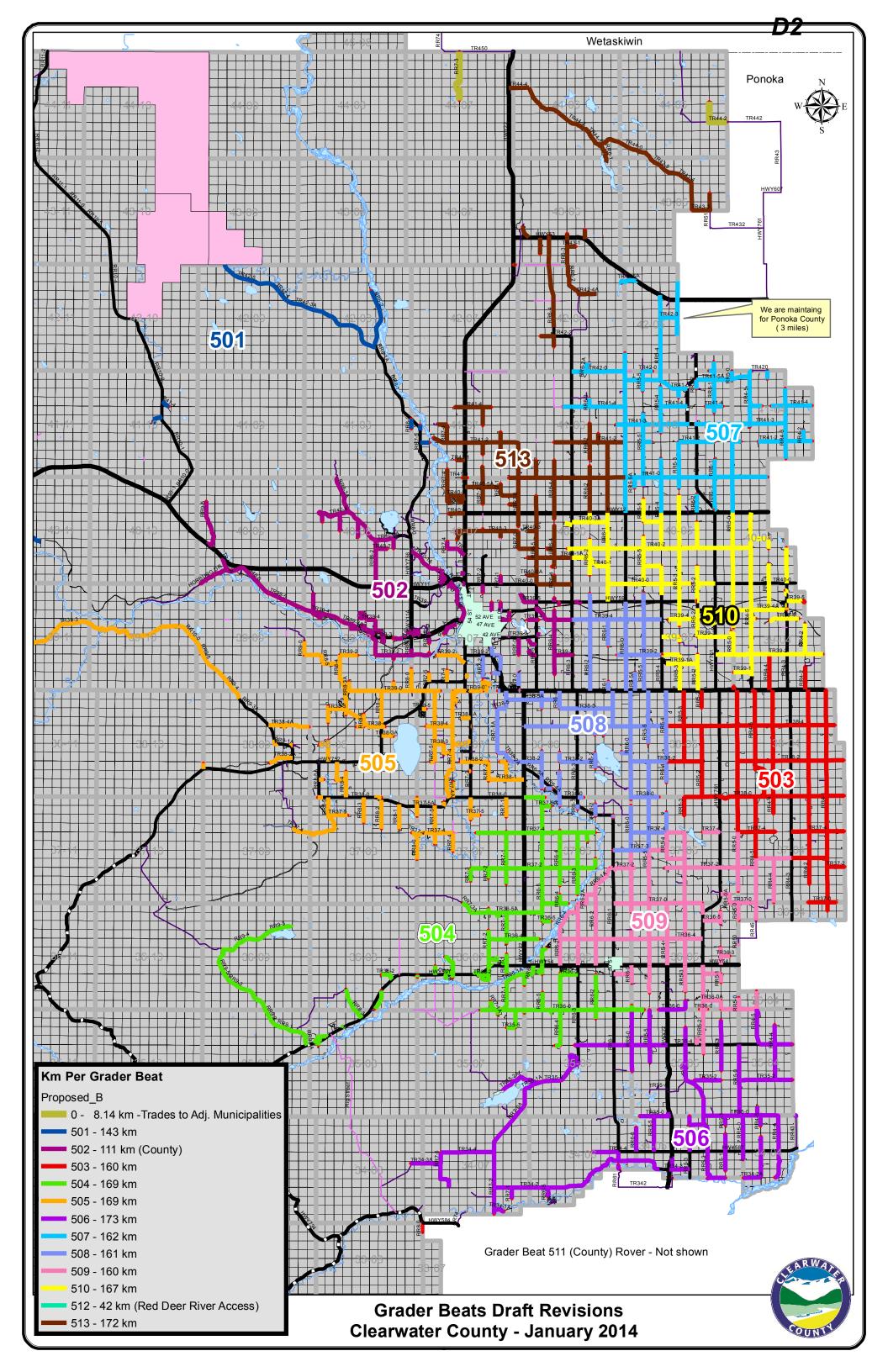
Beat 512 - July 31, 2015

Beat 503 - April 30, 2016

Beat 506 - April 30, 2016

Beat 509 - April 30, 2016

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Project: Dispersal of Surplus Used Equipment		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: Ag Services and Landcare	Author: Matt Martinson	
Budget Implication: □ N/A ⊠ Funde	ed by Dept.   Reallocation	
Strategic Area : Quality of Life	Goal: 1- Evaluate and support recreation	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
Recommendation: That Council donates Ag. Services & Landcare's used lawn mower to the Caroline Agricultural Society.		
Attachments Caroline Ag Society request letter		

# **Background:**

I have been in contact with board members and administration from the Caroline Agricultural Society who have expressed an interest in receiving our used commercial Lawn Mower to assist with the increased demands in maintaining the ball diamonds and grounds in Caroline. Should council decide not to donate the lawn mower Ag Services & Landcare will sell it at auction.

# Kurt Browning Arena & Complex

# Caroline & District Athletic & Agricultural Society

Box 267 Caroline, AB TOM 0M0

Phone: (403) 722-3022 Fax: (403) 722-2883 Email: <a href="mailto:carolineag@platinum.ca">carolineag@platinum.ca</a>

February 19, 2014

Clearwater County

The maintenance of the SE Recreation Grounds was a new venture last summer. With the expanded grounds we did find it difficult to keep up with the mowing to ensure a proper turf. We did purchase what we could afford last summer, a JD zero turn, with a 48" mowing deck. This machine works great inside the ball diamonds, however due to weather and the size of our deck we found it hard to keep up the mowing in the rest of the recreation grounds. We did take the mower deck of our 2006 cub cadet mower and we use this machine exclusively for floating the shale, which has saved us switch over time and machine blade maintenance. We luckily had some volunteers bring their mowers in last summer and help out before tournaments to ensure that the grounds were properly maintained. With the grass becoming more established this year we know it will require more maintenance. With the challenges of weather in Alberta, we are planning on having one person part time and another person when required, to ensure that the SE recreation grounds are always in top shape. We are hoping that the County may be able to help us in our search for a larger mower in order to provide proper maintenance to the SE recreation grounds. When the grass was first established in the fall two years ago, we did borrow a 60", 28HP Diesel John Deere mower from the county and worked great for getting the mowing done.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely

Debbie Northcott AG Society Manager



Project: 2014 Annual Fire Guardian Appointments		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services	Author: CS Laird – Fire Chief	
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Fund	led by Dept.   Reallocation	
MKF #3 Quality of Life: To maintain and develop	sustainable services, facilities and programs that	
encourages and supports a safe, healthy, active a	and vibrant community.	
Strategic Area: Strategy #2: Council will continue to support Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services in satisfying the County's legislated responsibilities in regard to fire prevention, suppression and training and will rely principally on volunteer firefighters for the provision of fire department related emergency services.		
Legislative Direction: □None		
⊠ Provincial Legislation (cite)		
Fire Guardian Pursuant to the Sec. 4 Forest and Prairie Protection Act		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite) NIL		
Recommendation:		
Council approves the appointments for 2014 Fire Guardians for:		
a. Cammie Laird – Fire Chief		
b. Paul Prevost – Deputy Chief		
c. Patrick Oslund – Deputy Chief		
Attachments List: Nil		

# Background:

In accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the Alberta Fire Code "Fire Guardian" means a person named, appointed or deemed a Fire Guardian. Essentially the Reeve, each councilor and the chief administrative officer are by virtue of their offices fire guardians in and for the municipal district. RSA 2000 cF-19 s4;2003 c20 s6.

Each year before <u>March 1</u> the council of a municipal district shall appoint, for a term not exceeding one year, a sufficient number of fire guardians to enforce the Forest and Prairie Protections Act within the boundaries. "Fire Guardian" means a person named or appointed as Fire Guardian Pursuant to the Sec. 4 Forest and Prairie Protection Act (supra).

# Excerpt from the Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection Act RE: Fire guardians

**4(1)** The Minister may appoint fire guardians and specify their powers and duties.

- **(2)** Each year before <u>April 1</u> the council of a municipal district shall appoint, for a term not exceeding one year with effect from the beginning of April, a sufficient number of fire guardians to enforce this Act within the boundaries of the municipal district.
- (3) The chief elected official, each councilor and the chief administrative officer are by virtue of their offices fire guardians in and for the municipal district. RSA 2000 cF-19 s4; 2003 c20 s6

Historically the Council appoints the Fire Chief and Deputy Chiefs as Fire Guardian(s) to enforce the provisions of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act (supra) within the boundaries of the County. Some of the related duties include but are not limited to assisting in the area of fire prevention and the control of fires through the PPAF - Forest and Prairie Protection Act and enforcement of the provisions of the FPPA within the boundaries of the Municipality. Where an emergency or a potential emergency exists, the Fire Guardian, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief or their Designate shall be empowered to suspend all Fires including but not limited to, Incinerator Fires, Outdoor Fires, or any outdoor camping fires which pose a threat within all or a portion or portions of the County for such a period of time and on such conditions as may be determined by the Fire Guardian, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief or their Designate.

From time to time as conditions dictate the County may impose a full or restricted ban upon open fires within the County. These bans or restrictions may be imposed by County administration upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, or designate. When a fire ban is imposed the County shall post the fire ban information in local newspapers, air the information on local radio and post the information on the County internet website. Fire bans may be lifted or modified upon recommendation from the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, or designate.

Respectfully Submitted

Cammie Laird - Fire Chief



Project: Tour of Alberta Roadrace Funding Request		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: CPS	Author: Trevor Duley	
Budget Implication: □ N/A □ Funded by Dept. ☒ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: Land & Economic Development	<b>Goal:</b> The County will develop an economic development plan which supports and promotes industry, business and agri-business and tourism opportunities in the County.	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council provide direction around funding the Tour of Alberta in the amount of \$100,000.00.		
Attachments List: N/A		

# **Background:**

As Council will recall, at the February 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Loyal Ma and Larry Holstead on behalf of the Tour of Alberta Local Steering Committee, made a presentation to Council regarding the event's interest in utilizing Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County as a start community on September 5, 2014. The event is a professional competition similar in scope to the Tour de France, and attracts 120 of the top cycling athletes in the world.

As noted previously, in 2013, the event was partially funded by the Rural Alberta Development Fund through a one-time donation of \$3.5 million. Since they are not funding the event in 2014, the Tour requires additional financial assistance from host communities. To be a start community, they are seeking \$100,000.00. The Local Steering Committee proposed on the 11<sup>th</sup> that both Town and County Council provide \$50,000.00 to provide for the costs up-front, upon the condition that the Committee would be seeking corporate sponsorship from within the community to cover some of this cost.



Town Council voted on the request at their Meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and opted not to fund the event.

Council will recall that the event has multiple economic development benefits as a result of television exposure and advertising. In order to ensure the event takes place in the region, the Tour requires a financial contribution of \$100,000.00 before February 28, 2014. Staff sees a few options Council could consider:

- a) Provide \$100,000.00¹ and have the Local Steering Committee coordinate and start the race in Nordegg. This option would still have a regional impact and aligns with Council's philosophy of enhanced promotion and economic development of Nordegg and the West Country.
- b) Provide \$100,000.00 and ask that the Local Steering Committee take the item back to Town Council to request their desired involvement with the event. This would also have a regional economic development impact.
- c) Deny the request.

Should Council wish to fund the event, a decision is not required at this point in time between (a) or (b), as these are logistics that can be sorted out at a later date. Staff is requesting Council's decision on funding the event in the amount of \$100,000.00. Should Council wish to approve the request, it would be drawn from Contingency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Upon the previous expectation that the County will be reimbursed up to 50% once the Steering Committee receives more revenues, meaning the County would be hoping to provide \$50,000.00 overall. Also, there would be some hidden costs, including Staff time, signage and equipment.



Project: Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: CPS	Author: Trevor Duley	
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Funded by Dept. □ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: Quality of Life	Goal:	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council approve the Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference as presented.		
Attachments List: Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference		

# **Background:**

Please note that this item was tabled at the November 26, 2013 regular Council Meeting. Since that time, Lease, Services and Governance Agreement for the Caroline Complex have been signed by each relevant party (Caroline and District Ag Society, the Village of Caroline and the County).

Please find attached the Terms of Reference for the Caroline HUB Committee.

The HUB Committee is the group overseeing the construction of the Caroline HUB building. A Terms of Reference has been drafted which outlines the composition of the group as well as some of the administrative functions.

The HUB Committee has been operating for some time and has endorsed the attached document. Staff have realized that the document has not been officially passed by County Council at this point in time are seeking to simply correct that oversight.

No changes are being recommended to the proposed Terms of Reference.

# **Caroline Hub Committee**

# **Terms of Reference**

# Purpose:

- 1. The Caroline Hub Committee (CHC) will act as the body responsible for the development of the scope of work document.
- 2. Following approval by Clearwater County Council of the scope of work the CHC will then be responsible for:
  - a. Selection of the Project Manager;
  - b. Oversight of tendering and construction management of the Caroline Hub Building;
  - c. Developing the design of the Caroline Hub Building;
  - d. Volunteer worker/firm recruitment; and,
  - e. Coordinating the raising of funds and volunteers with the Caroline and District Athletic and Agriculture Society.
- Providing reports on the status of the project to Clearwater County Council and the Caroline and District Athletic and Agriculture Society, as required or requested.

#### Membership:

- 1. The Committee will consist of the following voting members who shall hold one (1) vote each:
  - a. Two (2) Clearwater County Councillors;
  - b. Two (2) Representatives of the Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society; and,
  - c. One (1) Member of the public chosen by the Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society and appointed by Clearwater County Council.
- 2. The Committee will also consist of the following non-voting members:
  - a. The Clearwater County Director of Community and Protective Services, or designate;
  - b. The Caroline and District Athletic and Agriculture Society Manager
  - c. The Clearwater County Director of Public Works, as required; and/or,
  - d. Clearwater County Chief Administrative Officer, as required.

## **Governance Structure:**

- 1. A Chairperson for the CHC shall be chosen from among the voting members of the Committee.
- 2. A Vice-Chairperson for the CHC shall be chosen from among the voting members of the Committee.
- 3. The Chairperson shall be responsible for chairing the meetings of the CHC. In the absence of the Chairperson, these duties will be fulfilled by the Vice-Chairperson.

4. Quorum shall be composed of three (3) voting members of the Committee which must include at least one member from both Clearwater County and one member from the Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society.

#### Meetings:

- 1. Meetings of the CHC shall be held as required and approved by all voting members of the Committee or at the call of the Chair.
- 2. Formal decisions may be made electronically via email. Electronic voting will still require a quorum as outlined in this Terms of Reference.

#### Powers:

- 1. It is the responsibility of the CHC to:
  - a. Oversee the production of construction drawings and documents;
  - b. Select an appropriate project manager;
  - c. Provide oversight of the project manager's activities;
  - d. In coordination with the project manager, develop a comprehensive project budget and project timelines;
  - e. Ensure appropriate inspections and safety practices are taking place and documented:
  - f. Ensure that project timelines are being adhered to;
  - g. Ensure that project budgets are being adhered to;
- 2. The CHC will not have the authority to commit resources, including funding, of either Clearwater County or the Caroline and District Athletic and Agriculture Society, except as otherwise approved, in writing, in terms of approved budget.
- The CHC will provide broad direction to the project manager who shall be
  responsible for coordinating and managing all construction and procurement
  activities as well as be responsible for approving all change orders within established
  parameters.



Project: Hospital Committee Proposal Document		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: CPS	Author: Trevor Duley	
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Funded by Dept. □ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: Governance & Intergovernmental Relations	Goal: Council will actively pursue opportunities to discuss with the Premier, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers issues concerning provincial legislation, programs or initiatives.	
Legislative Direction: ⊠None		
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
Recommendation: That Council accept the report as information.		
Attachments List: Hospital Proposal		

# Background:

The Hospital Committee, a group comprised of representatives from Town and County Council, the public and the Rocky and District Chamber of Commerce, has developed a Proposal Document as part of the ongoing lobbying strategy to have a new hospital constructed within Rocky Mountain House.

The document will be made available on the County's website, and will be utilized by the Committee as they continue to communicate the need for a new hospital to various Provincial Ministries. Alberta Health Services has stated they will conduct a Needs Assessment prior to September of 2014, and the Committee continues to work with the Provincial Government in this regard. The document proposes that a new hospital be built in Rocky as soon as possible, given: regional demand within West-Central Alberta, a large industrial presence, current hospital capacity and a host of other reasons.

The recommendation is that Council accept the report as information.

# 2014

# Rocky Mountain House Hospital Proposal









# 1

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# **Executive Summary**

In 2012, Clearwater County, the Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Village of Caroline formed The Hospital Committee to jointly discuss the need for a new hospital facility to serve the region. The committee membership consists of Council representatives from the three municipalities as well as interested partner agencies like the local Chamber of Commerce. The three Councils have identified the replacement of the current Rocky Mountain House Hospital as the community's greatest infrastructure need.

Overall, a new hospital is needed because the current one no longer has the capacity to handle the community's growing and increasingly diverse needs. The community has grown substantially since the hospital was built in 1971, industrial growth and traffic counts have increased, the number of visitors to the community has increased and the population is aging. Today, the population of Rocky Mountain House is 7,300 people; in 1971 it was 2,968. A new facility is also crucial to recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals to this community.

As detailed within this document, The Hospital Committee has agreed on the significance of the need for a new West-Central Alberta facility and has indicated support for and a willingness to lobby for a facility. Ultimately, the Committee wishes to be seen as a partner with the Province, in order to address the healthcare needs of West Central Alberta.

The Hospital Committee is committed to working with Alberta Health Services (AHS) by building on our current successes with physician recruitment and partnerships with neighbouring communities. We can work together to create a healthcare model that efficiently and effectively serves the diverse needs of community members as well as neighbouring areas that are struggling to meet their health care needs. However, the longer it takes to build a new hospital in Rocky Mountain House, the risk of medical services becoming fragmented increases.

We can support a facility that has the ability to take some of the burden off other major facilities with a niche structure that optimizes the talents and strengths that our physicians have to offer.

# **Opportunity**

The municipalities of Clearwater County, the Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Village of Caroline see the development of a new hospital in the area as providing an attraction and retention service to persons living within, visiting and wishing to relocate to West Central Alberta.

The issue of a new hospital in Rocky Mountain House was formally identified on November 17, 2011 when a number of stakeholder groups within the community identified the need at an engagement session hosted by the David Thompson Health Advisory Council. Stakeholders included: local government officials, healthcare staff, paramedics, extended-healthcare professionals, First Nations communities and various other community members. This event led to the establishment of a Terms of Reference for the Hospital Committee, with the number one goal being to advocate for the construction of a new hospital for the community.

The current Hospital has 31 acute care beds, which recently increased from 26. The Hospital was running at greater than 100% capacity with the 26 acute care beds. There are currently 80 long-term care beds at the Clearwater Centre, another agency which operates within Rocky Mountain House. A new seniors housing complex proposed in Rocky by Christianson Developments will help provide more seniors' care, but will also increase the burden on acute care.

The Hospital Committee has heard that there is a need in the community for more seniors and long-term care options. The land on which the existing hospital facility sits could be redeveloped to fill this need once a new hospital building has been completed.

New capital investment in the area could help ease the surgery burden currently being felt at the Red Deer Regional Hospital. By diverting certain types of surgeries to a new facility in Rocky Mountain House, more time will be freed up in Red Deer for other surgeries. The community has been very successful to date with physician recruitment, however, we have experienced challenges with privileging. We will continue to work together with AHS to create an environment where physicians, willing to work in our community, are provided the hospital privileges they require to meet their career goals in a rural setting. Currently, lack of space and electrical issues at the Rocky Hospital do not allow access to cancer care (chemotherapy) or to a CT scanner.

The Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater region has effectively recruited a number of doctors within the last several years, totalling 7 since 2007, and having an adequate facility will help retain them within the community for years to come. Given that local doctors work

both in the clinic and the hospital, there is an opportunity to improve efficiencies by including clinic space at the new facility. The Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County previously purchased a clinic for the community. Moreover, partnerships with the Family Care Clinic (FCC) or Primary Care Network (PCN) could be enhanced with a new facility.

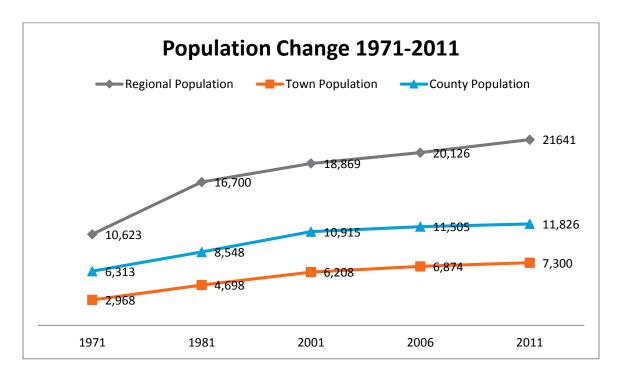
The local physicians are currently at a staffing level where they have been able to open a satellite medical clinic in the Village of Caroline that is open one day a week and may potentially be able to open a second day a week, which has reduced some access barriers to residents of the Village and the surrounding area. Doctors in the area provide a Walk-In Clinic two nights a week, and doctors visit First Nations' communities once a week also. Local physicians offer appointments to people at Westview Lodge and the Clearwater Centre. The community is doing what it can to reduce stress on the current Hospital by providing more appropriate patient care. All of these changes have reduced the impact on the hospital, however, the capacity numbers are still high and the acuity is higher. Moreover, the community and hospital staff have worked hard to increase efficiencies in the facility, and have done so successfully—AHS has been helpful along the way. A second satellite office is currently being considered to serve the Eckville area as well. Should we be unable to retain our physicians long-term, the viability of this type of service may be at risk.

The existing Hospital's dialysis area is running at full capacity (24 patients/day). The acute care area is currently at 85% occupancy overall and has issues with narrow hallways, wood surfaces, limited space, sightlines in triage, electrical and air exchange; and it possesses a structural setting non-conducive to the efficient sterilization of equipment and receiving patients from the helipad.

# **Demographic Information**

The current hospital serves a large, and varied, population of approximately 25,000 people which includes:

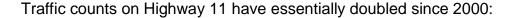
- The Town of Rocky Mountain House (population 7,300)
- Clearwater County (population 12,278)
- The Village of Caroline (population 501)
- Bighorn Reserve 144A (population 134)
- O'Chiese 203 (population 751)
- Sunchild 202 (population 677)

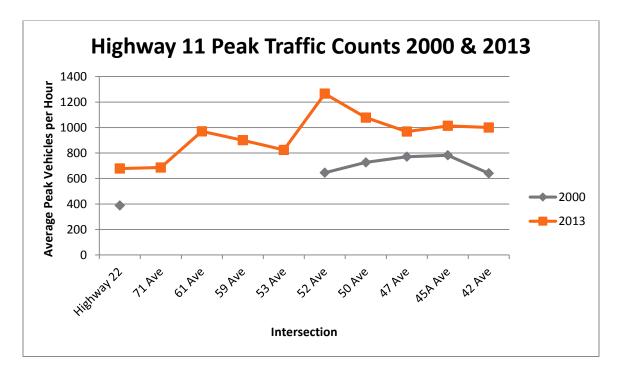


The Rocky Mountain House Hospital serves not only residents of the area, but also transient (shadow) populations of visitors and industrial workers. The 2010 report by the South Eastern Slopes Task Force<sup>1</sup> states that more than 1.1 million people visit Clearwater County's West Country.

In the months of April to September, it is estimated that a typical weekend sees between 30,000-50,000 people traveling to the West Country, either for industrial work or for recreation. These numbers are no longer limited to summer use as the increase to winter enthusiasts has increase substantially in the past years with snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and ice climbing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Conducted by the M.D. of Pincher Creek, M.D. of Ranchland, M.D. of Bighorn and Clearwater County.

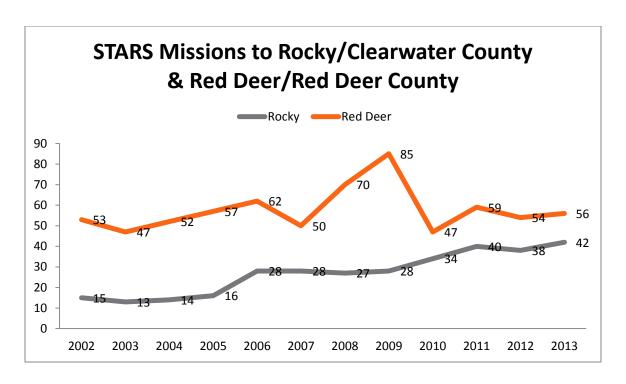




Rocky Mountain House is considered the healthcare hub for neighbouring First Nations' communities. Their requirements for care are both similar and unique compared to the local population. Developing specific services for treatment and care of First Nations' needs could be considered with a new hospital facility.

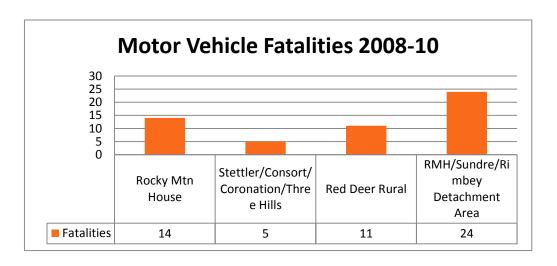
Moreover, as Alberta's population is slated to increase substantially over the next decade, these numbers are anticipated to grow. Due to the high volume of recreational users in the area, both the current Hospital and STARS Air Ambulance receive a disproportionate number of patients in the area. Many of these patients are not residents of the Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater community. STARS representatives have noted that Rocky is not far behind the Red Deer Regional Hospital, which is considered to be the busiest in Alberta, and had 54 visits in 2012. STARS considers more than 20 visits a year to be higher than average. In 2013, Rocky already had 42 trips as of November; and Rocky has consistently had a higher than average number of annual helicopter visits.



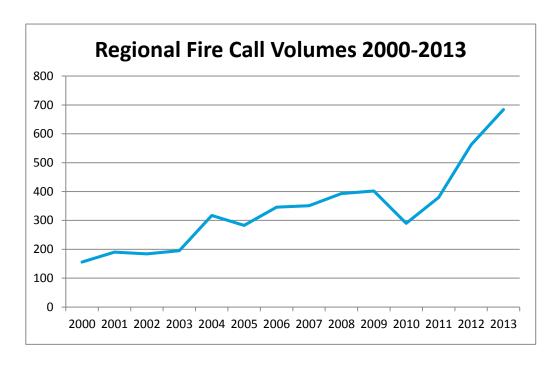


The current helipad used at the hospital does not comply with Transport Canada's regulations due to the flight path and its proximity to Rocky's swimming pool. A new facility would be able to ensure that the helipad, which sees substantial volume with STARS and other transport companies, could accommodate these users with less risk to patients, pilots and the community. The Rocky Mountain House Airport also accommodates approximately 24 medevac air ambulances annually.

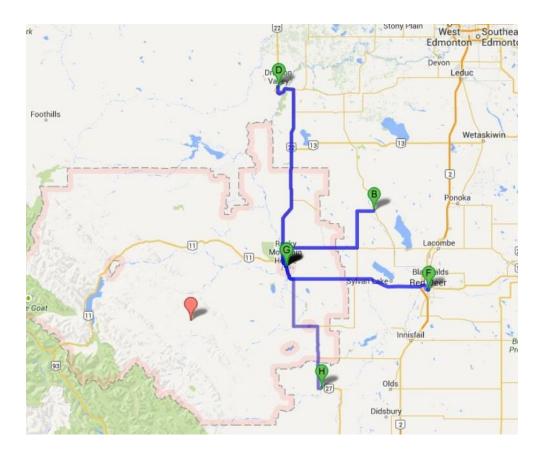
Given the high volume of visitors to the West Country, there is a high incidence of injury. West Central Alberta has seen a substantially high rate of motor vehicle related fatalities. As the closest facility, the hospital in Rocky Mountain House deals with the majority of injury incidents.







The Rocky Mountain House Hospital serves a vast geographic area, as indicated below:



The Region is the Central Gateway to the Canadian Rockies, with the David Thompson Highway (Highway 11) leading to the Banff and Jasper National Parks. West Central

Alberta is also home to major industrial routes, including primary Highways 11, 12, 20, 22, 27, 53 and 54; as well as secondary highways 752, 734, 761, 587, 584 and 591.

The closest referral centre is Rimbey (B; 56 minutes) which offers fewer services than the Rocky Hospital. Red Deer Regional (F; 60 minutes) is the only viable option to send people if they cannot be treated in Rocky, and Red Deer is over capacity. Sundre (H; 70 minutes) has fewer services and Drayton Valley (D; 70 minutes) does not have the capacity to take extra patients.

If the community can continue to be successful in recruitment and retention, there may be resources to work together with other communities both East and West of Rocky, including Nordegg and possibly Eckville.

# **Industry and Growth**

The Hamlet of Nordegg is located approximately one hour west of Rocky Mountain House and has a number of residential, commercial and recreational properties. Clearwater County's development of the Hamlet will see several hundred commercial and residential lots made available over the next few years. The County plan is to grow Nordegg into a community of approximately 2,500 residents. These developments will also increase the volume of visitors in the area through enhanced recreational opportunities.

Future economic development opportunities will require a larger workforce and in turn will create a higher demand on healthcare services. Seeing the community grow is exciting, however, having the infrastructure in place whether it is roads, homes, schools or hospitals will make it more enticing for recruitment of workers and their families to the region.

As identified within Clearwater County's Reeve's Economic Summit, a large number of persons working within the Oil and Gas Industry in the Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater region live in communities closer to Highway 2 and commute daily to West Central Alberta. This industry, in addition to other major drivers of the local and provincial economy, including forestry and agriculture, are at higher risk for injury than other professions, and therefore are more reliant on the healthcare system.

Additionally, the Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater region is soon expected to enter into a period of rapid growth. For example, several large projects are planned for the region, including the construction of a new gas plant which will require hundreds of temporary workers and will employ a number of permanent employees afterwards. Anticipated upgrades to pre-existing facilities in the region will also stimulate job growth. For instance, expansion of fertilizer operations at Keyera's Strachan Facility requires over 100 construction positions, and should employ somewhere between 15-20 permanent

staff members afterwards. Construction of a new gas plant near Cow Lake will also require over 100 construction positions and will have 25 permanent positions once construction is complete. Exploration by coal companies in areas West of Rocky Mountain House could also lead to an increase in residential demand and industrial and job growth in the region. These factors would enhance the need for a new hospital.

A large part of the west region economic base is logging. More than 85,000 loads per year travel through the west region to mills and processing plants. Additionally, Clearwater County issued over 3500 permits in 2010 for industry to move large loads or multiple loads on roadways within the municipality that are not included in the numbers of loads that the province issues. Moreover, the area continues to be a hub for Oil and Gas activity, creating significant economic spinoffs for the Province as a whole. According to the Conference Board of Canada's 2013 report, "Alberta's Rural Communities: Their Economic Impact to Alberta and Canada," the region's Oil and Gas, Manufacturing and Construction industries made for a combined \$460 million in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011.

Moreover, if a new hospital is able to attract and retain persons to both live and work in the community, than healthcare burdens and costs displaced on other parts of the Province may be reduced.

# **Physician Recruitment & Retention**

The Rocky/Caroline/ Clearwater community has worked tirelessly to recruit physicians to the area. Both Clearwater County and the Town of Rocky Mountain House have invested substantially into the success of the program both with the purchase of the medical clinic as well as through dedication and support on the Physician Recruitment Committee. This hard work and dedication has provided the community with 15 physicians who serve Rocky Mountain House, the Village of Caroline and the neighbouring First Nations' communities.

Retention now becomes the biggest challenge and will require support through a fully functional and surgically competent hospital. Even the announcement of a new hospital with a timeline would help to provide incentive for physicians to call Rocky Mountain House home, as it will be able to meet their career aspirations with a facility that they can grow with. The area now has two GP surgeons, and one of the local doctors is upgrading for anaesthesiology so the area will have two anaesthesiologists.

The community has had success over many years raising funds for the hospital and equipment it requires. The Rocky Mountain House Health Centre Donations Committee raised over \$250,000 per year in past years. These funds have been directly invested into the current hospital. The Donation Committee is now ready to begin fundraising to support a new hospital.

# Recommendations

The Hospital Committee is proposing that the three municipalities partner with AHS and Alberta Infrastructure to move forward with the development of a new hospital site for the area. The municipalities have indicated a willingness to help in the identification and acquisition of suitable land for a new hospital site, as well as assisting in the provision of adequate infrastructure and servicing to the site as needed. The Committee has compiled a preliminary list of potential sites for a new hospital but are seeking input from both AHS and Alberta Infrastructure as to what they would need to see from a site before moving ahead with land acquisition.

There is an immediate need for a new hospital. The Committee understands that the planning and development of a new facility is a multi-year process. Given this, planning would best begin as soon as possible in late 2014/early 2015 so that the area's needs are addressed as soon as possible. AHS has pledged that this community will have a Needs Assessment completed by September 2014 on the current hospital.

The Hospital Committee therefore formally proposes that the Rocky Mountain House area be identified as a priority area for the construction of a new hospital facility. The three municipalities have indicated a willingness to help fund the purchase of land for a new hospital site or work with AHS and Alberta Infrastructure in whichever way they feel would be most beneficial to the process.



Project: South Saskatchewan Regional Plan – Overview and Feedback		
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014		
Department: Planning and Development	Author: Keith McCrae	
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Funded by Dept. □ Reallocation		
Strategic Area: N/A	Goal: N/A	
Legislative Direction: □None		
☑ Provincial Legislation (cite) MGA – Part 17		
⊠ County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>MDP – Sections 11.2.23 &amp; 24</u>		
<b>Recommendation:</b> To review and accept this for information and discussion as presented by administration.		
Attachments List: Draft SSRP Overview		

# Background:

As you are aware the Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) has been presented for feedback from public and stakeholders. Council has requested that administration review the document from the perspective that policy direction formulated in the SSRP could likely foreshadow policy direction in the upcoming planning processes for the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP) and the Red Deer Regional Plan (RDRP) given some of the similarities between regions.

I have put together and attached an overview of the draft SSRP and a sampling of policy statements and strategies from the plan that may be of interest to Clearwater County. Upon review of the draft document I was pleased to not find any policy direction that was scary or unexpected. I believe it provides sound planning direction on a regional basis. Like any planning document I guess time will tell whether or not the strategies identified in the plan will achieve the desired outcomes for the region. I was also pleased to discover that our own Municipal Development Plan appears in many ways to be consistent with the proposed policy direction of the draft SSRP and found this to be encouraging as we prepare for our upcoming participation in the creation of the NSRP and the RDRP.

The attachment presents a summary of the vision for the region along with strategic policy directions, anticipated regional outcomes, and objectives to achieve the desired regional outcomes. The table included is simply a compilation of some policy statements and strategies from the document that I thought Council might be interested in seeing.

One of the key components of the draft plan is policy direction regarding the eastern slopes and the green area. As I know this is an area of concern for this Council as it applies to our region, especially in regard to random camping, off-highway vehicles, recreation areas and trails, I will be prepared to speak to this further at the meeting. The draft plan also gives us a heads up to the importance of municipal initiatives that may be integrated into a regional plan and I will speak to this as well in regard to our preparations to participate in the NSRP and RDRP processes.

In summary administration has no real issues with the policy direction set out in the draft SSRP even knowing that we may see similar policies introduced in our region at some point in the future. All in all we feel this review exercise has proven to be useful from the perspective of better preparing ourselves to participate in the upcoming development of the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan and the Red Deer River Regional Plan.

#### Overview of the Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

#### Vision for the Region

Southern Alberta is a diverse, healthy, vibrant and prosperous region where the natural beauty of the mountains, foothills, farmlands and prairies are managed so that citizens feel connected to the land and its history. The region is a thriving place that offers a wide range of opportunities to residents and visitors alike. Social, economic and environmental values are effectively achieved with shared stewardship and an integrated approach. The quality and integrity of the landscape is sustained through the use of science, innovative thinking, traditional aboriginal and community knowledge, recognizing the interests of all Albertans.

# **Strategic Directions**

- · Conserving and maintaining the benefits of biodiversity;
- Advancing conservation and integrated management of Crown Land;
- Supporting and enabling conservation and stewardship on private lands;
- Advancing watershed management;
- Managing air quality through continued collaboration;
- Strengthening communities;
- Providing recreation and tourism opportunities, active living and the preservation and promotion of the region's unique cultural and natural heritage; and
- Inclusion of aboriginal peoples in land-use planning.

# **Regional Outcomes**

- 1. The region's economy is growing and diversified;
- 2. Biodiversity and ecosystem function are sustained with shared stewardship;
- 3. Air quality is managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship;
- 4. Watersheds are managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship;
- 5. Community development needs are anticipated and accommodated;
- 6. The quality of life of residents is enhanced through increased opportunities for recreation, active living and the preservation and promotion of the region's unique cultural and natural heritage; and
- 7. Aboriginal peoples are included in land-use planning.

#### Objectives for each Regional Outcome

- 1. The region's economy is growing and diversified;
  - Opportunities for the responsible exploration, development and extraction of energy resources are maintained.
  - Opportunities for the responsible development of the region's renewable energy industry are maintained in support of Alberta's commitment to greener energy production and economic development.
  - Value-added opportunities that enhance the sustainability of Alberta's industries and communities are created.
  - The region's infrastructure is planned to facilitate economic and population growth and efficient use of land.
  - The region's agricultural industry is maintained and diversified.

- The region's forest industry is maintained and diversified.
- Opportunities for the responsible development of surface materials resources are maintained on public land.
- The region is positioned as a world-class, year-round, tourism destination.
- 2. Biodiversity and ecosystem function are sustained with shared stewardship;
  - Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity are maintained.
  - Species at risk are recovered; and key grasslands habitat is sustained.
  - Areas are added to the regional network of conservation areas.
  - Biodiversity and healthy functioning ecosystems continue to provide a range of benefits to communities in the region and all Albertans.
  - Long-term forest ecosystem health and resiliency are maintained.
  - The contributions of landowners for their stewardship and conservation efforts on private lands are recognized.
  - The contribution and value of private land in supplying ecosystem services is recognized, and opportunities to support ecosystem services on private land are identified.
  - The value of ecosystem services supplied by economic sectors reliant on private lands is recognized.
- 3. Air quality is managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship;
  - Releases from various point and non-point sources are managed so they do not collectively result in unacceptable air quality.
- 4. Watersheds are managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship;
  - Surface water quality in the Bow, Oldman, South Saskatchewan and Milk rivers is managed so current and future water uses are protected.
  - Regional approaches and tools support integrated management of water and aquatic ecosystems.
  - Water is used as efficiently as possible to meet the current and future human and ecosystem needs.
  - There is resiliency in the ability of the water management system to adapt to change over time.
  - Headwaters in the region are managed to maintain recharge capabilities and support critical water quality, quantity and aquatic ecosystem requirements.
- 5. Community development needs are anticipated and accommodated;
  - Cooperation and coordination are fostered among all land-use planners and decision makers involved in preparing and implementing land plans and strategies.
  - Knowledge sharing among communities is encouraged to promote the use of planning tools and the principles of efficient use of land to address community development in the region.
  - Ensure provincial guidance is provided to municipalities and other stakeholders to:
    - Promote healthy and sustainable communities.

- Foster the establishment of land-use patterns for an orderly, economical and beneficial development, as well as to maintain and improve the quality of the built environment.
- Support timely planning and provision of social infrastructure.
- Contribute to the "maintenance and enhancement" of a healthy natural environment.
- Foster preservation of historic resources through responsible land-use management.
- Contribute to a safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation network.
- Minimize risks to health, safety and loss to property damage as a result of land-use decisions.
- 6. The quality of life of residents is enhanced through increased opportunities for recreation, active living and the preservation and promotion of the region's unique cultural and natural heritage; and
  - A wide range of recreation experiences and tourism opportunities that meet preferences of regional residents and visitors will be provided.
  - The artifacts, fossils, historic places, and aboriginal heritage sites that define the region's distinctive character are identified and effectively managed.
- 7. Aboriginal peoples are included in land-use planning.
  - To encourage aboriginal peoples' participation in land-use planning and input to
    decision-making in recognition of the cultural and economic importance of land
    use to those aboriginal communities with constitutionally protected rights. This will
    provide both aboriginal communities and the Government of Alberta with a basis
    for better addressing current and potential land-use conflicts, in a manner
    supportive of aboriginal traditional uses, such as the exercise of treaty rights.

# SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN (DRAFT) MATTERS OF INTEREST TO CLEARWATER COUNTY

Page	Plan detail				
3	Municipal planning and development decisions will, however, have to be in alignment with the regional plan to achieve the regional outcomes established in the plan.				
5	Decision-makers include municipal governments and Government of Alberta departments, boards and agencies and other organizations. Local government bodies and decision-making bodies will be required to ensure their regulatory instruments comply with the SSRP. They must also use the regional plan to inform their policies.				
32	The Government of Alberta supports rural strategies developed by local governments and rural community organizations that help build capacity, take advantage of new economic opportunities and enhance local innovation, connectivity and stewardship.				
36	While water will continue to be a centerpiece for the future of the region, entire watersheds must be managed through a cumulative effects management approach. This approach recognizes that air sheds, watersheds and landscapes have limited carrying capacity, and that air, water, land and biodiversity are all intimately connected.				
37	Strategic Directions for the Region  Conserving and maintaining the benefits of biodiversity;  Advancing conservation and integrated management of Crown land;  Supporting and enabling stewardship and conservation on private lands;  Advancing watershed management;  Managing air quality through continued collaboration;  Strengthening communities;  Providing recreation and tourism opportunities, active living and the preservation and promotion of the region's unique cultural and natural heritage; and  Inclusion of aboriginal peoples in land-use planning.				
41	A focus will be to collaboratively develop an integrated trail system, appropriate access and staging opportunities and a range of facilities to meet the range of needs and desires for recreational experiences.				
46	Appropriate flood management contributes to long-term community sustainability and resiliency. This includes improved development practices and use of flood management tools and infrastructure, and by making better land-use decisions in flood hazard areas.				
50	In supporting the regional outcomes, municipal decisions in the region should aim to:  • make efficient use of land, infrastructure, public services and public facilities to establish land-use patterns that influence human activity, facilitate health and well-being, and promote social interaction and	Consistent with MDP			

	<ul> <li>inclusion;</li> <li>promote resource conservation;</li> <li>protect, enhance and promote the historic and cultural integrity of an area;</li> <li>enhance economic development activities;</li> <li>minimize environmental impacts on land, air and water;</li> <li>protect significant natural environments;</li> <li>contribute to the development of healthy, safe and viable communities; and</li> <li>contribute to a safe, efficient and cost-effective provincial transportation network.</li> </ul>	
F0	The lengtherm vision is to establish now, and oversided to experience are as	
52	The long-term vision is to establish new and expanded recreational areas	
54	Continued formalization of motorized and non-motorized trails with improvement to existing trails and development where needed will occur collaboratively. Planning for new tourism development such as recreation trails and associated amenities needs to address environmental concerns, in particular near watercourses, wetlands, and lakes with sensitive fisheries vulnerable to increased human access. Trails in sensitive source water or ecological areas will be assessed and may be relocated, closed or reclaimed. Designated staging areas will also play a role in the management of public lands and waters to enhance the recreation experience for users.	
54	The Covernment of Alberta aims to provide a diversity of outdoor regression	
54	The Government of Alberta aims to provide a diversity of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities for Albertans. Clustering use, improving safety for diverse users, reducing environmental damage and connecting to the surrounding designated trail system are important considerations. Some of the recreational activities that will be provided include serviced and unserviced campgrounds, day-use areas, boat launches, motorized and non-motorized staging areas, designated motorized, non-motorized and mixed-use trails, and special event and tourism opportunities.	
55	New Public Land Recreation Areas will be established in the eastern slopes to support random camping and access to trails. These sites are highly popular areas of random camping on public lands. They will be developed to include basic amenities such as fire rings and gravel pad and no fees will be charged. A Guardian program will be established to provide outreach and education.	
61	Maintain an agricultural land base by reducing the fragmentation and conversion of agricultural land.  • Municipalities are encouraged to identify areas where agricultural activities, including extensive and intensive agricultural and associated activities, should be the primary land use in the region.  • Municipalities are encouraged to limit the fragmentation of agricultural lands and their premature conversion to other non-agricultural uses, especially within areas where agricultural has been identified as a primary land use in the region. Municipal planning, policies and tools that promote the	Consistent with MDP

	efficient use of land should be used where appropriate to support this strategy.  • Where possible, municipalities are encouraged to employ appropriate planning tools to direct non-agricultural subdivision and development to areas where such development will not constrain agricultural activities, or to areas of lower-quality agricultural lands.  • Municipalities are encouraged to minimize conflicts between intensive agricultural operations and incompatible land uses by using appropriate planning tools, setback distances and other mitigating measures.	
63/64	Municipalities, in collaboration with industry, provincial government and other stakeholders are encouraged to identify areas of existing and future extraction of surface materials (e.g., sand and gravel) mineral resources, and determine appropriate land use in the vicinity of these resources.	Consistent with MDP
64	Enhance iconic tourism destinations within the South Saskatchewan Region by engaging with aboriginal communities, municipalities and local stakeholders (See Appendix E – Iconic Tourism Destinations: Kananaskis, Canadian Badlands and Southern Rockies).  • Develop destination management strategies that integrate planning, development, marketing and management, and implement destination management plans that provide direction for the sustainable development of tourism in the region in collaboration with all stakeholders for the identified destinations.  • Identify and confirm existing and potential tourism development nodes in collaboration with all stakeholders, and designate and market nodes as appropriate.  • Work collaboratively with local aboriginal communities, the private sector and provincial and local governments, interested private landowners and stakeholders to enhance and expand the supply of tourism products, experiences and infrastructure – including attractions, activities, amenities, accommodations and access.	
64	Work with municipalities, private investors and landowners to identify areas of high value for recreation and tourism, and to encourage tourism investment and infrastructure development opportunities on identified lands	
65	Work with municipal governments and other partners to identify, establish and promote scenic byways in and around areas with high-quality attractions and recreation and tourism features. This would include routes, trails and waterways to create distinctive travel experiences and showcase the region's unique scenic resources and cultural landscapes.	
68	Consolidate and expand Public Land Use Zones for Green Area public lands. These areas provide importan recreational opportunities including off-highway vehicle recreation. Public Land Use Zones are being consolidated and expanded to improve the province's ability to more effectively manage public land across the Green Area, manage undesirable impacts, address priority issues, and increase the safety and enjoyment of recreationists throughout these areas. The intention is to recognize Albertans' wishes to have access for recreation including off-highway vehicle use and to provide opportunities for this while ensuring there is	

	protection for watercourses, water bodies and wetland areas. Requirements in existing legislation continue			
69	Manage forests in the Green Area with headwaters protection and integrity (water storage, recharge, and release functions) as the highest management priority.			
74	Encourage and support the continued stewardship of Alberta's private lands through the development and piloting of regionally appropriate conservation tools. These tools may include exploring market-based options, voluntary conservation easements, and the provision of other government and/or private sector incentives that assist in achieving environmental outcomes. This will be done within the provincial approach for management of ecosystem services.			
87	Continue to increase knowledge and improve management of wetland areas			
88	Encourage municipalities to work with land developers to develop and Implement beneficial management practices and establish guidelines for erosion and sediment control.			
89/90	Support flood management planning and preparedness including assessment of flood risk through:  - Continuing to develop and update flood hazard mapping in regions where flooding puts current and future development and infrastructure at risk. Flood hazard mapping will be used in decision-making and to determine appropriate limitations for new developments and infrastructure.  - Supporting development of municipal flood hazard mitigation plans to mitigate the threat from flooding to communities in the region.			
91/92	When making land-use decisions, municipalities, provincial departments, boards and agencies, and other partners are encouraged to:  a) Consider working together to achieve the shared environmental, economic and social outcomes in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and minimize negative environmental cumulative effects.  b) Address common planning issues, especially where valued natural features and historic resources are of interests to more than one stakeholder and where the possible effect of development transcends jurisdictional boundaries.  c) Coordinate and work with each other in their respective planning activities (such as in the development of plans and policies), and development approval processes to address issues of mutual interest.  d) Work together to anticipate, plan and set aside adequate land with the physical infrastructure and services required to accommodate future population growth and accompanying community development needs.  e) Utilize the minimum amount of land required for developments (new residential, commercial and industrial). f) Plan, design, and locate future development in a manner that utilizes existing infrastructure and minimizes the need for new or expanded infrastructure.			

	g) Build awareness regarding the application of land-use planning tools that reduce the impact of residential, commercial, and industrial developments on the land, including approaches and best practices for promoting the efficient use of private and public lands.  h) Build awareness regarding the application of land-use planning tools that reduce the impact of residential, commercial and industrial developments on the land. i) Pursue joint use agreements, regional service commissions and any other joint cooperative arrangements that contribute specifically to intermunicipal land-use planning. j) Consider the value of intermunicipal development planning to address land use on fringe areas, airport vicinity protection plans or other areas of mutual interest. k) Coordinate land-use planning activities with First Nations, irrigation districts, school boards and health authorities on areas of mutual interest.	
- 00	Lava el Han ya eshka ya	
93	Land Use pattern  Municipalities are encouraged to establish land-use patterns which:  a) Provide an appropriate mix of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, public and recreational land uses; developed in an orderly, efficient, compatible, safe and economical manner.  b) Contribute to a healthy environment, a healthy economy and a high quality of life.  c) Provide a wide range of economic development opportunities, stimulate local employment growth and promote a healthy and stable economy.  Municipalities are also encouraged to complement regional and provincial economic development initiatives.  d) Feature innovative housing designs, range of densities and housing types such as mixed-use, cluster developments, secondary suites, seniors' centres and affordable housing.  e) Minimize potential conflict of land uses adjacent to natural resource extraction, manufacturing and other industrial developments.  f) Minimize potential conflict of land uses within and adjacent to areas prone to flooding, erosion, subsidence, or wildfire.  g) Complement their municipal financial management strategies, thereby contributing to the financial viability of the municipality.  h) Locate school and health facilities, transportation and other amenities appropriately, to meet increased demand from a growing population.	MDP generally does this
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94	Water and watersheds Municipalities will:  a) Utilize or incorporate measures which minimize or mitigate possible negative impacts on important water resources or risks to health, safety and loss to property damage due to hazards associated with water, such as flooding, erosion and subsidence due to bank stability issues, etc., within the scope of their jurisdiction. b) Incorporate measures in land-use decisions to mitigate the impact of floods through appropriate flood hazard area management, emergency response planning for floods, and appropriate development in the flood hazard area in accordance with provincial policy on development within flood hazard areas. Municipalities are encouraged to:	

	a) Identify and recognize the values of significant water resources and other water features, such as ravines, valleys, riparian areas, stream corridors, lakeshores, wetlands and unique environmentally significant landscapes, within their boundaries. b) Determine appropriate land-use patterns in the vicinity of these significant water resources and other water features. c) Consider local impacts as well as impacts on the entire watershed. d) Consider the protection of these water features, and protect sensitive aquatic habitat and other aquatic resources. e) Assess existing developments located within flood hazard areas for long-term opportunities for re-development to reduce risk associated with flooding, including human safety, property damage, infrastructure and economic loss. f) Facilitate public access and enjoyment of water features, to the extent possible. g) Use available guidance, where appropriate, from water and watershed planning initiatives in support of municipal planning.	
94/95	Non-Renewable Resources  Municipalities are encouraged to: a) In collaboration with industry, provincial government and other stakeholders, identify areas of existing and future extraction of surface materials (e.g., sand and gravel) and energy resources, and determine appropriate land uses in the vicinity of these resources. b) Within the scope of their jurisdiction in regards to non-renewable resources development, utilize or incorporate measures which minimize or mitigate possible negative impacts, and minimize risks to health, safety and loss to property damage, and determine appropriate land use in the vicinity of these resources.	
0.5		
95	Historic resources Municipalities, in consultation with the Minister responsible for the Historical Resources Act, are encouraged to: a) Identify significant historic resources to foster their preservation and enhancement for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. b) Work toward the designation of Municipal Historic Resources to preserve municipally significant historic places. c) Formulate agreements for development referrals to assist in the identification and protection of historic resources within the scope of their jurisdiction.	
95	Transportation a) Municipalities are encouraged to identify, in consultation with the Minister responsible for the Highways Development and Protection Act, the location, nature and purpose of key provincial transportation corridors and related facilities. b) Municipalities are encouraged to work with Transportation to minimize negative interactions between the transportation corridors and related facilities identified in accordance with (a) above and the surrounding areas and land uses through the establishment of compatible land-use patterns. c) If subdivision and development is to be approved in the vicinity of the	

	encouraged to employ appropriate setback distances and other mitigating measures relating to noise, air pollution and safety to limit access and enter into highway vicinity agreements with the Minister's department.	
96	Expand and designate new provincial parks and provincial recreation areas to provide recreational opportunities, contribute to tourism growth and begin to address growing recreational demand in the region. Some of the recreational activities that will be provided include serviced and unserviced campgrounds, day-use areas, motorized and non-motorized staging areas and trails and tourism opportunities. Also, create new public land recreation areas in the eastern slopes to provide managed random camping areas	
154	Where it is a permitted use, off-highway vehicle use will be managed to designated trails and areas, subject to the following:  Off highway vehicle use is permitted on existing trails and areas or where a management plan, trails plan or regulation specifies.  In areas where designation of trails has not yet occurred, use of existing access can continue but no new trails or routes or access may be developed without an access management plan.  Regardless of whether or not there is a management plan or trails plan in place, off-highway vehicle use shall not occur in the beds and shores of permanent water bodies. Furthermore, off-highway vehicle use shall not occur on industrial facility areas (e.g., wellsites), unless specifically authorized to do so.	



#### Agenda Item

Project: Request for Tax Penalty Waiver			
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014			
Department: Assessment and Revenue	Author: Denniece Crout		
Budget Implication:			
Strategic Area:	Goal:		
Legislative Direction: □None			
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)			
☑ County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>961/12</u>			
Recommendation: Does Council wish to authorize a waiver of penalty regarding the property listed below?			
Attachments List: Ratepayer Letter			

#### **Background:**

Please find attached a letter from the owner of a parcel of land in Clearwater County. The ratepayer is requesting the late payment penalty be waived.

The MGA section 311 is very specific in the steps that a municipality must take when sending out notices.

(1) each municipality must publish in one issue of a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality or in any other manner considered appropriate by the municipality, a notice that the assessment notices have been sent

Furthermore subsection (2) states, all assessed persons are deemed as a result of the publication referred to in subsection 1 to have received their assessment notice

Below is a list of the attempts staff made to notify ratepayers.

• The change in the property taxes due date for 2013 was reported in the Mountaineer newspaper, once in May and again in October 2013



- Clearwater County advertised the change in tax due date, in the May edition of its newsletter, which was delivered to 5300 households directly.
- Clearwater County also advertised twice in September the change in property taxes due date, in three local newspapers.
- The property tax due date was published on Clearwater County's website.

As indicated earlier the requirements of a municipality are very simple and Clearwater has far exceed the requirements in the MGA. Clearwater County has done due diligence.

A letter will be sent to the ratepayer, advising the applicant of Council's decision.

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Clearwater County Box 550 Rocky Mtn House, AB T4T 1A4

Re: Roll Number:

We are in receipt of an arrears notice from the county dated Jan 9, 2014. After lengthy conversations with and in your office this morning, I am better informed of how the Municipal Government schedules allow payment schedules to be made / met. I fully understand your position on how the arrears notice could not be sent until the new year as the Association indicates you cannot deem the account to be in arrears until the next calendar year. Kind of a double talk when arrears are assessed prior to that time frame and we, the land owner, are not notified until such time has lapsed. Seems there are many issues to be visited by the Municipal Government and hope they are rectified soon.

That being said, here is my dilemma and explanation for being late for the first time ever on this account. It is not my desire to share my medical situation with strangers, but it seems necessary in order to inform you of circumstances in 2013.

In March of 2013 I had to undergo a bilateral (double) mastectomy. Throughout the year I attended regular visits for re-construction and had another surgery at the end of September. My mind was on recovery, not so much bills etc. Upon receipt of the tax notice, it was dealt with as it has been dealt with for 9 or 10 years (?). Payment was scheduled to be made prior to the end of November, which is usually an early payment. I did not notice the change to the deadline (unfortunately) and payment was made November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. My bad!

I apologize for the over-sight and ask that you please consider my request to have the arrears waived as an act of good will in a case of attention to medical wellness and state of mind being priority. Thank you.

Sincerely,



#### Agenda Item

Project: Well Drilling Equipment Tax (WDET)			
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014			
Department: Corporate Services	Author: Denniece Crout		
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Funded by Dept. □ Reallocation			
Strategic Area:	Goal:		
Legislative Direction: ⊠None			
☐ Provincial Legislation (cite)			
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)			
Recommendation: Council accept the information as presented			

**Background:** The legislation was designed to assist municipalities to offset the costs to repair county roads that were damaged as a result of well drilling activity. Since the inception of the legislation in 1948 there have been significant changes in how roads are used, by whom they are being used and the extent of use yet only the rates have changed.

Over the past couple of years the WDET legislation has been extended in one year increments. With the one year increments there was no stability for either the municipalities or the oil companies. Also with the changes in road use it was decided that full review of the legislation should occur.

A group consisting of AUMA, AAMD&C, CPTA, Municipal Affairs, Municipalities and oil companies met several times throughout the past year to review the legislation to try to reach an agreement as to how the legislation should be re drafted and to see if it was even relevant legislation.

Of course overall consensus could not be achieved, but some facets were agreed to by all parties. The end result was that the legislation in its current state recognizes that there is road damage, and the roads need to be maintained and the users have to pay.



However the legislation has a few short comings. It is prejudiced in that it singles out only heavy hauls by the oil and gas sector. Municipalities are unable to predict the long term deterioration of the roads and what hidden damage has occurred. The oil and gas sector feels that the way the tax is calculated it has become a burden on the industry.

The direction that had come from the office of the minister of Municipal Affairs is the current legislation would stand until the end of 2017, the intent being that changes in the WDET would be tied in with the MGA review. At a meeting, earlier this month, with the new minister of Municipal Affairs, it was announced that the legislation will expire on December 31, 2014

In 2013 just over \$4 million was collected in Clearwater County using the WDET legislation.



#### Agenda Item

Project: By-election – Incapacitated Voters			
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014			
Department: Council	Author: Christine Heggart		
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Funded by Dept. □ Reallocation			
Strategic Area: Governance and Intergovernmental Relations	Goal:		
Legislative Direction: ☑None Provincial Legislation (cite)			
□ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)			
Recommendation: That Council authorizes the attendance of two deputies at the residence of an elector, on February 27, 2014 from the hours of 10:00am to 6:00pm, in order to take the votes of an elector who, because of physical incapacity, is unable to attend a voting station.			

#### Background:

The Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) Section 79 provides for the attendance of a residence of an incapacitated voter. In order for the Returning Officer to visit an incapacitated voter, Council must pass a resolution authorizing two deputies attend residences of an incapacitated elector.

Historically, Council has chosen to permit deputies to attend incapacitated voters on the same day as the advanced vote.

With the upcoming by-election on March 5, Council did not authorize an advanced vote, therefore as the Returning Officer, I would recommend Council choose February 27 as the date deputies are authorized to attend incapacitated voters.

The incapacitated elector is required to provide their written request in advance. The "Notice of By-election" advertising indicated requests must be received by 3:00pm on Thursday February 27, 2014. The elector must provide the full name of the elector, phone number, address or legal land location and reason for request.



#### Local Authorities Election Act – Excerpt.

#### Incapacitated elector at home

- **79(1)** An elected authority may by resolution provide for the attendance of 2 deputies at the residence of an elector, during the hours an advance voting station is open or other times as may be fixed by the resolution, in order to take the votes of an elector who, because of physical incapacity, is unable to attend a voting station or an advance voting station to vote.
- (2) When a resolution has been passed under subsection (1), an elector described in subsection (1) may request the returning officer to have 2 deputies attend at the elector's residence to take the elector's vote within the time fixed by the resolution.
- (3) If the returning officer is satisfied that an elector is unable to attend a voting station or an advance voting station because of physical incapacity, the returning officer shall include that elector's name and address on a list.
- (4) When the returning officer has completed the list in accordance with this section, the returning officer shall
- (a) advise each applicant that the applicant's application has been accepted or rejected, as the case may be, and in the
- event of rejection, give reasons for it,
- (b) inform each elector whose application has been accepted of the date and the approximate time at which 2 deputies
- will attend at the elector's residence, and
- (c) appoint sufficient deputies to give full effect to this section.
- (5) All attendances by deputies under this section shall be made during the hours fixed by the resolution and no vote shall be taken at any other time.
- (6) A ballot box used in an election under this section must be sealed on completion of the voting so that no ballots can be deposited in it without breaking the seal and it shall remain sealed until opened to allow the deposit of ballots in each subsequent residence that is attended for the taking of votes or until opened for the counting of ballots at the close of the voting stations on election day.
- (7) Every residence where a vote is taken under this section is a voting station and the voting procedures shall as nearly as possible follow the provisions of this Act.



#### **Agenda Item**

Project: Appointment of an Alternate Member to the Intermunicipal Cooperation Committee			
Presentation Date: February 25, 2014			
Department: Municipal	Author: Tracy Haight/Rudy Huisman		
Budget Implication: ⊠ N/A □ Fund	led by Dept.   Reallocation		
Strategic Area:	Goal:		
Legislative Direction: ⊠None			
☐ Provincial Legislation	on (cite)		
☐ County Bylaw or Policy (cite)			
Recommendation: That Council appoint an alternate member to the Intermunicipal			
Cooperation Committee			
Attachments List: N/A			

#### Background:

At the October 23, 2013 Organizational Meeting Reeve Alexander and Councillor Graham were appointed as members of the Intermunicipal Cooperation Committee.

As schedules are becoming busier for members of the committee, appointing an alternate member would ensure full representation at the meetings.



#### Clearwater County

### Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

F	or	the	Year	of	2014

#### **Payment Periods**

January

**February** 

May

June

March

April

July

August

September

October

November

December

Supervision Rate - \$550.00 Monthly

Reeve Supervision Rate - \$850.00 Monthly

Date	Type of Meeting Attended	First 4 Hours \$152.00	Next 4 Hours \$121.00	Next 4 Hours \$121.00	Regular Council Meeting \$276.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
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Jan 7	Stronger Together	X	X				74
Jan 8	SLR CPO	X					74
Jan 8	Airport		X			X	
Jan 9	Chamber Luncheon	X					74
Jan 13	Council				X		74
Jan 14	Regional Planning	X	X				74
Jan20	A+P	X	X				74
Jan 22	Fire	X					74
Jan 23	RPAP	X					74
Jan 27	Tour Alberta	X					74
Jan 28	Council				X		74
Jan 29	NSWA	X	X	X		X	371
Jan 31	AG Building	X					74

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#### **Remuneration Calculation**

Meetings @ \$152.00= 1672.00 Meetings @ \$121.00= Meetings @ \$276.00= Supervision=

TOTAL=

Kms @ \$0.54= Lunch @ \$16.00=

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Signature (Councilor / Board Member)

#### Clearwater County

VANDERMESE

June

August

#### Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

**Payment Periods** 

May

July

For the Year of ....2013......

**January** 

March

Name of Councilor / Board Member

**February** 

**April** 

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### Clearwater County

# Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of ....2013......

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7	ALRPORT COMMISSION	U					80
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18	HOSPITAL COMM						80
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19	wcs						80
21	MPC						80
24	COUNCIL				~		80
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### Clearwater County

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11	CAAMDC	1	1				16
17	MPC						82
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### Clearwater County

### Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

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### Clearwater County

### Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of ....2013......

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### **Clearwater County**

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# Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

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11	COUNCIL			100			80
11	WCS		v				
12	CEEPAC						80
13	CAEP AGM						160
17	A+P						80
19	REGIONAL FIRE						80
19	OPEN HOUSE - CARA						16
20	OPEN HOUSE - RAKY			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			80
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## Clearwater County

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11	CAROLINE GRAD	V					16
14	Council				اسا		80
18	CAROLINE PARADE	1					16
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### Clearwater County

For the Y	ear of2013					and the same	
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15	A+P		1				80
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23	COUNCIL						80
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### Clearwater County

### Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

2013

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	C	mawisian Da	sto <i>CEE</i> A (	Manthby		MIA	IN /		
		pervision Ra Supervision		50.00 Monthly	v	LOWSE	-/		
Date	Type of Meeting Attended	First 4 Hours \$149.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Regular Council Meeting \$271.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km		
MAR. 1	AWARDS - FIRE + FORM	1					80		
7	REEVER SUMMIT - DIG	<u></u>	1				80		
8	1.48/24						80		
12	COUNCIL				1		80		
14	JI FACILITY MR						80		
15	REEVES Summer ERCB	4					80		
18	AAMOC	1					49c		
19	-	1	<i>i</i>						
20									
26	Council						80		
26	WCS								
						(0)			
	· ·	more Space on	_		_				
	Ren	<u>lunerat</u>	<u>ion Ca</u>	<u>lculatio</u>	1				
9	Meetings @ \$149.00=/	341.	10	50	Kms @ \$0.54		7.00/		
2	Meetings @ \$119.00= Meetings @ \$271.00=	542./	1	1000	Lunch @ \$16.00				
-	Supervision=	550./	A	WESTIN-A	CONFEL ENCE	<u>5d'</u>	1.80		
	TOTAL= 2	790,00			TOTAL				
				//					
Signatu	re {Councilor / Board M	ember}		1 le	dem				

### Clearwater County

For the Y	ear of	2013			1 A			
Name of	Councilor	/ Board Member		)OHN	VANDE	RMEER	TER.O	•
			<u>Paym</u>	<u>ent Periods</u>				(2)
Jan	uary	February	)	May	Ju	17 13		2
Ma	arch	April		July	Aug	gust O	FEB 1 3 20	14
Sept	ember	October	No	vember	Dece	mber \	-00V	1
		Su	pervision R	ate – \$550.0	00 Monthly	1	MOUNTAL	
			Supervision	n Rate - \$85	50.00 Monthl		HOUSE	
Date	Type of	f Meeting Attended	First 4 Hours \$149.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Regular Council Meeting \$271.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
FEB. 4	REEVES	SUMMIT - TRANS G	, <i>i</i>					80
5	w	S M76.	1					80
6	M	PC						80
8	CAF	AMOC						16
12	Col	enclL						80
12	A6	SOCIETY						16
15	CRI	EMA						80
21	CP	O MTG						80
26		une(L						80
27		ION OLTE- VILLAGE			Ď.			16
28	REEVES	Summer-Appen						80
								-
		•	more Space on	1-3-35AV.				
		Rem	lunerat	ion Ca	lculatio	n		
9	Meetin	lgs @ \$149.00= lgs @ \$119.00= lgs @ \$271.00= Supervision=	34/1/	3 <del></del>	688	Kms @ \$0.5 Lunch @ \$16.0	4= <u>37/6</u> 0=	52/
		TOTAL= 2	671,00			TOTAL	= 371.	, 52
Signatu	re {Coun	cilor / Board Mo	ember}	1	X Se	den		

	ncilor a	and Boar						nent
Name of	Councilor / F	Board Member		IOHN	VAN	DERMER	R CO	. 1
_			<u>Paym</u>	ent Periods			11/1/15D3	
January February			May		June			
March April September October		July November		August FEB 13 2014  December ROCKY MOUNTAIN				
					50.00 Month	ly	Mary Marie Confession	
Date	Type of Meeting Attended		First 4 Hours \$149.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Next 4 Hours \$119.00	Regular Council Meeting \$271.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage ( \$0.54 / ki
JAN.3	HUB EX	PANSION					3/1	
8	COUNCIL							80
10	MP	C						80
10	HUB E	CPANSION						
14	A+	P		1				80
17	HUB EX	PANSION					Ŭ	
22	Cour					1		80
24		AL FIRE	1					80
24		PANSION						
30	CPO R							80
31	HUS EXI							
			more Space of <b>1unera</b>	55-25-10	e} l <b>culatio</b>	n		
.4 1 2	Meetings	@ \$149.00= @ \$119.00= @ \$271.00= Supervision=	5961		480	Kms @ \$0.5 Lunch @ \$16.0	64= <u>259</u> 10=	20
	7	TOTAL= _	807.00		7	TOTAL	= 259	7,20
_		ilor / Board M		tamat Eilas Ca	)end	EVORR3/Course	illor and Boer	••••••
C: Docume	ents and Settings	John/Local Settings	M chiboraty in	remer i nesico	meni.Ounoun	TEACHER COMIC	THOU THE DOME	.,