

CLEARWATER COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA
February 28, 2017
9:00 AM
Council Chambers
4340 – 47 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House, AB

**9:05 am Public Works: Town of Rocky Mountain House Report:
Wastewater Treatment Facility**

**10:00 am Community & Protective Services: Credit Union Co-op Aquatic Centre Deck Shoring
and Replacement**

11:00 am Delegation: Clearwater Broadband Foundation

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. AGENDA ADOPTION

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. January 24, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes
2. February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

D. PUBLIC WORKS

1. 9:05 am Town of Rocky Mountain House Report: Wastewater Treatment Facility
2. Policy Review: Final Draft – Policies Associated with the Highway Management Bylaw
3. FireSmart Ecology Trail Gravel Haul
4. Winter Maintenance of West Country Roads

E. COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

1. 10:00 am Credit Union Co-op Aquatic Centre Deck Shoring and Replacement

F. PLANNING

1. Communication Tower Application Fee
2. Joint Development Area Status Update
3. Joint Council Meeting Request

G. DELEGATION

1. 11:00 am Clearwater Broadband Foundation

H. MUNICIPAL

1. Clearwater Broadband Foundation – Administrative Review
2. AAMDC Spring 2017 Resolutions
3. FCM 2017 Conference Attendance

I. INFORMATION

1. CAO's Report
2. Public Works Director's Report
3. Councillor's Verbal Report
4. Accounts Payable Listing
5. Councillor Remuneration

J. ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Town of Rocky Mountain House Report: Wastewater Treatment Facility		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Public Works	WRITTEN BY: Erik Hansen	REVIEWED BY: Marshall Morton/Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) Policy:		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Managing Our Growth	PRIORITY AREA:	STRATEGIES:
ATTACHMENT(S): N/A		
RECOMMENDATION: That Council receives Mr. Fraser's report as information.		

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Rocky Mountain Houses wastewater lagoon is an essential piece of infrastructure for both the Town and the County. Recently, some concerns have been raised in this regard. Director of Engineering & Operations, Rod Fraser from the Town of Rocky, will attend Tuesday's meeting to provide Council an update regarding the operations of the wastewater lagoon.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Policy Review Final Draft – Policies Associated with the Highway Management Bylaw 1018/16		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Public Works	WRITTEN BY: Erik Hansen	REVIEWED BY: Marshall Morton/Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite): Permitting of Road Allowances Policy, Isolated Access Roads Policy		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Managing our Growth	PRIORITY AREA: Planning	STRATEGIES: 1.1.1 Ensure appropriate land use planning for public infrastructure, rural subdivisions, hamlets and commercial and industrial lands.
RECOMMENDATION: That Council reviews the revised policies, recommend any changes or approve the revisions as presented.		
ATTACHMENT(S): 1. Licensing of Road Allowances Policy, Road Allowance License Agreement, Isolated Access Roads Policy		

BACKGROUND:

During the February 14, 2017 Council Meeting, staff presented draft policy changes for Council’s review. The described changes have since been made to the subsequent policies for Council’s approval.

Major changes include

- Changing the Permit Application to a License Application
- The CAO can authorize a license
- The requirement for insurance
- The requirement for signage for grazing livestock on undeveloped road allowance
- Licenses are required for Industrial, Commercial and Isolated Access use of a road allowance

The policy and the licence agreement have been attached for Council's review.

(See Attached)

The second policy is the Isolated Access Roads Policy.

Major Changes include

- Inclusion of definitions
- Licenses are required for Isolated Access Roads
- The CAO can authorize an Isolated Access Road License
- The requirement for insurance

(See Attached)

The last two policies affected by the Highway Management Bylaw are the Road Weights Control Policy and the Road Use Industrial / Commercial Truck Haul Policy. These two policies are not included in the agenda as there are only small administrative changes.

Changes Include

- Changing the reference from Road Use Agreements to Road Use Permits.

If approved, these policy changes will be finalized and added to Council's Policy Directory.

**CLEARWATER COUNTY
ROAD ALLOWANCE LICENSE AGREEMENT**

Agreement made this _____ day of _____, 20 xx

BETWEEN

Clearwater County
(hereinafter called "the Municipality")

OF THE FIRST PART

And

Insert name & address of Licensee(s)

in the Province of Alberta
(hereinafter called "the Licensee")

OF THE SECOND PART

The Municipality hereby agrees to allow the Licensee, to use the road allowance to access your property, as of the ___ day of _____, 20___ those parcels of land as identified on the attached map and described as follows:

The Road Allowance which lies;
Between part of
_____ W5M and part of _____ W5M and
_____ W5M and _____ W5M
(approximately _____.00 acres more or less

(hereinafter referred to as the "Road Allowance")

The Licensee, in return for the right to utilize the Road Allowance for the purpose of access to the Licensee's property, agrees to pay the Municipality, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars upon the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and further agrees to pay any municipal tax levied against him in respect of the said Road Allowance. Fifty dollars shall be due and payable each January during the term of this license agreement accept for Isolated Access Roads.

In cases where the road allowance is being licensed for grazing livestock, or an Isolated Access Road the Licensee shall, at his own expense, provide and maintain in force during the term hereof comprehensive general public liability insurance (the "Liability Insurance") covering personal and bodily injury, death, and property damage on an occurrence basis with respect to the activities of the Licensee or his employees, invitees, or patrons carried on, in or from the Road Allowance of not less than \$2 MILLION (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS or for such greater amount as the Municipality may reasonably require. The Liability Insurance shall: a) Name the Municipality as an insured; b) be in a form satisfactory to the Municipality; and c) Waive subrogation against the Municipality.

The Licensee shall erect signage indicating the Road Allowance may contain livestock at large, in a form and at locations as approved by the Municipality.

In cases where the road allowance is being licensed for Industrial or Commercial access the Licensee shall, at his own expense, provide and maintain in force during the term hereof comprehensive general public liability insurance (the "Liability Insurance") covering personal and bodily injury, death, and property damage on an occurrence basis with respect to the activities of the Licensee or his employees, invitees, or patrons carried on, in or from the Road Allowance of not less than \$5 MILLION (\$5,000,000.00) DOLLARS or for such greater amount as the Municipality may reasonably require. The Liability Insurance shall: a) Name the Municipality as an insured; b) be in a form satisfactory to the Municipality; and c) Waive subrogation against the Municipality. Industrial, Commercial or Isolated access roads on road allowance shall be constructed and maintained to a standard as approved by the Municipality, at the Licensee's expense.

The Licensee shall immediately advise the Municipality, and promptly thereafter by written notice confirm such advice to the Municipality, of any accident to or defect of or any damage or injury which has occurred to or on the Road Allowance, or any part thereof, or howsoever caused, provided that nothing herein shall be construed so as to require repairs to be made to the license area by the Municipality, except as expressly provided in this license of occupation.

The Licensee shall indemnify and save harmless the Municipality from and against all actions and claims for damage arising from use of the Road Allowance under this License and from any improvements made by him on the Road Allowance. The Municipality shall not be liable for any bodily injury or property damage of any nature that the Licensee may suffer due to performance or non-performance of this License.

The Licensee shall not, without the consent of the Municipality assign, sublet or transfer the Road Allowance or any portion thereof, and if the Licensee ceases to be the owner or occupier of land adjoining the Road Allowance, this License shall thereupon terminate and be of no further effect.

The Licensee shall, permit a right of public access over the Road Allowance or any portion thereof, and for such purpose shall provide suitable gates as directed by the Municipality at such places as the Municipality may indicate.

The Licensee shall not cut or destroy or cause to be cut or destroy any trees on the Road Allowance without the expressed written consent of the Municipality, and no building or structure shall be erected on the Road Allowance without the prior written consent of the Municipality.

The License is subject to any rights given to any person under any other Act and to any right granted by the Municipality to any person for the use of the said land.

The Licensee acknowledges that the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (R.S.A. 2000, c.F-25) applies to all information and records relating to, or obtained, created or collected under this license of occupation and to all information and records in the custody or control of the Municipality.

Either party may terminate this License by serving notice in writing of intent to do so on the other party not less than thirty days in advance of the termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Witness

Municipal Manager

Licensee(s)



CLEARWATER COUNTY

Permitting Licensing of Municipal Road Allowances Policy

POLICY

<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: REVISED DATE:</p>	<p>April 1996 February 28, 2017</p>
<p>SECTION:</p>	<p>Administration</p>
<p>POLICY STATEMENT:</p>	<p>To outline the procedure for managing the licensing of Municipal road allowances.</p>
<p>DEFINITIONS:</p>	<p>“Undeveloped Road Allowance” means any land dedicated as a road right of way that has not been fully developed or required for vehicular traffic. The right of way may or may not be shown as a road on a plan of survey that has been filed or registered in a land titles office.</p> <p>“Licensee” a person to whom a license is granted or issued</p> <p>“Adjacent Land” Land that is next to or adjoining to the road allowance</p>
<p>PROCEDURE:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CAO may, upon receipt of an application in an approved form and payment of the required fee set out in Schedule ‘A’ of the Highway Management Bylaw #1018/16, issue to a Person a licence for the purpose of authorizing the non-exclusive access and use of an Municipal Road Allowance. 2. In issuing a licence, the CAO may impose such terms and conditions as are determined to be necessary or beneficial in his or her sole discretion, including but not limited to insurance requirements, signage requirements, whether obstructions such as fences and gates are permissible, and the limitations on the Person’s access or use. 3. The licence is for non-exclusive access and the licence holder may not prevent the public from accessing or travelling along the Municipal Road Allowance; 4. No work, development, improvement, or change to the condition of the Municipal Road Allowance is permitted without the prior written authorization of the CAO; and



CLEARWATER COUNTY
Permitting Licensing of Municipal Road Allowances Policy

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. the County may terminate the licence with 30 days written notice to the licence holder pursuant to the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i>.6. Applications for agricultural uses of a road allowance will only be considered on undeveloped road allowances or abandoned registered roads where the proposed use is not in conflict with adjacent uses. In addition, the applicant must have title to or use of adjacent lands.7. Applications for Industrial, Commercial or Isolated Access use of a road allowance will only be considered where the proposed use is not in conflict with existing uses.8. The application fee will only be refunded if the application is denied.9. If the CAO accepts the application, notices will be sent out to adjacent landowners to ensure they have no objection to the proposal.10. Any person can provide a written reason for or against the proposed license within thirty (30) days after notification.11. Upon consideration of any written responses the CAO will make a determination on the licence at his or her own discretion.12. The Municipality licences the road allowance(s) at \$ 50.00 per year per application except for Isolated Access Roads.13. If any conflict arises between adjacent landowners of the road allowance at any time during the process or after the road is licensed, and if attempts by the landowners to negotiate a reasonable solution are unsuccessful, the Municipality may cancel the license upon
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CLEARWATER COUNTY

Permitting Licensing of Municipal Road Allowances Policy

	<p>serving thirty-days notice of its intention to do so.</p> <p>14. A license holder does not have the right to bar entry to anyone wishing to travel the road allowance or use the road as access.</p> <p>15. Road allowance agreements may be transferred to a family member, or another Industrial/ Commercial user as an administrative change, as long as the following requirements are met: There is an existing bylaw and the applicant has title to adjacent lands. If there is not an existing bylaw, the family member or other Industrial/ Commercial user will have to follow all steps of the process as a new applicant.</p> <p>16. Upon final approval by the CAO, licensees using the road allowance for grazing livestock or an Isolated Access Road must provide liability insurance of no less than \$2,000,000 during the term of the license and erect signage indicating the road allowance may contain livestock at large, in a form and at locations as approved by the Municipality, if applicable.</p> <p>17. Upon final approval by the CAO, licensees using the road allowance for Industrial or Commercial use must provide liability insurance of no less than \$5,000,000 during the term of the license.</p>
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Clearwater County

ISOLATED ACCESS ROADS ON RIGHT-OF-WAY

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1999

Revised: February 28, 2017

SECTION: Public Works

POLICY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the specifications and considerations required by the Municipality on Isolated Access roads that are to be constructed to a reduced Municipal standard and built on undeveloped road allowance. The primary use of this type of road is to achieve economical physical access to a single parcel in isolated locations with the potential of very limited traffic volumes or where the intended use is not necessarily a benefit to the public as a whole.

DEFINITIONS:

Licensee- a person to whom a license is granted or issued

Undeveloped Road Allowance- means any land dedicated as a road right of way that has not been fully developed or required for vehicular traffic. The right of way may or may not be shown as a road on a plan of survey that has been filed or registered in a land titles office.

PROCEDURE:

All reduced standard access roads must comply with the following specifications.

1. All applicants that apply for an Isolated Access Road will be required to sign a Road Allowance License Agreement with the Municipality.
2. Upon final approval by the CAO, the Licensee, using the road allowance for an Isolated Access Road, must provide liability insurance of no less than \$2,000,000 during the term of the license.
3. It is the responsibility of the Licensee to notify any prospective buyers of this property that the above-mentioned License Agreement exists.
4. The maximum grade that would be allowed on a reduced standard road will be 14%.
5. In fill sections that exceed 2m's the Municipality requires that the Licensee ensure that the road has sufficient sideslopes or guardrails as determined by the Director of Public Works or his designate.

6. In areas where Vertical and Horizontal sight lines are less than 200m's the Licensee will be expected to increase the width of road to a minimum of 7.3m (24feet) driving surface to accommodate for two way traffic.
7. Right-of-way on most public road allowances is 20.12m's (66feet). All access roads are to be built in the center of the right-of-way unless otherwise approved by the Director of Public Works or his designate.
8. Water drainage shall not be impeded by the road development. Sufficient culverts or crossings shall be installed to maintain natural drainage. If required, the Licensee will be responsible to obtain all Alberta Environmental Protection permits required.
9. Posted speed for Isolated Access roads will be 50KM's per hour.
10. The Licensee will be responsible for supplying "Max50KM/hr." and "Isolated Access Road No Municipal Maintenance" signs at their own cost. The municipality will pass necessary by-laws to implement the 50KM/hr. Maximum speed.
11. All Isolated Access Roads that enter on to an existing developed "Municipal Road" must enter at a 90 degree angle and have a minimum of 150m's of sight lines in both directions from the point where it enters the municipal road.
12. Additional construction, reclamation, erosion mitigation or brushing requirements will be determined on a site specific basis by the Director of Public Works or his designate. All costs associated will be the responsibility of the Licensee.
13. The Maintenance of Isolated Access Roads will be the sole responsibility and cost of the Licensee. (e.g.: grading, snow removal, graveling etc.)
14. The Licensee of Isolated Access Roads cannot restrict access to public traffic in any way.
15. The sole cost of construction of these roads will be the responsibility of the Licensee.
16. The Isolated Access Road policy is intended to compliment and work in conjunction with (but is not limited to) the Clearwater County Access Road Policy, Residential Subdivision Standards Policy, Road Standards Policy, Approach Construction Guidelines Policy, Fencing Policy and the Licensing of Municipal Road Allowances Policy



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: FireSmart Ecology Trail Gravel Haul		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28 th , 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Public Works	WRITTEN BY: Kate Reglin	REVIEWED BY: Marshall Morton/Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Well Governed and Leading Organization	PRIORITY AREA: Provide levels of service that balance community needs with organizational capacity	STRATEGIES: Provide facilities and services in an effective and cost-efficient manner through a range of public, private and not-for profit alliances
ATTACHMENT(S): FireSmart Ecology Trails Map		
RECOMMENDATION: That Council provides direction on the supply trucking of ¾" gravel for FireSmart Ecology Trail		

BACKGROUND:

On February 14, 2017, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry wrote administration requesting Clearwater County to provide trucking of 250 yards of ¾" crushed limestone aggregate.

As outlined on the attached map, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, requires the ¾" aggregate to be hauled from the Nordegg Quarry to the entrance at Frontier Lodge, by Fish Lake.

It is requested that the haul be complete prior to the end of March.

Administration is requesting direction from Council on Clearwater County supplying trucking for 250 yards of ¾" gravel for FireSmart Ecology Trail.



FireSmart Ecology Trail

Stock Pile Location for Gravel, gravel to be piled to the north of the Frontier Lodge Metal Sign and east of the road up against the tree line in the pull-out area.

835 m **F4**

95 m

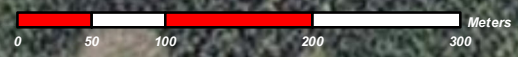
F5




Frontier Lodge

773 m

1639 m

Date Created: 1/24/2017



-  FireSmart Ecology Trails
-  Section Distance
- Permitted Trail Use**
-  Major Trail - only non-motorized use permitted.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Winter Maintenance of West Country Roads		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28 th , 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Public Works	WRITTEN BY: Kate Reglin	REVIEWED BY: Marshall Morton/Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Community Well-Being	PRIORITY AREA: Create a safer community through building a sense of belonging and community pride	STRATEGIES: Evaluate and plan the current public safety and emergency serviced needs within the broader Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater community
RECOMMENDATION: Council approves Placing 'No Winter Maintenance' signs on the Humming Bird Road, Chungo Road North of the Blackstone Gap Access, Wapiabi Road, Blackstone Gap Road, Northfork Road West of Thunder Mountain, and, all the forestry tower roads that fall under Clearwater County jurisdiction.		

BACKGROUND:

The County performs seasonal maintenance on a number of West Country Roads. Historically, the maintenance has been limited to summer months. There is generally, limited access to these areas during the winter months and a decision to not provide winter maintenance was made approximately 20 years ago.

Administration recently received a few phone calls regarding maintenance concerns associated with the Cut Off Creek Road. They felt that the County should be providing winter maintenance on this roadway to provide safer access to the travelling public. Typically, the public that utilize this road within the winter months are recreational user's, outfitter's and owners of trap lines in the area. Over the last number of years Shell Canada has plowed the first 12 kilometers of Cut Off Creek Road, on a regular maintenance schedule, during the winter months. With the economic slowdown that industry has experienced, Shell Canada recently has only been performing winter maintenance on an "as needed" basis, in an attempt, to save costs.

Presently, Clearwater County has a number of West Country Roads that are not maintained during the winter months. These roads are: Humming Bird Road, Chungo Road North of the

Blackstone Gap Access, Wapiabi Road, Blackstone Gap Road, Northfork Road West of Thunder Mountain, and, all the forestry tower roads that fall under our jurisdiction.

Administration is recommending the placement of 'No Winter Maintenance' signs on all of these roads. Council's direction in this regard will minimize the legal liability associated with the current road management practice.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Credit Union Co-op Aquatic Centre - Deck Shoring and Replacement		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: CCPS	WRITTEN BY: Ted Hickey	REVIEWED BY: Ted Hickey
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) Bylaw: _____ Policy: _____		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: 1. Managing our Growth 2: Well Governed and Leading Organization	PRIORITY AREA: 1.2, 2.2	STRATEGIES: 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 2.2.3
ATTACHMENT(S): Town of Rocky Mountain House Council Agenda Item - RFP – Deck Shoring		
RECOMMENDATION: Council approve an additional of \$61,400.26 within the 2017 recreation budget and direct Administration from CPS and Corporate Services to allocate the cost to the most appropriate funding source.		

BACKGROUND:

Clearwater County and the Town of Rocky Mountain House have a 50/50 cost share agreement for the provision of recreation facilities and associated operational costs that provides facilities to Clearwater County residents. The recreation agreements are overseen by the Recreation Board.

Town of Rocky Mountain House staff had proposed a project of correcting deck shoring and deck replacement was originally planned over a 2-year period for necessary repairs etc. Each year would require a shutdown of the pool access for construction work to be completed. The forecasted total budget for this 2-staged project was \$490,000 (County portion = \$245,000)

Original 2 Stage Costing Plan	2017	2018	
Clearwater County	\$ (70,000.00)	\$ (175,000.00)	\$ (245,000.00)
Town of Rocky Mountain House	\$ (70,000.00)	\$ (175,000.00)	\$ (245,000.00)
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ (140,000.00)	\$ (350,000.00)	\$ (490,000.00)

A deck shoring and deck replacement project review and Request for Proposals has been completed with a reported result being that if all work was done in 2017 pricing would now be \$238,909.56 plus 10% contingency for a total of \$262,800.52.

Revised Plan - 2017 Completion	2017	2018	
Clearwater County	\$ (131,400.26)	\$ -	\$ (131,400.26)
Town of Rocky Mountain House	\$ (131,400.26)	\$ -	\$ (131,400.26)
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ (262,800.52)		\$ (262,800.52)

For work to proceed in 2017, an additional shared cost of \$61,400.26 would be needed to be approved by each Council equaling the additional total funds needed being \$122,800.52.

Funding Deficit Required for Revised Plan			
Clearwater County			\$ (61,400.26)
Town of Rocky Mountain House			\$ (61,400.26)
Total Funding Required			\$ (122,800.52)

Upon each Council's approval of an additional 2017 funding of \$61,400.26 for work to be completed in 2017 - Town staff report a possible \$113,599.74 cost savings to each municipality or a project total cost savings of \$227,199.48




Cost Difference Original Plan vs Revised Plan			
Clearwater County			\$ (113,599.74)
Town of Rocky Mountain House			\$ (113,599.74)
Total Estimated Cost Difference			\$ (227,199.48)

Options:

1. Council approve an additional of **\$61,400.26** within the 2017 recreation budget and direct Administration from CPS and Corporate Services to allocate the cost to the most appropriate funding source.
2. Council not approve an additional of **\$61,400.26** within the 2017 budget and direct Administration from CPS to inform Town of Rocky Mountain House staff of its decision.



TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

REPORT TITLE: RFP – Aquatic Centre Deck Shoring	
SUBMITTED BY: Roger Smolnicky	
PRESENTER: Roger Smolnicky	FILE #
DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Community Services	AGENDA DATE: Feb 21, 2017
DISCUSSIONS: RFP review committee was Roger Smolnicky, Rod Fraser, Fran Sosnoski, and Trevor Kuipers Council – 2016 Budget Deliberations; County	ATTACHMENTS:
APPROVALS:	
 Department Head	Feb 2, 2017 Date
	 CAO
	 Date

Conformance to existing laws and Town Council Plans:

Conforms with:	Yes/No/ Partial/NA	Comments:
Bylaws/Laws/Policies	Yes	
Sustainability Plan	n/a	
Council Strategic Plan/Priorities	n/a	
Budget/Long Term Plans	yes	Budgeted for 2017 and potentially 2018
Effects on future budgets	n/a	
Regional Impacts	n/a	

Background/Introduction:

At the Council meeting November 15th, Council was made aware of the Deck Shoring issues and Deck replacement that is required at the Credit Union Coop Aquatic Centre.

The tiling of the main pool tank was completed in 2016 and the tiling indicated in this project is for the deck around the main pool tank.

An RFP was sent out and it indicated that the deck shoring will be done in 2017 (minimal shut down as this is mostly below deck) and the deck replacement in 2018 (6 – 8 week shutdown required).

Four submissions were received by the Town and reviewed by a committee made up of Roger Smolnicky, Rod Fraser, Fran Sosnoski and Trevor Kuipers. Criteria was based upon Support and Service, Pricing, Social Justice (environmental friendly) and Terms and Conditions.

Total budget for this project is \$490,000 - 2017 \$140,000 and in 2018 \$350,000



TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Based upon this review bid pricing varied from \$225,000 to \$444,600.

IMC Construction Ltd. from Red Deer, Alberta, based upon the ranking criteria ranked the highest, and a follow up phone call was completed for questions that we had and clarification on their proposal. During this phone call, they indicated additional saving could be done if the work was completed all at once (in 2017). A second visit to site was then done on January 30, 2017 for price verifications

If done over 2 years, IMC Construction Ltd. total is \$264,417. If done in the fall of 2017, the pricing is \$238,909.56. This would be an additional savings of \$25,507.44 from their original price. It is recommended to allocate 10% contingency outside the scope of the project to protect the Town from unknown issues that may arise.

In 2017 the approved budgeted amount is \$150,128 shared with the county (\$75,064 is the Town portion funded by a retired debenture payment) and would require an additional \$88,781.56 shared with the county (\$44,390.78 would be the Town portion) to complete the project in 2017.

OPTIONS for additional funding if approved for spend in 2017 from reserves only:

- A. General Reserves
- B. Building Maintenance Reserve
- C. Revenue Sharing Capital

TOTAL budget \$490,000 (2017 and 2018) project cost if done in 2017 $\$238,909.56 = \$251,090.44$ under budget.

Options:

1. To accept IMC Construction Ltd. proposal that would have the project completed in 2017 and 2018. For the Sum of \$264,417
2. To accept the IMC Construction Ltd. proposal that completes the project in fall of 2017 during an extended shutdown. For the Sum of \$238,909.56
3. Not to accept either proposal, and reissue the RFP.

Recommendation:

Moved by Councillor _____ to award the Aquatic Centre deck shoring project to IMC Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$238,909.56 plus a ten percent (10%) contingency for a total project cost of \$262,800.52. The Town's unfunded portion of \$56,336.26 to be funded from the Building Maintenance reserve with the understanding that the reserve will be replenished by the amount in the 2018 budget.

External Communications:

January 31, 2017

Town of Rocky Mountain House



Attn: Roger Smolnicky

Via email: recdirector@rockymtnhouse.com

Re: Pool Deck Replacement Project

Further to site meeting on January 30,2017 to review overall scope of the project we would be prepared to complete the entire project as discussed for:

\$238,909.56 plus GST

on the following basis:

1. Remove and replace ductwork as discussed, ductwork to be painted,
2. Remove and re-install some acoustic panel as required for ductwork,
3. We will hoard in work area and clean work area upon completion,
4. Remove and replace approximately 2,000 sq ft concrete deck and replace with new structural slab,
5. Supply and install new floor tile and tile base on approximately 2,000 sq ft tile c/w with hydroban deck sealant system,
6. Misc. mosaic repair allowance is included in the amount of \$1,500.00,
7. Allowance for misc. mechanical pipe repairs is included in the amount of \$1,500.00,
8. Allowance for misc. electrical conduit repairs is included in the amount of \$2,500.00,
9. All work to be completed during the September/October pool shutdown,

264,417.00
 - 238,909.56

 25,507.44

IMC Construction Ltd.
 Bay 170 – 106 Queensland Crescent
 Red Deer, Alberta T4P 0R4
www.imcbuildit.com

Notes:

- Allowances, all intended work in this category to be reviewed with Owner and approved prior to using the allowance,
- Tile to be best match possible, deck sealing to be reviewed with Owner, tile installer, and IMC for pre-approval of tile and process,
- IMC Construction Ltd. is a provincially bonded construction company,
- NIC sprinkler repairs or adjustments (none required),
- Structural section of existing deck to be retained all cleaning and prep for tile included,
- Assume diving board and structure is completely re-useable,
- Assumed pool will be empty,
- Areas outside of work not included,

Should you require further clarifications or have any questions please contact the undersigned either via email markh@imcbuildit.com or by telephone at (403) 588 – 3880.

Yours Truly,

Mark Hamman P.Eng.

7.9 Telecommunication Towers

- (1) No person shall construct or cause to be constructed a telecommunication tower unless a development permit for such a use has been issued.
- (2) A telecommunication facility shall comply with the provisions of this Bylaw and any statutory or outline plan pertaining to the site of the facility, all CSA standards and Safety Code guidelines.
- (3) The County will encourage the co-location (sharing) of telecommunication towers.
- (4) The notification of landowners in the vicinity and public consultation are required if the tower is to be located in a residential area or within 600 metres (1968 feet) of the nearest residence and the tower has a height of 15 metres (50 feet) and higher.

When Council adopted the new Schedule of Fees in 2014, the direction to Administration at that time was to strive to have Clearwater County's user fees around the middle (or average) when comparing to other municipalities. With this request coming to Council, Administration wanted to ensure we are still average for fees and researched a number of other municipalities, founding that Clearwater County remains average in the user fees we currently apply. As for how a municipality deals with a private or commercial tower, every municipality is very different and we found no consistency between them. The \$300.00 user fee was set to assist in covering the cost of referral letters and advertising in the local papers.

MUNICIPALITY	Permit Required (Private)	Fee	Notes	Permit Required (Commerical)	Fee	Notes
Brazeau County (2016)	Yes	\$100	49 Ft plus requires a Development Permit; Created a Separate Tower Policy.	No	n/a	Federally Regulated.
Camrose County (2017)	Yes	\$50 - \$150	All Towers are considered Commercial (except Ham Radios).	Yes	n/a	Development Permit fee is based on the cost of construction.
CLEARWATER COUNTY (2001)	Yes	\$300	All Towers are considered Commercial.	Yes	\$300	
County of Stettler (2016)	Yes	\$100 - 300	Development Permit required when exceeding 30 ft. in height; No referrals & MPC - \$100; Referrals & MPC - \$300.	Yes	\$300	
County of Wetaskiwin (2015)	Yes	\$100	Classified as a Public Utility, listed as Discretionary in almost all Districts. Looking to address Towers in LUB in the near future.	Yes	\$200	Looking into amending their LUB to address Towers both private and commercial.
Lacombe County (drafted but not yet adopted)	Yes	\$500	Define both a Private and Commerical Communication Tower in LUB. Development Permit required when exceeding 98.43 ft. otherwise it's a deemed approved use.	Yes	\$500	
Mountain View County (2015)	Yes	\$630	Only 1 private tower application processed to date.	Yes	\$630	
Red Deer County (2016)	Yes	\$200	Classified as a Public Utility, a permitted use in ALL Districts.	Yes	\$200	Classified as a Public Utility, a permitted use in ALL Districts.
Rocky View County (2013)	Yes	\$640	Separate Tower Policy from LUB.	Yes	\$640	
Sturgeon County (2017)	No	n/a	Federally Regulated and Exempt from Development Approval.	No	n/a	Federally Regulated and Exempt from Development Approval.
Yellowhead County (2013)	Yes	\$75	Tower Section in LUB. 49 ft. plus requires a Development Permit.	Yes	\$200	

It is Administration's opinion the LUB is extremely clear, but the verbiage as it currently exists in the Schedule of Fees could be clarified to be more representative of the LUB.

Should Council choose to re-imburse this individual their application fee, Administration would recommend re-imbursement be applied to all applicants retroactively and Administration would bring a revised bylaw to a future Council meeting reflecting Council's direction.



**SCHEDULE A
FEE AND REFUND STRUCTURE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Standard Permitted	\$150
Standard Discretionary	\$250
Commercial - Communication Tower	\$300
- Resort/Campground	\$500
- Recreation/Golf Course	\$500
Industrial - Natural Resource/ Aggregate Extraction	\$1,000

REAL PROPERTY REPORT

Real Property Report – Compliance Request	\$80
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SUBDIVISION

Boundary Adjustment	\$500
First Parcel Out	\$600
Fragmented Parcel	\$500 + Lot Fee
Multi-Lot Subdivision	\$500 + Lot Fee
Lot Fees – Per Parcel	\$150



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Joint Development Area Status Update		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28 th , 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development	WRITTEN BY: Kim Gilham / Keith McCrae	REVIEWED BY: Rick Emmons / Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) Bylaw: _____ Policy: _____ IDP & MDP _____		
Planning Objective 1.1 - Plan for a well designed and built community.	1.3.1 Collaborate with the Town of Rocky Mountain House to identify growth areas adjacent to the Town with the intent of addressing the lack of serviced residential, commercial and industrial properties.	Strategic Area 1.1.2: Prepare statutory plans and design guidelines that supports the creation of sustainable residential, commercial and industrial development while balancing the need for protection of agricultural lands and environmentally significant areas.
RECOMMENDATION: For Council to accept the information as provided by Administration.		

BACKGROUND:

As Council is aware, Administration is in the process of preparing an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for an area covering eleven (11) quarter sections north of the Town of Rocky Mountain House. The purpose of Clearwater-North Rocky Area Structure Plan (ASP) is to provide a framework for the effective, efficient and orderly development of an economic hub to broaden the fiscal base of the region while complementing development within the Town of Rocky Mountain House. The plan is intended to guide future commercial, industrial and community service land uses, which are to be serviced with communal water and wastewater through a joint servicing agreement between the Town and the County. The area is proposed to become a future employment hub, while recognizing that corresponding residential development will take place within the Town.

As part of the ASP planning process, Clearwater County hosted an open house and meeting on the evening of Thursday, February 16th, 2017, at the Christianson Wellness Centre. The public was invited to come out to seek clarification and provide input on the

ASP information presented, whether that be in the form of ideas, suggestions, concerns or questions.

The next step in the ASP planning process is to create a draft ASP document outlining the purpose and objective of the plan, details of the land being included within the ASP, sensitive features, topography, roads and utilities, planning principles, development concept areas outlining for a variety of uses, and land use policies indicating the desired uses in the outlined districts. Independent of the ASP document, new Land Use Districts will also be drafted that will list suitable uses desired in the ASP area to coincide with the ASP document.

Comments and concerns received at the public open house hosted on February 16, 2017 will be compiled and considered by the planning team and shared with Council and the IDP Committee as the planning processes relating to the IDP, JDA, JSA and ASP proceeds.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Joint Council Meeting Request		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28 th , 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Planning & Development	WRITTEN BY: Rick Emmons	REVIEWED BY: Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) Bylaw: _____ Policy: <u>Intermunicipal Development Plan</u>		
Planning Objective 1.1 - Plan for a well designed and built community.	1.3.1 Collaborate with the Town of Rocky Mountain House to identify growth areas adjacent to the Town with the intent of addressing the lack of serviced residential, commercial and industrial properties.	Strategic Area 1.1.2: Prepare statutory plans and design guidelines that supports the creation of sustainable residential, commercial and industrial development while balancing the need for protection of agricultural lands and environmentally significant areas.
RECOMMENDATION: Motion #1 – That Council identifies potential dates on which to host a joint Town/County Council meeting; Motion #2 – That the Mayor and Reeve, CAOs and Directors of Planning meet to develop the agenda for the Joint Council meeting.		

BACKGROUND:

As Council is aware, an open house regarding the draft Area Structure Plan (ASP) on the North Development Area was held on February 16th, 2017. Members of Town Council and Town Administration were present at the open house. At the Town’s February 21st Council meeting concerns were discussed with respect to some of the concepts and content outlined at the open house. Town Council subsequently passed a motion requesting a meeting with County Council to discuss the ASP process and discuss specific concepts and concerns.

With respect to the Town Council’s request, Administration recommends that County Council identify potential dates on which to meet with Town Council. Administration also recommends that the Mayor, Reeve, CAOs and the Directors of Planning for the Town and County meet to establish an agenda for the joint meeting.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Clearwater Broadband Foundation Delegation		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Community & Protective Services - Economic Development	WRITTEN BY: Ted Hickey	REVIEWED BY: Ted Hickey
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Managing Growth	PRIORITY AREA: Local Economy	STRATEGIES: 1.3.4
ATTACHMENT: <i>A Broadband Solution for Clearwater County-</i> Powerpoint Presentation		
RECOMMENDATION: 1. That Council Accept the Clearwater Water Broadband Foundation presentation as information.		

BACKGROUND:

The Clearwater Broadband Foundation (CBF) is a recently formed society that is registered in the Province of Alberta. A grassroots coalition of community members that has been studying alternatives to address high-speed internet challenges currently existing in areas of Clearwater County.

Currently, the CBF is actively exploring and promoting a community-owned high-speed internet infrastructure to enhance internet services within the County.

CBF has requested an opportunity to present to Council a vision, plan and desire to enhance internet services within the County. Specific areas of this vision include education, business retention and recruitment, medical services, and other areas.

The CBF's key executive members are Michelle Swanson, Chair; Bob Hagsma, Vice-Chair and John Reid, Secretary/Treasurer.

A Broadband Solution

For Clearwater County



Clearwater
BROADBAND

2/13/2017



WHY BROADBAND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

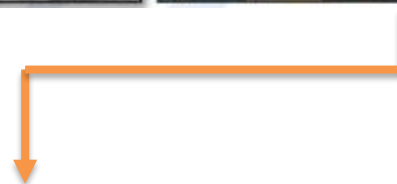
Agrarian



Industrial



Knowledge

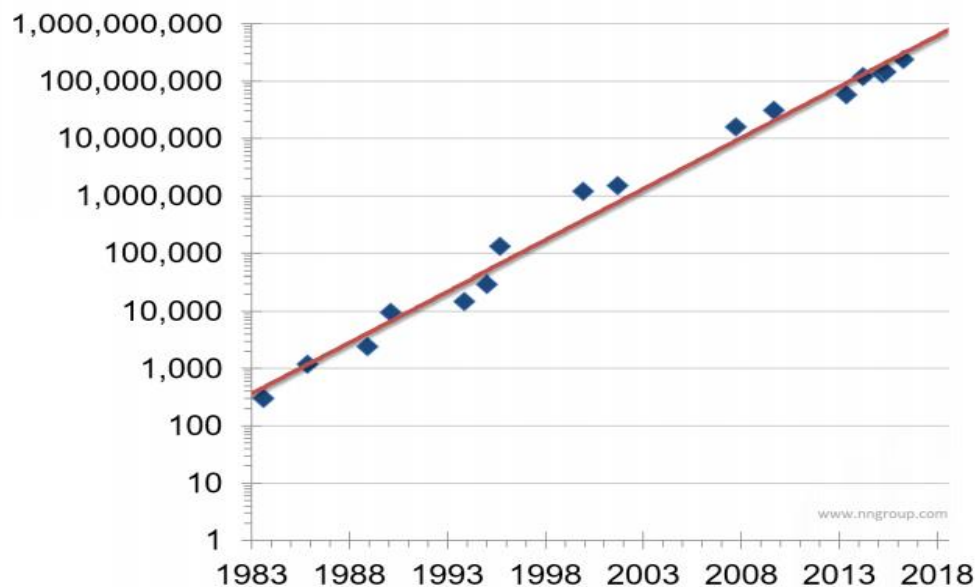


Affordable Broadband Service is **Key** to Economic Prosperity

RURAL TOURISM



EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN BANDWIDTH REQUIREMENTS



NEILSON'S LAW: Internet Peak Bandwidth Consumption
Doubles Every Two Years

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Traditional Business Case

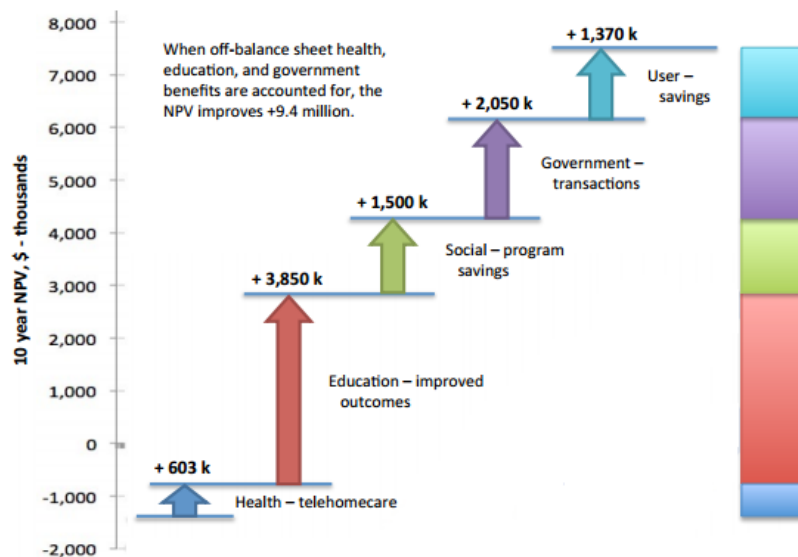
NPV -1.7 million

ROI -28.5%

Enhanced Business Case

NPV +7.7 million

ROI 131%



CRTC RULING



CRTC rules high-speed Internet a basic service, sets targets

CHRISTINE DOBBY - TELECOM REPORTER

The Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016 4:26PM EST

Last updated Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016 9:11PM EST

A MINIMUM OF:

- 50Mb/s download
- 10Mb/s upload
- access to unlimited data options



WHY FIBRE

WHAT WOULD A WIRELESS SOLUTION LOOK LIKE?



Average Service: 20 Mb/s download

Spectrum NOT Available

Cannot Expand

Operation Costs: 10 X More Than Fibre

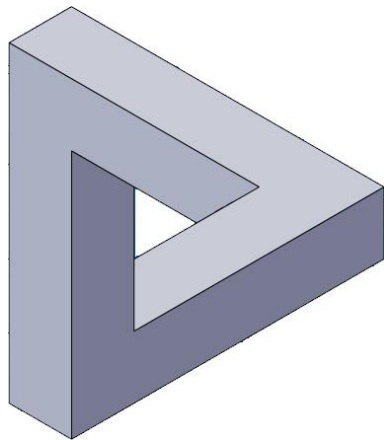
Our Landscape: A Pincushion



THE WIRELESS SOLUTION

A Wireless Tower System cannot possibly satisfy CRTC Standards.

In practice, it is “Completely Infeasible”.



“The future of wireless is wired”

David Clarke, MIT



WHY NOW (WHY RIGHT NOW)

CHERRY PICKING





WHY CLEARWATER BROADBAND FOUNDATION



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: Clearwater Broadband Foundation – Administrative Review		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Municipal	WRITTEN BY: Ron Leaf/ Rodney Boyko	REVIEWED BY: Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Managing Growth	PRIORITY AREA: Local Economy	STRATEGIES: 1.3.4
RECOMMENDATION: 1. That Administration provides Council with administrative report and recommendation regarding the Clearwater Water Broadband Foundation proposal.		

BACKGROUND:

Council's procedural bylaw sets out that Administration is to provide Council with a written recommendation on requests Council receives from delegations. Subject to Council's authorization, Administration proposes that its review of the CBF proposal entail review of the following categories (bolded):

1. **CBF Business Plan Review (bulleted points are intended as examples)**
 - Amount of County funding requested and timing for provision of those funds;
 - Identification of other funding sources (e.g. grants, loans, investor funding) and timing and availability of those funds?
 - 5 – 10 Year Capital Plan
 - 3-5 year Operating Plan
 - Management structure and associated wage/salary.
 - Procurement and tendering processes. (e.g. compliance with New West Trade Agreement)
 - Marketing plan and contingency plans re: identified risks
 - Seed funding requirements and timing for provision of those funds
2. **Legal Entity & Legal Agreements**
 - Review of Olds & O-Net agreement to determine the appropriateness of those agreements to this proposal
 - Review of MMGA in relation to ability of County to provide loans, grants or loan guarantees and eligibility of the CBF to receive funds
 - Evaluation of type or nature of relationship, agreement or partnership that may be required between the County and the CBF or affiliate corporations

3. Grant Eligibility of County and/or CBF

- Review of proposal in relation to *Connect to Innovate* grant
- Investigation of CRTC funding program and anticipated timeframe for availability of those funds;
- Identification of other grant or funding sources
- Discussions with Services Alberta and AB Economic Development regarding provincial “last mile”/rural internet programs (ADM Stephen Bull to present to Council on March 14)

4. Technology Plan Review

- Review of CBF fibre plan or provision of engineered stamped plans
- Discussion regarding wireless options to service outlying areas of County
- Review of developing technology and potential impact(s) on business plan

5. Municipal Support

- Clarify or outline needs/expectations of CBF of municipal support (e.g. Sales, grant writing, billings, etc.)
- Development of administrative policy and agreement re: utility corridor and roles and responsibilities concerning fibre optic cable
 - Telus model – utility operator responsible for all damages, relocations or disturbances affecting their facilities.

Administration does not have a time estimate regarding when this report will be complete however I anticipate working with the CBF Executive to establish a timeline for completion of the review and submission to the final report to Council in a timely manner.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: AAMDC 2017 Spring Convention Resolutions		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Municipal	WRITTEN BY: Ron Leaf	REVIEWED BY: Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Well Governed & Leading Organization	PRIORITY AREA: Advocacy	STRATEGIES: 2.5.5; 2.6.1
ATTACHMENT(S): AAMDC Spring 2017 Resolution package		
RECOMMENDATION: That Council reviews, discusses and accepts the verbal report on AAMDC 2017 Spring Resolutions.		

BACKGROUND:

Ron Leaf will provide a verbal report on Administrative recommendations and observations regarding the attached AAMDC 2017 Spring Resolutions package.

AAMDC Spring 2017 Resolutions

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Appointment of Parliamentarian
- 3) Acceptance of Order Paper
- 4) Resolution Session

- 1-17S Carbon Levy Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for All Food Production Uses** (*MD of Willow Creek*)
- 2-17S Amendments to Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act*** (*County of Two Hills*)
- 3-17S National Broadband Strategy** (*Parkland County*)
- 4-17S Collection of Outstanding Taxes for Education Requisitions From the Province of Alberta** (*MD of Spirit River*)
- 5-17S Secure Access to Natural Gas Pipelines** (*Lac La Biche County*)
- 6-17S Addendum to the *Species at Risk Act*** (*MD of Willow Creek*)
- 7-17S Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park** (*Mackenzie County*)
- 8-17S Oldman River Regional Services Commission Regional Planning Funding** (*MD of Willow Creek*)
- 9-17S Legal Opinion for Species at Risk Proposed Policies** (*County of Warner*)
- 10-17S Modernization of Alberta Registry Agents** (*Cardston County*)
- 11-17S Review of Standard Practices for Installation of High Tension Cable Barriers on Two-Lane Provincial Highways** (*County of Barrhead*)
- 12-17S Support for a Disaster Recovery Program in Support of the Agriculture Sector** (*Brazeau County*)

- 5) Acceptance of Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 6) Vote on Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 7) Closing of Resolution Session

Resolution 1-17S

Carbon Levy Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for All Food Production

Uses

MD of Willow Creek

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Individual Resolution*

WHEREAS the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* effective January 1, 2017 states that every recipient shall pay a carbon tax on purchases of natural gas and propane; and

WHEREAS as purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional cost of a carbon tax on to consumers or the international market; and

WHEREAS programs are in place through the Climate Leadership Plan to help farm operations reduce their emissions through efficiency upgrades; and

WHEREAS farmers use natural gas and propane for the production of food e.g. grain drying, irrigation, milk parlours, hog barns, chicken barns, greenhouses, etc.; and

WHEREAS farmers are exempt on marked fuel by way of the carbon levy exemption certificate; and

WHEREAS farmers create a tremendous carbon sink with their production of crops;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties appeal to the Government of Alberta to provide carbon levy exemption certificates for the use of natural gas and propane for all food production uses.

Member Background

Alberta's food producers are outstanding at feeding the population of the Province as well as contributing to the needs of the world. They are in a position of accepting what the consumer will pay for their production. They have no way of recovering extra costs such as added taxes.

Consumption of fossil fuels is a necessity for the many facets of food production in Alberta. While using these fuels to raise crops they are creating a huge carbon sink which has not been addressed in the Climate Leadership Plan.

The Government of Alberta has fortunately exempted marked fuels from the new carbon tax but the consumption of natural gas and propane for food production has been overlooked. All fuels used for food production should be exempt.

AAMDC Background

2-16F: Exemption of Municipalities from Carbon Levy

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to exempt all municipalities in Alberta from the carbon levy.

DEVELOPMENTS: Awaiting government response.

6-16F: Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane Used for Agricultural Operations

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* to exempt farming operations from the carbon levy on natural gas and propane.

DEVELOPMENTS: Awaiting government response.

Resolution 2-17S

Amendments to Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act*

County of Two Hills

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Individual Resolution*

WHEREAS Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) states:

Taxes due to a municipality

- (a) are an amount owing to the municipality,
- (b) are recoverable as a debt to the municipality,
- (c) take priority over the claims of every person except the Crown; and

WHEREAS Section 284(1)(f) defines Crown as:

“Crown” means the Crown in right of Alberta, and includes a Provincial agency as defined in the *Financial Administration Act* and an agent of the Crown in right of Alberta; and

WHEREAS the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) falls under the definition of Crown; and

WHEREAS in instances, the Crown may take priority over claims of every person; and

WHEREAS the AFSC has asserted that as a Crown corporation, they take precedence over municipalities in the recovery of taxes according to Section 348 of the MGA; and

WHEREAS Section 348 of the MGA has the potential to seriously impede municipality’s ability to collect unpaid taxes; and

WHEREAS AFSC is a lending institution and has the ability to do their due diligence, therefore all risk should be burdened by all provincial taxpayers not just a municipality;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act* to reflect that no Crown lending institutions be allowed to take priority over any claims due to the municipality.

Member Background

An entity in the County of Two Hills is in receivership and the corporations that initiated the receivership include Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). The entity was sold in the receivership. AFSC had loaned this entity more money than was received in the sale. The sale proceeds are enough to pay the outstanding municipal taxes (which are over one million dollars) with a small amount left over. AFSC has taken the position that under Section 348 of the MGA, it is entitled to recover its secured claim before the municipality. The effect of this position has the potential to wipe out any recovery for the municipality.

The County is concerned about the position being taken here and question if this position is going to be taken in other receiverships going forward. It has the potential to seriously impede a municipality’s ability to collect unpaid taxes which is becoming a significant issue in Alberta. It is understood that risk needs to be shared amongst taxpayers, but in this case, the burden will be borne disproportionately by the municipal residents because the municipality has no choice but to provide municipal services to its residents and businesses. AFSC on the other hand has the ability to do due diligence and chose to make loans.

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 3-17S

National Broadband Strategy

Parkland County

*Simple Majority Required
Endorsed by District 3 (Pembina River)*

WHEREAS broadband is recognized as an essential utility by communities and jurisdictions throughout the world; and

WHEREAS many rural, remote, and northern communities in Canada continue to be unserved or underserved by internet service providers; and

WHEREAS internet service in rural, remote and northern communities is slower, has less bandwidth and is more expensive than services in urban centres; and

WHEREAS many jurisdictions are implementing programs and initiatives that leverage network-based technologies to strategically improve services to residents, enable businesses to become globally competitive, incubate a knowledge workforce and enhance social capacity; and

WHEREAS the success of these communities is reliant upon the availability of high speed, high capacity bandwidth internet connectivity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the governments of Alberta and Canada declare broadband an essential service; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the governments of Alberta and Canada provide direct funding and support to rural, remote and northern communities to ensure affordable access to, or the development of, high speed (100 Mbps and faster) community network infrastructure; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge Government of Canada develop a national broadband strategy; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that rural municipalities, internet service providers, education and health professionals, public safety organizations, and research and economic development authorities be actively involved in preparing the National Broadband Strategy.

Member Background

Despite different provincial and federal programs, many rural, remote and northern communities (RRNC) remain unserved or underserved in terms of access to high-speed internet. With vast geographical expanses and low population densities, internet service providers (ISPs) do not have a business case to invest in these communities. Residents and businesses in RRNC with internet service often contend with slower speeds and pay higher costs for service than their urban counterparts.

Access to high-speed, high capacity internet service at an affordable price is vital to facilitate local economic development and for the provision of cost-efficient and effective public services. It is crucial that RRNC have the mobile networks, broadband connections and open data platforms that allow stakeholders to advance their individual needs and for the betterment of the community at large. Increased broadband speed with high capacity will help existing local businesses grow and become participants in the digital economy. Unfortunately, policy discussions on broadband have been focused on increasing access, not investing in and leveraging broadband for economic, social and community development.

High-speed, high capacity broadband also enables all levels of government to deliver public services in the most financially responsible manner. Governments need higher bandwidth to serve evolving video, image, data and voice requirements to provide the numerous services residents expect.

The 2016 federal budget announced a new \$500 million program for rural and remote community broadband funding over the next five years with an uninspiring and unambitious target of 5 Mbps down/1 Mbps up. With the rapid advancements in information and communications technology (ICT), changing patterns in internet consumption such as video streaming and increased utilization and movement of data packets, the identified targets will leave Canada in a compromised position globally. With broadband consumption growing at annual rates up to 50%, and a failure to invest in and support a robust broadband network, we will continue being internet viewers rather than broadband contributors and innovators in the digital economy.

A recent study from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) states “Canada has amongst one of the world’s slowest Internet speeds (ranking 33rd) and highest costs around the world” (August 15, 2013). Further, from 2002 to 2012, Canada fell from 2nd to 13th for wired broadband connections. Without a deliberate and focused broadband strategy, people without 21st century broadband will be left behind; it will come at a significant cost. The digital divide and the inequity between RRNC and their urban counterparts’ access to internet will create the new disenfranchised underclass.

Many jurisdictions have made substantial investments in broadband recognizing the enormous benefits that will be derived. While many of these have high population densities, looking at Australia with a population density of 3.1 people/square kilometer and their commitment to broadband and comparing it to Canada which has a population density of 3.6 people/square kilometer illustrates the lack of commitment made in this country.

In 2009, Australia announced a commitment to build the National Broadband Network (NBN) - (US \$44.1 billion) extending high-speed optical fiber directly into the homes, schools, and workplaces of 93 percent of Australians. A 2013 report concluded that the NBN would provide job opportunities, time savings, and other benefits worth, on average, AU \$3800 (US \$3600) per household per year by 2020. The cost was approximately AU \$1900 per household. Although polls showed that the majority of voters supported the project, after the 2013 election the initiative was scaled back but still brings fibre optics to all new developments.

AAMDC Background

3-15S: Review of Alberta SuperNet Agreement with Axia SuperNet Ltd.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Service Alberta not renew the Axia SuperNet Ltd. agreement until a complete examination of how the Alberta SuperNet can be managed in such a way as to promote a cost competitive, reliable, sustainable and Alberta-based solution for fibre optic internet services which meets the increasing demand for high speed internet service within the Province of Alberta with sufficient emphasis to rural connectivity.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta is currently in the process of developing an RFP for a new SuperNet operator when Axia’s contract expires in 2018. As part of this process, Service Alberta has engaged the AAMDC and other stakeholders to better understand the current weaknesses of the SuperNet in connecting public sector institutions and supporting the development of rural broadband connectivity.

Because Service Alberta has acknowledged flaws in the current SuperNet and challenges in how it is operated by Axia, and has expressed a commitment to improving SuperNet in the future, this resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Principle, and will be reviewed when a new operating agreement is signed.

8-14F: Improvement of High-Speed Internet Services in Rural Alberta

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to make the investments necessary to improve high-speed internet services in rural Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada are currently in the process of administering several programs intended to improve high-speed internet service in rural Alberta.

The Government of Alberta is in the process of developing an RFP to seek a new SuperNet operator when the current contract with Axia expires in 2018. Service Alberta has worked with the AAMDC and other stakeholders to identify weaknesses with SuperNet, and are committed to improving it through the new operating agreement.

Alberta Economic Development and Trade are currently undertaking a joint project with the University of Alberta to develop an educational resource for municipal officials in rural and small urban municipalities that will consolidate relevant regulatory, funding, and technical information to assist them in taking local steps to improve broadband access in their communities.

In the 2016 federal budget, the Government of Canada committed \$500 million over five years to improve rural broadband access and connectivity to the digital economy. Details of the program are not yet available, but funding is expected to start flowing in late 2016 or early 2017.

Both the provincial and federal government are taking steps to improve rural internet service. However, all of the strategies and programs described above have yet to be completed, and their effectiveness is not yet known. As the final product has not shown any improvements at this time, this resolution is assigned a status of Intent Not Met, and will be revisited as these programs progress.

Resolution 4- 17S

Collection of Outstanding Taxes for Education Requisitions From the Province of Alberta

MD of Spirit River

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Endorsed by District 4 (Northern)*

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta annually establishes the mill rate that the municipalities are required to collect and pay into the Alberta School Foundation Fund (education property tax) on properties assessed within the municipalities; and

WHEREAS each municipality can collect education property taxes along with other taxes to operate the municipality at various times during the year, and are therefore asked to submit payment quarterly to the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS some of these taxes become in default and are no longer collectible leaving the municipality to recover the amount owing through the seizure of land and assets; and

WHEREAS tax recovery through the seizure of land and assets is not always an option, particularly in relation to linear property such as on oil leases on leased property; and

WHEREAS this inability to exercise tax recovery processes on some linear property leaves the municipality with bad debt for the tax burden to operate the municipality along with the debt of the education property taxes that they are required to collect by the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS the municipality is only acting as an invoicing and collection agency for the Government of Alberta to collect education property taxes on their behalf;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta develop new tools or utilize existing mechanisms to ensure that municipalities that are unable to collect education property taxes through the tax recovery process be exempted from forwarding those uncollectible tax amounts to Alberta Education, or have the uncollectible amount refunded.

Member Background

As a collection agency for school taxes we must pay our requisition quarterly whether we are able to collect that taxation or not. Some oilfield companies have defaulted, leaving nothing that could be converted into cash to offset the taxes outstanding. This also leaves the amount of the school taxes as a burden of the municipality when it was not designed to be so. The municipality has been burdened by the Government of Alberta to collect and forward school taxes; if uncollected these school taxes now become a burden of the municipality that they cannot collect.

AAMDC Background

3-16S Recovery of Linear Property, Commercial Property, and Education requisition Tax Arrears

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) request the Government of Alberta to amend the Municipal Government Act (MGA), and other provincial legislation to broaden the tax recovery power of municipalities to collect linear property taxes by granting a lien in favour of the municipality as follows:

A lien equivalent to that granted to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) by s. 103 of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA) that being: "on the debtor's interest in any well, facilities, and pipelines, land or interests in land, including mines and minerals, equipment and petroleum substances" and the power to garnish funds owed to the debtor;

A lien which ranks in priority (or equivalent) to the lien granted in favour of the AER by s. 103(2) of the OGCA;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC requests the Government of Canada to amend the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to recognize municipal linear property taxes and other municipal non-property taxes as a secured interest in priority to other unsecured interests;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta to provide a credit reimbursement to compensate for the education property taxes that become uncollectable due to linear and commercial property bankruptcy.

DEVELOPMENTS: Alberta Municipal Affairs has convened an inter-ministry working group consisting of representatives from Municipal Affairs, Energy, Treasury Board and Finance, Education, and the AER. The purpose of this working group is to address the concerns identified in resolution 3-16S and resolution 5-15F. More specifically, the working group is exploring how the suite of tools available to municipalities to recover unpaid linear property taxes could be expanded, as well as possible legislative or regulatory solutions to relieve or exempt municipalities from paying provincial education property tax requisitions on linear properties in which the municipality has not been able to gather tax revenues from the property owner. This resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Principle and will be revisited as the working group progresses.

5-15F: Recovery of Linear Property Tax Arrears

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) requests the Government of Alberta to amend the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), and other provincial legislation to broaden the tax recovery power of municipalities to collect linear property taxes by granting a lien in favour of the municipality as follows:

- a) A lien equivalent to that granted to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) by s. 103 of the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* (OGCA) that being: “on the debtor’s interest in any well, facilities, and pipelines, land or interests in land, including mines and minerals, equipment and petroleum substances” and the power to garnish funds owed to the debtor;
- b) A lien which ranks in priority (or equivalent) to the lien granted in favour of the AER by s. 103(2) of the OGCA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC requests the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to request the Government of Canada to amend the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* to recognize municipal linear property taxes and other municipal non-property taxes as a secured interest in priority to other unsecured interests;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Province of Alberta to provide a credit reimbursement to compensate for the Education Property Taxes that becomes uncollectable due to linear property bankruptcy.

DEVELOPMENTS: In the recent response to resolution 3-16S, Alberta Municipal Affairs has indicated steps moving forward to address a number of issues that result from the non-payment of taxes, specifically those related to linear and other industrial property. Alberta Municipal Affairs has convened an inter-ministry working group consisting of representatives from Municipal Affairs, Energy, Treasury Board and Finance, Education, and the AER. The purpose of this working group is to address the concerns identified in resolution 3-16S and resolution 5-15F. More specifically, the working group is exploring how the suite of tools available to municipalities to recover unpaid linear property taxes could be expanded, as well as possible legislative or regulatory solutions to relieve or exempt municipalities from paying provincial education property tax requisitions on linear properties in which the municipality has not been able to gather tax revenues from the property owner. This resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Principle and will be revisited as the working group progresses.

Resolution 5-17S

Secure Access to Natural Gas Pipelines

Lac La Biche County

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Endorsed by District 5 (Edmonton East)*

WHEREAS sourcing of natural gas is a high priority of municipalities and natural gas co-ops in rural Alberta in order to serve our residents; and

WHEREAS high volumes of natural gas are available through privately-owned pipelines; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities and gas co-ops use privately-owned, high-pressure pipelines to supply natural gas to their customers and constituents; and

WHEREAS some privately-owned pipelines are being abandoned because they are no longer viable for the owner; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities and gas co-ops face additional costs and uncertainties because of these abandonments; and

WHEREAS these uncertainties limit cost-effective planning and expansion of natural gas systems for rural municipalities and gas co-ops;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, in conjunction with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops and Gas Alberta, request the governments of Canada and Alberta to develop legislation and provide financial assistance to maintain certainty of access to natural gas pipelines for rural municipalities and gas co-ops in Alberta.

Member Background

Oil and gas companies are the current owners of the Alberta Gas Trunk Line (AGTL) and Nova pipeline facilities built across Alberta generations ago.

Across Alberta, many towns, villages, counties and rural natural gas co-ops have used these pipelines and facilities to supply natural gas to their communities. Many of these pipelines have become uneconomic to operate for their owners and are being scheduled for closure and abandonment. Some of these are located in Lac La Biche County.

If these abandonments are allowed to continue, rural Albertans will have to absorb additional costs for new infrastructure to replace the abandoned pipelines. In Lac La Biche County's case, a potential line abandonment would cost the local gas co-operative \$410,000 for a new regulating/metering/odourizing station plus pipeline costs to the new location and limit any needed expansion of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche's natural gas system for future needs.

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 6-17S

Addendum to the Species at Risk Act

MD of Willow Creek

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Endorsed by District 1 (Foothills Little Bow)*

WHEREAS Section 92. 13 of the *Constitution Act 1867* provides exclusive jurisdiction to the Province over property and civil rights; and

WHEREAS the Third Schedule of the *Constitution Act 1867* provides for the jurisdiction of the Central Government "to be the Property of Canada", namely

1. *Canals, with Lands and Water Power connected there-with.*
2. *Public Harbours.*
3. *Light Houses and Piers, and Sable Island.*
4. *Steamboats, Dredges, and Public Vessels.*
5. *Rivers and Lake Improvements.*
6. *Railway and Railway Stocks, Mortgages and other Debts by Railway Companies.*
7. *Military Roads.*
8. *Custom Houses Post Offices, and all other Public Buildings, except such as the Government of Canada appropriate for the Use of the Provincial Legislatures and Governments.*
9. *Property Transferred by the Imperial Government, and known as Ordnance Property.*
10. *Armouries, Drill Sheds, Military Clothing, and Munitions of War, and the Lands set apart for general Public Purposes." (which might include National Parks; added by writer); and*

WHEREAS Section 27(2) of the *Species At Risk Act (SARA)* states that Land Claim Agreements only apply to Aboriginals (Section 35, *Constitution Act 1982*); and

WHEREAS Section 58 (1) of SARA gives federal jurisdiction on federal lands; and

WHEREAS Section 61 (4) of SARA provides for federal jurisdiction over provincial laws it deems not to be sufficient; and

WHEREAS Section 62 of SARA states that the Government may acquire lands or interest in lands to accommodate Protection Orders, programs or designations; and

WHEREAS Section 64 of SARA states that the Minister may, in accordance with the regulations, provide for fair and reasonable compensation to any person for losses suffered as a result of any extraordinary impact of the application of....." (*The Minister then has total discretion of what defines 'extraordinary impact'*);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to request the Government of Canada to amend the *Species at Risk Act* to include an addition to Section 64 of the Act to be entered as 64 (1)(c), to read as follows:

"The Minister(s), before implementing any order, plan, program, or designation that affects any proprietary interest in lands, held by title or leased, by any individual, corporation or entity other than government, shall enter into an agreement to establish the compensation for the loss of interest in those lands including relative legal expenses, or the loss of productivity of those lands, and for greater certainty, no order, plan, program, or designation shall be in force until the agreement is ratified by all parties involved."; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Government of Alberta reaffirm to the Government of Canada that any action, program, plan, order, or designation contrived by the federal government that affects any lands or properties that are not within the proprietary responsibility of the Government of Canada as set out in Schedule Three of the *Constitution Act 1867*, will have no force or effect and

considered ultra-vires to the Supreme Law of Canada as referenced by Section 92.13 *Constitution Act 1867* and assuredly, Section 52 of the *Constitution Act 1983*.

Member Background

The MD of Willow Creek has a wealth of species considered at risk. Grizzly Bear, Wolves, Limber Pine, White Pine, Fescue grasses, various birds, aquatic insects, and various fishes, all existing today because there are many good stewards of the land. The Federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in the minds of our Municipality, will not be effectual in preserving species or habitat because it (SARA) is a liability to livelihood without adequate compensation. It is also questionable as to whether it (SARA) is legitimate constitutionally.

“The purposes of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) are to prevent wildlife species in Canada from disappearing, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated (no longer exist in the wild in Canada), endangered, or threatened as a result of human activity, and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened. A series of measures applicable across Canada provides the means to accomplish these goals. Some of these measures establish how governments, organizations, and individuals in Canada work together, while others implement a species assessment process to ensure the protection and recovery of species. Some measures provide for sanctions for offences under SARA.” (Quote: Environment and Climate Change Canada)

The ‘Species at Risk Act’ (SARA) 2002 has its’ roots in an agreement between 178 leaders attending the Earth Summit of 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro. Agenda 21 was the product of that summit and although it is not binding nor had formal signatories, it has become the ‘modus operandi’ of environmental and socio-economic NGOs and governments. Maurice Franklin Strong, a Canadian, was the “Conference Secretary General”. Mr. Strong was very well acquainted with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his Environment Minister David Anderson, the man responsible for SARA. Mr. Chretien announced publicly, “Canada has reached its obligations agreed to at the Earth Summit in Rio.” Mr. Strong continued, influencing Paul Martin during Martin’s tenure as a member of parliament and eventually Prime Minister in 2003.

Agenda 21 was agreed to without consulting or engaging the Canadian citizenry. SARA provides for criminalization of previously legitimate activity on lands if it is determined to be detrimental to the habitat of a species of concern. That has the potential to completely negate lands for production purposes. Compensation under Section 64 of SARA does not guarantee compensation for the loss of productivity or the diminishment of proprietary interest as it is at the discretion of the Minister.

(Re.: Quote from Alberta Land Institute)

“The federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) provides another example of the Canadian approach to compensation. Under SARA, where a species has been listed by the federal government as endangered or threatened, no person may destroy any part of its critical habitat. Although the Act authorizes lands use restrictions that can be quite harsh, SARA allows compensation only where the prohibition against the destruction of habitat has an “extraordinary impact”.

In 1864, a document called the “Quebec Resolutions” was delivered to the Imperial Government in England to provide for a Constitution for British North America. It is noted that the resolutions were modified to give more powers to the Provinces, especially regarding “Property and Civil Rights” before it was returned in 1867. The Crown and the Imperial Government did not trust a centralist approach to land management. Their history had taught them well. General John Lambert (under Cromwell 1653) is credited for the ‘Westminster Style of Government’ and he saw it as fundamental; ‘the Landlord and commoner must be represented and left whole regarding his property or the foundations of governance thus conceived, would not endure.’

It is apparent that the Central Government of Canada is using criminal law to circumvent provincial jurisdiction. It is the Provinces’ exclusive responsibility to make laws regarding the civil activity on lands.

AAMDC Background

15-16F: Species at Risk and the Need for an Overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties works with the Government of Alberta in a timely fashion, to complete an overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment based on all the species at risk recovery plans and retention plans currently affecting the operations of all industries in the Province of Alberta, including but not limited to oil and gas, forestry, agriculture, tourism and mineral exploration.

DEVELOPMENTS: Awaiting government response.

16-15F: Species at Risk Act (SARA)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties facilitate a round table discussion with representation from the federal Environment Minister and provincial Environment Minister to rebuild the current *Species at Risk Act* to improve it in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a willingness to work with the AAMDC and the federal government to take a collaborative approach to aligning species at risk protection with the need to address social and economic impacts. This is encouraging and will be followed up on by the AAMDC. As a response from the Government of Canada has not yet been received, this resolution is assigned a status of Incomplete Information. The AAMDC is continuing advocacy efforts at the provincial and federal levels to move this issue forward.

4-14S: Species at Risk Act

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Government of Alberta lobby the federal government to repeal the current Species at Risk Act and rebuild it in a way that better respects the socio-economic reality, seeking a balanced approach (economic, environmental, social).

DEVELOPMENTS: The response received from Environment Canada outlined the Ministry's recovery strategy and supporting action planning process for endangered and threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The action planning stage includes evaluating the social and economic costs and benefits of actions and the integration of provincial management plans. Though this process works towards the request of this resolution, a recovery strategy is not a regulatory document and as such, it lacks enforcement. Based on this information, the AAMDC assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will continue to advocate to the federal government and assess Environment Canada's process to seek a balanced approach to enforcement and implementation related to SARA.

Resolution 7-17S

Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park

Mackenzie County

*Simple Majority Required
Endorsed by District 4 (Northern)*

WHEREAS nationally, wood bison are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and designated as of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC); and

WHEREAS in Alberta, only free-roaming bison that occur within Alberta's Wood Bison Protection Area are considered endangered wildlife; and as such are recognized and protected under Alberta's *Wildlife Act*; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's inability to formally protect all other free-roaming bison-under the *Wildlife Act* leaves these animals vulnerable to year-round unregulated hunting, successful hunters at risk of harvesting wildlife with zoonotic diseases, and other wildlife and livestock at risk of contracting the diseases; and

WHEREAS the recently released draft Federal Recovery Strategy for the Wood Bison (2016) states the greatest threat to wood bison recovery is the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis; and

WHEREAS the historical and sustained availability of debilitated, diseased bison may have and could continue to artificially support a larger population of wolves; which in turn is likely to exacerbate the poor recruitment of all bison calves and other vulnerable species, within close proximity to Wood Buffalo National Park; and

WHEREAS Mackenzie County is located within direct proximity of Wood Buffalo National Park; thus the risk of diseased free-roaming bison transmitting bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis to domestic livestock is of immediate concern to all local beef producers; and

WHEREAS any bison sighted travelling west of Wood Buffalo National Park, towards the Wood Bison Protection Area, within 6 kilometers of Highway 35 is presumed diseased and therefore destroyed as a precautionary measure, in order to maintain the disease-free status of Alberta's only verified disease-free local population; and

WHEREAS the Alberta First Nations Food Security Strategy, released January 2015, found that efforts to increase northern Aboriginal food security; fundamentally includes the restoration and increase of sovereignty over local food systems, improved access to local food, including hunting of culturally traditional wildlife such as buffalo; and

WHEREAS in 1990, a Federal Environment Assessment Panel recommended completely eradicating all bison from Wood Buffalo National Park, followed by restocking with disease-free animals; and

WHEREAS in 2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada acknowledged that, at present, the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park is by depopulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties supports the depopulation of diseased bison as the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Parks Canada to develop an effective measurable plan to successfully eradicate all diseased bison from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park

in order to prevent further disease outbreaks province-wide; that would inevitably have adverse effects for the national, provincial and local domestic cattle and beef industries.

Member Background

In a pre-European west (pre-1700), plains bison dominated grassland habitat across the vast regions of North America. The bison were a fundamental species driving prairie and northern forest peripheral ecosystems. They were also a spiritual and cultural foundation for Indigenous peoples throughout central North America. However, in a frontier west (approximately 1750 – 1875), bison became regarded as a major obstacle to settlement; an untapped source of commercial opportunity, and a challenge to modern civilization.

By the turn of the new century in 1900, the great masses of plains bison had disappeared from the prairies of North America. In 1877, a law to protect the wood bison from hunting was implemented in: Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. However, in the early years of the 1900s a few small groups of bison existed on private land, including the last remaining wild herd of plains bison on protected lands in the Yellowstone area.

Established in 1906 as a wildlife reserve, Elk Island National Park in Alberta became the refuge for a herd of plains bison; sold to the Dominion of Canada from private hands in Montana. In 1909, once the newly established Buffalo National Park near Wainwright, Alberta had been fenced; additional plains bison were once again transported to Canada from the United States.

During the early 1900s, Agriculture Canada, the Federal agency responsible for expanding national opportunities and commercial gains, viewed bison as a commodity; one of which could be enhanced and utilized to produce a larger, faster-growing meat animal for use on marginal pasture lands with other domestic livestock.

Thus, cross-breeding experiments commenced, and while these experiments failed largely due to in-fertile male offspring; they reflected a shady concept that wild bison were viewed as a template for commercial modification to be profited from. Disease soon became a major problem. Bovine tuberculosis was discovered in 1917 at Buffalo National Park; reached its most prevalent, peaking at approximately 75 per cent of animals by 1922-23.

Wood Buffalo National Park was established in 1922, to protect the last remaining pure wood bison, estimated to be around 500 individuals; by the late 1920s their numbers grew to around 1500. By 1925, the plains bison within Buffalo National Park had expanded beyond the park's carrying capacity and the decision was made to transfer 6,673 plains bison north into Wood Buffalo National Park.

Officials assumed that the vast distance between the pure wood bison of Wood Buffalo National Park and the newly introduced diseased plains bison from Buffalo National Park, would be sufficient enough to eliminate interbreeding. However, within a relatively few decades, there was clear evidence of both bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, and interbreeding between the two species in Wood Buffalo National Park; producing yet another strain of hybridization.

Meanwhile, 17,013 bison were destroyed in Buffalo National Park between 1926 and 1939 to reduce bison populations, limit the spread of disease and to allow overgrazed areas to regenerate. However, these management efforts were unsuccessful and disease, combined with poor forage availability, a series of harsh winters, and continued growth of the herd brought about the closure of the park in 1939.

At 44,807 km², Wood Buffalo National Park is Canada's, and one of the world's largest national parks; straddling Alberta's northern border with the Northwest Territories, encompassing the world's largest free-roaming and self-regulated bison herd and the world's only natural nesting site of the whooping crane. Today, the park supports and protects many unique natural and cultural resources from diverse boreal ecosystems and rare species, such as the whooping crane, to the traditional activities of Aboriginal peoples.

In 1983, Wood Buffalo National Park became the eighth site in Canada to be granted World Heritage status by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The park also has the longest standing tradition of Aboriginal subsistence use by the people who continue to live, hunt, trap and fish within the park's boundaries.

In 1985, Canada's national cattle population was declared free of bovine brucellosis, and bovine tuberculosis was expected to be eradicated nationally by 1989. However, this expectation did not materialize and today; bovine tuberculosis is a reportable disease under the federal *Health of Animals Act*, which continues to threaten Canada's domestic livestock and beef industry.

A 1990 study examined complete or partial remains of 72 bison found dead in and around Wood Buffalo National Park. The results revealed the bison had a combined prevalence of 42 per cent of both bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis. These diseased bison had a broad geographical base; some were found outside the park on at least three natural corridors, connecting to surrounding livestock grazing lands.

These diseases have a deleterious effect on Wood Buffalo's local populations of bison, and pose a risk to other disease-free bison herds, livestock, and Aboriginal hunters in the surrounding region. The 1990 study also suggests that, the historical and sustained availability of debilitated, diseased, bison may have and could continue to artificially support a larger population of wolves; which in turn is likely to exacerbate the poor recruitment of all bison calves and other vulnerable species, within close proximity to Wood Buffalo National Park.

In 1990, a Federal Environment Assessment Panel recommended completely eradicating all bison from Wood Buffalo National Park, followed by restocking with disease-free animals.

In 2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada acknowledged that, at present, the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park is by depopulation.

Today, only one small herd of pure disease-free wood bison exists in Elk Island National Park, where they were relocated to in 1965 from Buffalo National Park.

At the end of October 2016, at least thirty ranches in southeastern Alberta were put under quarantine after the discovery of a single case of bovine tuberculosis, leaving producers unable to sell their animals and fearful that their income for the year may evaporate. On January 5, 2017, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released a statement confirming that 50 premises are currently under quarantine and movement controls, affecting approximately 26,000 cattle; 10,000 of which are set to be tested and destroyed at 18 of those properties.

The Government of Alberta (GOA) continues an annual regulated hunt of the disease-free Hay-Zama local population; designed to contain this disease-free herd to the Wood Bison Protection Area, with the goal of maintaining a population size of 400 – 600 animals. A population survey conducted in February 2016 found 625 bison belonging to the Hay-Zama herd is sufficient enough to continue the hunt and increase license numbers, resulting in the GOA issuing 250 Aboriginal licenses and 125 non-Aboriginal licenses provincially for the 2016/17 Hay-Zama bison hunting season.

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AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 8-17S

Oldman River Regional Services Commission Regional Planning Funding

MD of Willow Creek

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Endorsed by District 1 (Foothills Little Bow)*

WHEREAS the Oldman River Regional Services Commission has provided 65 years of planning services to 42 southern Alberta member municipalities and nine non-member municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Oldman River Regional Service Commission facilitates regional cooperation and coordination of long range planning and decision making, provides a venue for regional strategic planning, solves issues through inter-municipal collaboration and creates an economy of scale for planning service delivery; and

WHEREAS the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* indicates that an increased level of collaboration and cooperation is valued; and

WHEREAS the Capital Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership receive \$3,000,000 each in yearly funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta provide long term, provincial funding to all municipalities for regional planning activities in a similar fashion to the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Capital Region Board.

Member Background

See attached

Background Information:



3105 - 16th Avenue North **H2**
Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 5E8
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E-mail: admin@orrsc.com
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January 2017

Office of the Honourable Danielle Larivee
#104 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Honourable Danielle Larivee:

Re: Request for annual support

I am writing to you on behalf of the member municipalities of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. We are requesting yearly funding for the municipalities in our Commission to support our ongoing efforts, and we believe that our request meets the objective of the Alberta Community Partnership Program “to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building”.

It is important to note that our Commission is not requesting additional funding from the Province, only a reallocation of a portion of the funds set aside for the Alberta Community Partnership Program, which is detailed in the attached briefing notes.

For the past 65 years, our Commission has played a major role in ensuring member and non-member municipalities receive continuous, high quality planning and other regional services. Our Commission was re-formed as a direct result of the discontinuation of the Regional Planning Commissions in Alberta, and the continued support of municipalities in each region to provide regional planning and collaboration.

This funding is essential to our Commission in continuing to provide services to our members and non-members. Collectively we represent 42 member municipalities, and approximately 9 non-member municipalities. Our Commission has been struggling financially and exists wholly on the fees paid to us by our member municipalities. Without annual support from the Province our organizations may cease to exist. Without the assistance of our Commission, municipalities will lag behind and possibly forego planning for their future growth and economic development. By being a part of a joint initiative, our Commission can provide a cost-effective manner to share services and knowledge through a collaborative approach and ensure that municipalities are prepared and working together for the best interests of their municipalities’ and the region.

Like the Capital Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership our Commission consists of elected officials from our member municipalities, and were formed under the Municipal

Government Act. Also similar to the Capital Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership, who currently receive \$3,000,000.00 each in yearly funding, our Commission:

- facilitates regional cooperation and coordination of long range planning and decision making to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future
- provides a venue for our municipalities to think strategically and to unite on priorities to ensure the full potential and the highest quality of life possible for residents
- works together to solve issues through inter-municipal collaboration, stimulate new thinking, leverage economies of scale and proactively address our future together
- offers regional Geographic Information Systems, growth management and planning

Much the same as the Capital Region Board and Calgary Regional Partnership, we believe our Commission plays a vital role in the Province, and that our continuation serves collectively the interest of our municipalities, the region and the Province as a whole. In fact since this government has taken office the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs have continually spoke to the need for regional collaboration and that regional collaboration is a high priority. There is no better example of regional collaboration than the Commission and the municipalities working within the Commission.

As such we respectfully ask for careful consideration in this matter, as it ultimately affects the viability of our services. Therefore on behalf of the Commission I am calling on our Provincial government to:

- Reallocate yearly funding to the Oldman River Regional Services Commission for administration costs under the Alberta Community Partnership Program effective the 2017/2018 fiscal year and to continue each year thereafter.

On behalf of our member municipalities, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Gordon Wolstenholme
Councilor Town of Fort MacLeod, Board Chairman ORRSC

Enclosure: Briefing Notes

Cc: Premier Rachel Notley
NDP Caucus

ORRSC LOBBY STRATEGY FOR FUNDING UNDER ACP PROGRAM

EXECUTE:

To successfully lobby the Minister of Municipal Affairs for annual operating funds under the Alberta Community Partnership program, in a manner similar to the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership.

ISSUE:

Currently regional planning organizations within the province do not receive any annual financial assistance other than the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership. The most cost effective way to deliver planning services to municipalities outside the larger urban centres is through regional planning organizations.

BACKGROUND:

In 1995, The Government of Alberta introduced changes to the Planning Act that eliminated Regional Planning Commissions from the planning system in Alberta. They withdrew funding of Regional Planning Commissions and the Minister of Municipal Affairs confirmed the discontinuation of Alberta Planning Fund requisitions to all municipalities.

In response to these events, the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission commenced action to gain the establishment of a new services agency. This was done in consultation with municipal councils and administrators in the Commission area. With community support, the new Oldman River Regional Services Commission (ORRSC) was formed.

The purpose of the new Commission was to offer the planning advisory and related services historically provided by the Commission. Access to these services by each municipality was through service Contracts, and, to become a “member” of ORRSC each municipality signed a Member Contract and provided yearly fees.

FUNDING:

There has been no financial support from the province for any of the regional services agencies other than occasional grants (under the ACP Program) for specific projects, and the Land Use Planning Intern component, which municipally controlled planning agencies are recognized under. These are not guaranteed funding sources and are project specific.

All of the regional groups struggle financially. Budgets have been cut to the bare bones and providing the basic essentials required of a planning agency has proven very difficult and in some cases impossible. The member municipalities would benefit significantly if they had access to additional information, research, software, training and largely just the ability to meet a balanced budget.

Currently both the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership each receive \$3,000,000 on an annual basis as an operating grant. These two organizations provide similar services to an extent and not unlike ORRSC, would struggle financially without the yearly assistance of the Province under the ACP program.

Similar to the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership ORRSC should receive annual operating funds under the ACP program. This is critical to the future sustainability of ORRSC and this is the most cost effective manner to deliver regional planning services for communities outside of the larger urban centres.

We want to make it clear that ORRSC is asking for the reallocation of funds within the existing ACP program. The province does not need to add additional funds to their budget nor does it require legislative amendments. It is just a change in the ACP program criteria. This change would result in the treatment of all regional groups equally.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Organization	Staff	Elected Officials
Oldman River Regional Services Commission	Lenze Kuiper, Director	Gordon Wolstenholme, Board Chair

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

Oldman River Regional Services Commission (ORRSC)

Town of Bassano	Town of Milk River
Town of Cardston	Town of Nanton
Town of Clarsholm	Town of Picture Butte
Town of Coaldale	Town of Pincher Creek
Town of Coalhurst	Town of Raymond
Town of Fort Macleod	Town of Stavely
Town of Granum	Town of Vauxhall
Town of Magrath	Town of Vulcan
Village of Arrowwood	Village of Glenwood
Village of Barnwell	Village of Hillspring
Village of Barons	Village of Lomond
Village of Carmangay	Village of Milo
Village of Champion	Village of Nobleford
Village of Coutts	Village of Stirling
Village of Cowley	Village of Warner
Cardston County	Lethbridge County
Newell County	Vulcan County
Warner No. 5 County	City of Brooks
Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9	Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66
Municipal District of Taber	Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 9-17S

Legal Opinion for Species at Risk Proposed Policies

County of Warner

*Simple Majority Required
Endorsed by District 1 (Foothills Little Bow)*

WHEREAS the Government of Canada have proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies in which they are currently accepting input until March 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS this Act and policies can have social and economic impact on any land use planning decision; and;

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for land use planning as outlined in the *Municipal Government Act*; and

WHEREAS the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* has been tabled with expanded provisions related to the environment, which impacts species at risk; and

WHEREAS the proposed Policy Regarding the Identification of Anthropogenic Structures as Critical Habitat under the *Species at Risk Act*, the Policy on Critical Habitat Protection on Non-Federal Lands, and the Species at Risk Permitting Policy may have implications under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for rural landowners and municipal land-use planning decisions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) seek a legal opinion on the proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies to determine what effect that the proposed policies will have on municipal operations and the rights and freedoms of rural landowners;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that if the legal opinion determines that the proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies will negatively impact rural landowners, that the AAMDC proceed with further action to work with the provincial and federal government on these proposed policies to demonstrate the social and economic impacts of policy implementation on the rural landscape.

Member Background

The Government of Canada proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies include:

- Policy Regarding the Identification of Anthropogenic Structures as Critical Habitat under the *Species at Risk Act*
 - “Based on the definition of critical habitat in the *Species at Risk Act*. Anthropogenic structures can be identified as critical habitat. If it is determined that anthropogenic structures are required for survival or recovery of the species, as defined by the population and distribution objectives, these structures will be identified as critical habitat.”
- Approach to the Identification of Critical Habitat under the *Species at Risk Act* when Habitat Loss and Degradation is Not Believed to be a Significant Threat to the Survival or Recovery of the Species
 - “The federal *Species at Risk Act* requires an identification of critical habitat to the extent possible, based on the best available information, for all listed extirpated, endangered and threatened species.”
- Policy on Critical Habitat Protection on Non-federal Lands
 - “The purpose of this consultation and cooperation will be to accurately understand the laws, provisions, and measures that are in place, or are planned to be put in place to protect portions of the critical habitat.”
- Listing Policy for Terrestrial Species at Risk

- “When COSEWIC assess a wildlife species, it does so solely on the basis of the best information relevant to the biological status of the species. COSEWIC then submits the assessment to the Minister of Environment.”
- *Species at Risk Act* Permitting Policy
 - “Applicants need to demonstrate that all reasonable alternative to their proposed activity were considered and that the needs of the species were considered when doing so. The option of not proceeding with the activity must be considered among the alternatives, although it would not necessarily be identified as a reasonable alternative.”
- Policy on Protection Critical Habitat with Conservation Agreements under Section 11 of the *Species at Risk Act*
- Policy on Survival and Recovery

AAMDC Background

15-16F: Species at Risk and the Need for an Overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties works with the Government of Alberta in a timely fashion, to complete an overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment based on all the species at risk recovery plans and retention plans currently affecting the operations of all industries in the Province of Alberta, including but not limited to oil and gas, forestry, agriculture, tourism and mineral exploration.

DEVELOPMENTS: Awaiting government response.

16-15F: Species at Risk Act (SARA)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties facilitate a round table discussion with representation from the federal Environment Minister and provincial Environment Minister to rebuild the current *Species at Risk Act* to improve it in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a willingness to work with the AAMDC and the federal government to take a collaborative approach to aligning species at risk protection with the need to address social and economic impacts. This is encouraging and will be followed up on by the AAMDC. As a response from the Government of Canada has not yet been received, this resolution is assigned a status of Incomplete Information. The AAMDC is continuing advocacy efforts at the provincial and federal levels to move this issue forward.

4-14S: Species at Risk Act

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Government of Alberta lobby the federal government to repeal the current *Species at Risk Act* and rebuild it in a way that better respects the socio-economic reality, seeking a balanced approach (economic, environmental, social).

DEVELOPMENTS: The response received from Environment Canada outlined the Ministry's recovery strategy and supporting action planning process for endangered and threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The action planning stage includes evaluating the social and economic costs and benefits of actions and the integration of provincial management plans. Though this process works towards the request of this resolution, a recovery strategy is not a regulatory document and as such, it lacks enforcement. Based on this information, the AAMDC assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will continue to advocate to the federal

government and assess Environment Canada's process to seek a balanced approach to enforcement and implementation related to SARA.

Resolution 10-17S

Modernization of Alberta Registry Agents

Cardston County

*Simple Majority Required
Endorsed by District 1 (Foothills Little Bow)*

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta regulates the registry industry through the Registry Agents' Regulation by capping the fee amounts (as per Registry Agent Product Catalogue, Jan. 8, 2017, Alberta Government) for the largest volume of services provided by the Alberta registry agents, but these fees have not been adjusted in 11 years to reflect increases to the minimum wage or cost of living and inflationary increases in Alberta; and

WHEREAS Alberta registry agents offer essential professional, personalized, and secure over-the-counter and online services to clients near their homes, a fact of significant importance to aging rural Alberta clients with distance restricted driver's licences and/or without the ability to use the internet; and

WHEREAS registry agents are eager to develop a modernization plan to enhance services to Albertans in conjunction with Service Alberta and other stakeholders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta recognize the vital role of Alberta registry agents in the delivery of essential government services to all Albertans; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Alberta recognize the positive impact in rural Alberta communities, and work to strengthen their partnership with the Association of Alberta Registry Agents and local municipalities by:

- **Supporting the modernization of the registry agent industry;**
- **Expanding existing online services directly to Albertans through registry agents; and**
- **Ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural registry agents, including a fair and equitable fee model.**

Member Background

Alberta registry agents have been the authorized delivery channel for over 200 products and services on behalf of four government departments – Service Alberta, Justice, Health, and Transportation – for the past 22 years. There are 206 agents located in 150 Alberta communities (32 or 21% are in large urban centers and 118 or 79% are in rural and small urban jurisdictions).

Agents have been offering online registry services to Albertans for over 10 years through their association with the Alberta Association of Registry Agents (AARA).

Importance to Albertans

Virtually every city and town has an authorized registry agent, forming a network that collectively employs close to 1500 Albertans. Registry staff are qualified, trained, and certified to meet high customer expectations. Registry agents have continued to invest in the industry to meet new technology requirements, population growth, etc. The industry is prepared to and needs to continue to modernize and expand online services to keep pace with market, economic, and political conditions.

Albertans themselves value access to in-person registry services. 92% indicated it was important to have access to government services in their communities and over 90% of Albertans felt that it would have a negative impact on their communities if their local registry agent were to close.

Importance to Independent Registry Agents

A healthy registry agent network is best positioned to serve the diverse needs of all Albertans. A sense of financial stability with long-term assurance of sustainability underpins the agents' ability to make solid

business decisions. Registry agents have not received a much-needed capped fee increase in 11 years. This fact limits agents from keeping pace with cost of living increases and the ever-changing world we live in, and threatens the ability for rural registry agents to keep their doors open.

A collection of a sample of financial statements from rural agents the end of 2015 shows that the average rural agent is losing just over \$4,000 annually by providing registry services. Registry agent fees have not been adjusted since 2005.

Importance to the AARA

The AARA provides important member services that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the registry agent network and, by doing so, improves service to all Albertans. These services are dependent on a portion of the revenue derived from online registry services.

Importance to Service Alberta

Having a secure healthy private network to be the delivery of Government Services in each community is key to the ease of access for Albertans. The health of the registry agent network is threatened if they are kept out of online service delivery and agents cannot earn revenue from these high-volume services.

AARA Modernization Plan and requests

AARA seeks government's support in modernizing the registry agent industry, expanding online services to Albertans through the registry agent network, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural registry agents, including a fair and equitable fee model.

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 11-17S

Review of Standard Practices for Installation of High Tension Cable Barriers on Two-Lane Provincial Highways

County of Barrhead

*Simple Majority Required
Endorsed by District 3 (Pembina River)*

WHEREAS the purpose of Alberta's provincial highway system is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS the diversity of vehicles and equipment on Alberta's provincial highways ranges from vehicles operated by the general public to commercial, industrial and agricultural equipment; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has identified High Tension Cable Barriers (HTCB) as the preferred barrier system and is a standard to replace the traditional guardrail systems where feasible; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has conducted performance evaluations on the safety and operational performance of HTCB for use in medians between multi-lane roadways only; and

WHEREAS there is the potential for safety concerns created by having HTCBs installed on the shoulders (particularly both shoulders) of rural two-lane highways;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to review Alberta Transportation's Standard Practices for installation of High Tension Cable Barriers (HTCBs) on two-lane provincial highways to ensure Alberta has the safest possible highways.

Member Background

Since 2012, the province has identified HTCBs as the preferred barrier system and a standard to replace the traditional guardrail system. The province has advised that between 2014 and 2016 approximately 23 km of HTCB have been installed in the North Central Region. These devices consist of metal posts fixed into the sides of the roadways, often being located very close to the driving lanes, with metal cables extending the length of the barrier. HTCB height is generally 42 inches compared to the traditional guardrail at 28.75 inches or 32 inches high for new guardrails.

Evaluation of the safety and operational performance of HTCB installed in the median of multi-lane roadways has been conducted by several jurisdictions including Europe, New Zealand, United States and Canada. In Alberta, the Deerfoot Trail project in Calgary in 2011 and the Highway 2 project in 2013 have provided relatively conclusive evidence that HTCBs significantly reduce cross-median collisions, nearly eliminate cross-median fatalities, and reduce the number of severe injury cross-median collisions with a general increase in property damage only collisions. EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. performed both evaluations and suggested that as a result of HTCBs the vast majority of head-on, sideswipe-opposite direction and off-road left collisions will be converted to median type crashes and that the median type crash severity is reduced due to the energy absorption characteristics of the flexible barrier system.

When HTCBs are installed in the median between multi-lane roadways the value of these devices is clear, so what is the problem?

When HTCBs are used on rural two-lane highways, the hazards created by HTCB are potentially much greater than the dangers they are meant to alleviate.

- HTCBs are being installed on the right shoulder in both directions on two-lane highways which often have a narrower right-of-way and a narrower distance between the driving lane and the edge of the road surface.

- Height of HTCBBs makes it difficult for wide loads lower than approximately four feet to travel on the highway (see attached photo). Highways are very critical for the efficient movement of large equipment utilized in a variety of industries such as agriculture, oil and gas and manufacturing. To deal with these challenges equipment operators will be forced to either drive down the middle of the roadway presenting a driving hazard for oncoming traffic that will have nowhere to go, or choose alternate routes using local roadways that may create access issues and cause damage to road surfaces.
- Purpose of HTCBBs on two-lane highways is to prevent motorists from entering the ditch, however in four-lane highways the focus is to prevent cross-over collisions. On a two-lane highway with HTCBBs there is no escape from a cross-over (head-on) collision where oncoming traffic crosses the center line.
- Evaluation of maintenance of HTCBB installed in the median of a multi-lane roadway suggested mixed concerns regarding snow removal and mowing which may be enhanced when working on a narrower two-lane roadway. Concerns were related to safety of maintenance staff and/or ineffective snow removal. Ineffective snow removal would only serve to make a narrow road even narrower.
- HTCBBs installed on narrower roadways may also hinder pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Currently the County of Barrhead has two locations where HTCBBs were installed by Alberta Transportation in conjunction with a road project. Both locations require review based on the concerns above. In addition, standards for installation of HTCBB including placement and/or height, or potential alternatives must be reviewed on a site by site basis to ensure the safest possible highways in Alberta.

Attachment – Example of HTCBBs on a two-lane highway in the County of Barrhead.



AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Resolution 12-17S

Support for a Disaster Recovery Program in Support of the Agriculture Sector

Brazeau County

*Three-fifths Majority Required
Individual Resolution*

WHEREAS many communities in Alberta have been most harmed by the rain and snow last spring which continued throughout the summer and fall of 2016; and

WHEREAS producers had not been able to harvest crops, resulting in significant financial hardship;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to establish a disaster recovery program in support of the agriculture sector, which may include interest free loans, tax deferrals, acreage payment deferrals or freight subsidies, and assisting with grain contracts and crop insurance.

Member Background

Extremely wet conditions this year, specifically, excessive and persistent precipitation that began in the spring and lasted into the fall has resulted in very low crop harvests across Brazeau County and many other counties across the province. This has translated into devastating losses and financial hardship for agriculture producers in Alberta.

A disaster recovery program to address this state of economic ruin, when agricultural producers and entire communities suffer, is still a pressing issue for Brazeau County producers.

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.



AGENDA ITEM

PROJECT: FCM Conference 2017		
PRESENTATION DATE: February 28, 2017		
DEPARTMENT: Municipal	WRITTEN BY: Tracy Haight	REVIEWED BY: Ron Leaf
BUDGET IMPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation		
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <i>Councillor and Board Reimbursement Policy</i>		
STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: Well Governed and Leading Organization	PRIORITY AREA: Advocate in the best interests of our community and region	STRATEGIES:
RECOMMENDATION: That Council considers Councillors availability to attend the FCM Conference 2017.		

BACKGROUND:

This year, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference is scheduled for June 1 – 4 in Ottawa. Staff would like Council's direction on Council attendance for conference registration purposes.

The Council and Board Reimbursement Policy provides for the Reeve and two Councillors to attend the FCM each year. The intent of the policy is to provide opportunity for all councillors to attend the FCM at least once during an election term.

Councillors Duncan and Vandermeer attended the FCM conference in 2013; Councillors Greenwood and Laing attended in 2014; as per policy, all of Council attended in 2015 as the conference took place in Alberta; and, Reeve Alexander and Councillors Maki and Graham attended in 2016.

Clearwater County

Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of ...2017.....

Name of Councilor / Board Member **.Jim.Duncan.....**

Payment Periods

<u>January</u>	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 \$159.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Regular Council Meeting \$288.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
Jan 4	Rec Board	X					40
Jan 9	Canada 150	X					48
Jan 10	Regular Council				X		40
Jan 11	FCSS Board	X					40
Jan 12	Landcare-Headwaters Conf call	X					20
Jan 12	IDP Committee	X					20
Jan 16	A+P	X	X				40
Jan 17	Broadband meeting- Lacombe	X	X				50
Jan 18	MPC, Landcare-Sasquatch	X					40
Jan 19	Clearwater Trails Initiative	X					40
Jan 20	ASB Board	X					40
Jan 24	ASB Provincial Committee	X	X				245
Jan 25	ASB Provincial Conference	X	X			X	0
Jan 26	ASB Provincial Conference	X	X				0
Jan 27	ASB Provincial Conference	X	X			X	245

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Remuneration Calculation

<u>15</u>	Meetings @ \$159.00=	<u>2385.00</u>	<u>948</u>	Kms @ \$0.54=	<u>511.92</u>
<u>7</u>	Meetings @ \$126.00=	<u>882.00</u>	<u>2</u>	Lunch @ \$16.00=	<u>32.00</u>
<u>1</u>	Meetings @ \$288.00=	<u>288.00</u>	Less Christmas Ad (125.85)		
	Supervision=	<u>550.00</u>			
	TOTAL=	<u>4105.00</u>	TOTAL= <u>418.07</u>		

Signature {Councilor / Board Member}

Jim Duncan

Clearwater County

Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of ...2017....

Name of Councilor / Board Member Curt Maki

Payment Periods

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>January</u> | 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 \$159.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Regular Council Meeting \$288.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
Jan 5	Community Futures	✓					110
10	Council				✓		70
12	IDP	✓					70
16	A&P	✓	✓				70
18	MPC	✓					70
19	Community futures	✓					110
24	Council				✓		70
25	Electoral Boundary Review	✓					
30	Nordlegg Workshop	✓	✓				70

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Remuneration Calculation

<u>7</u>	Meetings @ \$159.00=	1113.00	640	Kms @ \$0.54=	345.60
<u>2</u>	Meetings @ \$126.00=	252.00		Lunch @ \$16.00=	
<u>2</u>	Meetings @ \$288.00=	576.00		Less Christmas Ad < 125.85 >	
	Supervision=	550.00			
	TOTAL=	<u>2491.00</u>		TOTAL=	<u>219.75</u>

Signature {Councilor / Board Member}

Curt Maki

Clearwater County

Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of2017.....

Name of Councilor / Board MemberPat Alexander.....

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 \$159.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Regular Council Meeting \$288.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
Jan 9	RPAP	X					74
Jan 10	Council+Chamber				X		74
Jan 11	NSWA Conf. Call	X					
Jan 12	Chamber Luncheon	X					
Jan 12	IDP		X				74
Jan 16	A + P	X	X				74
Jan 20	Canada 150 Presentation	X					74
Jan 24	Council + Joint Council				X		74
Jan 25	Elect. Boundry Review	X	X				142
Jan 25	Hospital Comm.			X			74
Jan 30	Nordegg Plan Review	X					74

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Remuneration Calculation

7	Meetings @ \$159.00=	1113.00	734	Kms @ \$0.54=	396.36
4	Meetings @ \$126.00=	504.00	—	Lunch @ \$16.00=	—
2	Meetings @ \$288.00=	576.00	Less Christmas Ad		
	Supervision=	850.00			(125.85)
	TOTAL=	3043.00		TOTAL=	270.51

Signature {Councilor / Board Member}

Clearwater County Councilor and Board Member Remuneration Statement

For the Year of ...2017.....

Name of Councilor / Board Member

Sheresa Loring

Payment Periods

January
March
September

February
April
October

May
July
November

June
August
December

Supervision Rate - \$550.00 Monthly
Reeve Supervision Rate - \$850.00 Monthly

Date	Type of Meeting Attended	First 4 Hours \$159.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Next 4 Hours \$126.00	Regular Council Meeting \$288.00	Lunch \$16.00	Mileage @ \$0.54 / km
Jan 16/17	Cap C meeting						
Jan 18/17	Council				X		14
Jan 11	FCSS	X					14
Jan 16	A & P	X	X				14
Jan 17	CAEP Broadband	X	X				185
Jan 18	West County Day (chili)	X					14
Jan 19	Heritage Board	X					14
Jan 24	Council				X		14
Jan 24	Town meetings J & A						
Jan 25	RELC	X					14
Jan 25	NCA	X					193
Jan 30	Special Council Meeting News Review	X	X				14

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Remuneration Calculation

8	@ \$159	1272.00	490	@ .54	264.60
3	@ 126.00	378.00			
2	@ 288.00	576.00			
	Supervision	\$ 550.00			
TOTAL=		2776.00		Less Christmas Ad	<125.85>
					TOTAL= 138.75

Signature {Councilor / Board Member}

Sheresa Loring