

**CLEARWATER COUNTY  
COUNCIL AGENDA  
February 26, 2013**

**DELEGATIONS:**

**10:30 Rimbey Fish & Game - Open Creek Dam**

**10:40 Rocky Curling Club Delegation**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. AGENDA ADOPTION**

**C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. February 12, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

**D. PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Approach Policy Review
2. Name Change on Permit for Bylaw 78/87 - Morrish
3. Name Change on Permit for Bylaw 638/00 - Johnson
4. Application for Permitting of Road Allowance Bylaw 971/13 – Elliot

**E. COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

1. CEMP and Policy Framework
2. 10:30 Rimbey Fish & Game - Open Creek Dam
3. 10:40 Rocky Curling Club Delegation
4. 2013 Wild Fire Season

**F. PLANNING AND WEST COUNTRY**

1. Provincial Water for Life Strategies

**G. MUNICIPAL**

1. Electoral Boundary Clearwater County Municipal Ward Bylaw 967/12
2. Clearwater – Wetaskiwin Revenue Sharing Committee
3. Ministerial Meeting
4. Jubilee Insurance Annual General Meeting
5. AAMDC Resolutions – Spring 2013

**H. IN CAMERA**

1. Road Development Standards – Draft Proposal

**I. INFORMATION**

1. CAO'S Report
2. Public Works Director's Report
3. January Operating Report
4. Accounts Payable Listing

**J. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

***TABLED ITEMS***

**Date**

**Item, Reason and Status**

04/10/12

**Arbutus Hall Funding Request**

- To allow applicant to provide a complete capital projects plan.

**STATUS: Pending Information, Community and Protective Services**



## Agenda Item

<b>Project:</b> Approach Construction Guidelines Policy Review	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Public Works	<b>Author:</b> Erik Hansen
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b> Infrastructure & Asset Management	<b>Goal:</b> - To effectively manage the financial and physical assets of the County in order to support the growth and development of the County while obtaining maximum value from County owned infrastructure and structures.
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>APPROACH CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES</u>	
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council reviews the information provided and help provide clarity to the described policy.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> Approach Construction Guidelines Policy	

**Background:** As requested by Councillor Graham, the administration is bringing forth the Approach Constructions Guidelines Policy for Council's review. There are two particular areas that require clarification from Council in regards to the interpretation of this policy.

The first item is the policy's relation to grandfathered approaches and how they apply to industries use of these approaches. In many circumstances industry will make application to the County for access to a development utilizing an existing approach. In accordance to the policy all new approaches are required to be constructed to Municipal Standard. The definition for a Grandfathered approach is- Any approach constructed prior to July 1, 2007, will be accepted by the County in its present condition and location; with the exception of new bare land subdivisions.

**Is it Council's intent to have industry utilize an existing approach for a new industrial development if it does not meet our current Municipal Standards?**



The second item for review is to further clarify the definition of a Grandfathered approach.

**Does Council consider upgrading a Grandfathered single approach to a double approach standard (9.8M Surface Width) to be new construction or does it remain a Grandfathered approach?**

See Attached Policy

# Clearwater County

## APPROACH CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 15, 2009

**SECTION:** Public Works

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The County is responsible to provide reasonable approach from any developed County roadway to each existing adjacent property. With the approval from the County, property owners are responsible for the development of additional approaches beyond those provided for by this policy. The purpose of this policy is therefore to provide direction regarding the responsibility for the construction of approaches from adjacent County roadways and specifications for same.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- Approach – Any entrance located within a municipal road allowance or right-of-way that provides ingress and/or egress to a field, resident(s), commercial use, or industrial use.
- Intersection – Any junction where two government road allowances or right-of-ways connect.
- Grandfathered – Any approach constructed prior to July 1, 2007, will be accepted by the County in its present condition and location; with the exception of new bare land subdivisions.

### **GENERAL**

#### **General Provisions:**

1. Unless directed otherwise by this policy, the Public Works Department has the responsibility to administer this policy.
2. All approaches constructed prior to July 1, 2007 shall be grandfathered; therefore the following policy pertains to only the approaches constructed from July 1, 2007 to the present; unless otherwise specifically stated (i.e. – bare land subdivision).

#### **Procedure Provisions:**

1. Where a parcel of land has no approach, the County will supply one approach only, to each existing parcel of land from an adjacent developed roadway. The location of the approach will be determined through consultation with the landowner and all reasonable attempts will be made to place it in a convenient and safe location for the benefit of the landowner and the travelling public. To provide additional clarification, an existing approach will include any approach currently providing access to an existing parcel of land that was constructed by the Road Authority, Industry or landowner.

2. In the event a parcel is severed by a developed County roadway, or a major drainage course, and providing the severed parcel has no approach and is adjacent to a developed County roadway; the County will furnish one additional approach for each severed parcel of land. The landowner shall provide reasonable need or justification for the approach, and it will only be installed if it can be done at a safe location and at reasonable cost.
3. During municipal road improvements conducted by the County, a landowner may request an approach to be widened to accommodate large pieces of equipment. The widening of said approach will not be free of charge (if widening extends beyond a total surface width of 7.3m or 24 feet) to the landowner but can be done in exchange for borrow material or a negotiated exchange approved by the Public Works Manager. If the landowner wishes he could also pay the County an approved amount to widen the approach.
4. During the annual construction program all approaches located adjacent to a rehabilitation project will be evaluated as to how the approach meets both municipal construction standards and municipal safety standards. Any field approaches that are deemed to be located in an unsafe location will be removed or re-located by the construction crew after consultation with the effected landowner. Approaches that are not grandfathered and are found to be constructed to a lower standard than the municipal standard or are deemed to be a safety hazard will be upgraded, relocated or removed at the cost of the municipality. All residential approaches are considered to be grandfathered.

## **STANDARDS**

### **Construction Guideline Provisions**

1. Standard approaches will be constructed with a minimum 7.3m (24 feet) finished driving surface. Further approach specifications are outlined on Schedule "A" attached to this policy. Approach specifications may be varied, at the discretion of the County, based on local circumstances and limitations.
2. The following unobstructed sight distance requirements must be obtained for any approach approved under this policy and to be constructed on municipal road allowance:
  - a) 150 m for a roadway with less than 1,000 vehicles per day.
  - b) 200 m for a roadway with a 1,000 vehicles per day or greater
3. The County will determine if a culvert is required and the appropriate size. The size of the culvert must accommodate normal drainage requirements.
4. Approaches will be constructed in a manner that will not restrict or alter drainage patterns, unless specifically approved by the County. Prior to restricting or altering drainage patterns, the County will consult with Alberta Environmental Protection.
5. The County will, at the request of the landowner, upgrade substandard approaches, when an existing parcel, or severed parcel, is not currently serviced by one standard approach. This will only be done where costs are reasonable, and as budget limitations permit.
6. Should the landowner require an approach with the finished driving surface exceeding 7.3m (24 feet), the additional cost shall be borne by the landowner.

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7. Upon receipt of a request to construct an approach, the County reserves the discretion to either approve or not approve the approach and to determine the varying approach specifications based on physical characteristics.
8. Access roads or approaches entering a county road shall be setback from an intersection a minimum of 150m, unless they fall under the grandfather clause.
9. During the municipality's annual rehabilitation program all approaches adjacent to the roadway under construction will be evaluated, upgraded, re-located, or removed (unless it is grandfathered) in accordance with this policy. The evaluation shall include all non-grandfathered approaches located within 150m of municipal intersections. Residential approaches shall not be removed or re-located, unless consent is obtained from the landowner.
10. A minimum spacing of 50 meters is required between individual approaches.
11. A railway crossing does not constitute as an intersection, therefore the required setback for rail crossings will be a minimum of 35 meters or as determined by the rail authority.
12. No more than four (4) approaches per half (1/2) mile or eight (8) per quarter section are permitted, unless more existed prior to July 1, 2007.
13. In the event a landowner wishes to appeal a decision of the Public Works Department regarding the construction beyond that permitted in this policy, that landowner will have to submit in writing an outline for his/her rationale behind the appeal and will be invited to attend a meeting of Council to discuss his/her concerns or needs.

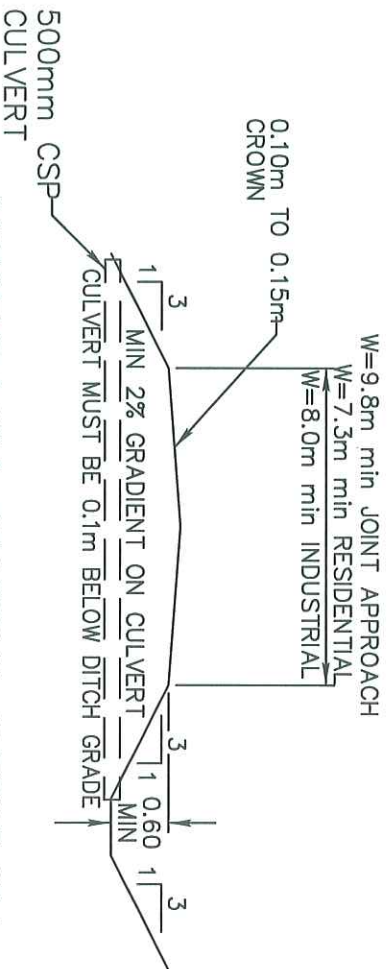
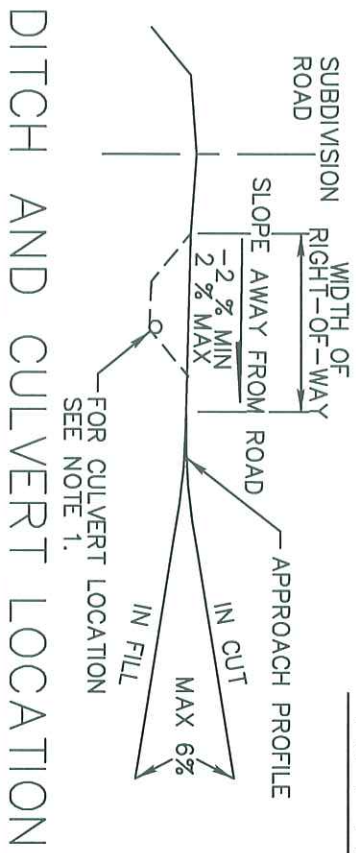
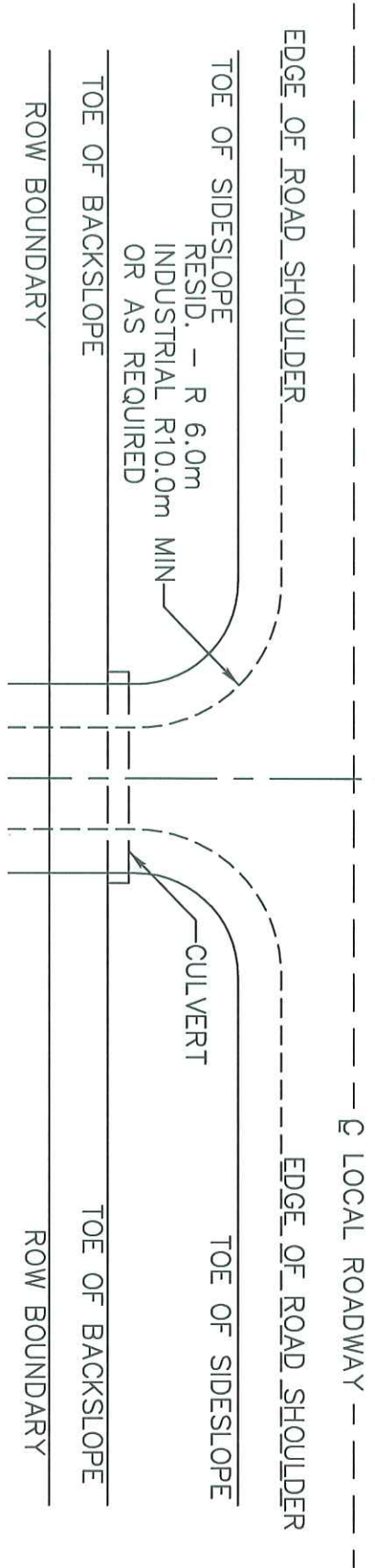
**SUBDIVISION****Subdivision Provisions:**

1. The County will not supply approaches to parcels of land to accommodate the subdivision of land.
2. During the subdivision approval process, the subdivision approving authority shall ensure that each new parcel created and each remaining parcel has a developed approach, constructed in accordance with this policy.
3. The Public Works Department will inspect existing approaches to any proposed bare land subdivision (i.e. new parcel) and the remaining parcel(s) to ensure one approach to municipal standard exists on each parcel(s).
4. The developer is required to supply; at their cost, one approach to the subdivision and one approach to the remaining parcel that meet municipal standards. If by the creation of the subdivision the number of approaches exceed the permitted amount, the developer will be required to remove the number of approaches on a one to one basis; for example: if the landowner has 6 approaches within the half mile and requires an additional approach to facilitate a new subdivision, one other approach of the landowner's choice must be removed.



5. The subdivision approving authority will identify all approaches that are deemed unsafe and to be removed as a condition of subdivision. Any existing approach accessing an established residence shall not be required to be removed or re-located, unless consent from the landowner is obtained. The cost of removal will generally be the developers.
6. Generally, more than one approach to a subdivided residential parcel will not be considered unless a significant need can be demonstrated by the developer. If two existing approaches are accessing a proposed residential parcel and do not present a safety concern, consideration will be given to allow both approaches to remain. If both approaches are to remain the developer will be required to upgrade both approaches to municipal standard.
7. During the development approval process, the Development Officer, shall ensure, as a condition of development, that the developer provides (at his cost), an approach to suit the approach needs of the development. The Development Officer shall consult with the Public Works Department regarding appropriate standards.

150m FOR A ROADWAY WITH LESS THAN 1,000 VEHICLES PER DAY  
 200m FOR A ROADWAY WITH 1,000 VEHICLES PER DAY OR GREATER



APPROACH CROSS SECTION

CLEARWATER COUNTY

TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL & INDUSTRIAL APPROACHES

- NOTES:
- WHEN CULVERTS ARE REQUIRED THEY MUST BE NEW C.S.P. CULVERTS AND THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM DIAMETERS.
    - RESIDENTIAL - 0.500m
    - INDUSTRIAL - 0.500m
  - CULVERT LENGTH WILL VARY WITH DEPTH OF FILL.
  - CULVERT TO BE PLACED AT TOE OF BACKSLOPE.
  - ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE IN METERS
  - MINIMUM APPROACH LENGTH IS FROM EDGE OF ROAD SHOULDER TO ROW BOUNDARY.
  - GRAVEL MUST BE APPLIED AT A RATE OF 300 TONNES PER KILOMETER (12 TONNES PER SINGLE APPROACH)

Date:	00-10-27	Scale:	N.T.S.	Drawn By:	CL	Page	1 OF 1
Checked By:		Approved:		Drawing No.			



## Agenda Item

<b>Project:</b> Name Change of Road Allowance (By-law 78/87) which lies north of the N1/2-19-40-8 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less)	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Public Works	<b>Author:</b> Michelle Marshall
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b> Quality of Life	<b>Goal:</b> Continue to evaluate, plan and support the recreation, culture and leisure needs within the Rocky/ Caroline/ Clearwater community.
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>By-law 78/87</u>	
<b>Recommendation:</b> Staff recommends Council allows for the road allowance permit be transferred to Mark & Mitchell Morrish's name.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> Letter from Mark & Mitchell Morrish Map of Road Allowance	

**Background:** The County has received notification that Mark and Mitchell Morrish have purchased NW-19-40-8 W5M effective January 4, 2013. They have requested to take over the road allowance from located north of the N1/2-19-40-8 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less) from the previous owner Larry Vanderaa.

January 2013

**ATTN: CLEARWATER COUNTY**

**RE: Road Allowance Lease – Permit # 606  
NW 19-40-8-W5**

Please transfer this lease from Larry Vanderaa's name to Mark and Mitchell Morrish. The property has been sold, effective January 4, 2013. Mark and Mitchell agree to pay the nominal yearly fee of \$ 10.00. If you have any questions, Mark can be reached at 403-844-6510 and Mitchell can be reached at 403-844-1422 and at their respective address below. Thank you.

Buyers:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Morrish  
6808 – 61 St  
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1K5

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell Morrish  
5804 – 44 Ave  
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 0A1

30

NE25 40-9-W5M    NW30 40-8-W5M    NE30 40-8-W5M    NW29 40-8-W5M

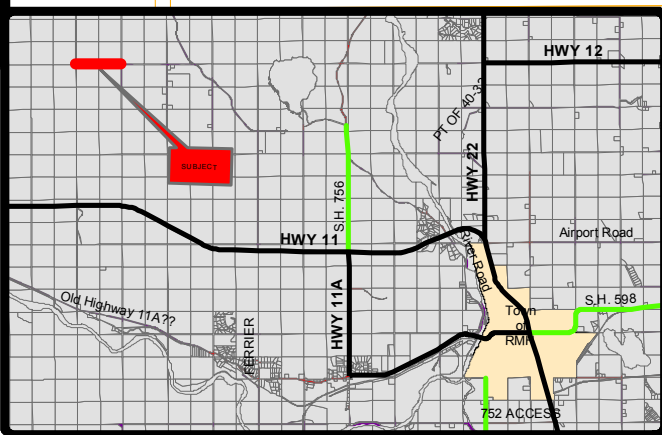
SE25 40-9-W5M    SW30 40-8-W5M    SE30 40-8-W5M    SW29 40-8-W5M

NE24 40-9-W5M    NW19 40-8-W5M    NE19 40-8-W5M    NW20 40-8-W5M

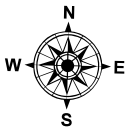
19

SE19 40-8-W5M    SW20 40-8-W5M

Subject Road Allowance.



**Request to Transfer Road Allowance Lease  
 From Larry Vanderra to Mark & Mitch Morrish  
 Lying Between South 1/2 30-40-8 W5  
 and North 1/2 19-40-8 W5  
 1 Mile - Approximately 4.00 Acres**





## Agenda Item

<b>Project:</b> Name Change of Road Allowance (By-law No. 638/00) which lies between NW-8-36-7 W5M & NE-7-36-7 W5M (approximately 260 meters more or less).	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Public Works	<b>Author:</b> Michelle Marshall
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b> Quality of Life	<b>Goal:</b> Continue to evaluate, plan and support the recreation, culture and leisure needs within the Rocky/ Caroline/ Clearwater community.
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>By-law 638/00</u>	
<b>Recommendation:</b> Staff recommends Council allows for the road allowance permit to be transferred to Shane Johnson's name.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> Email from Shane Johnson Map of Road Allowance	

**Background:** The County has received notification that David Alfred Johnson passed away November 2012. After discussions with Shane and Olive Johnson (son and spouse of David), Shane has requested via email to take over the road allowance located between NW-8-36-7 W5M & NE-7-36-7 W5M (approximately 260 meters more or less).

**From:** shane johnson [mailto:sleepyj5@live.com]  
**Sent:** January-22-13 12:27 PM  
**To:** Michelle Marshall  
**Subject:** Road allowance permit transfer

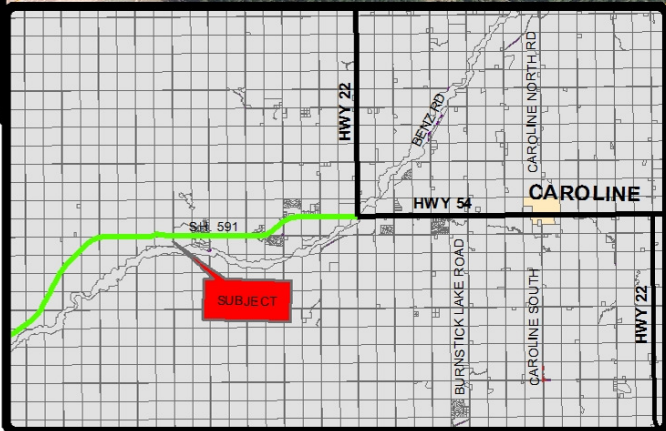
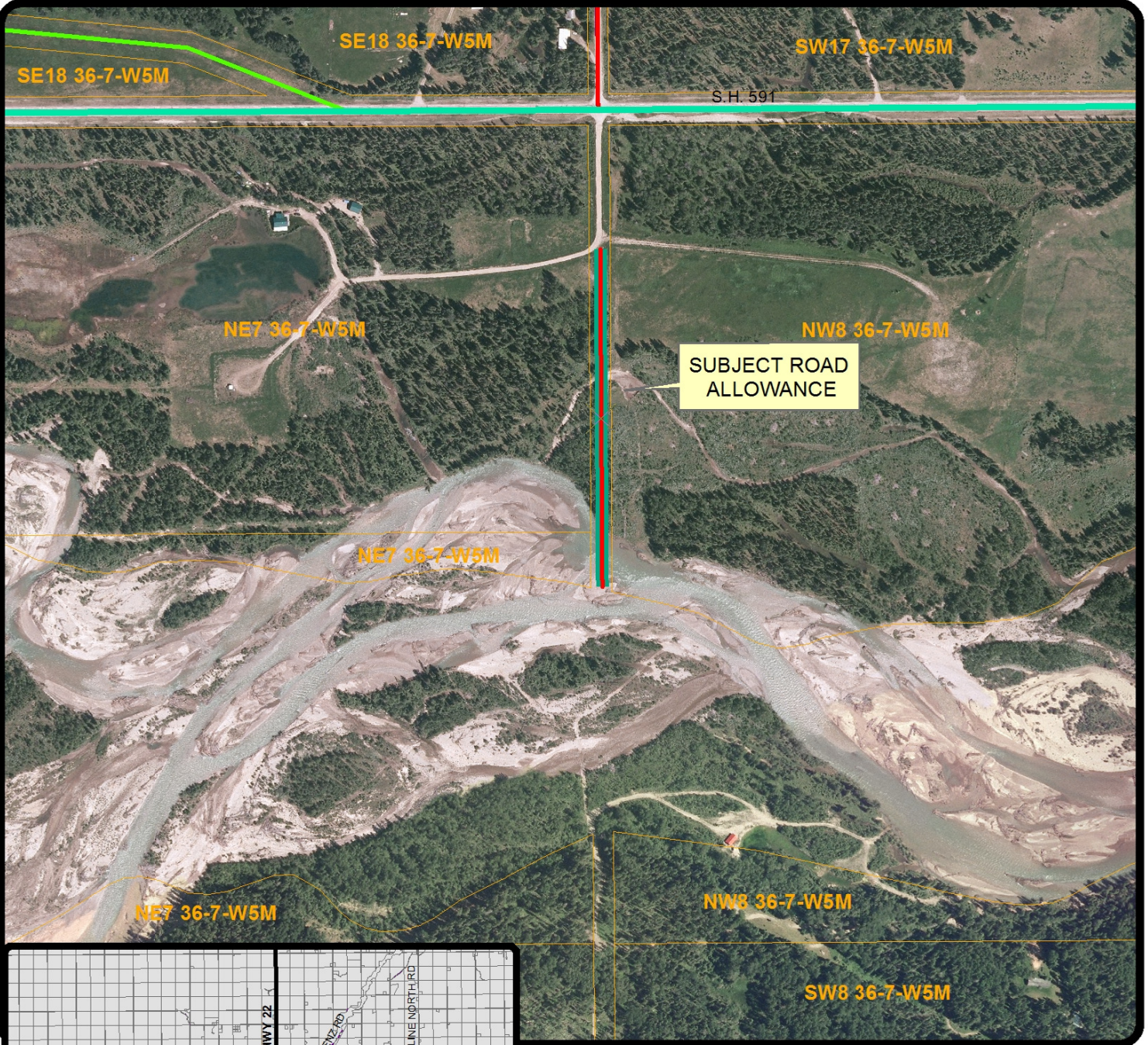
Hi

As per discussion I would like to have the lease for road allowance transfered into my name as requested by Olive Elaine Johnson. Any further questions please contact myself.

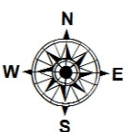
Regards

Shane Johnson  
403 722 3678 Home  
403 846 8852 Cell





**Request to Transfer Road Allowance Lease  
 From Dave Johnson to Shane Johnson  
 All that portion lying south of oilfield road  
 and north of Clearwater River  
 Between N.W. 8 and N.E. 7-36-7 W5**







## Agenda Item

<b>Project:</b> Permitting of Road Allowance which lies south of Range Road 8-3 between NE-16-40-8 W5M and NW-15-40-8 W5M (approximately 225 meter/1.13 acres more or less).	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Public Works	<b>Author:</b> Michelle Marshall
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b> Quality of Life	<b>Goal:</b> Continue to evaluate, plan and support the recreation, culture and leisure needs within the Rocky/ Caroline/ Clearwater community.
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) <u>By-law 971/13</u>	
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council gives first reading to By-law No. 971/13, with a Public Hearing to be held on March 26, 2013.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> Request Letter from Todd Elliot Map of Requested Road Allowance By-law No. 971/13	

**Background:** Todd Elliot has requested the use of the road allowance which lies between NE-16-40-8 W5M & NW-15-40-8 W5M (approximately 225 meter/ 1.13 acres more or less) for the purpose of grazing for donkeys.

Attached you will find a copy of the letter from Mr. Elliot, as well as a copy of the associated bylaw.

Notes

# REQUEST TO Lease Road Allowance <sup>D4</sup>

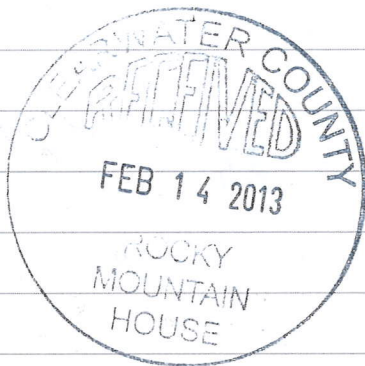
I Todd J Elliott do hereby Request to lease the Road allowance adjacent to my property NE 16 1/4 18 15 for the purpose of Grazing land. This Road allowance is at the end of a no exit Road and I dont see any problems that could arise, IF anything I feel it would be beneficial as it is a bit of a fire hazard at certain times of the year. I have read and fully understand the Rules and Regulations regarding this lease

Thank you for your time

Todd Elliott

Dated Feb 14 2013

(403) 845. 2573  
 (403) 846. 8999



SW21 40-8-W5M

SE21 40-8-W5M

SW22 40-8-W5M

NW16 40-8-W5M

NE16 40-8-W5M

NW15 40-8-W5M

NE16 40-8-W5M

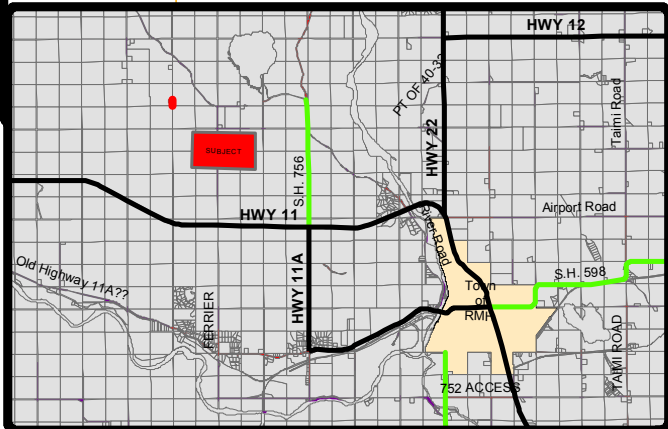
SUBJECT

# 16

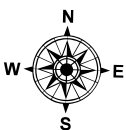
SW16 40-8-W5M

SE16 40-8-W5M

SW15 40-8-W5M



**Request to Lease Road Allowance**  
**James Elliot**  
**All that portion lying south RGE RD 8-3**  
**Between N.E. 16 and N.W. 15-40-8 W5**  
**1.13 Acres +/-**



**BY-LAW NO. 971/13**

A By-law of the Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, for the purpose of granting a permit for the temporary occupation or use of a road allowance in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act, Chapter H-7, Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1980, Section 16, 1, (Q).

WHEREAS, the lands hereafter described are no longer required for public travel and;

WHEREAS, application has been made to Council to have the highway temporarily occupied or used.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Clearwater County Council, in the Province of Alberta, does hereby authorize the following roadway for temporary occupation or use subject to rights of access granted by other legislation or regulations and relevant County Policy.

**That portion lying south of Range Road 8-3 between  
NE 16-40-8 W5M and NW-15-40-8 W5M  
(approximately 1.13 acres more or less).**

**Excepting thereout all mines and minerals.**

READ A FIRST TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**REEVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MANAGER**

READ A SECOND TIME this    day of                    A.D., 2013.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME this    day of                    A.D., 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**REEVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MANAGER**



## Agenda Item

<b>Project: CREMA Framework and Response Plan</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: CPS</b>	<b>Author: Mike Haugen</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b> Quality of Life	<b>Goal:</b> Goal 2
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite): Emergency Management Act <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> 1) That Council endorse the current CREMA framework and direction. 2) That Council approve the updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. 3) That Council accept the new CREMA logo as presented.	
<b>Attachments List:</b>	

### Background:

Clearwater County is currently a member of the Clearwater Regional Emergency Management Agency (CREMA) in partnership with the Village of Caroline. Discussions are moving forward exploring the inclusion of the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake as an agency partner as well.

As partners, each municipality adopts identical policies (such as resource prioritization policies) and identical Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). Each partner also contributes funding to the program. Staff are currently exploring new opportunities presented by changes in the Emergency Management Act which would allow for more formal regionalization of the program, specifically for the Committee to officially take on some duties of the member Councils and for the adoption of a single plan rather than multiple identical plans. Staff are exploring options and outcomes and will be bringing a recommendation back later this year. The current framework and direction has been endorsed by the CREMA Committee.



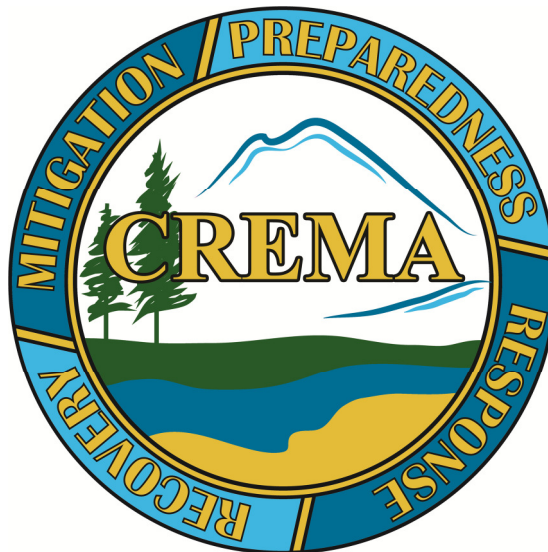
Staff is also asking Council to approve of the updated CEMP. The update has recently been completed and updates a similar document from 1999. Some details of the CEMP have changed and some names/definitions have been updated to reflect legislative changes, but the core structure of the Plan has remained the same. One major addition was the creation of an evacuation protocol for larger scale evacuations.

Due to its size the Plan has not been included here but still details the four major areas of Emergency Management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), outlines responsibilities of the County and many external agencies such as RCMP, ESRD, WRSD, etc., and follows the All Hazards approach. Contained within the plan are 25 functional annexes that detail different elements of response should they be required.

The CEMP is being recommended by the Clearwater Regional Emergency Management Agency and both internal and external departments/agencies were consulted regarding their outlined roles during the update process.

It should be noted that the Plan has also been crafted in such a way that other municipal partners could adopt the Plan with minimal changes required. It also contains terminology that current documents such as the establishing bylaws and agreements will reflect once they are updated.

Lastly, at the request of the CREMA Committee a new logo has been developed that is less similar to the County's logo and more representative of the regional nature of the program. Given several options, the CREMA Committee has chosen to recommend the following logo to the member Councils and is asking for endorsement of the proposed logo.





## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Rimbey Fish and Game Delegation (10:30 am)</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: Community and Protective Services</b>	<b>Author: Tyler McKinnon</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)	
<b>Recommendation: That Council accept the information as presented</b>	
<b>Attachments List:</b> none	

### Background:

Rimbey Fish and Game operates the Open Creek Dam campground. Representatives from the group have requested an opportunity to briefly meet with Council and present a token of appreciation for Council's support in the past.





## Agenda Item

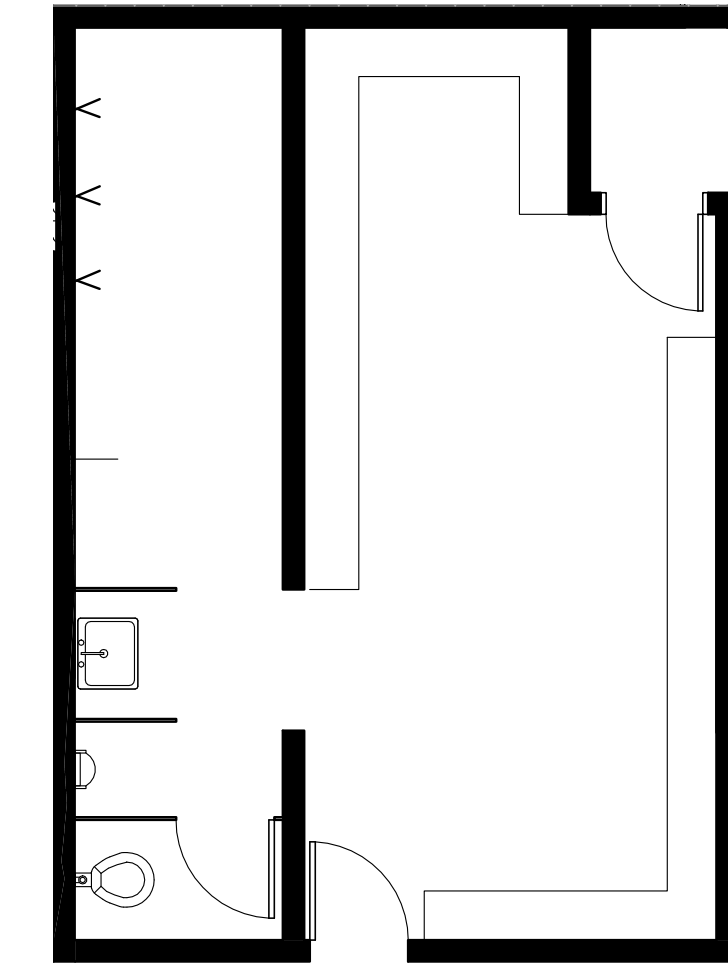
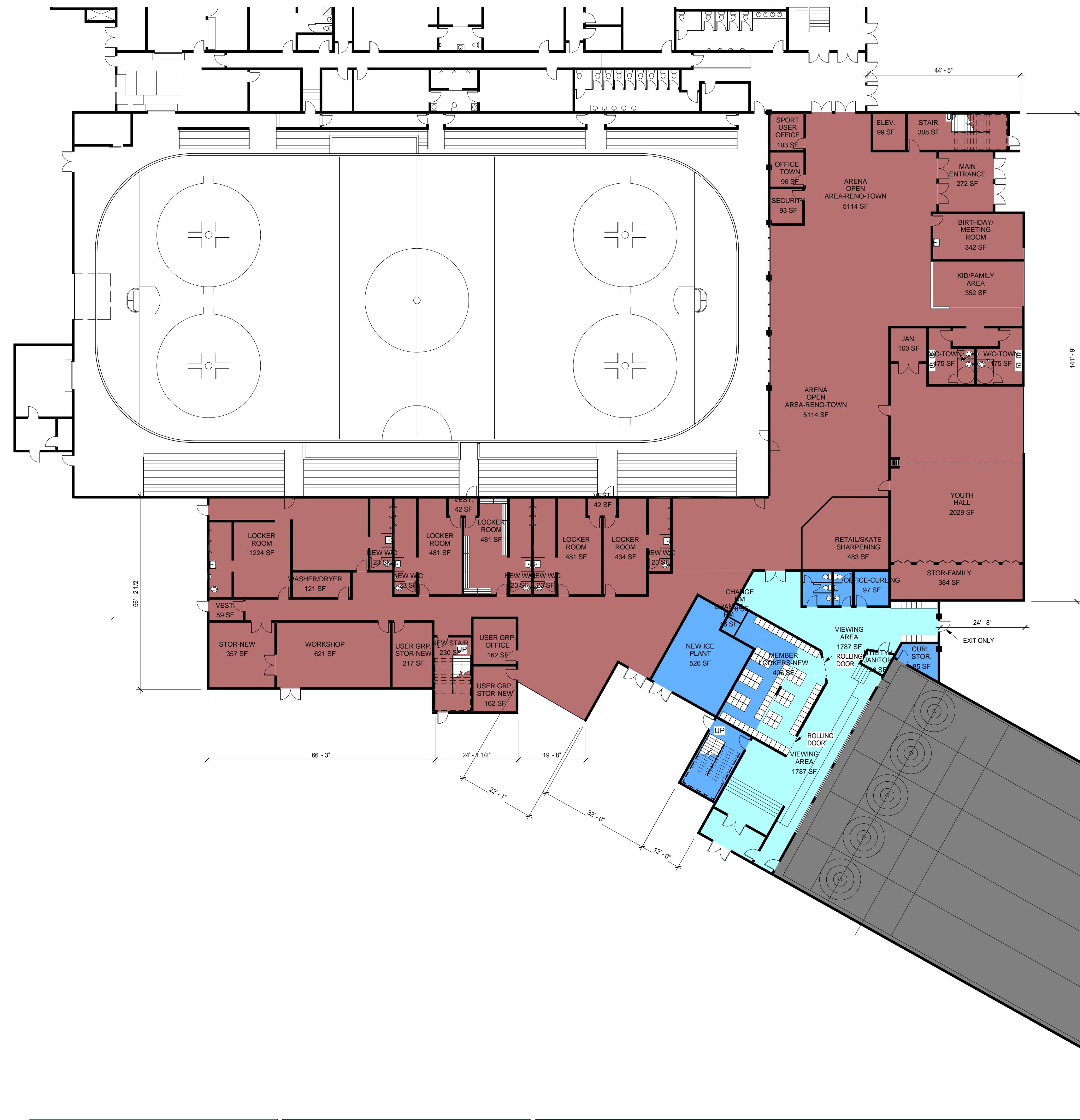
<b>Project: Rocky Curling Club Delegation (10:40 am)</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: Community and Protective Services</b>	<b>Author: Tyler McKinnon</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite)	
<b>Recommendations:</b>  <b>1) That Council accept the information as presented</b>  <b>2) That Council direct the arena committee to review the information and make recommendations to Town and County Councils around possible funding.</b>	
<b>Attachments List:</b> "Main Floor.pdf" "Second Floor.pdf"	

### Background:

The Rocky Curling Club has met with Council during the January 22 regular meeting to discuss the upcoming planned renovations to the Rocky Mountain House arena facility, which is adjacent to the Club's facility. Club representatives noted that the upgrades will require them to do work on their own facility and requested that Council consider providing funding towards upgrading the Curling facility. At that time, Council requested the Club provide more specific information around planned work and expenses. Council also suggested that the curling club have representation on the committee that is responsible for the arena upgrade.

Club representatives have asked for an opportunity to provide a Powerpoint presentation outlining more specifics around the curling club upgrades. The Club has already made a presentation to the Town of Rocky Mountain House Council and will be participating members in the arena committee. Staff recommend that Council accept the information provided by the Club and that funding recommendations be brought forward by the arena expansion committee after they have had opportunity to meet and review the proposed curling arena upgrades.





2 ENLARGED LOCKER ROOM  
A204 3/16" = 1'-0"

COLOR LEGEND

	TOWN CONSTRUCTION
	RENOVATION AREA- CURLING CLUB
	NEW CONSTRUCTION- CURLING CLUB

AREAS

TOWN CONSTRUCTION	15,487 NSF
RENOVATION AREA- CURLING CLUB	2609 NSF
NEW CONSTRUCTION- CURLING CLUB	1205 NSF

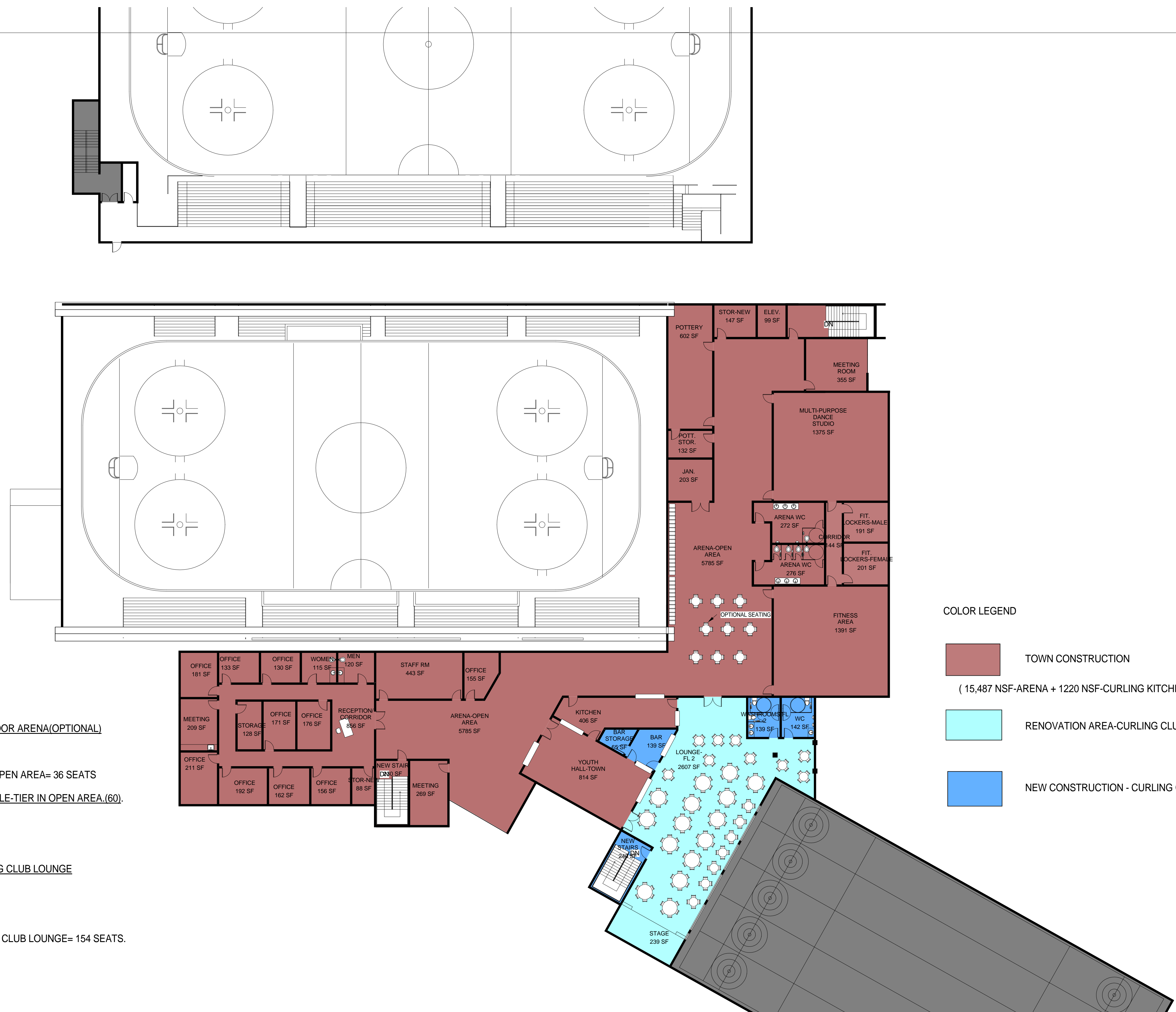
**MAIN FLOOR**

FEB. 19, 2013- TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.  
SCALE:As indicated

ORIGINAL SHEET - ARCH D

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
ARENA RENOVATION AND EXPANSION  
CONCEPT PLAN- FOR INFORMATION ONLY**





SEATING COUNT- 2ND FLOOR ARENA(OPTIONAL)  
 TABLES OF 4 : 9  
 TOTAL SEATS IN ARENA OPEN AREA= 36 SEATS  
LOCKER COUNT- 30 DOUBLE-TIER IN OPEN AREA.(60).

SEATING COUNT- CURLING CLUB LOUNGE  
 TABLES OF 6 : 15  
 TABLES OF 4 : 16  
 TOTAL SEATS IN CURLING CLUB LOUNGE= 154 SEATS.

COLOR LEGEND		AREAS
	TOWN CONSTRUCTION	16,707 NSF ( 15,487 NSF-ARENA + 1220 NSF-CURLING KITCHEN/YOUTH HALL)
	RENOVATION AREA-CURLING CLUB	2899 NSF
	NEW CONSTRUCTION - CURLING CLUB	444 NSF

## SECOND FLOOR

FEB. 19, 2013- TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.  
 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

ORIGINAL SHEET - ARCH D

## TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE ARENA RENOVATION AND EXPANSION CONCEPT PLAN- FOR INFORMATION ONLY





## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Information RE: 2013 Wild Fire Season Annual - Fire Season Prevention – Information Item</b>	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services	<b>Author:</b> Patrick Oslund – Deputy Chief – Training / Prevention <b>Reviewed By:</b> Cammie Laird –Fire Chief
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b>	<b>Goal: # 2:</b> <i>Evaluate and plan the current public safety and emergency services needs within the broader Rocky/Caroline/Clearwater community.</i>  <b>Strategy #2:</b> <i>Council will continue to support Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services in satisfying the County’s legislated responsibilities in regard to fire prevention, suppression and training and will rely principally on volunteer firefighters for the provision of fire department related emergency services.</i>  <b>MKF #1 - Goal #6:</b> <i>Council will promote a collaborative regional services philosophy and enhance provision of regional services to the greatest extent possible.</i>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> That Council approves the 2013 Fire Season Prevention Report as information as presented.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> DC_Outlook_FEB13	





## **Background:**

### **A. Fire Season Forecast:**

Provincial Fire Season normally runs from April 1 – October 31 annually and can run longer due to weather conditions such as a dry fall. Due to low precipitation and higher than normal drought codes for our community ESRD- Environment and Sustainable Resources and Development has already announced an early start to annual fire season starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The Final Drought Code for October 31, 2012 was showing much of the Clearwater Forest District as being in the Moderate to High levels with the Kootney Plains and much of the Eastern Slopes being in the Very High to Extreme levels. The November 2012 to January 2013 precipitation totals are only showing 67% of normal precipitation falling. Compare this to the same period November 2011 to January 2012 which was 76%.

Based on the lower precipitation levels than last year, coupled with how busy the last spring fire season we had in 2012, we are forecasting an even busier fire season for 2013 for our CRFRS stations.

### **B. Partnerships & Strategies for Preparedness:**

CRFRS – Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services and ESRD are working closely on joint initiatives regarding prevention messaging relative to camping, recreation, wildfire, wildland urban interface and FireSmart programs. We are working on a joint fire prevention week photo spread for media release this fall for Fire Prevention week to show common training and prevention efforts and suppression activities.

Once again we will be conducting a Wildland firefighting course for structural firefighters. We are planning on doing the practical component in conjunction with ESRD and some of their local wildland firefighters.

CRFRS will be updating information and links on the County website for grass / wildfire prevention and safe burning practices. We continue to maintain a controlled burn notification call line, which is linked to notifying the dispatch centers (Red Deer / Rocky / ESRD) of controlled burning activities in and around our community.

Additionally, we participate as part of the organizing committee for the local annual Safety Day. We also participant in the Safety Day presentations, which are scheduled to take place this year from 10 am to 5:30 pm on Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Rocky Mountain House Arena.



We also provide local presentations upon request such as Fire Smart presentation information sessions to residents. The Summer Village of Burnstick Lake has tentatively booked such a presentation for later this year.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that during fire season Provincial fire permits are required and can be obtained through the Rocky ESRD office for any fires other than campfires in the FPA – Forest Protection Area.

CRFRS Burn Notification - Phone: 403-845-7711.  
ESRD's Fire Permit – Phone – 403-845-8581

### To Report Fires:

**9-1-1 OR 310-FIRE (3473) {For Wildland fires}**

CRFRS staff members maintain an effective process for obtaining the current wildfire season forecasting predictions for this spring and summer. We have also been consulting with the fire weather staff at ESRD. Similar to past years CRFRS staff will continue to provide updates regarding the fire weather indices as we receive them. In conclusion CRFRS staff maintains a strong partnership with ESRD and the residents of our three respective municipalities who are the beneficiaries of this positive interaction.

## Drought Code Outlook for April 2013

### Precipitation Totals (November 2012 – January 2013)

Station	Actual (mm)	Average(mm)	% of Average
High Level	65.8	74.3	89
Peace River	98.0	65.5	150
Doig Tower	87.5	N/A	N/A
Grande Prairie	84.5	88.2	96
Pinto Tower	93.2	N/A	N/A
Slave Lake	N/A	69.1	N/A
Flattop Tower	117.3	N/A	N/A
Gordon Lake Tower	59.3	N/A	N/A
Christina Lake	94.8	N/A	N/A
Whitecourt	98.2	78.7	125
Edson	N/A	65.3	N/A
Rocky Mtn House	35.3	52.3	67
Fallentimber Creek	33.8	N/A	N/A
Calgary	32.7	37.0	88
Elbow Ranger Stn	47.4	76.2	N/A
Porcupine Tower	78.1	N/A	N/A

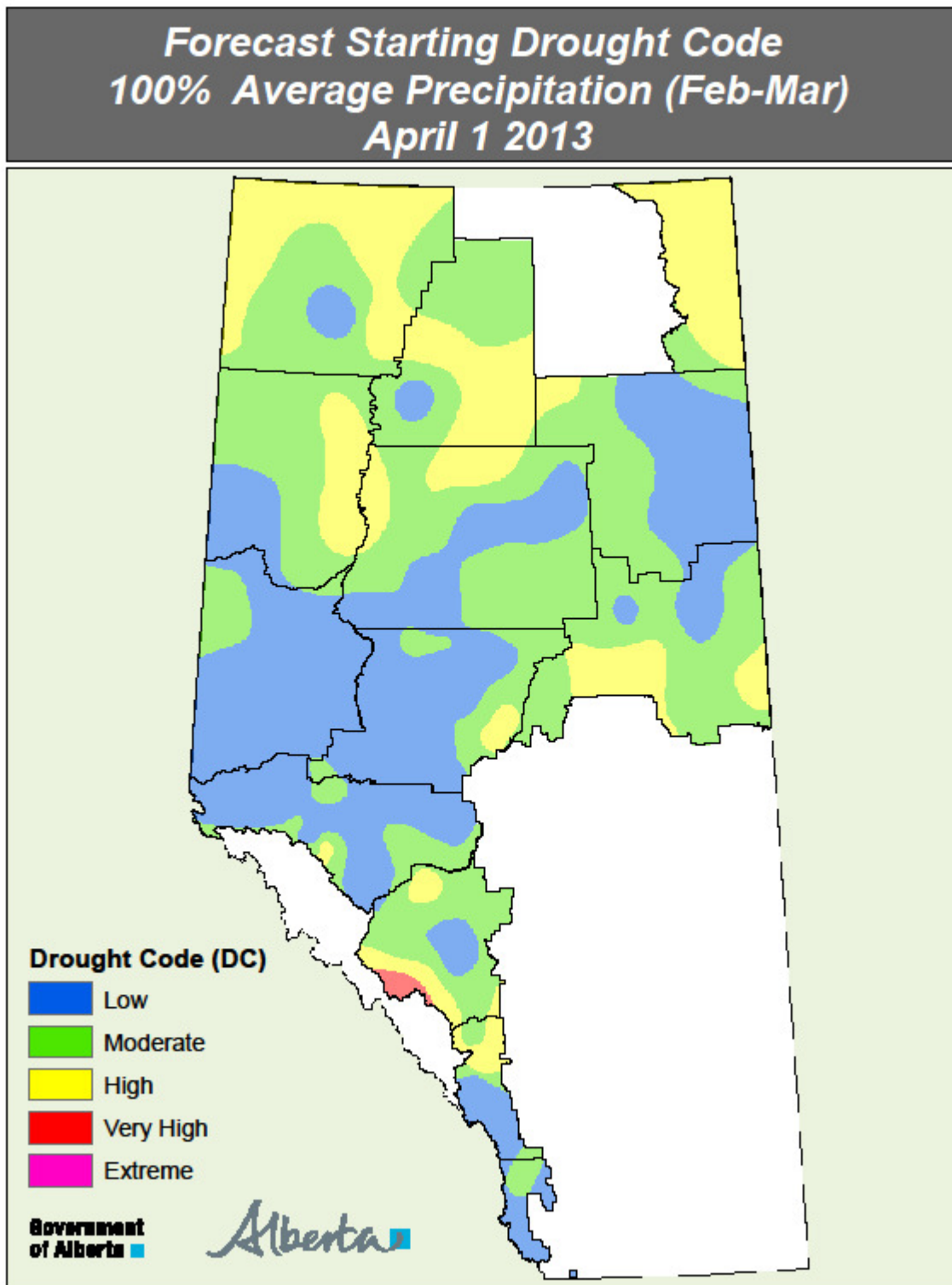
N/A- Not Available

Generally precipitation values across the province as a whole are close to normal. The highest precipitation values have occurred in the northwest boreal while lower amounts have been received in the northern half of the northeast boreal. Over the southern half of the northeast boreal and through the Swan Hills above normal precipitation has occurred. Along the foothills precipitation amounts are below normal though snow pillow reports in the southern Rockies indicate normal or above normal snowfall amounts.

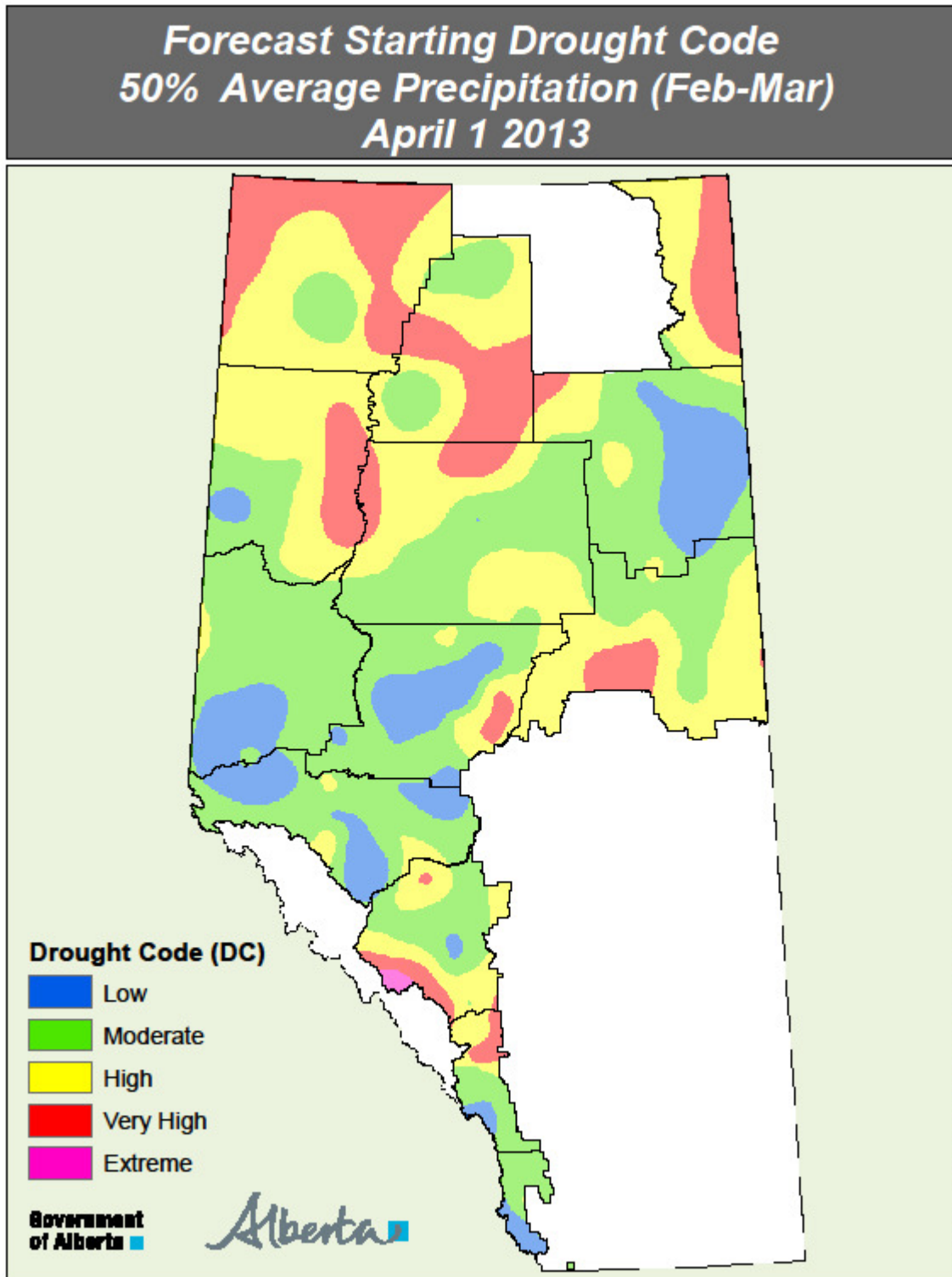
Alberta Agriculture has reported that snow packs north of the Trans-Canada Highway are at least near normal while values in the Swan Hills and into the Clear Hills estimated at 1 in 50 year highs.

Environment Canada's long range precipitation forecast for the months of February to April indicate near normal precipitation across the province with the exception of above normal precipitation in the extreme northern boreal zone.

Current indications are that the forecast starting drought codes will be similar to the 100% of average precipitation drought code map (Map1). With higher precipitation amounts forecast in the northeast corner of the province, moderate to high drought code values are forecast rather than the high values depicted on this map (Map1).

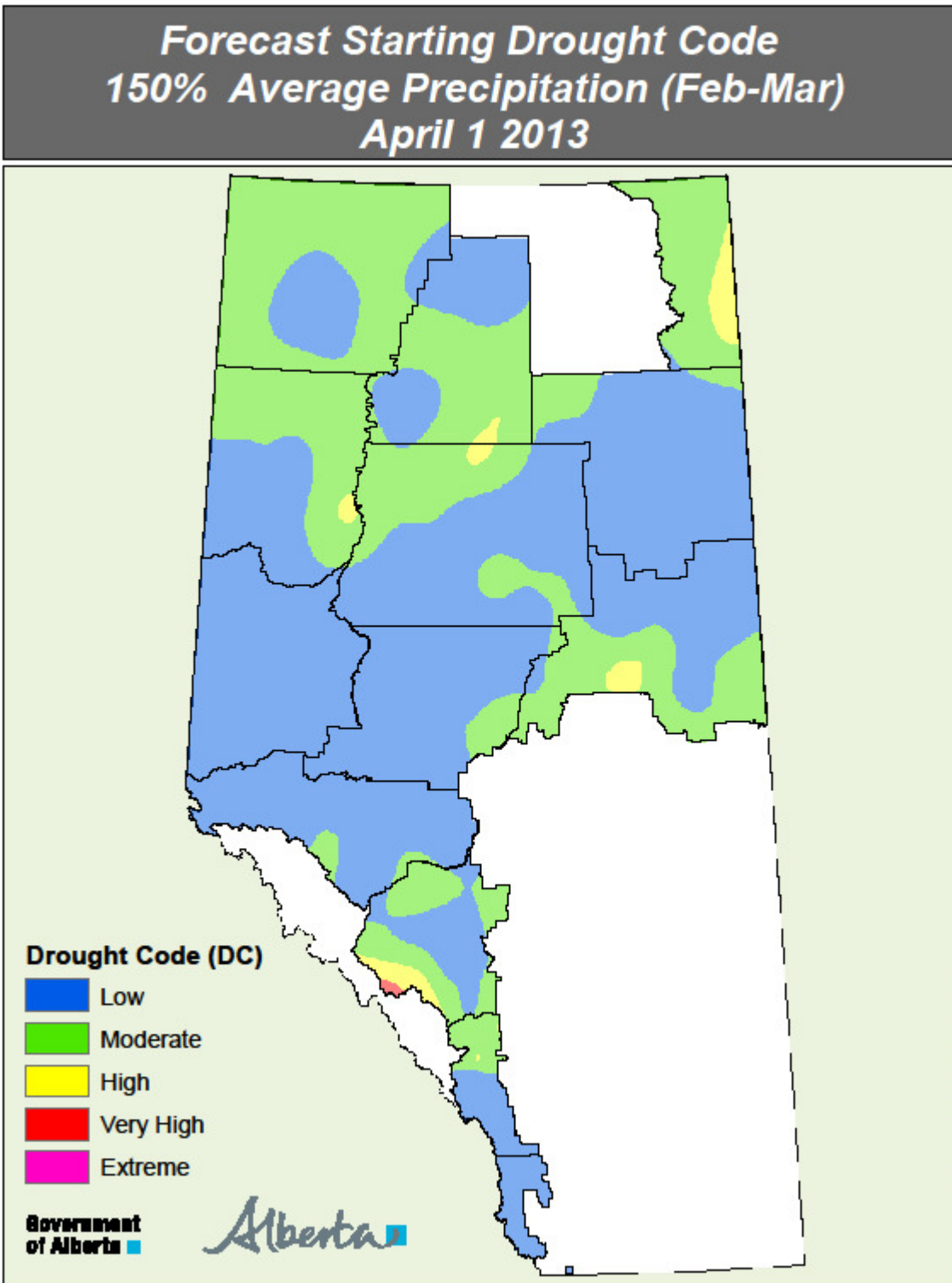


Map 1.

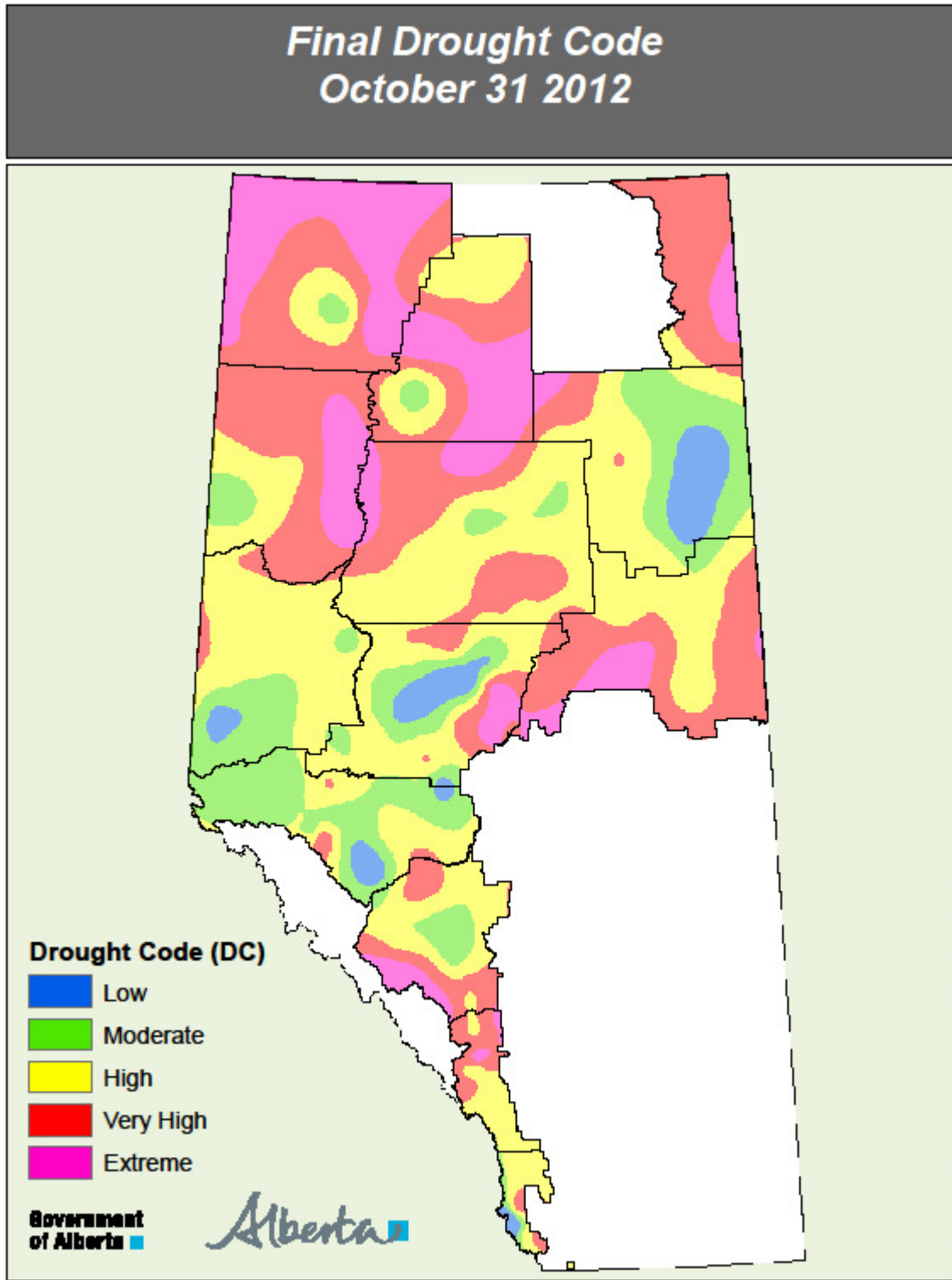


Map 2.





Map3.



Map 4.



## Agenda Item

<b>Project:</b> Provincial Water For Life Strategies	
<b>Presentation Date:</b> February 26, 2013	
<b>Department:</b> Planning & West Country	<b>Author:</b> Rick Emmons
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area #2:</b> Land and Economic Development	<b>Goal #4:</b> Ensure land use and land stewardship practices of agricultural and acreage owners continue enhance environmental sustainability within Clearwater County.
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) <u>Water Protection Act</u> <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> Council reviews the information and provides administration with its direction.	
<b>Attachments List:</b> <a href="http://environment.alberta.ca/04130.html">http://environment.alberta.ca/04130.html</a> , <a href="http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8771.pdf">http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8771.pdf</a> , <a href="http://www.waterforlife.alberta.ca/0889.html">http://www.waterforlife.alberta.ca/0889.html</a> , <a href="http://www.waterconversation.alberta.ca">www.waterconversation.alberta.ca</a>	

### Background:

The province has drafted a conversation guide that is intended to provide general background, while outlining the priority issues and putting forward proposed directions in the following four areas of:

1. healthy lakes;
2. water use in hydraulic fracturing;
3. drinking water and wastewater systems;
4. and water management.



As council is aware, in managing and safeguarding water resources, Alberta is guided by the commitments in Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability, which has three main goals:

1. safe, secure drinking water;
2. healthy aquatic ecosystems;
3. and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

The province feels the standards for Alberta's 600 drinking water and 590 wastewater management systems are among the most stringent in Canada; however these standards and systems do not remain static. They change as knowledge and experience grow, and must adapt in order to serve a growing population and economy.

In the future, the province feels they must address a number of issues, such as:

- Sustainability: find ways to minimize and share cost of system upgrades and maintenance to meet evolving standards and demands.
- Capacity: Address inequities caused by fragmented resource expertise so all Albertans benefit from a strongly managed water system – no matter where they live.
- Governance: reduce inefficiencies of a system managed by multiple government departments with a more robust governance and regulatory approach.

One of the province's proposals to deal with the changing demands and dynamics is to shift towards geographical management, which could include:

- Shared management: multiple water systems in a region managed more efficiently by a single, integrated authority.
- Enhanced public oversight: create a new regulatory entity to ensure geographic management authorities comply with standards, regulate rates and be accountable to taxpayers.



Possible implications of this approach could include:

- Investments needed to ensure water systems keep pace with changing standards and demands.
- Legislative changes for the creation of a regulatory body to oversee geographic water management authorities.
- Municipality roles may change from directly managing water systems to setting priorities and direction for geographic management authorities to implement.

Although the province has stipulated that the integrity, dependability and sustainability of public/private (licensed) water systems will depend on new and innovative approaches to meet evolving standards and demands, while minimizing costs to users; municipalities should be concerned with the long-term costs and effects. Historically more stringent regulations and increased infrastructure requirements has increased costs. Is the province going to increase funding to coincide with increased costs?

The province is focused on lakes as they have been identified as environmentally sensitive to change. Lakes are impacted by human activities, including:

- outputs and runoff from urban settings;
- sewage;
- shoreline development;
- changes in land cover;
- vegetation removal (e.g., removal of trees); and
- the level and intensity of agricultural activity.

The province feels they need to ensure that Alberta's management approach places appropriate attention on all lakes. One proposed direction is to develop a provincial framework to guide lake management decisions, for example:

- The framework could be designed to support consistent, fair and transparent management and funding decisions for lakes;
- The framework could articulate provincial outcomes for lakes, while allowing for local flexibility and decision-making. This would enable management actions to be tailored to suit local needs and priorities, while ensuring those actions are aligned with our province's social, economic and environmental objectives;



- The framework could be developed in consultation with key water management stakeholders, including the Alberta Water Council, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, aboriginal communities, and lake stewardship groups; and
- Lake management authorities and roles could also be clarified in the framework, thereby resolving confusion and preventing conflict on the ground.

These initiatives could involve possible legislative changes, such as; improved septic system regulations and land development regulations. Amendments to legislation might also be necessary to ensure that authority for lake management is clear and assigned appropriately.

The province of Alberta is inviting us to consider what principles we might want included in a provincial framework to guide lake management decisions. What lake-related issues are priorities for us?

The greater use of hydraulic fracturing also stands to increase the oil and gas industry's demand for water supplies in the province. It will be necessary to manage the level of water used to protect the interests of other water users while still enabling resource development. Recognizing energy development has played a significant role in Alberta's history, and it will continue to be an important part of Alberta's future. The province is inviting all to consider the plans outlined above.

The Government of Alberta, along with municipalities, has worked in several ways to help enhance the dependability and sustainability of drinking water and wastewater systems. One way has been the provincial drive to promote the use of "full-cost" accounting in the planning and development of water systems. This means considering the full costs of facilities over their entire lifespan, including anticipated operating, maintenance and renewal costs, and putting plans in place to address these costs in sustainable ways.



A grant program is also offered by the province (administered by Alberta Transportation) to help municipalities finance water systems upgrades so they can continue to meet provincial standards. However, without the ability to fund all programs, the use of grants results in funding inequities across the province, since some systems will receive grants while others will not. In addition, the government has also encouraged communities to work together to regionalize their water systems.

The province is proposing is to shift toward a geographic management of water systems. This would entail a shared management of water systems. This would not necessarily mean reducing the number of physical water systems. Rather, it could mean integrating the management of those systems in order to realize efficiencies. The water systems managed by an entity could be physically connected to each other, or be unconnected, or a combination of both. Changes in current legislation would likely be needed to facilitate the shift to geographic water management. The shift to geographic water management could mean a change in the role of municipalities when it comes to water systems. It may mean that municipalities no longer need to directly manage water systems. Instead, it could mean municipalities work through new governance structures to set priorities and directions for the geographic management entity, which could be responsible for day-to-day management of the area's water systems. The unknown at this stage, is what this new governance structure would look like and how it would impact municipalities.

Pursuing some of these strategies would have cost implications. It could require the construction of new facilities or upgrading of existing facilities. Individuals, businesses and industry would need to make investments in new technologies to improve their water efficiency. While the province feels these investments would yield economic and environmental benefits, they would entail some upfront and ongoing costs.

The provincial government is requesting all to go to [www.waterconversation.alberta.ca](http://www.waterconversation.alberta.ca) as the venue for input and feedback.



## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Divisional (Ward) Boundary Realignment – Bylaw 967/12</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: CAO</b>	<b>Author: Ron Leaf</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area: Governance</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>1) That Council provides second and third reading to Bylaw 967/12.</b>	
<b>Background:</b>  <p>At their November 27 meeting Council gave first reading to Bylaw 967/12, which sets out a new alignment of divisional (ward) boundaries for the 2013 municipal election.</p> <p>Following first reading, the bylaw was advertised for two weeks in local newspapers in accordance with the M.G.A and a 60 day response period was scheduled to allow County residents to provide input with respect to the proposed alignment.</p> <p>No responses have been received concerning the bylaw therefore; I recommend that Council proceed with second and third reading of Bylaw 967/12.</p>	



**BY-LAW NO. 967/12****Clearwater County - Municipal Ward By-law**

BEING A BYLAW OF CLEARWATER COUNTY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE COUNTY"), IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO ESTABLISH WARD BOUNDARIES FOR THE COUNTY AND TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Section 143(4) of the Municipal Government Act enables a Council to pass a bylaw specifying the number of Councillors to serve on the County Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 148(1) enables a Council to pass a bylaw requiring each Councillor to be nominated by ward and that each Councillor shall serve as the Councillor for the ward in which they were nominated; and

WHEREAS, Section 148(2) of the Municipal Government Act enables a Council to pass a bylaw to establish ward boundaries for its municipality, including the number of wards and the respective numbers for each ward in the County; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed desirable to establish new ward boundaries for the County.

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority, and subject to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Council for Clearwater County, in the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. The County shall be divided into seven (7) wards as described on the attached map Schedule "A" and described on Schedule "B", and shall exclude any and all incorporated municipalities or First Nation Reserves situated therein.
2. The number of each ward shall be as per attached Schedule 'A', and one (1) Councillor shall be elected from each ward to form a Council of seven (7) members.
3. All existing Councillors at the time of passing this by-law shall remain Councillors for County and continue to represent their respective and current wards until the next general election following the adoption of this by-law.
4. All Councillors must be elected and nominated in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.
5. This bylaw takes effect on the final passing thereof.
6. Any and all previous by-laws or Ministerial Orders referring to ward boundaries and council size in the County are hereby rescinded.

BY-LAW NO. 763/03 – Page Two

READ A FIRST TIME this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D., 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
REEVE

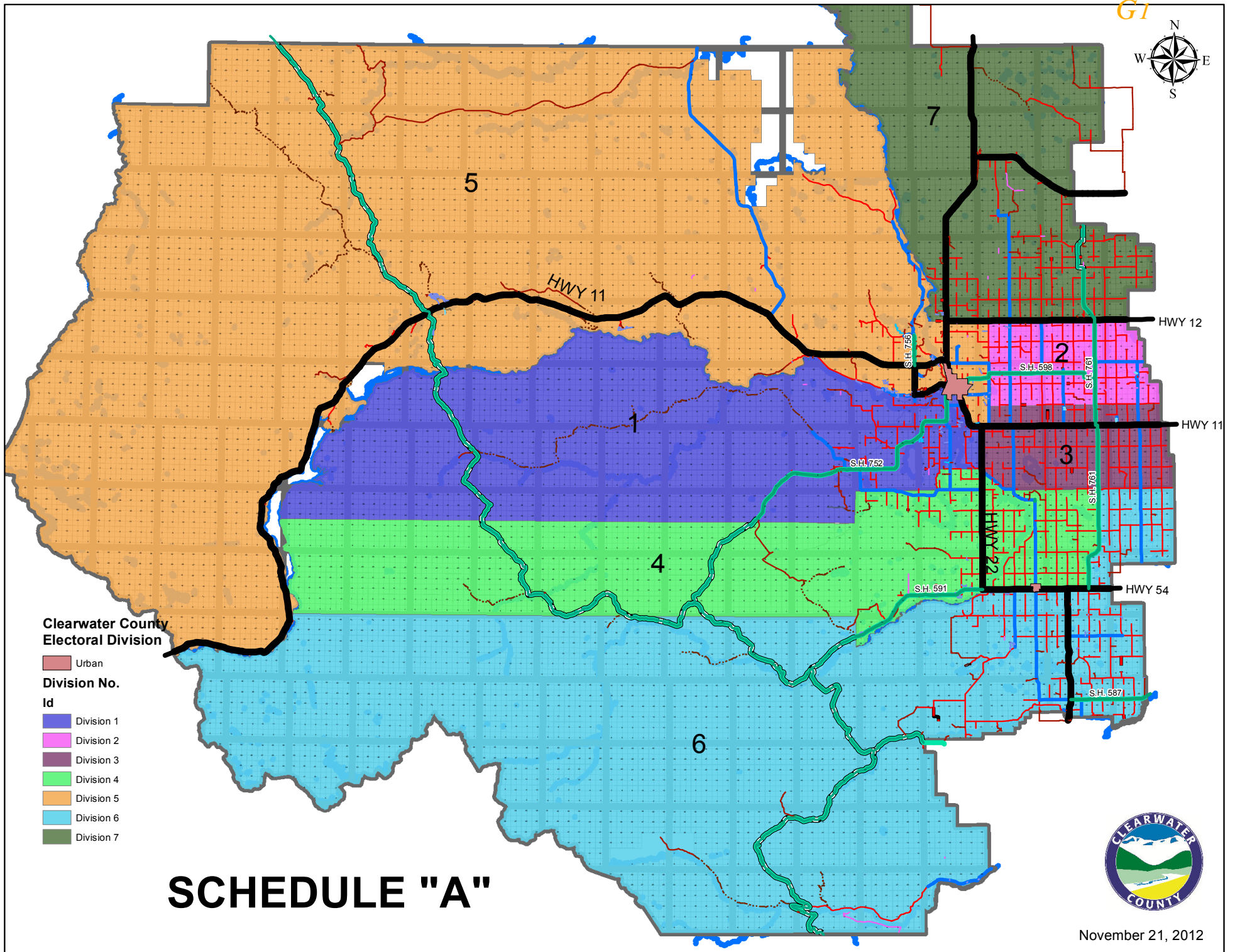
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

READ A SECOND TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2013.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
REEVE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Clearwater County Electoral Division

Urban

Division No.

- Id
Division 1
Division 2
Division 3
Division 4
Division 5
Division 6
Division 7

SCHEDULE "A"



November 21, 2012

## BY-LAW NO. 763/03 - Schedule "B"

## Description of Clearwater County Wards

Division 1 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of N.E. 36-38-07-w5th then west following Highway 11 to the southern boundary of Town of Rocky Mountain House, then west following the southerly and westerly boundaries of the Town of Rocky Mountain House to Highway 11A, then west along the southerly boundary of Highway 11A continuing west on County road to the junction of Highway 11A and County road "Old 11A", then west on Old 11A to the westerly boundary of N.W. 05-40-09-w5, then south to the North Saskatchewan River, then south-westerly along the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River/Lake Abraham to Twp. Road 37-3, then east to the northeast corner of N.E. 13-37-9-w5, then north to Twp. Road 38-0, then east to the Rge. Rd. 7-4A, then north to Twp. Road 38-2 to the westerly boundary of Highway 22, then north to the point of commencement;

Division 2 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of N.E. 20-40-04-w5th, then west along the southerly boundary of Highway 12 to the junction of Highway 12 and the Tiami Road, then south along the westerly boundary of the Tiami Road to Twp. Road 39-2 then east to the County boundary, then north following the County boundary to the point of commencement;

Division 3 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of the N.E. 11-39-04-w5th, then west along Twp. Road 39-2 to the westerly boundary of the Tiami Road, then south along the Tiami Road to Highway 11, then west along the southern boundary of Highway 11 to the junction of Highway 11 and Highway 22, then south along westerly boundary of Highway 22 to the Angle Road, then south-easterly along the south boundary of the Angle Road to the junction of the Angle Road and the Arbutus Road, then east along Twp. Road 38-0 to the County Boundary then north following the County boundary to the point of commencement;

Division 4 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of N.E. 12-38-07-w5th then west along Twp. Road 38-2 to Range Road 7-4A, then south to

Division 5 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the westerly bank of the North Saskatchewan River within N.E. 31-44-08-w5th, then west to the Jasper Park Boundary, then south along County Boundary to the southerly bank of the North Saskatchewan River, then east along the North Saskatchewan River to the westerly boundary of N.W. 05-40-09-w5, then north to County Road "Old 11A", then east along the southerly boundary of Old 11A to the junction of Old 11A and Highway 11A, then east along the southerly boundary of Highway 11A to the Town of Rocky Mountain House, then south following the westerly and southerly boundaries of the Town of Rocky Mountain House to Highway 11, then east along the southerly boundary of Highway 11 to the junction of Highway 11 and Tiami Road, then north along the westerly boundary of the Tiami Road to Highway 12, then west to westerly bank of the North Saskatchewan River, then north to the point of commencement;

Division 6 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of the N.E. 36-37-04-w5th then west on the Evergreen Road to Secondary Highway 761, then south along the westerly boundary of Secondary Highway 761 to Highway 54, then west along southerly boundary of Highway 54 to the Clearwater River, then south-westerly along the northern bank of the Clearwater River to the westerly boundary of S.W. 19-35-08-w5th, then north to the northeast corner of the N.E. 36-35-09-w5th, then west along Twp. Road 36-0 to the easterly bank of the North Saskatchewan River, then southwest following the North Saskatchewan River to the Banff Park Boundary, then south and east along the Clearwater County boundary to the point of commencement;

Division 7 shall be described as all the lands within a boundary described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of S.E. 29-41-04-w5th, then west along southerly boundary of Highway 12 to the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, then northerly along the North Saskatchewan River to the northern County boundary within the N.E. 13-47-08-w5th, then south along the County boundary to the northeast corner N.E. 36-44-08-w5th, then east to the northeast corner of N.E. 36-40-05-w5th, then south following the County Boundary to the point of commencement.



## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Clearwater/Wetaskiwin Revenue Sharing Agreement</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: CAO</b>	<b>Author: Ron Leaf</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area: Governance</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>1) That Council appoints Pat Alexander and Earl Graham as members of the Wetaskiwin/Clearwater Revenue Sharing Review Committee</b>	
<b>Background:</b>  As Council is aware, the Clearwater/Wetaskiwin revenue sharing agreement will expire as of December 31, 2013. Frank Coutney, (CAO – Wetaskiwin County) and I met in January to discuss how the current agreement might be reviewed. Based on our discussion we are recommending that a committee be developed that will be comprised of two members from each Council with the CAOs involved in an advisory capacity. The Committee will review and discuss the various perspectives regarding whether a new agreement is required and, if so, make recommendations to the two Councils regarding conditions, timelines and rationale.  In terms of membership for this Committee, Frank and I propose that the Committee Membership be comprised of the area Councillor adjacent to or representing the area and the Reeve or Deputy Reeve. Based on this proposal, Pat Alexander would be appointed as the Divisional Councillor with Earl appointed as Deputy Reeve.  Barry Dunn (Area Councilor) and Gary Doering (Reeve) will represent Wetaskiwin County.	



## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Meeting with Minister Diana McQueen</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: CAO</b>	<b>Author: Ron Leaf</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area: Governance</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> 1) <b>That Council reviews the proposed discussion items, amends if required, and approves the discussion items for their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with Minister McQueen.</b>	
<b>Background:</b>  I wish to advise Council that a meeting has been scheduled with Diana McQueen, Minister of ESRD on Monday, March 18. The meeting will be held at the Legislature from 4:00 – 4:30; the specific location for the meeting is yet to be determined.  I recommend that Council meet at the entrance to the Shaw at 3:30 on the Monday and I will arrange for taxis to transport Council. Once Council confirms this timing, I will contact the Village and Town and ask that they notify their representatives of the meeting, transportation details, etc.  Given the short time that Council has to meet with the Minister, I recommend that the following items be the focus of its discussion: 1) Need for new hospital 2) West Country management and enforcement, including an invitation to view the impacts of the May Long weekend.  I have been asked to provide a summary of Council's issues to the Minister's office prior to March 14, which I will provide following Council's approval of its discussion items.	





## Agenda Item

<b>Project: Jubilee Insurance Annual General Meeting</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: CAO</b>	<b>Author: Ron Leaf</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area: Governance</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>That Council discusses its attendance at the Jubilee Insurance Annual General meeting.</b>	
<b>Background:</b> <p>As noted at the February 8<sup>th</sup> CAAMDC meeting, a general meeting of the Jubilee Insurance Reciprocal has been called for March 18 from 4:30 to 5:30.</p> <p>This meeting is a requirement of the AB Insurance Act and requires that a majority of all reciprocal members attend. Therefore, the AAMDC Board is asking that each Council ensure that at least one member of Council attend to ensure quorum.</p> <p>Given Council's meeting with Minister McQueen is at the Legislature and ends at 4:30 p.m. there is a conflict between these two meetings.</p> <p>How does Council wish to address this conflict?</p>	



## Agenda Item

<b>Project: AAMDC Resolutions – Spring 2013</b>	
<b>Presentation Date: February 26, 2013</b>	
<b>Department: Municipal</b>	<b>Author: Murray Hagan</b>
<b>Budget Implication:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Funded by Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation	
<b>Strategic Area:</b>	<b>Goal:</b>
<b>Legislative Direction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Legislation (cite) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> County Bylaw or Policy (cite) _____	
<b>Recommendation:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>That Council review the attached resolutions and accept as information.</b></p>	
<b>Background:</b> <p>Eight resolutions will be presented at the Spring 2013 Convention. The AAMDC encourages all member municipalities to review them prior to the resolution session on March 19 to ensure the process moves along smoothly.</p>	



# MEMBER BULLETIN

February 20, 2013

## Resolutions for the AAMDC Spring 2013 Convention

The spring 2013 order paper, as determined by the Resolutions Committee and the resolutions submitted for consideration at the upcoming convention are attached for your review. Please notify Tasha Blumenthal at [tasha@aamdc.com](mailto:tasha@aamdc.com) of any errors or omissions as soon as possible.

There are eight resolutions that will be presented at the Spring 2013 Convention and the AAMDC encourages all member municipalities to review them prior to the resolution session on March 19 to ensure the process moves along smoothly.

The AAMDC's resolution process policy identifies resolution types and guidelines and the process involved in the resolution session itself. The submission and consideration of any emergent resolutions are also outlined in the policy. It is the role of the AAMDC Resolutions Committee to determine if emergent resolutions meet the definition outlined. If the resolution is deemed to be emergent in nature, it will come to the convention floor through the appropriate process. **The member bringing forward the emergent resolution must, at their own expense, provide copies for voting members in attendance, (minimum 600).**

The resolution process policy is also attached for reference.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Tasha Blumenthal  
Policy Analyst  
780.955.4094

Kim Heyman  
Director, Advocacy & Communications  
780.955.4079

**Attachment**

## **AAMDC Spring 2013 Order Paper**

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

- 1-13S      Short Term Solid Manure Storage**
- 2-13S      Natural Resource Exploration**
- 3-13S      Assessment of Part and Component Replacement for Linear Property**
- 4-13S      Local Road Bridge Program**
- 5-13S      Including Rail in Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan**
- 6-13S      Fusarium Graminearum**
- 7-13S      Property Tax Recovery Related to Land**
- 8-13S      Property Tax Recovery Related to Requisition**

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

Resolution 1-13S

## Short Term Solid Manure Storage

County of Lethbridge

*Simple Majority Required  
Endorsed by Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS weather conditions and other mitigating factors make off-site short term solid manure storage a necessary component of confined feeding operations; and

WHEREAS short term solid manure storage guidelines are addressed in the *Agriculture Operations Practices Act* (AOPA) Regulations; and

WHEREAS AOPA Standards Administration Regulation states short term solid manure storage sites may not be placed within 150 meters of residences but no mention is made of setbacks from roads or public places of gathering i.e. churches, active cemeteries, parks; and

WHEREAS a short term storage site typically has 400-1,000 tonnes of manure which is 30-80 tandem loads;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties bring forward to the *Agriculture Operations Practices Act* (AOPA) Policy Advisory Group the review of short term solid manure storage as it pertains to setback distances from residences and as it does not include places of public gatherings or roadways.**

### **Member Background**

The Agriculture Operation Practices Act regulates how long off-site solid manure storage can take place and setback distances to residences, water tables and common bodies of water. However, the regulations do not address setbacks from roads or places of public gathering such as active cemeteries, churches and campgrounds.

Many confined feeding operators are asking that the *Agriculture Operation Practices Act* include short term manure storage in upcoming AOPA policy reviews. Most large feedlots, many with anywhere from 5,000 – 25,000 head of beef, are stockpiling manure away from their feedlots during the summer months when their crops are in the fields and they cannot spread their manure. These piles are typically 450 - 1,000 tonnes, which is the amount they are normally spreading on a quarter section.

Stockpiling has been taking place next to places of public gatherings, such as community centres, golf courses, churches, campgrounds and next to roads. AOPA does not currently address the setback distances that these locations rightfully deserve. Many confined feeding operators are saying that this practice is giving the industry a black eye. They can't afford any more public scrutiny considering the most recent event with the Lakeside Packing plant and what the past Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) problem did to their industry.

### **AAMDC Background**

7-11S: Natural Resources Conservation Board Approval Process:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to review its approval process for confined feeding operation developments and ensure all limiting factors such as water are taken into consideration before the development is approved.**

Development:

The understanding of municipal concerns with the existing approval processes was reiterated by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. The association emphasized that a holistic approval process is needed.

Resolution 2-13S

## Natural Resources Exploration

Wheatland County

*Simple Majority Required  
Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta that regulates the safe, responsible, and efficient development of Alberta's energy resources: oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, and pipelines; and

WHEREAS in 2008, the ERCB launched the Provincial Groundwater Inventory Program to map and inventory groundwater resources in Alberta. To date, minimal mapping in the rural areas of Alberta has been completed; and

WHEREAS current Alberta regulations require that natural resource development provide an extensive barrier, both vertically and laterally, between any shallow stimulation interval and existing water wells, in addition to isolating the aquifer and the fractured zone, and industry must self-report to the ERCB Environment Group if non-saline groundwater is encountered below 600 metres; and

WHEREAS there is a growing scale of concern on natural resource exploration processes, specifically hydraulic fracturing, and their impacts on drinking water, changes in land formations and seismic activity pertaining to parts of the fracturing practices; and

WHEREAS fourteen (14) countries, three (3) Canadian provinces, eleven (11) states have taken action on "Fracking Practices" either by posing conditions, moratoriums or outright bans;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to:**

- 1. Take all necessary steps to ensure natural resource exploration does not pose a threat to our environment; and**
- 2. Require industry report, prior to the commencement of natural resource exploration an evaluation of the geologic conditions and pre and post monitoring for seismic activity; and**
- 3. Require the mapping of all aquifers prior to any natural resource exploration; and**
- 4. Protect surface and groundwater supply by imposing a minimum wellbore casing depth below aquifer zones.**

### **Member Background**

The Province of Alberta comprises of a vast variety of geological formations. Over the past number of years, the oil and gas industry has increased its natural resource exploration. Specifically there has been a significant increase in coal bed methane (CBM) operations and hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The fracturing of deep rock formations with water, sand and chemicals is a non-linear process that can open fractures to freshwater formations as well as other oil and gas wells. Also in the absence of public reporting on fracking chemicals, industry water withdrawals and full mapping of the province's aquifers, rapid shale gas development could potentially threaten important water resources. An example is the Horn River Basin in British Columbia that has a distinctive geology and hydraulic fracturing that has caused rare and minor seismic activity.

Subsequent to natural resource exploration and activities, concerns have been received from landowners reporting a decline in their water levels and contamination of their water wells including and not limited to sulphur gases. Other residents have reported changes in land formations, opening of natural springs and sink holes. While there is no proven link between these incidences and natural resource exploration,



some residents are of the opinion “fracking” activities have initiated these occurrences. We need to ensure the protection of our environment and our water – our most valuable natural resource.

### **AAMDC Background**

#### 1-11F: Cessation of Fresh Water Use by Oil and Gas Industry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta implement an immediate reduction schedule leading to the cessation of the use of fresh water to the oil and gas industry for the hydro-fracking and water injection process in all areas of Alberta as fresh water is required for human consumption.

#### Development:

While both the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the Ministry of Energy note policies are either in place or under review to encourage minimal use of fresh water for the extraction of oil and gas reserves, neither indicates that a total cessation is contemplated or feasible. The AAMDC will continue to advocate on this issue through ministerial meetings and encourage members to raise this issue during the Government of Alberta's Water Conversation.

#### 17-10F: Regulation of Geothermal Drilling Industry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to conduct more research, provide more education and, where appropriate, introduce regulation (legislation) to ensure geothermal activity is not at the expense of other environmental considerations.

#### Development:

In responding to this resolution, the Government of Alberta agreed with the entire intent of this resolution, especially as it relates to the commonly-used closed loop geothermal systems. The response indicated that the number of deep vertical boreholes in closed loop systems presents a high risk for groundwater contamination. In a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the AAMDC was advised that the request for more research in this area has come from several stakeholders.

Resolution 3-13S

## Assessment of Part and Component Replacement for Linear Property

MD of Greenview

*Three-fifths Majority Required  
Endorsed by the Northern District*

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**WHEREAS** Section 292 of the *Municipal Government Act* specifies that each linear assessment must include the “specifications and characteristics” of the linear property; and

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act* does not contain a definition or explanation of what is meant by “specifications and characteristics”; and

**WHEREAS** a clarification of the *Construction Cost Reporting Guide* is necessary to indicate that it applies to construction projects during the life of the facility and not just to initial construction; and

**WHEREAS** the Linear Assessment Unit of Municipal Affairs has, for decades, routinely assessed part and component replacements as changes to the “specifications and characteristics” of linear assessment; and

**WHEREAS** four assessment complaints from power generation companies have gone before the Municipal Government Board arguing that part and component replacements do not constitute a change in “specifications and characteristics” and each of these complaints have been successful; and

**WHEREAS** the Linear Assessment Unit has no choice but to capitulate with these rulings and change the manner in which linear assessments are performed which means significant assessment reductions for many Alberta municipalities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties hereby formally requests that the Government of Alberta amends Section 292 of the *Municipal Government Act* to add “part and component replacements of linear property during the life of the linear assessment constitutes a change in specifications and characteristics”; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the *Construction Cost Reporting Guide* for linear assessment be amended by the Province of Alberta to indicate that the Guide applies not just to construction when linear property is first built, but it also applies to construction projects during the life of the facility.

### Member Background

In the past few years, four decisions made by the Municipal Government Board (MGB) regarding the assessment of power plants (Transalta in Parkland, Battle River Plant in Paintearth, Sheerness Plant in Special Areas and H.E. Milner Plant in Greenview) have resulted in interpretations of the governing legislation which are contrary to the practices of several decades of the linear assessors. In the opinion of the responding municipalities, the power companies have exploited ambiguities in the regulations to limit their assessment. Immediate changes are required to rectify this situation.

Four cases have been heard by the Municipal Government Board (MGB) regarding changes in assessment recorded by the linear assessors for the replacement of parts and components in each power plant. The *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) directs that changes in “specifications and characteristics” are to be assessed. While the assessors understand that a straight repair – where there are no changes made in the equipment or components is not assessable - replacement of worn parts with new and/or updated parts, many of which would be expected to increase the longevity of that component of the plant, are definitely a change in “specifications and characteristics”. The governing legislation does not provide

a definition of what constitutes a change in “specifications and characteristics” (see attached excerpt from the MGA).

In short, the MGB determined that unless a work activity amounted to increasing the production output of the plant or added a component, or components that are completely new, all other activities will not be assessed. Theoretically, under this ruling, it would be possible for a power company to make several millions of dollars of part and component replacements and never be assessed for them even if the technical specifications of these parts are substantially different (i.e. superior) and improve the life of that component of the plant substantially.

The power companies have successfully exploited what amounts to “loopholes” – weaknesses and ambiguities in the MGA and relevant guidelines, resulting in substantial assessment losses to the affected municipalities. Immediate changes to the regulations and the MGA are needed to restore the original intent of the legislation which we believe is for all new installations to be assessed other than for bona-fide repairs where there are NO changes in the technical specifications and characteristics.

If there is no change to the regulations, it is likely only a matter of time before other parties in the power sector and sectors other than the power industry try to exploit the same ambiguities which will force the municipalities ultimately to increase their non-residential tax rates to compensate. There will be significant “collateral damage” if this occurs in that other assessment classes such as commercial will bear the brunt of a higher tax rate.

Collectively, the revenue loss from the Municipal Government Board decisions for the four municipalities involved is more than \$1,000,000 and is summarized as follows:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Assessment Loss</b>	<b>Revenue Loss</b>
Parkland County	\$86,357,600	\$585,867
County of Paintearth	27,193,470	316,211
Special Areas	14,504,180	95,438
M.D. of Greenview	5,112,530	40,788

It is fair and equitable to assess changes in technical specifications and characteristics (such as better parts with longer life) of power plants to ensure that they are paying their fair share of the taxes. Assessment needs to happen with a level playing field. These rulings have served to slant the playing field in the favour of power companies, to the detriment of not only the affected municipalities, but all other assessed parties within each municipality.

It is critical to understand that we are not asking for policy changes. This is the manner in which linear assessments have been completed for decades (although it appears that some of the property owners dispute this). We are just asking to “plug the loopholes” and restore the equitable process that was in place prior to these assessment complaints.

### **Municipal Government Act (Section 292):**

#### **Assessments for linear property**

**292(1)** Assessments for linear property must be prepared by the assessor designated by the Minister.

**(2)** Each assessment must reflect

- (a) the valuation standard set out in the regulations for linear property, and
- (b) the specifications and characteristics of the linear property

- (i) as contained in the records of the Alberta Utilities Commission or the Energy Resources Conservation Board, or both, on October 31 of the year prior to the year in which a tax is imposed under Part 10 in respect of the linear property, or
  - (ii) on October 31 of the year prior to the year in which a tax is imposed under Part 10 in respect of the linear property, as contained in the report requested by the assessor under subsection (3).
- (3)** If the assessor considers it necessary, the assessor may request the operator of linear property to provide a report relating to that property setting out the information requested by the assessor.
- (4)** On receiving a request under subsection (3), the operator must provide the report not later than December 31.
- (5)** If the operator does not provide the report in accordance with subsection (4) or the assessor has reasonable grounds to believe that the information provided in the report is inaccurate, the assessor must prepare the assessment using the most accurate information available about the linear property.

**AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

Resolution 4-13S

## Local Road Bridge Program

MD of Big Lakes

*Simple Majority Required  
Endorsed by the Northern District*

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**WHEREAS** Alberta Transportation has a strong working relationship with municipalities on the Local Road Bridge Program; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed changes would cause enormous financial burden for municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed changes would cause enormous amounts of additional municipal staff to maintain files;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties call upon the Government of Alberta to ensure a second round of consultation is held after hearing data from the Committee by going to the region for a vote.**

### **Member Background**

Alberta Transportation has been looking after the Local Road Bridge Program for many years. The proposed changes to the Local Road Bridge Program would move control and liability to the municipalities and may in fact lead to decreased provincial budgets for bridge funding. This has already been seen with solid waste, drainage and environmental. In addition, the “insurance element” would be removed where assistance to municipalities that happened to experience bridge failures in any particular year get emergency assistance.

The liability associated with these bridges, many of which are 50-75 years old, will increase exponentially over time, yet the proposed funding (already inadequate) is unlikely to increase at the same rate as the need for money will.

### **AAMDC Background**

8-10S Provincial Funding for Municipal Bridge Structures:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to increase the level of funding for the replacement and or rehabilitation of bridge structures on municipal roads to a level that reflects the needs of the community, agricultural sector and local industry; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the existing Guidelines and Procedures (GAP-01) for Municipal Bridge Structure Funding be increased substantially from the present level of \$22 million per year to address this growing infrastructure deficit.

Development:

The request to increase local bridge program funding is clearly denied by the government; however, the province did increase Local Road Bridge Program to \$26 million in 2012-13. Feedback from members indicate that this still does not meet current needs which still deems this resolution as unsatisfactory. The AAMDC is currently involved in a committee with Alberta Transportation for the review of the Local Road Bridge Program and will continue to emphasize the importance of bridge funding and municipal infrastructure deficits throughout the review.

Resolution 5-13F

## **Including Rail in Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan**

Northern Sunrise County

*Simple Majority Required  
Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS rural municipalities are the economic drivers of Alberta with their natural resources; and

WHEREAS rail is an essential component of the provincial transportation network; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's existing 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan does not dedicate funding to rail infrastructure projects;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with the Government of Alberta to include rail infrastructure in its 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan for the province and that the Government of Alberta seek opportunities for private-public partnerships (P3s) for additional rail infrastructure in the province.**

### **Member Background**

The Government of Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan was adopted on January 29, 2008. The Plan is designed to anticipate the pressures of growth and to develop plans for eight key areas. One of these areas is the provincial transportation network, which includes funding for highways and ring roads, for enhancing links to the port at Prince Rupert, and for support for industrial development. The Plan claims to encompass all modes of transportation, including road, rail and air, yet it dedicates no funding to the development of rail infrastructure.

The Government of Alberta should look at establishing P3s in regards to rail. P3s bring cost certainty to infrastructure projects by transferring risk to the private sector and results in greater efficiency and lower cost. Shipping products by rail also provides unprecedented connectivity, scalability, flexibility, and speed, all with minimum impact on the environment.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

Resolution 6-13S

## **Fusarium Graminearum**

Saddle Hills County

*Three-fifths Majority Required  
Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS Fusarium head blight (*Fusarium graminearum*) is declared a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*; and

WHEREAS the presence of *Fusarium graminearum* has increased throughout the province in recent years; and

WHEREAS the economic impacts as a result of infestations can affect crop yields, crop grades and risk the health of livestock through contaminated feed resulting in significant economic losses for crop producers and the agriculture industry in Alberta; and

WHEREAS time is needed for plant breeders and seed treatment companies to come up with new fusarium resistant varieties and improved, mandatory testing to offset the spread of *Fusarium graminearum*; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to continue support for zero percent tolerance for *Fusarium graminearum*, and maintain that it remain a pest as currently declared in the *Agricultural Pests Act*; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta protect the agriculture industry in Alberta by supporting mandatory testing for *Fusarium graminearum* prior to grains entering any seed cleaning plant or mobile cleaning unit to prevent spreading of the disease.**

### **Member Background**

Fusarium head blight (*Fusarium graminearum*) is declared a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and can cause serious fungal disease of cereal grains (wheat, barley, oats), grasses and corn. The risk of infestations has significant economic impact for crop producers and the agriculture industry in Alberta. Though *F. graminearum* has been present at low levels since the late 1980s, there have been increasing incidents in southern Alberta in recent years.

In 2011, the Fusarium Action Committee (FAC), a provincial advisory group consisting of multiple stakeholders, submitted recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on how to manage *F. graminearum* in Alberta. The AAMDC has representation on the FAC and though there were a number of recommendations that were supported by rural municipalities, the FAC could not reach consensus on the recommendation to improve regulatory tools. Specifically, this recommendation indicated that certain sections of the province be exempted from the Act to allow 0.5% of infected seed in areas that currently have a high incidence of disease. Allowing this exemption threatens the health of crops across the province and encourages a continued move towards higher tolerance levels, which will negatively impact Alberta's agriculture industry.

In addition, the FAC has proposed amendments to the *Agricultural Pests Act* which include having three pest categories (Prohibited Pest, Pest and Nuisance) and implementing changes that would allow municipalities the ability to create bylaws to upgrade species to different categories (i.e. from pest to prohibited pest). This change would mean municipalities that are already infected could use education and awareness tools to prevent the spread (like a noxious weed) but still have the ability to issue notices against it as needed. However, municipalities where *F. graminearum* is not currently an issue would have the ability to upgrade the status from pest to a prohibited pest which would mean notices would have to



be issued and the pest eradicated (like prohibited noxious weeds). This would create a discrepancy in the acceptance of the pest across municipalities making managing it more difficult.

In 2012, the FAC revised the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan which includes the intent to limit the introduction, escalation, spread and economic impact of *F. graminearum* in the province. The Plan outlines the responsibilities of various stakeholders, such as Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Agricultural Service Boards, landowners or occupants and processors are outlined regarding plan development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement. The municipal authority is responsible for the enforcement of pest control measures and control measures outlined in the management plan represent guidelines intended to assist producers and municipalities to comply with the Act.

Previous resolutions on this issue have been presented at the Provincial Agricultural Services Board (ASB). Since 2000, ASBs have passed resolutions that have included requesting monitoring and awareness programs, funding to assist producers to test seed, funding for a special pest control program for *F. graminearum* control and that all seed entering into seed cleaning plants be tested for it and be confirmed *F. graminearum* free prior to being accepted for cleaning.

#### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

Resolution 7-13S

## **Property Tax Recovery Related to Land**

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

*Three-fifths Majority Required  
Individual Resolution*

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WHEREAS Part 10, Division 8 provides municipalities with the authority to collect tax arrears that relate to property taxes, local improvement taxes or special taxes as detailed under Section 382 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA); and

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities rely on property tax revenue to financially support the purposes of a municipality as defined in Part 1 Section 3 (a) (b) and (c) of the MGA; and

WHEREAS there are municipalities, towns and villages that are experiencing property tax arrears; and

WHEREAS the length of time required to enforce the tax recovery provisions of Part 10, Division 8 place excessive strain on the cash flows of municipalities, towns and villages;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties recommend to the Government of Alberta to amend Section 412(1)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) to exclude “for more than one year” thereby enabling municipalities to initiate the tax recovery process one year after the date the tax is imposed rather than of two years as legislation now provides.**

### **Member Background**

Over the last several years, property tax arrears due to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass have been cumulating with the Director of Finance confirming that there is \$867,226.91 of property tax arrears due to the Municipality at December 31, 2011. The tax recovery process, as it exists, enables property owners to continue to maintain taxes in arrears for a continuous two year period after the date imposed before the property can be added to the tax arrears list. The current tax recovery process is a three year collection process that does not provide municipalities with a timely opportunity to recover uncollectible tax arrears thereby impacting cash flow required for operations and meeting tax requisitions on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

Resolution 8-13S

## Property Tax Recovery Related to Requisition

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

*Three-fifths Majority Required  
Individual Resolution*

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WHEREAS Part 10, Division 8 provides municipalities with the authority to collect tax arrears that relate to property taxes, local improvement taxes or special taxes as detailed under Section 382 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA); and

WHEREAS education funding is the responsibility of the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS Section 359, 359.1, 359.2 of the MGA delegates the responsibility to collect this education tax on behalf of the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS there are municipalities, towns and villages that are experiencing property tax arrears inclusive of tax revenues required to raise sufficient funds to pay the requisitions as per Section 359, 359.1, 359.2 of the MGA; and

WHEREAS the opportunity to include an allowance for non-collection of tax revenues for the purpose of raising funds to pay requisitions that are the responsibility of the Government of Alberta only places an unjustified burden of taxation on the property tax owners that keep their taxes current as well as placing an excessive strain on the cash flows of municipalities, towns and villages;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties recommend the Government of Alberta repeal Section 359 (2) and (3) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and institute legislation in Section 359 enabling all municipalities, villages and towns to submit to the Government of Alberta for reimbursement of all uncollected current year taxes imposed to raise funds to pay requisitions on behalf of the Government of Alberta. This payment to municipalities, towns and villages will replace any allowance for non-collection of taxes that municipalities must enact in order to collect requisitions that are the responsibility of the Government of Alberta.**

### **Member Background**

Over the last several years, property tax arrears due to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass have been cumulating with the Director of Finance confirming that there is \$867,226.91 of property tax arrears due to the Municipality at December 31, 2011. The collection of tax arrears resulting from the requirement to raise sufficient funds to pay the requisitions due to the Government of Alberta are approximately \$260,000 of this outstanding amount and have placed an unjustified burden of taxation on property owners that keep their taxes current as well as placing an excessive strain on the cash flows of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

# MANAGER'S REPORT

## February 26, 2013

### 1. Queen's Jubilee Medal presentation – Reeve Alexander

I have been advised that Pat will receive the Queen's Jubilee medal on March 1, following the Chamber/Town/ASB Awards Banquet. As reported previously, other Queen's Jubilee medal recipients are Cammie Laird, Paul Prevost and Grace Qually.

### 2. Meeting with ADM ESRD – Bev Yee

A shift in senior administration within ESRD recently occurred and Bev Yee has recently assumed the position of Assistant Deputy Minister – Integrated Resource Management Planning Division; this is the ESRD division that is responsible for administration of the David Thompson development nodes, west of Rocky. Ms. Yee may be familiar to some members of Council as one of the senior Provincial staff in charge of the Water for Life strategy.

Rick and I plan to meet with Ms. Yee late March/early April to discuss the status of the business plan that the County submitted in 2011 and to discuss how development within the nodes might be achieved.

### 3. Provincial 511 System

On February 4, 2013 AB Transportation launched 511 Alberta, which is the new Official Road reporting system in the Province. A copy of the announcement and information material is provided for Council's information.

### 4. Mountaineer - Editor resignation

As Council may be aware, Stu Salkeld has resigned as the editor for the Mountaineer. Prior to becoming editor, Stu was the "county reporter" for the Mountaineer and we have had a long and positive relationship with Stu. I have passed along the County's thanks and appreciation for Stu for his fair and impartial coverage and wished him the best in his new endeavors.

### Upcoming Events

- March 1 – Queen's Jubilee medal presentation
- March 1 – RMRF Municipal Law Seminar – Airdrie Town & Country Centre 8:30 a.m.
- March 12 – Chamber Breakfast – Tamarack 7:30 a.m.
- March 12 – ESRD Water Conservation Open House - RMH
- March 12 – 14 WPAC Conference – Red Deer
- March 18 – Meeting with Minister McQueen (4:00 – Legislature)
- March 18 – 20 – AAMDC
- March 21 - CGI Committee meeting (Pat & Earl)

**Clearwater County  
Operating  
3 yr Budget**

Year to date 2013	Budget 2013	Variance 2013	% 2013
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## Operating Revenue

Net municipal taxes		\$35,617,646	(\$35,617,646)	0%
Note Municipal Tax Revenue will be 0 until Taxes are levied in May.				
User fees and sales of goods	4,357	1,658,500	(1,654,143)	0%
Government transfers for operating		1,188,930	(1,188,930)	0%
Investment income	(2,605)	413,000	(415,605)	-1%
Penalties and costs of taxes	(5,369)	75,000	(80,369)	-7%
Development levies	200	55,000	(54,800)	0%
Permits and licenses	1,450	58,600	(57,150)	2%
Oil Well Drilling Taxes		1,200,000	(1,200,000)	0%
Other	19,441	323,500	(304,059)	6%
	<b>17,474</b>	<b>40,590,176</b>	<b>(40,572,702)</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Clearwater County  
Operating  
3 yr Budget**

Year to date 2013	Budget 2013	Variance 2013	% 2013
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**Operating Expenses by Department**  
**Agriculture Services**

ASB General	\$13,618	\$361,902	\$348,284	4%
ASB AESA	7,140	138,712	131,572	5%
ASB Vehicle & Equipment Pool	286	91,018	90,732	0%
ASB Vegetation Management	8,609	678,399	669,790	1%
ASB Weed & Pest Control	499	192,955	192,456	0%
ASB Public Relations	500	2,350	1,850	21%
	<b>30,652</b>	<b>1,465,336</b>	<b>1,434,684</b>	<b>2%</b>

**Community & Protective Services**

Community Services	17,248	1,335,475	1,318,227	1%
Culture	22,346	248,360	226,014	9%
Emergency Services	6,448	190,910	184,462	3%
Economic Development	6,622	851,152	844,530	1%
Peace Officers	19,304	596,947	577,643	3%
Recreation		3,908,908	3,908,908	0%
Regional Fire Services	37,554	1,324,445	1,286,891	3%
	<b>109,522</b>	<b>8,456,197</b>	<b>8,346,675</b>	<b>1%</b>

**Clearwater County  
Operating  
3 yr Budget**

	<b>Year to date 2013</b>	<b>Budget 2013</b>	<b>Variance 2013</b>	<b>% 2013</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>				
Assessment	\$19,904	\$641,537	\$621,633	3%
Finance	15,194	406,359	391,165	4%
General	40,138	1,089,927	1,049,789	4%
Human Resources	1,190	141,621	140,431	1%
Legislative	27,781	475,317	447,536	6%
Technology & Information Management Services	12,462	754,510	742,048	2%
	<b>116,669</b>	<b>3,509,271</b>	<b>3,392,602</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Nordegg</b>				
Planning	27,905	773,043	745,138	4%
Nordegg	4,508	172,297	167,789	3%
Nordegg Historic Society.	8,523	179,198	170,675	5%
	<b>40,936</b>	<b>1,124,538</b>	<b>1,083,602</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>				
General	40,440	766,350	725,910	5%
Facilities	18,813	665,878	647,065	3%
Gravel Activities	3,446	2,132,450	2,129,004	0%
GIS Mapping	6,834	198,900	192,066	3%
Road Maintenance	75,753	3,222,649	3,146,896	2%
Safety	6,098	126,891	120,793	5%
PW Shop	16,407	384,330	367,923	4%
Vehicles & Equipment	30,417	3,222,235	3,191,818	1%
Water & Sewer	(11,178)	297,999	309,177	-4%
	<b>187,030</b>	<b>11,017,682</b>	<b>10,830,652</b>	<b>2%</b>



**Clearwater County  
Operating  
3 yr Budget**

	<b>Year to date 2013</b>	<b>Budget 2013</b>	<b>Variance 2013</b>	<b>% 2013</b>
<b>Contingency</b>		\$729,511	\$729,511	0%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>484,809</b>	<b>26,302,535</b>	<b>25,817,726</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>(467,335)</b>	<b>14,287,641</b>	<b>(14,754,976)</b>	<b>-3%</b>