

## SPRING 2016 RATEPAYER AGENDA

### A G E N D A

- 1:30 pm
1. Call for nominations for Chairman
  2. Adoption of previous year's minutes
  3. Advisory Council Member Report
  4. Special Areas Board Reports
    - Jordon Christianson, Chair
    - Darcy Ferguson, Director Finance and Administration
    - Owen Francis, Director Municipal Services
    - Trent Caskey, Acting Director Property Administration
  5. Discussion Items:
    - Grassroots Alberta
    - Provincial Agency, Board, Commission (ABC) Review
    - Other Ratepayer Discussions
  6. Other Speakers
  7. New Business
  8. Old Business
  9. Adjournment

# Spring 2016 Ratepayer Minute Book

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## SPECIAL AREAS BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

***WE ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SPECIAL AREAS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COST EFFECTIVE, PROACTIVE AND RESPONSIVE MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND EFFECTIVE LONG TERM LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT. WE WILL ACTIVELY WORK TO INCREASE THE POPULATION OF THE SPECIAL AREAS AND WORK TO OFFER DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES TO FACILITATE THAT GROWTH.***

### Introduction

Special Areas is a unique form of local government located in the southeast part of Alberta. The Special Areas was set up under the Special Areas Act in response to extreme hardship of the depression years of the 1930's.

The Special Areas Board is a Crown Agency of Alberta Municipal Affairs responsible for the provision of rural municipal government and public land management to the residents of the area. The four-member board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and supported by a thirteen member Advisory Council who is elected in accordance with the Local Authorities Elections Act.

The primary business of the Special Areas is:

- Responsible land management of the 2.5 million acres of public land within the boundaries of the Special Areas,
- Provision of Municipal Services including construction and maintenance of local roads, hamlet services, and waste management, and
- Rural Population Stabilization

These primary activities are assisted by various support services including financial, human resources, information technology, and administrative support.

### Supplementary Data:

Population:	4,499
Area:	5,113,000 acres (7,987 sq. miles) (217 Townships)
Assessment:	\$4.544 billion
Km of Local Road:	6,380
Web Site:	<a href="https://www.specialareas.ab.ca/">https://www.specialareas.ab.ca/</a>

# 1. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

## 1.1 ROADS – THREE-DIGIT HIGHWAYS & MAJOR MARKET ROADS

### Current Status – Three Digit Highways

Three-Digit Highways require:

- 78 kms of Reconstruction,
- 105 kms of Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 337 kms of Granular Base Course (GBC)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 366 kms of Asphalt Surface.

Special Areas has 495.93 kms of three-digit highways the Board is tasked to maintain as a part of a cost-sharing agreement/maintenance partnership with Alberta Transportation. The agreement expires in 2017.

### Current Status - Major Market Roads

Major market roads are defined as all local surfaced roads. There are 179 kms of major market roads in the Special Areas.

Major market roads require:

- 6.4 kms of reconstruction,
- 30.4 kms of Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 122.5 kms of Granular Base Course (GBC)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 143 kms of Asphalt Surface.

There are 20 kms of major market roads that will not be surfaced as a part of the current Staged Surfacing Strategy.

### Outcome Statement

Special Areas will build a road network which will eventually enable a ban free, final lift of asphalt for three-digit highways. Major market roads will be all weather, paved and potential ban free.

## 1.2 ROADS - MINOR MARKET ROADS

### Current Status - Minor Market Roads

Minor market roads are defined as all high-grade graveled roads. There are 3,275 kms of minor market roads in the Special Areas.

### Outcome Statement

Special Areas will build a road network with will enable minor market roads to be passable with minimal delays due to weather events (collectors and connector roads included).

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Road surfacing, construction and equipment replacement operations are cost-effective and support a road network which connects communities and meets ratepayer needs.	Ensure capital and operational expenditures achieve best value for money by using a combination of external consultants and in-house work.	Costs competitive with the provincial average road construction costs for Alberta while meeting Alberta Transportation's Design Standards (Business Plan 2015 Appendix A).
	Ongoing operator training program, with increased focus on skills which improve cost-effectiveness of operations.	Construction design standards are being met.
	Ensure appropriate equipment in place for the scope of work.	Adapt to current and evolving technologies and processes.
	Develop a stripping and reclamation program, including work process planning, training and dedicated operator hiring	Land disturbance training is completed for operators.
	Maintaining existing road system as a priority over constructing new roads.	Current construction plans are weighted towards highest need.

	Develop an effective road network.	Local road network matches with the direction received from SAB, Advisory Council and local road committee.
	Meeting regularly with managers and staff from all departments to ensure coordinated approach.	Quarterly meetings with managers, weekly meetings with foremen.

### 1.3 ROADS - 1-3 FARM ROADS AND BACK TRAILS

#### Current Status

1-3 farm roads are defined as roads which provide access to up to three residences. Back trails are defined as all maintained un-graveled roads.

Special Areas has:

- 284 kms of 2-3 family farm access roads,
- 489 kms of 1 family farm access roads,
- 2149 kms of back trails.

#### Outcome Statement

Special Areas will ensure 1-3 farm roads are passable with minimal delays due to weather events. An access road will be completed within one year of construction to facilitate new residences and other sites as required.

Back trails will be rebuilt or reconstructed as required.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Sustainable back trail network with appropriate maintenance program.	Ensure a defined road grade is constructed where there are developed trails.	5% of developed trails have a constructed (to road design standards) defined road grade.  Trails are passable with minimal delays 3 days after a rain event.
	Maintain the road grades once defined.	100% of defined road grades are maintained.

## Road Work Summary of Expenditures

	Prior Year Kilometers	2014 Prior Year Expenditures	Current Year Kilometers	2015 Current Year Expenditures
<b>ROAD MAINTENANCE:</b>				
Grading		\$4,718,975.51		\$5,358,054.75
Snow Removal		\$935,308.21		\$506,390.18
Gravelling	967	\$2,225,865.36	955	\$2,462,499.29
Other		\$2,534,138.23		\$3,002,567.27
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,414,287.31</b>		<b>\$11,329,511.49</b>
<b>BRIDGES &amp; CULVERTS:</b>		<b>\$ 41,205.33</b>		<b>\$ 270,163.77</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>				
	11	\$ 3,599,065.39	11	\$ 3,952,731.36
SH 586 (Contractor Work)			4.8	\$ 873,163.76
	20	\$4,194,672.09		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,793,737.48</b>		<b>\$4,825,895.12</b>
<b>BACK TRAIL REPAIRS :</b>		<b>\$ 1,330,403.35</b>		<b>\$ 591,600.36</b>
<b>CALCIUM/LIGNO DUST ABATEMENT</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$158,664.49</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$226,112.65</b>
<b>OILING:</b>				
<b>Hamlet</b>				
Oil Repair:		\$707,006.09		\$794,572.35
New Oil:		\$55,956.83		\$95,160.38
Dust Control:		\$1,936.95		\$141,192.66
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$764,899.87</b>		<b>\$1,030,925.39</b>
<b>STAGED SURFACING PROGRAM:</b>				
<b>CONSTRUCTION, (GBC) GRANULAR BASE COURSE &amp; DSC COURSE AND DSC</b>	<b>#855</b>	<b>\$1,248,902.48</b>	<b>#876</b>	<b>\$10,276,046.75</b>
	14		29	
<b>CSG (Cement Stabilized Grade) Local Rds</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$1,897,823.71</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$668,845.79</b>
<b>Secondary Roads</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$1,319,490.41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$3,852,518.16</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,293,071.69</b>		<b>\$4,521,363.95</b>
<b>DSC (Double Seal Coat) Local Rds</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$1,112,111.37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$263,503.57</b>
<b>Secondary Roads</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$1,702,955.11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$1,738,200.23</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,815,066.48</b>		<b>\$2,001,703.80</b>
<b>DSC (Double Seal Coat) - Repairs</b>		<b>\$6,742.69</b>		<b>\$19,312.23</b>
<b>ACP (Asphaltic Concrete Pavement)</b>	<b>Crackfill</b>	<b>\$42,853.55</b>	<b>Crack Fill</b>	<b>\$45,840.75</b>
			<b>Line Painting</b>	<b>\$9,717.50</b>
<b>REPORT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,909,834.72</b>		<b>\$35,148,193.76</b>

## Subdivision Mileages for 2015

### Special Area No. 2

Subdivison No.1	2014 (Kilometers)	2015 (Kilometers)
Gravel	70	87
Construction	4	
Cement Stabilized Base	15	8
Oil Repair		
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	29	8
Calcium Chloride Dust Control		
Granular Base Course (GBC)	14	
Back Trail Repair	1	
ACP (Pavement)		

Advisory Council Member, Bob Gainer, Hanna

### Subdivison No. 2

Gravel	67	55
Construction	0	1
Cement Stabilized Base		13
Oil Repair		
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		13
Back Trail Repair	7	
Calcium Chloride Dust Control	21	13.6
ACP (Pavement)		

Advisory Council Member, Neal Roes, Homestead Coulee

### Subdivison No. 3

Gravel	64	3
Construction		3.7
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		
Back Trail Repair		
Granular Base Course		

Advisory Council Member, Brad Slorstad, Sunnynook

### Subdivison No. 4

Gravel	56	33
Construction	20	22
Cement Stabilized Base		22
Oil Repair		1
Calcium Chloride Dust Control		2.88
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		51
Back Trail Repair	0	1.5
Granular Base Course		30.5

Advisory Council Member, Brent Horner, Pollockville

### Subdivison No. 5

Gravel	55	98
Construction		
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		0.2
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		
Back Trail Repair		

Advisory Council Member, James Madge, Stanmore

### Subdivison No. 7

Gravel	73	42
Construction		
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		1
Back Trail Repair		0.24
Shoulder Pulls		

Advisory Council Member, Daryl Swenson, Bindloss

### Subdivison No. 8

Gravel	22	32
Construction		
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		
Back Trail Repair		

Advisory Council Member, Brad Osadczyk, Iddesleigh

**Special Area No. 3****Subdivison No. 4****2014**  
(Kilometers)**2015**  
(Kilometers)

Gravel	57	100
Construction	4	
Cement Stabilized Base	5	
Oil Repair		1
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	6	
Back Trail Repair	3	1.5
ACP (Pavement)		

Advisory Council Member, Travis Foot, Esther

**Subdivison No. 5**

Gravel	65	107
Construction	1	3
Cement Stabilized Base	1	
Oil Repair		14
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	17	
DSC		1
Back Trail Repair	5	2.5
Gravel Lock	1	1

Advisory Council Member, Graham Caskey, Cereal

**Subdivison No. 6**

Gravel	138	64
Construction		
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		0.6
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	3	16
Ligno Sulphanate	1	7.5
Back Trail Repair		6

Advisory Council Member, Kevin Wilson, Oyen

**Special Area No. 4****Subdivison No. 1**

Gravel	111	172
Construction		
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		0.7
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		
Granular Base Course		
Back Trail Repair	1	2.3

Advisory Council Member, Lawrence Letniak, Veteran

**Subdivison No. 2**

Gravel	113	97
Construction	0.2	7
Cement Stabilized Base		
Oil Repair		1
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		
Back Trail Repair	10	2.4

Advisory Council Member, Bonnie Sansregret, Consort

**Subdivison No. 3**

Gravel	76	65
Construction	0.1	
Cement Stabilized Base	16	
Oil Repair		0.2
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	19	
Back Trail Repair	3	0.8

Advisory Council Member, Robert Worobo, Altario



## 1.4 BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

### Current Status

A capital asset infrastructure replacement/revitalization plan is being developed and will have established an infrastructure manager position to determine the status of all Special Areas buildings (approximately sixty buildings).

### Outcome Statement

Have buildings on a regular maintenance schedule and have all major repairs completed to ensure all buildings are at a minimum of “Fair” condition.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Have a current inventory listing and maintenance schedule for all buildings to ensure all buildings are at a minimum of “Fair” condition.	Develop a capital asset and infrastructure inventory and replacement/revitalization plan.	Have all buildings at a minimum of “Fair” condition.
	Continue data capture and assessment of infrastructure repair history.	Have a current listing with all repairs included.
Reduce the overall carbon footprint and improve the energy efficiency of SA facilities.	Track improvements to greenhouse gas, energy efficiencies made.	Comparing results and improvements by using energy benchmarking with other similar municipal buildings in Alberta.
	Coordinate capital plan to ensure reduction of footprint in any repairs or revitalizations.	

## SPECIAL AREAS FACILITIES SUPERVISOR – 2015 REPORT

An ongoing focus of in the facilities management program is the creation of a current inventory of infrastructure (buildings, etc.), with a development of an approved multi-year capital plan outlining planned facilities repairs, upgrades and new builds.

An energy efficient approach is used in all upgrades, repairs and new builds to ensure the Board’s facilities are increasingly energy efficient.

### 2015 Major Projects Report

- The paving of the parking lot at the Youngstown Service Center is complete, with miscellaneous wiring work being planned for completion by the end of the month.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the reroofing of the Youngstown Service Center is projected to be completed by the end of the year.
- The construction of the Altario Shop was completed.
- Major construction/repairs to living quarters, outbuildings and shops at Remount, Buffalo-Atlee, Sounding Creek and Bullpound Community Pastures were completed.
- The implementation of an automated fuel dispensing system was completed – this will enable remote data capture for the current fuel system.
- The current year plans for the Hanna Administrative building expansion and renovation are progressing within the project schedule.
- The Empress Fire Hall/Village Shop joint project is within the projected schedule, with the foundation complete, and framing work anticipated within the next few weeks.
  - The project is being jointly financed by the Board (up to \$400,000) and the Village (up to \$300,000), but we are acting as project manager.
  - We are currently projecting a May/June 2016 completion for this project.

### 2016 Major Projects (pending budget approval)

- Hanna Administrative building expansion construction is anticipated to be completed April/May 2016. The next phase of the project – renovation of the current building- is projected to be completed by the end of 2016.
- A water station in Monitor is expected to require construction in conjunction with the Hamlet to Monitor waterline project.
  - This project is funded in part through the Federal/Provincial Small Communities Fund program. The construction of the Water Station is anticipated in the summer/fall of 2016.
- Consort and Oyen district offices major projects include the completion of lighting/power in Oyen and a carport construction in Consort.

- Youngstown Service Center major projects include: final phase of roof replacement, repairs to shop walls and loading areas, lighting work throughout the building, and repairs to existing fences/construction of new fences.
- District shops major projects include: replacement of furnace and repair of exterior to Hanna, renovation at Jenner (Phase 1 of project), installation of fuel master at Cessford, replacement of ceiling tin & lighting in Veteran, and fencing back area of Altario.
- Community pasture major projects include: installation of fuel tanks at Remount CP, completion of basement at Buffalo-Atlee CP, landscaping work at Sounding Creek CP, and windows replacement & basement completion at Bullpound CP.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Ken Orum, Facilities Supervisor

## 1.5 EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### Current Status – Fire Operations

There are 14 rural volunteer fire departments including equipment. An emergency response plan is in place and can be mobilized on short notice. Nine fire departments have modernized Fire Halls, with ten fire departments having a 4x4 rated pump truck. The East Central Emergency Training Partnership has been established to facilitate training of fire fighters.

Joint fire operations with the County of Cypress for Jenner Fire Department managed via an inter-municipal agreement signed in 1997.

### Current Status – Emergency Management

Emergency Management in the Special Areas is managed through the Director of Emergency Operations, with four Deputy Directors (Area Administrators & Fire Chief).

Emergency Social Services are provided and operated by the urban municipalities within the boundaries of Special Areas as per Alberta Emergency Management Agency.

### Outcome Statement

Special Areas provides coordinated and well equipped emergency responses for fire events, motor vehicle accidents, and disaster events. Special Areas has well trained and appropriately certified emergency/first responders, with emergency responders and equipment maintained in all 14 locations within Special Areas.

All fire departments are equipped with adequate equipment, capital infrastructure and volunteer staff to meet the needs of the immediate and adjacent communities.

### Fire Services

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
<p>To provide well equipped emergency responses for fire events, motor vehicle accidents, and emergency management events.</p> <p>To ensure all fire departments are equipped with adequate equipment and capital infrastructure to meet the needs of the immediate and adjacent communities.</p>	<p>Continue to update the Capital Fire Plan with scheduled upgrades to facilities and equipment in consultation with towns, villages and adjoining municipalities.</p>	<p>Departments have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of “rated” Pumpers.</li> <li>• 35% of “unrated” Pumpers.</li> <li>• 70% of “rated” Tenders.</li> <li>• 30% of “unrated Tenders.</li> </ul> <p>Vehicle extraction services maintained at Hanna/ Oyen/Consort/ Jenner FD.</p>
<p>Have well-trained and appropriately certified first responders and volunteer fire-fighters personnel.</p>	<p>Support medical first responder (MFR) groups in Special Areas.</p>	<p>Issue letter of support to appropriate MFR groups upon request.</p>
	<p>Develop a training program/protocol for use in volunteer fire departments.</p>	<p>100% of fire departments utilize training program to varying degrees. Participation from at least 60% of departments annually.</p>
	<p>Facilitate the East Central Emergency Training Partnership.</p>	<p>Deliver two training sessions per year to fire departments.</p>
<p>To ensure current administrative documents comply with all relevant legislation, regulations and policy.</p>	<p>Continue to review and update inter-municipal agreements and inter-municipal co-operation for provision of fire services.</p>	<p>85% of agreements are reviewed within the next three years.</p>
	<p>Fire Checks are investigated and reported. Quality Management Plan (QMP) is updated annually</p>	
	<p>Update appointments of Fire Guardians annually through a Board Order.</p>	

## Emergency Management

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Have well-trained and appropriately certified emergency management personnel.	Training in safety and disaster initiatives is current for Director and Deputies of Emergency Operations.	Required courses/training completed as required.
To provide well-coordinated response for emergency services events.	Ensure regularly scheduled training and currency meetings for Emergency Operations team.	Meetings held annually.
To ensure current administrative documents comply with all relevant legislation, regulations and policy.	Review Delegation of Authority (MSL 009/15) for <i>Emergency Management Act</i> .	
	Monitor all relevant legislation, regulations and policy to ensure currency/accurateness.	

### Fire Chief's Report – Fall 2015

Well, I am not sure where another year has gone but here is an overview of some of the things that have occurred in fire service for Special Areas over the last 12 months.

To start, fire calls appear to be an average year with only a few significant events occurring which resulted in major property loss or loss of life. Rough estimates of fire damage for this year for insured property was around \$ 1, 205,000. Keep in mind this figure doesn't include property such as feed or lost grass as it isn't considered an insurable loss.

The Special Areas had a fire ban in place for much of the spring due to very dry conditions, it was lifted on June 30<sup>th</sup>. To help reduce the amount of false alarms responded to by our volunteer fire departments, Special Areas rolled out an online controlled burn notification system for control burns in September. The system is very user friendly, which is a credit to the talented staff who worked on the application. It serves to advise fire chiefs of control burns in their response areas as well as both of our 911 dispatch agencies. Notifications are currently being texted and e-mailed to myself and the respective fire chiefs which has worked very well. At time of this report there have been 20 notifications.

We added some new pumpers in Oyen and Consort fire halls this past year. The Oyen and Consort passed their new style trucks down to Buffalo and Cessford fire halls respectively. The old style Buffalo truck (1992) was tiered to Bindloss hall with the Bindloss truck (1986) being removed from service. The old style Cessford truck (1989) was taken out of service as well. A truck for Altario was delivered but not in service as I'm still equipping it and should be in service by months end. Dave Mohl and I went to Cessford and did an orientation on their new truck, I went to Buffalo for theirs and will go to Altario once they have switched over the equipment from old truck to new one.

Oyen fire is adding an addition onto their building; two bays for fire and third for Handy Bus. Special Areas has been asked to provide some site work for next year.

Some smaller projects this year included: the installation of base stations in Jenner and Buffalo, and adding monitors to Youngstown and Altario halls with fire departments responsible for supplying the computers. This is used for the I am Responding program.

We budgeted for a radio repeater in the Jenner area but that will not be in place till next year as there was a delay in getting VHF radio frequencies. A replacement rescue truck for Jenner had been planned for this year; however, the bids all came in over our budgeted allotment. We initially requested Cypress County to fund the overage on this - to which they did agree - to but it was too late in the year to for project to be completed. This project will be looked at for 2016, specifically looking at using grants to help offset project costs.

A Safety/Deputy fire chief position was opened up for competition this summer, with the position being changed to focus solely on the Safety Coordinator role. The Safety Coordinator position has been filled by Kristy Riley from Veteran who started the week of November 17. The Deputy Fire Chief role was expanded to include heavy duty mechanic work for fire equipment as well as the Deputy Fire Chief duties. At last word on this was that it was going to be filled prior to year's end. This position would concentrate on maintaining fire fleet, disaster services, fire training for themselves and area fire departments, response, equipment purchasing and administrative duties – fire logs, cost recovery, inventory of equipment, resource updates, etc.

An ongoing issue dealt with this year was the radio system along Highway 12. It was in disrepair so Special Areas, along with municipalities in Paintearth, have undertaken to invest in some radio equipment to make the system functional again. The old repeater had failed and a temporary one was in place, but the contractor looking after this was very tardy and system was down more than it was up. As a result, 911 calls were being forwarded by phone and or text message during the down time, with some departments using digital radio systems (AHS backup system) - with the upside of being able to communicate with EMS during incidents. Unfortunately EMS primary means of communication was the IDEN system, so contact was nonexistent. Consequently those fire departments on the analog systems had no interoperability for communications when responding to an incident. Moving forward, all fire department operations will be on the analog frequency, with the new repeater having the ability to operate on digital when that time presents itself.

The Village of Veteran Fire Chief has taken on the responsibility of being the point of contact for this radio system as prior to this, ownership was not clearly defined and consequently no maintenance was being done leading up to complete system shutdown. This radio group consists of the following: Special Areas, Villages of Consort, Veteran, Halkirk, Town of Coronation and Castor with the fire chiefs having the lead in looking after the system. This group along with administrators have gone with Communications Group out of Red Deer for their radio service and maintenance provider as many were very disappointed in the performance of the previous provider. To date we've had 3 meetings which were attended by all, but lacking representation from the County of Paintearth.

For training our training group provided the S-200 (radio communications and building construction, 31 students), S-500 in Oyen (ventilation, laddering, salvage and overhaul, 23 students) and S-300 in Hanna (SCBA usage, searches, fire behavior, 27 Special Areas Students & 2 from Castor). Other items in regards to training has been the Fire Medical Responder program offered by Alberta Health Services. This program was developed in response to providing out of hospital early medical care to trauma and medical patients prior to an ambulance arriving. In some areas within Special Areas, it can be over an hour before patients arrive at a hospital for advanced care. The training is standardized with responders located through the Special Areas. This service was already established a few years ago in the Jenner area with Medical First Responders Program. Individuals were trained to the EMR level and are dispatched by Alberta Health Services for calls in the Buffalo, Jenner and boarding Cypress County region. The FMR program has just been completed with protocols and a medical director in place. It is web base training with the Jenner group registered with Special Areas and the Alberta Health Services. They operate under the umbrella of the Dryland Emergency Medical Services Association (DEMSA). With this program in place I would anticipate and encourage our First Responders to search out this training. First Responder's provide a wonderful service to our community.

For 2016, we have budgeted for Deputy Fire Chief's position, some funding for Veteran Rescue truck which is pending grants and matching funding. The Town of Hanna has ordered a new truck with primary funding provided by a grant which the Special Areas and the Town have partnered on. The Board's portion was \$ 77,000.00 to this truck. In our long range plan, we have a truck for Empress but no other large capital items anticipated.

For training we have been receiving less funds but still looking at the 472 Dangerous Goods Awareness level training, possibly a S-1100 – ( extrication course) and maybe a S-400 – (water streams, hose lays, friction loss) which will lead up towards another pump course.

In other news, Veteran and Consort Fire hosted a fund raiser this past October which was very successful.

The Hanna Fire Chief and I were at the Consort fund raiser and at this event I presented Rob Wiltse with a Certificate of Recognition his 40 plus years of service with Consort Fire. A remarkable achievement for our community.

And lastly I had the privilege of attending the retirement event for Jay Slem. It was an honor to work under and for Jay. The Fire Chiefs and officers in attendance presented Jay with a custom made fire helmet which he wore proudly.

In closing, we will continue to appreciate the support of the Advisory Council and the Board. As Fire Chiefs, we strive to provide the best service we can to our community. I look forward in working with Jordan Christianson in his role as Chair, and ask for continued support for our fire services we provide in Special Areas.

Finally, a big "Thank You" to our fire fighters, their families and their employers who allow them to respond at a moment's notice.

Yours in Public Safety  
Glen Durand, Special Areas Fire Chief

**1.6 PROTECTIVE SERVICES – ENFORCEMENT/COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER PROGRAM**  
**Current Status – Enforcement (CPO) Operations**

The Special Areas has a joint service agreement with MD of Acadia for a Community Peace Officer (CPO). Additional enforcement activities for Special Areas Parks are being managed by the CPO/Parks Supervisor as required.

**Outcome Statement**

To protect municipal infrastructure through overload permitting and enforcement activities. Support the outcomes (quiet enjoyment, protection of fish resources, and safety of users) of the parks through enforcement of applicable policies and legislation.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Protection of municipal infrastructure through overload permitting and enforcement.	Utilize a joint service agreement with the MD Acadia for Peace Officer.	
	Utilize a mutual aid agreement with the County of Painteard for enforcement activities (CPO).	
	Monitor the effectiveness of provincial TRAVIS program.	100% of cost recovery.
	Develop and implement a succession plan for Peace Officers.	
	Support the outcomes (quiet enjoyment, protection of fish resource, and safety of users) of the Parks through enforcement of the applicable policies and legislation by conducting bi-annual surveys.	Positive feedback from user surveys.

**COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER - 2015 REPORT**

It has been another very busy year for enforcement within the boundaries of the Special Areas Board as the downturn in the oil and gas industry did not have much of an effect on most of the Special Areas. Drilling was down in some areas, but remained active in many other areas.

In the Veteran-Consort-Altario region there were nine drilling rigs working basically from after break up right through to the third week of November. I would estimate the number of wells drilled at well over a hundred, with companies active including Sure Energy, Spur Energy, Anagada, Novus, Rolling Hills Energy, Raging River, Twin Butte, and Crescent Point.

All of the wells drilled currently are long directional holes which end up being fracked after drilling. This results in significantly more loads and equipment on the roads, specifically heavy water loads. The increased traffic can have a substantial impact on the road infrastructure.

**ATCO ELECTRIC**

The two Atco transmission lines, the HRTD and EATL line are in a cleanup, decompaction mode. The spraying and some of the reseeding on the HRTD line was completed this year. Atco was two years behind on their work and hired a new contractor for the spraying, resulting in an improvement in the work. Another inspection will be completed in the spring of the entire line by Atco, Sure Shot (the spraying contractor), and the Special Areas Board.

The EATL line has seen a great improvements in the reclamation, the spraying and the cleanup. The spring will see a full inspection of the line to identify any issues in spraying,

reseeding, clean up and reclamation. At our November meeting with Atco it was suggested this line will be fully energized between the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and Christmas.

#### SPECIAL AREAS BOARD – ROAD CONSTRUCTION

A major enforcement focus was the construction zones operated by Special Areas Board as other duties permitted. For the majority of the season, there were three sub crews on highway 876 between the Red Deer River and highway 570. Time was spent in the construction areas, as well as patrolling SH 586, Solon Road, and other major projects.

#### WELL ABANDONMENTS

There are currently two programs under the direction of Codeco Consulting, mostly involving Fair West Energy and the orphan well association. One crew has nearly 70 wells, a number of small batteries or pumping stations and the other crew is slightly less. All the supervisors are very cooperative and give me approximately weekly updates. Some issues have included gaining access to well sites (where landowners haven't been paid). An effort has been made to educate as denying access will not ensure payment occurs.

#### DAILY OPERATIONS

My role continues to provide support as required with Special Areas Board departments for enforcement activities, including: road damage & repairs, damage to native prairie, different accesses for oil & gas/construction sites, transmission line sites. I continue to manage and enforce permits (issued by Roadata) regarding the logistics (routing, seasonal weight compliance, proper road signage, pilot cars and flag personnel). I also coordinate as required for temporary road crossings.

Additional duties include: liaison with external municipalities and enforcement agencies, safety program activities, annual Roadata conference, and operational updates to management.

#### NEW COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER – CODY ROSE

The hiring of a new community peace officer for the Special Areas was completed in October. Mr. Cody Rose has a background in enforcement as he was a CVE officer in Saskatchewan in the Kindersley area. Originally from the Hanna area, he will have a good understanding of the unique challenges presented for enforcement activities in this rural remote area. He is completing his training at the Staff College with the department of Justice and Solicitor General. I look forward to working with him in the future.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

Terry McMahon,  
Community Peace Officer  
Special Areas Board

## 1.7 PARKS

### Current Status

Major Park Developments include:

- Blood Indian Park – 29 serviced sites plus 300 random camping sites.
- Prairie Oasis Park – 75 serviced sites plus new loop on stream in 2015.

Minor Park Developments include:

- Carolside Campground - situated on a waterbody (significant natural fishery), is suitable for water based recreational activities (water skiing, personal watercraft use). Has an elevated degree of maintenance and supervision.
- Cactus Corner Rest Area – One night camping permitted and day use area
- (South) River Parks – adjacent to the Red Deer River, have community function usage (weddings, reunions etc.) as well as heavy nonlocal hunter usage. Overnight camping is supported and encouraged in these areas. Includes Bindloss, Buffalo and Jenner parks.
- (North) Rest Areas - generally not used for extended overnight camping; predominantly day use. Include Hemaruka, Sedalia and Esther parks.
- Partnership Parks – some level of infrastructure and/or operational support is provided by the Special Areas.
  - Dorothy - SAB provides toilet facilities and supplies, the community provides management and maintenance of the park.
  - Fox Lake – SAB provides road infrastructure maintenance.
  - Gooseberry Park (Eccles Spray Park) - SAB leases 0.4 hectares from Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Eccles Spray Park and the shower/washroom facility is owned and maintained by SAB on this lease area. A water storage building is maintained off the lease site adjacent to the Provincial Parks water treatment facility is also maintained on-site to ensure adequate water supplies for the SAB facilities.

Park infrastructure ranges from current to 50 years old and some areas and infrastructure require upgrading or replacement. Refer to Park Capital Plan in Appendix D.

Current operating cost recovery for the major parks is approximately 65%.

### Outcome Statement

To maintain a major park in each Special Area which meets local recreational needs while encouraging tourism. Ensure required infrastructure is developed and maintained to have service standards at current levels.

User fees will continue to cover approximately 65% of major park operating costs.

Enhance and support sport fishing opportunities at Blood Indian Park and Carolside Reservoir.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
To maintain a major park in each Special Area which meets local recreational needs while encouraging tourism. Ensure required infrastructure is developed and maintained to have service standards at current levels.	Blend contract and in-house provision of services to ensure best use of resources.	Overnight rates are competitive with industry standards.
	Assess maintenance standards and operational budget to ensure service standards and capital planning requirements are being met.	User satisfaction measured through user surveys.  Capital plan projects completed as per capital plan (Business Plan 2015 Appendix D)
Parks in the Special Areas contribute to a family oriented, intergenerational quality of life, landscape appreciation and outdoor experience. Integrating the social, economic and environmental sustainability needs of the Special Areas community.	Support community development through locally driven recreational facilities and programs.	Park facilities are affordable and accessible to locals. No day use fees.
	Adjust enforcement focus commensurate with increased park usage.	Park users' satisfaction on quiet time enforcement and boater safety education.
Better and more equitable allocation of serviced sites at Blood Indian Park; an on-line reservation system implemented for Blood Indian Park if required.	Perform needs assessment for implementing a reservation system for Blood Indian Park.	



Enhance sport fishing opportunities and serviced sites at Blood Indian Park,	Negotiate with AEP to introduce a secondary species at Blood Indian Reservoir and implement controls for invasive Prussian Carp.	
	Work with AEP to ensure fish stocking program at Blood Indian Reservoir is meeting user needs.	
The fishery be re-established at Carolside Reservoir.	Coordinate with AEP to re-establish a fishery at Carolside Reservoir.	

## **Parks Report**

### **BLOOD INDIAN PARK**

- Pour in Place recycled rubber matting was completed under playground adjacent to the Big Stone Splash Park. Permanent steel canopied picnic table and bench were placed next to playground and Splash Park.
- 100 meters of west shoreline was revitalized with the placement of capped sheet piling. The finished product allows for excellent fishing access and has regained valuable camping space previously lost to erosion.
- We are in the process of installing our new and improved toilets. Expecting to complete this task by year end.
- Weed control program was completed throughout the Park but is a sensitive undertaking as public is generally present and non-target vegetation is always in close proximity to gravel areas.
- Park staff facilitated AESRD survey; feedback resulting in diversity of fish stocking
- Transportation removed the bridge from the north end of the park on the 884 and replace it with a culvert.

#### Considerations

- Continue with the capped sheet piling and rock armor to abate shoreline erosion and to re-establish shoreline access and campsites
- Cold storage building for protection of SAB assets
- Electrical upgrade to 600 amp service
- Upgrade to East entrance access road

### **PRAIRIE OASIS PARK**

- New loop was operational for the July long weekend; all sites are grassed and under irrigation, half of the sites have been treed and the tree plots mulched.
- All but two of the new sites were occupied over the August long weekend
- The overflow was closed in favor of increased day use parking
- Six precast concrete toilet/storm shelters are evenly distributed throughout the campground
- The placement of the precast concrete beach front washroom/ storm shelter is expected before year end. The site is prepped and waiting.
- A toilet/lighthouse was constructed and placed by the outlet bridge

#### Considerations

- Install small playground in new loop
- In house construction of addition to west shower building to accommodate new loop campers
- Complete tree planting and mulch application in new loop

### **GENERAL PARKS AND MOW CREW**

- Recycled rubber surface was installed on Eccles Splash Park
- A marked increase in fall campground usage along the river
- Toilets for hamlet of Dorothy are constructed waiting for fiberglass roofs and waste tanks. Installation in spring.
- Hamlets, water stations, grader sheds and waste sites were kept mowed and trimmed

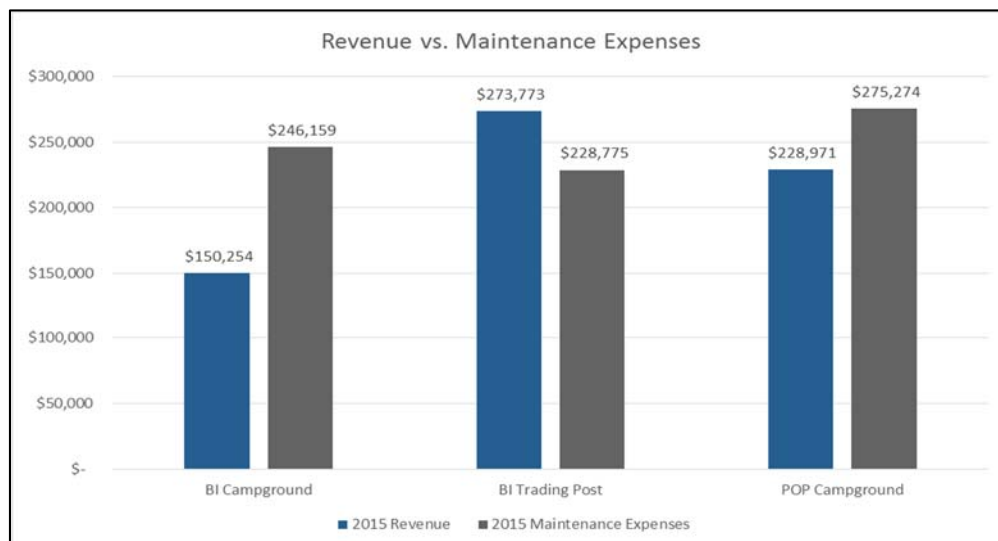
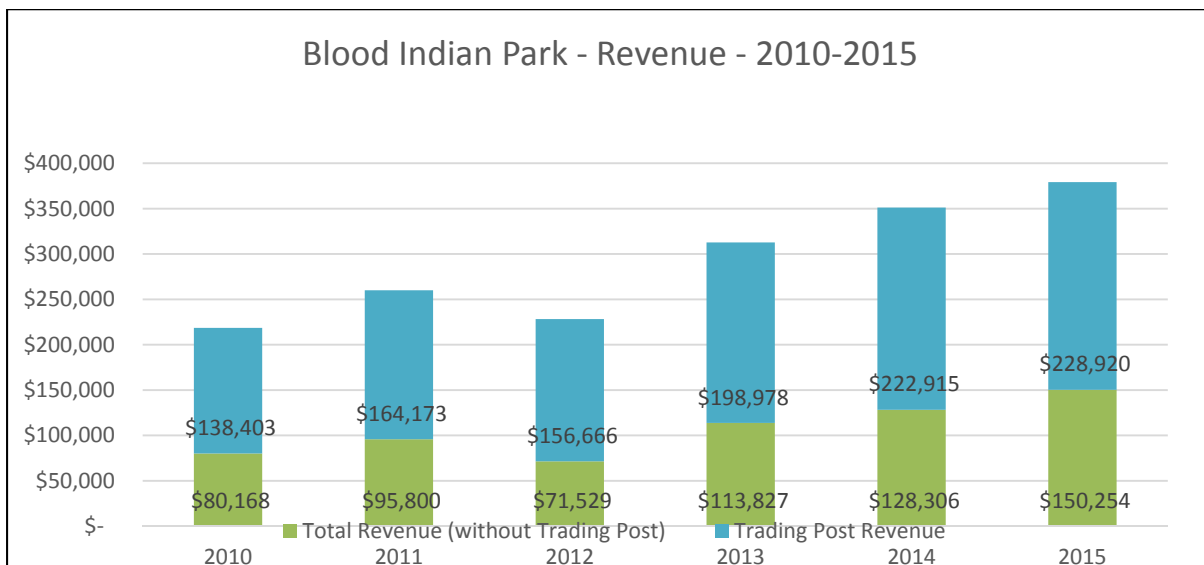
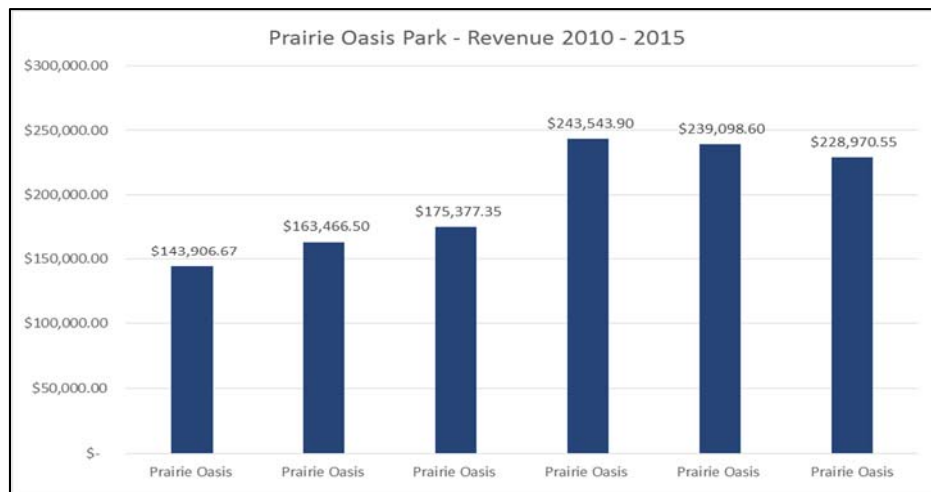
#### Considerations

- Begin process of replacing outlying campground toilets with new ones
- Coordinate an effort to put some type of significant veteran memorial structure at our rest area at the Hwy 9 & Hwy 36 intersection

I am obligated by their merit to acknowledge the great work accomplished by my Parks Dept. staff and particularly acknowledge Don Hogan and Emily Bruce for their dedication and commitment. I would be remiss if I did not give credit to the professional assistance given from the Administrative support staff both in Youngstown and Hanna and for the tireless method in which Wayne Bosch keeps all the plates spinning in meeting the equipment requirements of so many Departments. Thanks for a successful 2015!

Respectfully Submitted by:  
 CPO John Armstrong  
 Parks Supervisor

	Prairie Oasis Concession (Non SAB - Contractor)		Blood Indian Trading Post	
Year	Total Cash Sales	Total Inventory/Labour	Total Cash Sales	Total Inventory/Labour
2010	\$ 76,100.68	\$ 62,023.98	\$ 137,868.51	\$ 130,600.59
2011	\$ 92,440.56	\$ 71,864.71	\$ 163,402.46	\$ 178,673.45
2012	\$ 95,107.17	\$ 75,283.14	\$ 155,743.23	\$ 165,738.31
2013	\$ 101,461.40	\$ 76,139.33	\$ 198,691.14	\$ 226,613.52
2014	\$ 117,214.65	\$ 92,718.65	\$ 222,915.15	\$ 212,066.88
2015	\$ 132,198.90	\$ 124,001.91	\$ 228,919.58	\$ 226,209.69



**1.8 YOUNGSTOWN SERVICE CENTRE**  
**Current Status**

A well-established capital equipment replacement plan and preventative maintenance schedule are in place. The current shop rate is \$114.00/hr (as compared to industry rate of \$173.00/hr)

**Outcome Statement**

Customer service oriented provision of equipment repair and fleet management support services to all Special Areas departments and staff. Ensure equipment has a high utilization rate and the shop is responsive so equipment is ready for use when required. Well maintained equipment, with all safety standards met. Shop rate and service level is more competitive than private industry.

6 heavy duty mechanics, 3 automotive mechanics, 3 welders, and 2 parts person roles are staffed.

Updated diagnostic technology software for shop mechanics is used to reduce frequency and cost of external work orders. Effective preventative maintenance planning is used to achieve maximum work flow through improved work scheduling, follow up and reporting.

<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measurements/Standards</b>
Customer service oriented provision of equipment repair and fleet management support.	Analyze current work processes and procedures to ensure customer satisfaction.	
Well maintained equipment with all safety standards met.	Design a detailed equipment maintenance plan.	Equipment is maintained to meet manufacturers' service and safety standards.
Shop rate and service level more competitive than comparable private industry.	Ensure adequate staffing rates, retention rates, and training program/course completion rates.	Shop Rate is below industry rate.
Maximize workflow through shop for preventative maintenance work.	Improve work scheduling, follow up and reporting to ensure optimum work planning.	Seasonal workload requirement planning is completed quarterly.
	Implement updated diagnostic technology/ software for mechanics to use.	Reduction in frequency/cost of external work orders.
	Capture and assess equipment repair history.	Repairs are within projected rate for each equipment class.
	Substantially increase training (air conditioning, pro heat systems, diagnostic equipment)	100% of technicians have completed training.
	Recruit and train technicians using apprenticeship as an option (commitment agreements key).	65% retention rate for apprentices (annual).

## 1.9 WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Current Status

Youngstown Regional Landfill is a Class II Landfill with more than 10,000 tonnes per year of waste. Hazardous waste is disposed of in a Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil Treatment Facility. The Special Areas supplies the Operations Manager and administrative support for Big Country Waste Management Commission (BCWMC) at no cost to the Commission.

### Outcome Statement

BCWMC operates independently from the Special Areas with no management or administrative functions provided to the Commission. Waste management services are affordable for municipalities through lower requisition rates. A recycling program which meets the needs of ratepayers and communities is in place for the Special Areas.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
BCWMC is an independent operation from SAB.	Provide services through a Regional Services Commission.	
Develop waste management services to be more affordable for municipalities by reducing requisition rates.	Complete landfill expansion process and importing of waste as a revenue stream.	Landfill expansion and approval is completed.
	Monitor the funding model for BCWMC with respect to a percentage of assessment ceilings for smaller members.	

### Big Country Waste Management Commission Report

5,113,000 acres (8000 square miles), approximately 10,208 population.

Involves nine member municipalities:

The Special Areas, Hanna, Youngstown, Cereal, Oyen, Empress, Veteran, Consort, and MD of Acadia.

#### Member Municipalities and Representatives:

Robert Worobo	Special Areas 4 Representative
Kevin Wilson	Special Areas 3 Representative
James Madge	Special Areas 2 Representative
Robert Blagen	Youngstown Representative
Gerald Campion	Hanna Representative
Trevor Hittel	Oyen Representative
Crystal Anderson	Cereal Representative
Chad VanDam	Empress Representative
Jerry Wipf	Veteran Representative
Calvin Ward	Consort Representative
Willie Vandelight	MD of Acadia Representative

#### Executive of Big Country Waste Management Commission:

Chairman - Gerald Campion      Chief Administrative Officer – Greg Sheppard

Vice-Chairman - Robert Blagen      Member-At-Large – Robert Worobo

Secretary/Treasurer - James Madge

#### 28 Transfer Stations - 22 Rural Stations (SAB & MD of Acadia) and seven Towns and Villages

- One Regional Landfill at Youngstown to which waste is hauled from all Transfer Stations.
- Revenue derived in 2015 by requisitioning member municipalities at a 45% per capita and 55% assessment basis as well as tipping fees on non-household, non-local waste.
- Total annual budget of approximately \$2 million in 2015.
- Additional grants from Alberta Environment were received for initial construction:
  - \$1,867,200.00      Construction Grant from Alberta Environment
  - \$ 225,360.00      Construction Shortfall Grant from Alberta Environment
  - \$ 24,000.00      Chemical Storage Sites
  - \$ 64,900.00      2nd Waste Trailer
  - \$ 92,700.00      Upgrade of Oyen Transfer Station
  - \$ 85,000.00      Construction - Handhills Transfer Station

**Equipment & Vehicles:**

- 1 2013 MAC Tri Axle Trailer (Unit 9012)
- 2 2012 Kenworth W900 (Units 9123 & 9124)
- 1 2011 MAC Trailer (Unit 9010)
- 1 2004 Ford F250 3/4 Ton (Unit T-412)
- 1 2004 Ford F450 c/w Compator (T-413)
- 1 2002 Ford 1 Ton with 1 Portable Welder Attached – Miller Big Blue 251D (Unit T-214)
- 1 1994 Ford F150 – Low KM/Yard Truck (Unit T-173)
- 3 Bobcats S185 – 2 X 2011 (Units 9011 & 9111) & 2003 (Unit 304)
- 1 2007 JD Model 624J Loader (Unit 962)
- 1 1999 Flatdeck Trailer (Recycle - Unit TR-01)
- 1 Toyota Forklift (Recycle – Unit F-06)
- 1 Dur-Bilt Tite Wad 72” Baler – Hanna Transfer Station & Recycling Centre
- 1 2013 966K Wheel Loader (Unit 966K-13)
- 1 2013 973D Track Loader (Unit 973D-13)

**Salary Employees:**

Eight full time employees - one landfill operations manager, one landfill foreman/equipment operator, two truck drivers, one admin/maintenance employee, one transfer station attendant, two recycling attendants.

One part time employee - landfill attendant

**Contract:**

19 transfer station attendants.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Darlene Herzog

## 1.10 WATER SERVICES

### Current Status

The Special Areas provides treated potable water to 35 sites including hamlets and truck fills. Testing is performed to meet drinking water standards which are reported to and monitored by AEP. Feasibility studies for four potential rural pipelines have been completed. Any work related to these would require grant funding which is currently not available.

There are 27 water plants in Special Areas: two require daily site inspections, 14 require five days/week site inspections, 11 require 2-3 days/week site inspections and eight truck fills require weekly site inspections. There are 23 distribution systems, two regional water lines (Hanna East, Cessford-Wardlow). Refer to Appendix G for a map of the water stations.

Operational costs for water stations and associated costs range from \$3.84/m<sup>3</sup> to \$55.32m<sup>3</sup> with an average of \$14.30m<sup>3</sup>.

Special Areas operates three sewage collection and treatment systems. (Youngstown, Cessford, Altario)

Remote monitoring and control systems are present in 19% (5/27) of hamlets (*Jenner, Cessford, Wardlow, Pollockville and Empress*)

### Outcome Statement

Special Areas supplies water to residents which meets the Canadian Drinking Water Standards. Water rates are reviewed every four years, and operational cost-recovery rates are reported annually. The planned treated waterline extension(s) from Shirley McLellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) and Henry Kroeger Regional Water Service Commission (HKRWSC) have been completed with available grant funding. Potable water (truck fills, etc.) is located at appropriate intervals throughout Special Areas.

Distribution systems are standardized with pipe quality, line location, and curb stop locations according to hamlet distribution system improvement plan. Rural distribution systems are developed where feasible.

Remote monitoring and control systems are present in hamlets if it is determined to be cost effective. The mapping of water system infrastructure is completed with a current inventory.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Have a consistent level of service for all residents/ ratepayers which is cost effective and meets AEP and Canadian Drinking Water standards.	Complete and maintain an accurate inventory of water infrastructure and facilities through mapping.	30% of inventory is completed. 30% of mapping is completed.
	Establish consistent billing.	Billing and reporting procedures are consistent in district offices.
	Evaluate and adjust potable water rates annually.	
	Boil Water Advisories and Orders are being complied with and reported effectively.	

### Water Technical Services Report

#### Truck Fill Stations and Water Systems along Highway 9

-Replaced pump at SDS

#### Cessford Water Plant

-Repaired leak in two wet wells from reservoirs

-Replaced sewer line

#### Wardlow Water Plant

-Operated with no major problems this year

#### Dorothy

- Operated with no major problems this year
- Repaired water leak

#### **Jenner Truck Fill (Burnat)**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Jenner Water Plant**

- Replaced majority of distribution lines and as a result water usage dropped

#### **Iddesleigh**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Buffalo Truck Fill**

- Replaced distribution pump

#### **Pollockville**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Bindloss**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Bindloss Truck Fill**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Empress**

- Repaired several water leaks
- Town foreman wrote the exam in November to obtain his small systems certificate
- SAB staff will assist Empress in an advisory role when he obtains his certificate

#### **Oyen 570 Truck Fill**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Sibbald Water Plant**

- Cleaned storage and chlorine tanks

#### **Scapa**

- The truck fill is getting a lot of use

#### **Sedalia Water Plant**

- Replaced Uninterrupted Power Supply

#### **New Brigden Truck Fill**

- Operated with no major problems this year

#### **Altario Water Plant**

- Replaced sewer line
- New truck fill will be completed by the end of 2015

#### **Monitor**

- SAB has been approved to extend the regional water line from Consort to Monitor

#### **Loyalist**

- Expanded the truck approach to the truck fill to accommodate larger trucks

#### **Cereal**

- SAB staff are fulfilling an advisory role for the village staff

#### **Youngstown**

- SAB staff are testing and supervising the operation of the systems

#### **Cessford Regional Water Line**

- Fixed a major area where the line was exposed from spring wash
- Repair PRV station along line

**Hanna East**

- Repaired four meter vaults
- Hooked up water to new residence

**Compeer**

- Repair two water leaks

**Kirriemuir**

- Replaced chlorine pump

Installed card readers in the following truck fill locations:

- SDS
- Scapa
- Richdale
- Pollockville
- Oyen 570
- Bindloss
- Altario
- Loyalist

They should all be in service by the end of 2015.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Kern, Technical Services Supervisor*



## 2. PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT – AGRICULTURAL USES

#### Current Status

Special Areas administers approximately 2.6 million acres of agricultural lease land, maintaining native prairie habitat.

Composition of public lands in the Special Areas is:

- Grazing Leases - 81%
- Cultivation Leases – 13%
- Vacant Land – 6%

#### Outcome Statement

Administer approximately 2.6 million acres of agricultural lease land, maintaining native prairie habitat, with an added emphases on facilitating options within Special Areas existing policies for items such as; sublets, regrassing, conversion to cultivation lease, and conversion of abandoned farm lands into improved pasture.

Land is managed to ensure healthy range conditions and sustainable land stewardship standards are being maintained, with a focus on ensuring rates are current and reflective of market realities.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Grazing Leases are in healthy range condition.	All grazing leases inspected on a 20 year schedule, prior to expiry.  Compile inventory of leases in healthy, healthy w/ problems, and unhealthy condition.	100% leases inspected every 20 years.  Follow up inspections of unhealthy range condition every 3-5 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;75 % in healthy</li> <li>• &lt;20 % in healthy with problems</li> <li>• &lt;5 % in unhealthy</li> </ul>
Lease holders able to utilize options as set out under SAB policies.	Co-ordinate with leaseholders who are interested in alternative uses of leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regrassing</li> <li>• Sublets</li> <li>• Conversion of Lease</li> </ul>	Time frames to complete applications are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 week</li> <li>• 4 weeks</li> <li>• Preparation &amp; application to the Board – 5 weeks</li> <li>• Registration of Conversion– 3 weeks</li> </ul>
Ensure undisturbed native prairie remains intact.	Not allowing cultivation of undisturbed native prairie on lease land.	100% policy enforcement of unauthorized cultivation on grazing lease.
	Review restrictive agreements on TRLS to ensure compliance on a five year rotation.	
Rental rates are relevant to the present agricultural situation.	Review lease rental rates.	Review of Grazing Lease Rates annually.  Review of Cultivation Lease Rates annually.
Develop phase 4 of a Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLs) policy.	Implement Phase 4 of the TRLS policy.	
Maintain the grassland vegetation inventory (GVI).	Compile vegetation data from grazing lease inspections and establish benchmarks.	
Ensure compliance with Special Areas Disposition Regulation and relevant Special Areas policies.	Undertake yearly inspections of non-compliance issues.	100% leases in compliance with Special Areas Disposition Regulation and policies.
	Work with lessee to bring issues into compliance.	100% of non-compliance issues to be rectified within 3-5 year time frame.

Special Areas Disposition Regulations are current.	Undertake a Regulatory review. Revisit regulations every 5 years.	
Special Areas Service Fee Regulation is current.	Undertake a review of all rates within Special Areas on a five year schedule.	

## Special Areas Tax Recovery Land Sale



	2014	2015
2004 Sale Total Agreements in Place to Date	753	870
New Agreements Initiated During Year	135	117
Acres Sold this Year	37,774.03	30,606.24
2004 Sale Total Acres Sold to Date (2004 - 2015)	197,589.73	228,195.97
Parcels Paid Out & Transferred to Date	641	753

### Agreements For Sale in Arrears: (Year to Date)

	2014	2015
Area	Number	Number
SA #2	0	1
SA #3	0	1
SA #4	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

	2014	2015
Time	Amount	Amount
< 1 Year	4,292.66	11,762.30
1 Year	0.00	0.00
2 Years	0.00	0.00
> 2 Years	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,292.66</b>	<b>\$11,762.30</b>

### NOTE:

⇒ Acres Offered Under 2004 Sale: 435,000 (More or Less)

Respectfully Submitted: Darlene Herzog

## 2.2 PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT - INDUSTRIAL USES

### Current Status

Special Areas administers approximately 2.6 million acres of agricultural lease land, with regards to oil and gas, mining, wind power, power lines, seismic, and other industrial activities.

The number of industrial leases in the Special Areas are:

- Easements – 1,455
- License of Occupation - 91
- Rights of Entry – 728
- Pipeline – 8,630
- Mineral Surface Leases (MSL) – 15,665 (10,742 Inactive (69%), 4,920 Active (31%))

### Outcome Statement

Administer approximately 2.6 million acres of agricultural lease land, with regard to oil and gas, mining, power lines, seismic, etc., with an added emphases on reclamation compliance.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Reclamation on oil & gas development's since 1992 are in compliance.	Yearly program in place to inspect and ensure new reclamation applications are in compliance.  Issue complaints to Alberta Energy Regulator and operating companies for reclamation applications not in compliance.	100% compliance as per Special Areas policy.
Developments comply with Minimal Disturbance Policy (#06-05) on native range.	Monitoring program in place to ensure Minimum Disturbance Policy is being adhered to.	100% compliance with Minimal Disturbance Policy on native prairie.
Ensure new MSL's have the appropriate operational conditions.	Inspect all sites under MSL applications; authorize with appropriate operational conditions.	100% inspection of new MSL's.
Ensure non-compliance issues are dealt with.	Follow-up with non-compliant operators and if necessary file complaints.	100% resolution of non-compliant issues.
Timely response to new MSL applications.	Set procedure on turnaround of applications.	10 working days.
Appropriate rental rates for MSL/LOC in place.	Review rental rates and proceed to make the necessary adjustments.	
Proper reclamation of gravel pits.	Create a procedure and a program which ensures proper reclamation of gravel pits.	AEP standards.

**Mineral Surface Leases (M.S.L.'s), Right of Entries (R.O.E.'s) and License of Occupations (L.O.C.'s).**

**Active Oil & Gas Leases:**

Easements	1,456
License of Occupation	91
Mineral Surface Lease	10,707
Right of Entry	<u>341</u>

Total 12,595

**Inactive Oil & Gas Leases:**

Easements	17
License of Occupation	15
Mineral Surface Lease	4,990
Right of Entry	<u>365</u>

Total 5,387

**Active Pipeline Agreements:**

Pipeline Agreement	8,028
Pipeline Applications	155

Total 8,183

Pipeline Agreements

- Inactive - 614

- Active - 8,028

Pipeline Applications

- Inactive - 373

- Active - 155

**MSL, PLA, ROE, LOC and EASEMENT REVENUE**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

	<u>Dec 31, 2014</u>	<u>Oct 31, 2015</u>
Mineral Surface Lease Applications Received	66	50
Mineral Surface Lease Revenue	\$ 3,413,959.66	\$ 2,946,084.46
Rights of Entry Revenue	\$ 100,137.50	\$ 84,476.00
License of Occupation Revenue	\$ 70,714.50	\$ 57,614.65
Easement Revenue	\$ 136,587.60	\$ 158,638.25
	-----	-----
2015 Combined Total	\$ 3,721,399.26	\$3,248,018.61
Pipe Line Application Revenue	\$ 2,322.75	\$ 76,458.25
	<b>\$ 3,723,722.01</b>	<b>\$3,324,476.86</b>



## Acreage by Land Use Classification, as of December 2014

	SA #2	SA #3	SA #4	TOTAL
<b>PRIVATE LAND</b>				
Private Patented	1,066,880.04	806,970.02	654,792.73	2,528,642.79
<b>PUBLIC LAND</b>				
Crown	774,651.02	496,185.92	310,219.07	1,581,056.01
Tax Recovery	509,580.63	347,570.66	142,120.58	999,271.87
Departmental Patented	2,365.92	354.41	858.32	3,578.65
<b>TOTAL Public Land</b>	<b>1,286,597.57</b>	<b>844,110.99</b>	<b>453,197.97</b>	<b>2,583,906.53</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL Land</b>	<b>2,353,477.61</b>	<b>1,651,081.01</b>	<b>1,107,990.70</b>	<b>5,112,549.32</b>

### CLASSIFICATION

	Community Pasture	129,949.46	43,458.56	0.00	173,408.02
	Cultivation Lease	7,778.04	47,684.75	14,049.71	69,512.50
	Cultivation Permit	138.09	90.70	0.00	228.79
Disposition	Grazing Lease	1,061,223.82	709,048.03	381,414.74	2,151,686.59
	Grazing Permit	5,360.61	393.03	12,714.79	18,468.43
	Miscellaneous Lease	5,696.11	380.20	102.13	6,178.44
	Water Body	23,963.01	6,924.10	13,810.69	44,697.80
	River Accrued Area	2,090.54	1,223.62	0.00	3,314.16
Private	Tax Recovery AFS	18,146.85	19,006.43	15,832.92	52,986.20
	Titled / AFS Paid	1,081,501.86	820,482.42	665,999.83	2,567,984.11
	Exceptions	17818.59	2,389.17	4065.89	24,273.65
	[e.g. crown vacant, road plans, railway, etc.]				
		2,353,666.98	1,651,081.01	1,107,990.70	5,112,738.69

**2.3 PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**Current Status**

Administer approximately 2.6 million acres of public land, with policies in place to protect native prairie habitat.

**Outcome Statement**

Administer approximately 2.6 million acres of public land, with policies in place to protect native prairie habitat, while protecting key wildlife habitat and managing to multiple uses.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Maintain and protect key wildlife habitat.	Generate a list of all key areas.  Ensure developers & ratepayers are aware of all restricted areas.  Monitor development bordering restricted areas.	Monitor all areas for 100% compliance of policies and procedures.
Special Areas is communicating with other government and other non-governmental organizations.	Ensure a current listing of agencies required to be contacted for environmental issues.	
Develop policies in conjunction with AEP and ratepayers for controlling problem wildlife populations.	Identify over populations concerns raised by local producers.  Work with AEP to ensure effective programs are in place to control populations.	

**GRAZING LEASES, CULTIVATION LEASES AND PERMITS**

(January 1 to October 31, 2015)

	HANNA	OYEN	CONSORT	TOTAL
<b>G.L. Rentals</b>				
2015 Current Levy	600,315.00	627,988.98	\$ 304,563.54	<b>1,532,868</b>
1 Year in Arrears		6,642.17	\$ 476.83	
No. of Accounts		14	3	
2 Years in Arrears		1,751.18		
No. of Accounts		3		
>2 Years in Arrears		1,293.41		
No. of Accounts		2		
<b>Total G.L. Rentals</b>	<b>600,315.00</b>	<b>636,382.33</b>	<b>\$ 305,040.37</b>	<b>1,532,868</b>
<b>G.L. Taxes</b>				
2015 Current Levy	186,089.00	194,307.67	\$ 101,674.56	<b>482,071</b>
1 Year in Arrears		1,246.58	\$ 37.26	
No. of Accounts		8	1	
2 Years in Arrears				
No. of Accounts				
>2 Years in Arrears				
No. of Accounts				
<b>Total G.L. Taxes</b>	<b>186,089.00</b>	<b>195,554.25</b>	<b>\$ 101,711.82</b>	<b>287,764</b>
<b>C.L. Rentals</b>				
2015 Current Levy	25,889.00	267,445.69	\$ 71,277.43	<b>364,612</b>
1 Year in Arrears		5,639.29		
No. of Accounts		3		
2 years in Arrears				
No. of Accounts				
>2 years in Arrears				
No. of Accounts				
<b>Total C.L. Rentals</b>	<b>25,889.00</b>	<b>273,084.98</b>	<b>\$ 71,277.43</b>	<b>97,166</b>

<b>C.L. Taxes</b>				
2015 Current Levy	3,991.00	34,983.54	\$ 8,502.06	<b>47,477</b>
1 Year in Arrears		401.92		
No. of Accounts		4		
2 Years in Arrears		294.72		
No. of Accounts		1		
>2 Years in Arrears				
No. of Accounts				
<b>Total C.L. Taxes</b>	<b>3,991.00</b>	<b>35,680.18</b>	<b>\$ 8,502.06</b>	<b>47,476.60</b>
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>816,284</b>	<b>1,140,702</b>	<b>\$ 486,531.68</b>	

	2014 ACTUAL		TO OCT 31, 2015 ACTUAL	
	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)
<b>REGRASSING PERMITS</b>				
Hanna	4	563	2	241
Oyen	6	655	6	1,065
Consort	3	380	4	570
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1598</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1875.6</b>
<b>GRAZING PERMITS</b>				
Hanna	23	7393	25	7123
Oyen	7	465.5	7	465.5
Consort	32	11,404.73	33	11,565.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19263.23</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>19154.14</b>
<b>FEED PERMITS</b>				
Hanna	5	244	5	77
Oyen	15	728	14	723
Consort	2	60	2	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>858</b>
<b>CULTIVATION PERMITS</b>				
Hanna	3*	247.16	4*	252.14
Oyen				
Consort	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247.16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>252.14</b>
*1 Permits under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 110.85 acres			*1 Permit under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 110.85 acres	
<b>HAY PERMITS (TONS)</b>				
Hanna	4	141.6	4	33.5
Oyen				
Consort	5	0	5	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>141.6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>183.5</b>

## 2015 Range Management Report

The spring and early summer drought throughout Special Areas had significant impact on the amount of forage growth on the native rangelands and tame pastures. Late summer and fall rains provided much better growing conditions and allowed the rangeland to bounce back to an estimation of near normal forage production for the year. The challenge most ranchers had was balancing the grazing demand from the cattle with the limited early forage production. Areas that were given effective and extended rest responded the best to the precipitation once it arrived compared to areas that were over-utilized before the summer rains.

The range management summer work-plan was kept busy in 2015 with grazing lease renewal inspections, oil & gas MSL inspections for reclamation and inquiries, detailed range surveys, community pasture forage production collection and other various re-grassing application and land exchange inspections. The following is some statistical data of grazing lease inspections completed this year:

Total Grazing Leases Inspected:	103
Total Acres Inspected:	199,052
% of GL Rated Healthy Range Condition:	88%
% of GL Rated Healthy w/Problems Range Condition:	11%
% of GL Rate Unhealthy Range Condition:	1%

Oil and gas reclamation activity is progressively getting busier every year throughout the summer in the Special Areas. The large operators continue to maintain aggressive reclamation programs to decrease the liabilities on the landscape as wells become decommissioned and abandoned. A total of 84 well site reclamation applications were received by Special Areas. 16 well sites were found to have notable concerns. Follow-up with company representatives is being worked on to satisfy these concerns.

Reclamation of ATCO's Eastern Alberta Transmission Line and Hanna Regional Transmission Line was on-going throughout the summer. Monthly meetings held by ATCO were attended along with other Special Areas and County of Paintearth representatives. ATCO is shifting the project description from "Capital Project" to "Maintenance" which is basically a movement of the responsibility of the project within the corporate structure of ATCO. ATCO has committed that reclamation of problem areas and on-going monitoring on the overall reclamation success will still be evaluated next year. The open discussion approach on a monthly basis has proven effective to working together to reclaim damages caused during the project construction.

The range management workload is increasing due in large part to the many different areas of business that fall under the responsibility of the Agrologists. There is ~2.2 million acres of Crown land that should be assessed on a set schedule. For comparison, Alberta Environment & Parks Agrologists are responsible for 700,000 acres of grazing lease that is routinely inspected at renewal every 10 years. This amounts to ~70,000 acres of land to assess each field season. To use these standards, the grazing leases in Special Areas would be assessed every 16 years with Unhealthy range assessed more rapidly to determine if management is improving range condition. Community pasture comprises ~177,500 acres of land base that needs to be monitored on a yearly basis to assess range condition for active management to sustain community pasture allotments. The increasing demand for oil & gas reclamation activity takes up a large amount of time for inspections of reclamation applications and follow-up. As managers of Crown lands, Special Areas' input into the work being done in reclamation by oil & gas operators is always requested. Some of these requests are dealt with over the phone or e-mail however field visits up to a day length may be required. Additional staffing through temporary summer employment and contract services is being discussed to keep pace with the summer work-plan goals.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nolan Ball, Rangeland Agrologist



## 2.4 LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Current Status

Manage the development of property through the Special Areas Board Land Use Order.

### Outcome Statement

Manage the development of property through the Special Areas Board Land Use Order with an added emphases on promoting and facilitating long-term sustainable (measured) growth.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Planning land use framework is reflective of the needs of stakeholders.	Effective land use districts.	
Ensure all stakeholders have avenues to address concerns or support for projects, while ensuring neighbors have quiet enjoyment of their property.	Effective public consultation and appeals processes.	
Timely application responses.	Streamlined approval process for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• permits,</li> <li>• subdivisions,</li> <li>• land use order amendments.</li> </ul> <i>(redistricting Agricultural land)</i>	Timelines for decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 days</li> <li>• 60 days</li> <li>• 90 days</li> </ul>
Receive value-adding professional assistance for both the municipality and the developers with subdivisions, area concept plans, area structure plans, etc.	Palliser Regional Municipal Services partnership in place.	Quality of advice and service is comparable to industry standards.
Receive value-adding professional services from economic development partners which stimulates targeted growth.	Work with stakeholders and other agencies to promote growth through strategic economic development.	Operative economic development alliances in each Special Area.  Strategic Operational Plans in place for each economic development alliance, approved annually.  Annual Results/Projects Report presented at Advisory Council Conference.

## 2.5 ASSESSMENT & TAXATION

### Current Status

Provide fair and equitable Property Assessments that comply with the *Alberta Municipal Government Act*, the *Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation* and the *Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation*. Assessment and tax notices comply with the *Alberta Municipal Government Act*.

### Outcome Statement

Provide fair and equitable Property Assessments that comply with the *Municipal Government Act*, the *Matters Relating to Assessment and Taxation Regulation* and the *Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation*. Assessment and tax notices comply with the *Municipal Government Act*.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Fair and Equitable Assessments.	Provide assessments that meet the requirements of all government legislation and regulations.  Maintain the tax roll and provide a combined assessment and tax notice that meet the requirements of all government legislation and regulations.	Mail out the Assessment and Tax Notices on May 15 of every year.
Administer Linear Assessment Notices.	Update all Linear Property with the assessments provided by the Linear Assessment Branch.	
Fair appeal process.	Provide all relevant assessment information to ratepayers and provide assistance to the ratepayer in preparing for an assessment complaint hearing.	All complaints heard and decided by December 31 of the tax year that the complaint was filed.
Communicate assessment changes.	Provide Advisory Council with an overview of how the assessment base changed.	
Valuation Requests.	Provide appraisals, reassessments and tax recovery information.	

### Assessment Report

The annual assessment is on schedule to be completed by the end of February 2016.

Oil and Gas activity was still in decline throughout the Special Areas again this past year with more deletions than additions to our Machinery and Equipment Assessment. Addition of Market Value to land under well sites with M&E was completed in 2015. This provided an increase to the assessment base.

Thirteen Oil and Gas Companies filed assessment complaints about the Market Value land assessment added to their wells. The primary issue of these complaints concerns the amount of land assessed (area in use vs leased area). Since this issue is scheduled to be heard by the Court of Queen's Bench in Mach of 2016 with a decision expected in early fall, the hearing for these complaints is scheduled for November of 2016.

Although activity in the Oil and Gas Industry has slowed down, it still provides a stable assessment base for the Municipality.

The assessments based on Market Value continue to increase. Sales within the Special Areas seem to indicate that an increase in value may be expected however the Assessment Department has not completed the analysis at this time. The actual increase/decrease will be provided at the Spring 2016 Advisory Council Meeting.

The Assessment Department did a general re-assessment of all the residences in Special Areas 4 in 2015 as part of our goal to re-assess every residence within the Special Areas once every 5 years.

The Market Value Assessments continue to grow and provide a stable assessment base for the Municipality.

The province is hoping to table the changes to the Municipal Government Act in the spring and hoping to have the bill passed by the end of 2016 with the review of the Provincial Regulations starting in early 2017. Municipal Affairs is currently working on a new Residential Manual and a New Steel Buildings Manual; these manuals are currently being review in select municipalities and are hoped to be released soon. There has been a great deal of discussion on a new Machinery and Equipment Manual but at this time no decision has been made on what form the new manual will take or when it will be implemented.

There is one Residential Complaint this year dealing with Life Estates and whether a Life Estate should qualify for the Farm Exemptions. This decision is expected by the end of the year.

The assessment complaints from the Sheerness Power Plant are still on going. The complaints for the 2012 Assessment / 2013 Tax Year and the 2013 Assessment / 2014 Tax Year have been decided. There has been a leave to appeal filed on the 2012 Assessment / 2013 Tax Year decision; the date of this hearing has not been scheduled. The CARB hearing for the 2014 Assessment / 2015 Tax Year is scheduled for November / December 2016, tentatively in Edmonton.

Assessment Department  
Special Areas Board

## 2.6 WATER DEVELOPMENT

### Current Status

Providing water supplies for domestic use, irrigation, stock water and recreation.

### Outcome Statement

Introduce and develop opportunities which work toward drought proofing the Special Areas and stabilizing the farm units, with an added emphasis on creating economic development opportunities, and coordinating with Provincial agencies and special interest groups with regard to water usage and development in the Province.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP) will aid in drought proofing the Special Areas while creating economic development opportunities to improve the areas stability.	Continue to pursue the Special Areas Water Supply Project.	An approved SAWSP with opportunity for 8,000 acres of irrigation.
Secure water storage reservoirs to aid in drought proofing, and recreation opportunities.	Maintain water storage reservoirs through both small and large dams.  Complete annual inspections and document all findings for SAB licensed dams and repair as needed  Work with AEP to ensure all AEP licensed reservoirs are managed.	Inspect and repair as needed all 28 SAB Licensed small and 5 AEP Licensed large dams.  Completion of all inspections
Maximize opportunities for irrigation on the Sheerness Deadfish System.	Work with AEP to provide opportunities for irrigators along the Sheerness Deadfish System.  Work with AEP and Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee (CSIAC) to move expansion plans forward.  Promote use of more efficient irrigation systems.  Manage distribution system as effectively as possible.	20,000 acres of irrigation on the Sheerness Deadfish System.
Special Areas participates in provincial and special interest groups in planning activities.	Ensure SAB representatives are at table discussions and meetings for RDRWA & RDRMUG & Water SMART, etc.  Review plans which work for the long term sustainability of the land, resources, and farm and ranch units and provide feedback.	Monitor plans and proposals from Water SMART, SSRB, RDRMUG etc.
Have strategically placed water sources for: potable, spray, livestock, etc.	Work with local communities in the development of water truck fill stations, water supply pipelines or other community water sources.	Ongoing monitoring of truck fill needs.

## WATER DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

2014	Hanna	Oyen	Consort
<b>Number of Leases</b>	2	2	4
<b>2014 Applied Credits</b>	\$789.27	\$196.76	\$1,580.08
<b>2014 Carry Forward</b>			
2015	Hanna	Oyen	Consort
<b>Number of Leases</b>	3	2	4
<b>2015 Applied Credits</b>	\$1,260.76	\$1,083.47	\$1,152.35
<b>2015 Carry Forward</b>			

Respectfully Submitted by:

**Lisa Bietelspacher**

**Lease Supervisor**

## Pumping Units Report to October 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Applications For Use	26	14
Customers Pumped	18	13
Usage of Pump (Hours)	2 to 54	5 to 80
Total Hours Pumped	243	
Customers Cancelled	8	0
Customers to Do		1
Charges For Usage	\$3,955.00	\$4,910.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,955.00</b>	<b>\$4,910.00</b>

	2015	2014
Man Hours Moving Pump	\$3,458.90	\$4,331.13
Truck Hours Moving Pump	\$8,756.40	\$10,690.40
Pump Repairs	\$7,737.23	\$7,111.53
Trailer Repairs	\$635.60	\$1,293.64
Pipe Parts/Labour		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,588.13</b>	<b>\$23,426.70</b>

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paulette Pratt

### 3. AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

#### Current Status Statement

Manage the agricultural services program covering four broad agricultural areas: pest control, weed control, animal disease prevention, and soil management.

#### Outcome Statement

The Special Areas provides agricultural services and manages programs to ensure the effective prevention, control or eradication of pests, weeds and animal disease in the Special Areas. Soil management programs are designed to prevent soil erosion and support long-term agricultural productivity.

A regional emergency response program allows fast and effective responses to control and mitigate the impact of widespread or sudden animal disease (outbreak) in a coordinated manner with local stakeholders, veterinary groups and agricultural industry.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Control or eradicate large weed patches, preventing spread of weeds.	Identify special weed projects and formulate a plan for each.	Business Plan 2015 Appendix H
Provide effective roadside weed control on municipal roads.	Work with Municipal Services on roadside spray projects.  Evaluate expansion of the project.	Business Plan 2015 Appendix H
Increased producer awareness of weed control issues resulting in effective noxious weed control, prevention, or eradication.	Educate ratepayers on noxious weeds.	Business Plan 2015 Appendix H
Administer a safe chemical container disposal program.	Facilitate safe disposal of chemical containers.	100 % of sites cleaned, and containers moved to the crushing facilities prior to fall crushing.
Effective noxious weed control, prevention, or eradication along the river system.	Continue with South Saskatchewan and Red Deer River noxious weed project.	Contain weeds within the river valley. Control weeds from spreading within the valley. Work with upstream municipalities to prevent spreading.
Increased producer awareness issues related to four program areas which results in sustained or increased agricultural productivity.	Support CARA on their programs for improving producer awareness.  Include SAB articles in CARA quarterly newsletter.	Education efforts for producers are resulting in greater awareness.

#### Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 2

The 2015 season began with the hiring of three summer staff- Michael Page (returning), Dalyn Stevenson (returning) and Alyssa Lawrence. Unfortunately after three weeks, Alyssa Lawrence resigned due to personal reasons. All staff received appropriate training in TDG, defensive driving, quad safety and pesticide applicator licensing. They also attended a Dow Agro Weed School in the spring, hosted by MD of Willow Creek.

The 2015 weed program saw inspections at previously marked noxious weed locations, all hamlets and gravel pits in SA2, the Sheerness Coal Mine and ATCO Power Plant, 2015 Special Areas road construction sites and the rail line from Iddesleigh to Majestic Ranching corner. In addition, there were several inspections of new small sites reported by producers including scentless chamomile, burdock and baby's breathe.

Special Areas 2 staff were joined by SA3 & SA4 for 7 working days at the Jenner Leafy Spurge Special Project where we covered the river front property of the formerly known Jenner Colony and Krause projects, including coulee runs. An average of 8 staff members, 4 quads and two spray trucks were used daily to complete the work. Leafy Spurge was found mostly in dense patches in wooded areas close to the river, with one large Russian Knapweed patch in a clearing and several small Russian Knapweed patches scattered throughout. We also found a handful of Burdock plants. Biological control beetles were released at five hard to access locations within the project as well to aid in leafy spurge control.

The 2013 Beetle Release at Joan Horner's was inspected and found to have thriving populations. We will continue monitoring in 2016 and if populations remain high into 2017, we can harvest our own samples for introduction to other sites.

The Scotfield Baby's Breathe project was sprayed in 2 days with 2 staff members and a truck sprayer. There is a noticeable spread from the project area to the surrounding railroad, highway 872 and along the ditch on highway 9 near Scotfield. An effort was made to control these areas, along with highway 865 and Snake Trail north of Hanna. Better control could be achieved in 2016 by visiting the locations twice, once in June and once in August, time permitting.

Spotted Knapweed was located at the south end of the Prairie Oasis walking track and the ATCO Power Plant, with spraying occurring in August. Three other known Knapweed locations were inspected with no signs of the prohibited noxious weeds in 2015.

SA2 staff also devoted 9 days of time to the Hern Ranch Burdock project near Bindloss, 4 days to the 555 East Leafy Spurge Project and 3 days to the V-V Leafy Spurge Project with SA3. The team worked 3 days with SA4 on their Forrester Leafy Spurge Project.

Shelterbelt trees were received in May and distributed by summer staff, with only one rental of the tree planter. The 15 ft No-till drill has seen about 620 acres of use and the 30 ft seed drill has seen over 1000 acres. The 2" pipe plow and 3" pipe plow/trailer were only used a couple of times.

Summer staff completed spring and fall clean-up visits to each of the 12 pesticide container recycling facilities within SA2. Tammy Schwass from CleanFarms visited our Hanna, Bindloss and Scapa sites in June for inspections, providing us with new signs for each site and noted generally our sites are quite structurally nice. Their major concern is our sites are still receiving bulk containers which should be returned to the retailers and not Special Areas sites.

Sales of 2% liquid Strychnine for gopher control was up significantly this year with 771 bottles, compared to 246 bottles sold in 2014. Unfortunately the limited manufacturers of this product had our shipment arriving later than we would have liked, upsetting some rate payers.

In terms of surveys, SA2 monitored two Bertha Army Worm trap lines (Bullpound Flat & Watts Road areas) throughout the summer with more moths found at the northern site. We also participated in the Grasshopper survey in August. Numbers did include both high and low infestations of both harmful and neutral grasshopper species. Ten canola fields were chosen for visual inspection of Clubroot with no symptoms observed; and ten wheat fields were surveyed for *Fusarium graminearum* with results expected this winter.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Jesse Williams,  
Agricultural Fieldman

### **Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 3**

The 2015 summer work season began with the training of the returning and the new summer staff. Darianne Duffield and Brooke Muzyka attended Special Areas Orientation, as well as ASB Orientation. This was both their first year working with Special Areas and took part in Defensive Driving and TDG courses. The MD of Willow Creek hosted the Dow Agro Science pesticide course again this year at Claresholm in May. In the first part of June Weed School was hosted by the County of Newell just outside of Brooks. Darianne and Brooke both attended these courses. Brooke was able to get her Pesticide Applicators License in early July.

A significant number of weed infestations were controlled with chemical, or picked & bagged throughout the summer. Leafy Spurge, Baby's Breath, Burdock and Scentless Chamomile are SA #3 most prevalent weed problems in our approximation.

The 30ft seed drill seen approximately 835 acres of use this spring/summer, and will be used more in the fall to the people who weren't able to use it. We did not receive trees from Bowden this year instead Bowden delivered directly to the producers. The Oyen office has sold 319 strychnine bottles.

The staff sprayed bridges in late May with Round-Up Weather-Max. They also cleaned the pesticide container transfer sites three to four times this summer. This season no live rats were found within Special Areas. There was one dead rat found in Oyen, and the MD of Acadia dealt with that (there were no more rats found). The SA #3 summer staff and Red Deer River crew went up to the Forrester project in SA#4 and gave them a hand in working on that project in mid-late June. Grasshopper surveys were completed towards the end of August, covering all townships in Special Area #3.

Last July we found a new infestation of Leafy Spurge. The infestation is located east of where the 555 ends. This got deemed a special project in January. This summer we had help from SA#2 and SA#4 and worked for three and a half days and used 310 liters of chemical. We used twice as much

chemical with this project than we did last year but did not fully complete the project. The area is vast and with the amount of weeds that are there it will take a lot of chemical and manpower to cover the entire area. We are still controlling the spread.

Burdock Project – We were down at the Hern Ranch for approximately two and a half weeks, with help from SA #2, #4 and the MD of Acadia. Burdock was sprayed with both Aspect and 2-4D, we are seeing good control of the spring growth but we will continue to come back every year.

Baby's Breath project – Both The River Crew and Ag crew worked on this project and spent two days mowing as we had an agreement with Carillion and they were to cut multiple times throughout the season. With the new government in power the funding for the mowing was cut. We are still in the process of spraying Baby's Breath. We are using Clearview and Banvel VM for control. More spraying in the fall will take place.

Sedalia Scentless Chamomile Project- Two days were spent on the scentless chamomile project near Sedalia. The staff used quad sprayers which speeded up the process and used minimal chemical this season. We will be checking regularly to keep the chamomile under control.

V-V project- The V-V project was just finished up in late August and we spent a total of five days of quad spraying, skid spraying and backpack spraying. SA #2 and #4 helped out with this project. We sprayed with Tordon 22k (10L).

Weed Inspections- Last August Maureen Vadnais recommended at our Joint ASB meeting that we spend too much of our summer with special projects and not enough with weed inspections. This year a goal was set out to inspect every road in Special Area #3 as a start. Bill Kolkman did the majority of the weed inspecting, and we figured out that he completed all graveled roads in subdivision 4 and 5, 80% of 6 and 50% of 7. Bill and I are currently still mapping and GPSing the sites that he weed inspected. However many of the old weed sites were not attended to.

Fusarium Surveys- I completed 27 fusarium surveys this summer spread out across SA#3

This season the Red Deer River staff consisted of Kathleen Skjenna, Shayna Shead and Alex Watz. Shayna and Alex were both new and in the beginning of May and got various training done. After training was completed they worked on the Burdock Project as mentioned earlier for a couple of weeks. They then worked on the Baby's Breath Project as mentioned earlier for about a week. The River project started in July, and began on the South Saskatchewan River. The South Saskatchewan River was filled with Leafy Spurge and delayed the crew two weeks. This was not the only obstacle, it was difficult to navigate on the rivers this year as the water level was low. The camp was moved to Bindloss first and was then moved to the final spot at Jenner. With the two week delay the Red Deer River was not completed, it was done up to Jenner. Bill Kolkman again helped extensively to get the new staff get acquainted with how the project is run.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Skjenna  
Agricultural Fieldman, SA #3

## **Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 4**

The 2015 summer work season began with training of the new summer staff. Megan Eamer and Josh Gramlich and Dakota Ruschkowski attended the Special Areas Orientation and the Ag Service Orientation. The staff was certified in TDG, First aid, Quad safety, Defensive driving and H2S. County of Willow Creek hosted the DowAgro Science pesticide course this year in Claresholm, and Weed School was in early June, in Cassils. Justine, Josh, Megan, and Dakota attended both of these courses.

In between training days, the summer staff focused on re-inspecting the previous years weed sites, as well as tackling the old sites found in the files. These inspections resulted in a total of 68 sites confirmed to have noxious weeds requiring pesticide control, and 26 other sites with no growth this season. Scentless chamomile was found to be prevalent in the Hemaruka area. White cockle continues to be a problem in many farm yards, as well as along the ditches of 884, although large portions of the ditches were used for hay this year and was cut at the right time to help with control. Cockle was once again largely present at a recurring site NE of Consort, and two days were spent spraying there. Baby's Breath was found in many areas this year. Josh and Megan spent three days in the Monitor area spraying for Baby's Breath. It was also found and controlled around the T&E pumps area, in the ditches from Monitor to Compeer, and north of the Loyalist turnoff. Yellow toad flax was present at the end of summer in seemingly normal populations, but as September came there were many more reports of large patches that hadn't needed control in years. Toadflax was sprayed until the end of September with ideal conditions such as the late summer rains to likely blame for the influx. There was also some control of hoary cress and common mullein as well as one



patch of dame's rocket, but it is our estimation that scentless camomile, white cockle, and baby's breath remain Special Areas 4's most prevalent weed problems. Special Area's 4 has noxious weeds but is still prohibited noxious weed free to date.

Special projects this summer mainly took place down south in SA2 and 3. Projects included Leafy Spurge and Burdock by Bindloss as well as the Forrester project, Jenner colony project, V-V, and the new 555 East project. The summer staff worked on the burdock project for five days alongside the Oyen and Hanna crews, totaling four backpack sprayers and four pickers. The Spurge at the Forrester project was spread over large areas, but the patches were small making for ideal targets for the quads. The Oyen, Consort, and Hanna crew came together to make six quads and three trucks running this project. The most daunting of the projects was the new 555 project as the patches of Spurge were thick and plentiful. Four days of spraying took place; it is evident that this will be a long-term project. The last project that the summer staff attended was the V-V project. Quads were ideal for the Knapweed and Spurge throughout the area.

Our hiring a new position for the roadside applicator, Dakota, worked extremely well this year. Even though the results of our chemical trials were mixed because of lack of moisture to activate some of the chemistries. This year saw 65 miles of road sprayed in SA 4, 82 miles of road in SA 2, and 62 miles in SA 3 as well as brush spraying in the end of July. This is in comparison to the usual 20-30 miles sprayed in past years. The timeline suffered from setback due to equipment breakdown and calibration from the old Krovar being ran through the system, the spraying was still finished ahead of schedule wrapping up June 17<sup>th</sup>. Once the truck was properly fixed and calibrated the spraying went very well with very few stoppages. 2016 season is also slated as a trial year for various chemistries to get the control which best serve our purpose, and to track any residual effects of the roadsides sprayed this year. Brush spraying was also completed well ahead of the previous schedule, with Dakota finishing by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. All previously cut brush that was not in and around standing water was sprayed in all three areas. Consulting with previous brush maps and setting up a schedule or rotation for brush in the areas is being looked into by the fieldman this winter, so as to catch not only the cut brush, but any and all under 6 ft that causes issue on right of ways.

Other spraying this summer included mosquito control at the Consort Sports Grounds for the bunnock tournament, as well as the Gooseberry Lake Rodeo Grounds.

The summer staff cleaned the pesticide container transfer sites three times. Summer staff was also responsible for moving the 30ft seed drills for rentals. The 30ft drill saw approximately 200 acres of use. The 2 inch pipe plow was rented once. Other smaller tasks included weed eating the Consort weigh scale and spraying with round-up. Bertha Armyworm surveys lasted from mid-June to the end of July, with a weekly inspection resulting in a low designation, similar to last years, they were still well below any level of concern. Grasshopper surveys were completed the second week of August, covering all 51 townships showing consistent numbers with previous years. Post-harvest fusarium and clubroot surveys were performed with the greatly appreciated assistance of SA 2 and 3 fieldmen. Fusarium samples were taken to Brooks for analysis and none of the fields surveyed for clubroot showed any symptoms. Strychnine sales were up considerably, selling all 912 available bottles.

This year was also a trial for the new technology in the ASB program. Programs similar to those developed for the assessment and agrology department were developed last winter, and brought to field test this year. Field use saw many changes to the new app throughout the summer and was well received with the summer staff. More work to fix, and streamline this data entry process is being done over the course of this winter as well. The goal of the Weed Control app is to create a dynamic, specific map of all the weed sites within Special Areas, with information of the previous control info, size, density, exact location and pictures of the site attached to each point for more accurate and more expansive information for each site. This will hopefully eliminate some of the inefficient paperwork, and make access to info and project planning for fieldmen easier and more effective.

In October, the south region weed coordinator, Kelly Cooley, made a visit and made a plan to come out next year to help with project planning and resource allocation, as well as took a tour of the Blueweed project. This project was considered to be under control, but further conversations with the landowner this summer proved this not to be true and more time will be spent there next year.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> ASB 4 hosted the 2015 South Region ASB Conference at Veteran Hall. This event was privy to about 120 people from all the Agricultural Service Boards in the South Region. It was a huge group effort and would not have been possible without everyone in the Consort office pulling

together. The ASB's spoke and debated on two resolutions, one of which will be going on to be heard at the provincial conference in January. There were many comments of not only the great local speakers we had sourced (Jordon Christianson, Elaine Devine (T&E Pumps), BRSC Watershed Alliance, and Terry Schetzle) but what a great job all the girls did in putting on the event.  
#SRASB2015

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justine Simpson  
Agricultural Fieldman  
Special Areas 4

## 4. COMMUNITY PASTURES

### Current Status Statement

Manage the community pastures by providing grazing allotments to help stabilize farm & ranch units for successful resident applicants, based on need, while maintaining a healthy range.

### Outcome Statement

Manage the community pastures by providing grazing allotments to help stabilize farm & ranch units for successful resident applicants, based on need, while maintaining a healthy range, with an added emphases on maintaining quality facilities.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
Ensure sustainability with moderate, manageable rate increases.	Evaluate the grazing fees to ensure costs of operation are relevant.	Cost recovery.
Ensure range condition is healthy going into drought cycles.	Range stocked at appropriate carrying capacity to ensure long term range health.  Stocked as per Special Areas Rangeland Agrologist recommendations.	Unless in drought conditions etc., the range health (as measured by AEP "Rangeland Health Assessment" framework should be approximately: 100% healthy 0% healthy w/problems 0% unhealthy.
Stable membership group which are not prone to cyclical nature of the cattle industry.	Maintain modest turnover in each pasture.	98% of allotment.
Sustainable community pasture for the future with the ability to attract and retain quality staff.	Maintain quality facilities such as; fences, water development, homes, equipment, corrals, etc.	Long term capital plan is in place.

### Fall 2015 Community Pasture Report

#### Buffalo-Atlee Community Pasture

Range Condition: Excellent

Forage production was between 1000-2150 lbs/acres

Total AUM'S = 10,608      Total Allotment = 10,564      % Allotted in 2015 = 100%

4 New patrons admitted into the pasture.

Spratt Camp unloading corrals are complete.

Future plans:

- Replace interior fencing
- Need to complete 5.5 miles of shallow water lines and associated troughs etc.

#### Bullpound Community Pasture

Range Condition: Good

Forage production was between 250-2500 lbs/acres

Total AUM'S = 4658      Total Allotment = 4647      % Allotted in 2015 = 100%

1 New patron admitted to Coleman Lake

4 miles of perimeter fence was constructed including entrance into Prairie Oasis Park.

6 quarters of grass were utilized on the south side of the mine for the first time.

Corrals were constructed at the reclaimed mine location

Future plans:

- Cross fencing.
- Continue to monitor the mine reclamation for additional grazing opportunities.

#### Remount Community Pasture

Range Condition: Good

Forage production was between 600-1500 lbs/acres

Total AUM'S = 8136      Total Allotment = 8021      % Allotted in 2015 = 101%

3 New patrons admitted into the Remount side of the pasture, 1 new patron in Cavendish

6.5 miles of fence replaced

Future plans:

- Cross fencing
- Corrals

Richdale Community Pasture

Range Condition: Excellent

Total AUM'S = 915      Total Allotment = 336 %      Allotted in 2015 = 37%

Allotment numbers are down to 105 steers and 3 patrons. It was recommended to adjust the allotment capacity of the pasture to 915 AUM from 1700 AUM's in 2014.

Future plans:

- Investigate divesting of the Richdale pasture and moving current patrons AUM's to the Bullpound pasture when current mining land becomes available for grazing.

Sounding Creek Community Pasture

Range Condition: Good

Forage production was 320-1750 lbs/ac

Total AUM'S = 7920      Total Allotment = 7913      % Allotted in 2015 = 100%

3 miles of perimeter fence replaced.

Drilled a new water well.

205 acres of old re-grassed area was broke and tendered out for cropping from 2014-2016. To be reseeded to grass in 2017.

Future plans:

- Continue to investigate main corral relocation.
- With corral relocation, cross fencing location will have to be carefully examined.
- Need to explore options for additional water supplies in the pasture

Respectfully Submitted by:

Trent Caskey,  
Administrator, SA2

**SPECIAL AREAS COMMUNITY PASTURE**

**2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTED TO DECEMBER 31, 2015**

**REVENUE:**

975,370 days	\$0.62	\$	604,729.40	
6,000 calves	\$8.00	\$	48,000.00	
Pasture Supervisor House Rentals		\$	9,600.00	
Land Rental (SCCP Regrassing Project)		\$	1,218.00	
				<b>\$ 663,547.40</b>

**EXPENDITURES:**

**Royalty and Taxes:**

Royalty

173,206 acres      0.8929 (\$/acre)      \$ 154,655.64

Taxes

5,662,500 Assessment      9.09 (mils)      \$ 51,472.13

**\$ 206,127.76**

**Operating Expenditures:**

Salaries	\$	292,258.00	
Wages for Assistants	\$	78,157.69	
Employer Contributions	\$	77,885.00	
Worker's Compensation Board	\$	4,634.00	
Travel & Sub	\$	845.78	
Mileage	\$	787.89	
Telephone	\$	11,707.59	
Advertising	\$	1,090.04	
Training & Education	\$	750.00	
Building Repairs	\$	94,000.00	
Mach Repair	\$	15,687.67	
Contract Repairs	\$	2,500.00	
Machinery Equip. Rental	\$	-	
General Supplies	\$	4,746.38	
Water Dev (Capital Assets)	\$	20,483.19	
Fuel/Oil	\$	37,085.39	
Fencing Supplies (Capital Assets)	\$	30,000.00	
Attractive Items	\$	500.00	
Chemicals & Salt	\$	7,681.58	
Grass Seed & Fert	\$	-	
Natural Gas	\$	5,000.00	
Electric Power	\$	18,000.00	
	\$	703,800.20	<b>\$ 703,800.20</b>

**Depreciation of Capital Assets:**

2015 30' Goose Neck Trailer	5 yrs	1	\$	20,000.00	
2015 Buffalo Atlee Spratt Camp	10 yrs	1	\$	10,000.00	
2015 Generator	5 Yrs	1	\$	1,200.00	
2014 Three Generators	5Yrs	2	\$	1,200.00	
2013 Two Gators (Sounding Creek & Remount)	5Yrs	2	\$	6,900.00	
2013 Two Generators (Remount)	5Yrs	2	\$	820.00	
2013 Post Pounder (Bullpound)	10Yrs	2	\$	1,300.00	
2013 Bullpound Water (Cystern & Bldg)	10Yrs	2	\$	769.70	
2013 Bullpound Corrals	40yrs	2	\$	1,074.46	
2013 Cereal West Corrals	40Yrs	2	\$	769.88	
2012 Water Development	20 Yrs	3	\$	1,776.70	
2012 SCCP Natural Gas	40 Yrs	3	\$	562.50	
2012 Buffalo-Atlee Corrals	40 Yrs	3	\$	1,875.00	
2012 JD Gators (2)	5 Yrs	3	\$	6,500.00	
2011 Trucks	10 Yrs	4	\$	11,731.00	
2011 BACP Barn	20 Yrs	4	\$	2,063.00	
2011 Water Development	20 Yrs	4	\$	197.00	
2010 Bullpound Seasonal Res	40 Yrs	5	\$	1,890.23	
2008 Water Development	20 Yrs	7	\$	1,941.00	
2008 Arctic Cat Prowler	10 Yrs	7	\$	6,000.00	
2007 RMCP Barn	20 Yrs	8	\$	1,250.00	
2007 Water Development	20 Yrs	8	\$	280.00	
2006 Water Development	20 Yrs	9	\$	1,650.00	
2005 Water Development	20 Yrs	10	\$	1,000.00	
2005 Post Pounder	10 Yrs	10	\$	960.00	
2005 BACP Assistant Quarters	20 Yrs	10	\$	2,660.00	
2004 Fire Skids	20 Yrs	11	\$	500.00	
2004 Water Development	20 Yrs	11	\$	2,250.00	
2003 Water Development	20 Yrs	12	\$	1,583.00	
2002 Water Development	20 Yrs	13	\$	5,700.00	
2001 Water Development	20 Yrs	14	\$	4,000.00	
2000 Water Development	20 Yrs	15	\$	2,000.00	
1999 Water Development	20 Yrs	16	\$	1,350.00	
					<b>\$ 103,753.47</b>
					<b>\$ 807,553.67</b>
					<b>\$ 663,547.40</b>
					<b>-\$ 144,006.27</b>

## 5. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

### 5.1 RURAL STABILIZATION – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Current Status

Rural sustainability and growth are priorities, recognizing that “remote” rural strategies are key.

#### Outcome Statement

Rural sustainability and growth are priorities, recognizing that “remote” rural strategies are key. Special Areas is ensuring regional supports are in place, which encourage community and business development, population growth and innovation.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
There is regional collaboration to implement community economic development projects and initiatives.	Maintain and support three regional economic development alliance boards: Cactus Corridor Economic Dev. Corp, SA 4 Economic Development & SAMDA Economic Partnership.	Annual reports are received from each alliance.
Access to internet is available to residents that can be used for both personal and business applications.	Continue partnership with Netago to upgrade and add necessary towers and equipment to supply high-speed internet to residents.	95% of rural residents have access to internet.  10-15 MB service available to all serviced residents.
Youth have opportunities to make Special Areas their home.	Support and grow the Return to Rural initiative.	Annual reports are received.
Tourism industry is promoted and supported in the Special Areas region.	Maintain regional partnership via Travel Special Areas, Canadian Badlands, Alberta Tourism, etc.	Annual report on statistics and activities.
Strong viable Towns and Villages exist within S.A.	Industrial tax transfer assists the Towns and Villages within the Special Areas.	
Diverse recreational facilities are available throughout the region.	Recreation grants to assist with the annual operations of recreation facilities within the Special Areas, and within the Towns and Villages for use by the Special Area residents.	

**SPECIAL AREAS NO. 2  
RECREATION REPORT FOR 2015**

COMMUNITY CLUB	10 YEAR ADVANCE ADJUSTMENT	GRANT \$	INSURANCE DEDUCTION	CHEQUE ISSUED
Berry Creek Ag Society	\$ 22,778.39			
	\$ (16,000.00)	\$ 6,778.39		\$ 6,778.39
Berry Creek Community Club	\$ 5,494.79			
	\$ (990.00)	\$ 4,504.79	\$ 2,218.00	\$ 2,286.79
Berry Creek (Cessford) Library		\$ 2,197.91		\$ 2,197.91
Big Country Riding & Roping Club		\$ 2,747.39	\$ 1,735.00	\$ 1,012.39
Bindloss Community Hall Board	\$ 22,778.39			
	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 20,278.39	\$ 2,960.00	\$17,318.39
Buffalo Agricultural Society	\$ 27,149.24			\$ -
	\$ (18,000.00)	\$ 9,149.24		\$ 9,149.24
Cessford Home & School Association		\$ 1,648.44		\$ 1,648.44
Diamond Jubilee Rec & Cult Centre		\$ 29,971.56	\$11,646.00	\$18,325.56
Dorothy Community Club		\$ 8,541.90	\$ 866.00	\$ 7,675.90
Empress, Village of		\$ 38,963.03		\$38,963.03
Empress & Dist Friendship Centre		\$ 5,494.79		\$ 5,494.79
Empress Library		\$ 1,498.58		\$ 1,498.58
HandHills Lake Club		\$ 8,242.18		\$ 8,242.18
Hanna, Town of	\$ 193,716.20			\$ -
	\$ (90,000.00)	\$ 103,716.20		\$103,716.20
Hanna Municipal Library		\$ 2,747.39		\$ 2,747.39
Hanna Motorcross Association		\$ 2,197.91		\$ 2,197.91
Hanna Rod & Gun Club		\$ 549.48		\$ 549.48
Homestead Coulee Community Assoc		\$ 7,967.44	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 5,798.44
Iddesleigh Community Centre		\$ 5,494.79		\$ 5,494.79
Jenner Hall Committee		\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Pollockville Curling Club		\$ 22,778.39		\$ 22,778.39
Red Rose Community Club		\$ 5,494.79		\$ 5,494.79
Richdale Community Club	\$ 5,494.79			\$ -
	\$ (500.00)	\$ 4,994.79	\$ 1,953.00	\$ 3,041.79
Sandhills Roping Club		\$ 2,197.91		\$ 2,197.91
Scapa Athletic Association		\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Social Plains Community Club	\$ 2,497.63			\$ -
	\$ (500.00)	\$ 1,997.63		\$ 1,997.63
Spondin Community Club		\$ 5,494.79		\$ 5,494.79
Table Rock Riding & Roping Club	\$ 2,197.91			\$ -
	\$ (1,900.00)	\$ 297.91		\$ 297.91
Supplemental Library Funding		\$ 22,000.00		\$ 22,000.00
Project Reach		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Dorothy Community Club Infrastructure Improvement		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
<b>TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUM DEDUCTIONS</b>			<b>\$23,547.00</b>	
		<b>TOTAL GRANT</b>	<b>\$ 333,946.01</b>	
		<b>HOLDBACKS</b>	<b>(\$130,390.00)</b>	<b>Total of Chq Issued</b>
		<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION LEVY</b>	<b>\$ 468,336.00</b>	<b>\$ 314,399.01</b>

The Special Areas No. 2 Recreation Board consists of the following members:

Glenn Quast	Neal Roes
Sherry Jensen	Lila Bird
Darcy Ferguson, Special Areas Board	Trent Caskey, Secretary

*Submitted by: Trent Caskey, Secretary  
Special Area No. 2 Recreation Board*

## SPECIAL AREA NO. 3 RECREATION REPORT FOR 2015

The 2015 Recreation Mill Rate Levy was designated as follows:

	Grant Withheld for 10 yr Advance	Jubilee Insurance	Total Amount	
Village of Cereal			\$35,129.90	
Cereal & District Library Board			\$5,017.67	
Village of Youngstown			\$36,684.32	
Youngstown & District Library Board			\$5,017.67	
Town of Oyen	\$0.00		\$111,918.27	
Oyen & District Library Board			\$10,035.34	
Big Stone Community Building Fund Assoc.	\$0.00	(\$2,562.00)	\$10,109.07	
Cappon Community Club		(\$1,325.00)	\$4,256.45	
Chinook & District Community Club		(\$1,691.00)	\$7,803.50	
Esther Community Hall New Building Society		(\$1,706.00)	\$9,222.31	
Lanfine Hall Community Association		(\$1,280.00)	\$3,547.04	
New Brigden Community Association	\$0.00	(\$2,222.00)	\$10,109.07	note 2
New Brigden Central Curling Club			\$9,222.31	
Sedalia Hall Club		\$0.00	\$9,697.62	note 3
Sibbald Community Club		\$0.00	\$9,697.62	note 3
Big Country Agricultural Society		(\$5,233.00)	\$11,191.83	note 2
Misc.			\$0.00	
Misc.			\$0.00	
			<b>\$288,660.00</b>	

Approximately 75% of the total funds generated are distributed to the Town of Oyen and Villages of Cereal and Youngstown.

The Special Area No. 3 Recreation Board consists of the following members:

Shaune Switzer - Chair  
Ray Rude - Member  
Merlin Peterson -Member  
Darcy Ferguson, Special Areas Board  
Darran Dick, Secretary

note 1 (numbers are total allocation before insurance and 10 yr advances are removed)

note 2 (Jubilee Ins. paid directly)

note 3 (includes special allocation \$ 1,000.00 extra for insurance)



**SPECIAL AREA #4  
RECREATION REPORT FOR 2015**

The 2013 Recreation Mill Rate Levy of \$241,809 was designated as follows:

	<b>Advance</b>	<b>Jubilee Insurance</b>	<b>Total Grant</b>
Village of Consort	(\$60,000.00)		\$112,217.18
Consort Municipal Library Board			\$15,000.00
Village of Veteran	(\$1,000.00)		\$52,588.86
Veteran Municipal Library			\$5,000.00
Altario Community Association		(\$1,978.00)	\$9,523.97
Compeer Community Centre	(\$4,500.00)	(\$1,902.00)	\$23,602.88
Hemaruka Hall Association	(\$350.00)		\$4,000.00
Kirriemuir Community Association		(\$1,307.00)	\$9,523.97
Monitor Community Club			0
Consort Lakeview Golf Club	(\$4,030.00)		\$10,352.14
			<b>\$241,809.00</b>

The 2015 Special Areas No. 4 Recreation Board consists of the following members:

Gordon Long  
 Krista McGregor  
 Dana Henfrey-Sansregret  
 Darcy Ferguson  
 Corinne Kelts

Respectfully Submitted by:

Corinne Kelts, Secretary  
 Special Area No. 4 Recreation Board

## Economic Development



**All Aboard** – Monica Knight continued her contract work this year to take the All Aboard initiative to the final steps of cluster development. The pilot events for the Hanna/Parker Wedding took place on September 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> with Willowcreek as the venue and caterer. After the March 29<sup>th</sup> Ghost Walk Showcase, the Hanna Museum decided to continue the Ghost Walks with six pilot events throughout the summer. Both pilot projects demonstrated the potential to attract “outside dollars” to our area. Two projects under Main Street Rejuvenation moved forward. The first was the All Aboard decals that are currently at The Emporium, Country Charms, Homestyle Pies, Smith & Hersey and the new Town Office. The second was the painting of the west exterior wall of the Legion courtesy of ATCO Power, who donated the manpower and lift, and Warwick’s Home Hardware and Town of Hanna, who donated painting supplies. The Town of Hanna also sponsored the Camrose Chamber of Commerce train to provide rides for all ages at the August Fall Fair. Mr. Champion has been restoring crossbucks and railway signage to be placed throughout Hanna. The All Aboard Leadership Group has been formed and met on October 15<sup>th</sup> and they are having their Cluster Muster on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Hanna Roundhouse Society** – Providing this Society with resources, including through All Aboard, to assist in meeting their Roundhouse project goals. A workshop for the Society Board was facilitated by Brad Tucker from Canadian Badlands on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Brad discussed the importance of unique REMARKable tourist experiences that attract a premium price. Cactus Corridor drafted a business plan for the Society, which the Society will review once the initial repairs are complete this Fall. Cactus Corridor and Hanna Museum worked with a JC Charyk student group to finish a Roundhouse model that the Museum donated. The model was finished in time for the Roundhouse CN Reunion in August. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Monica Knight and Cactus Corridor conducted a photography competition at the Roundhouse with the Society as host and judge. Canadian Badlands sponsored the first-place cash prize, won by Athena Winchester from Broken Curfew Photography in Drumheller, and Monica Knight from Shosholoza sponsored the second-place cash prize, won by Jill Clayholt Photography in Delia. Eight photographers participated in the competition and came from as far as Calgary and Edmonton.

**Youngstown** – Several events have been undertaken to achieve the Youngstown Council's goal of youth engagement. A Junior Achievement program will be facilitated at the Youngstown School by Cactus Corridor on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The RABC (Rural Alberta Business Centre) brought the Community Futures Lemonade Game to Youngstown on October 20<sup>th</sup> and Cactus Corridor acted as a judge. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, a workshop was conducted by Monica Knight (All Aboard facilitator) with the Grade 7-12 students to get their ideas on a vision for Youngstown. The students' ideas were presented to the parents at the October 13<sup>th</sup> School Parent Council meeting. In 2016, Cactus Corridor will continue to work with the community to move these ideas forward. Cactus Corridor is also providing support to local businesses & completed a profile on the Alberta Vipassana Meditation Centre for promotion.

**Growth & Development Committee** – Participating in this Town of Hanna Committee to investigate ways to improve development in the Town of Hanna and encourage growth, including conducting meetings with landowners and business owners. The Council is considering various incentives to achieve these goals, including new business tax incentives and a storefront renovation program.

**Agricultural Facility Committee** – On May 11<sup>th</sup>, a community engagement meeting was held to gauge interest in a potential Agricultural Multi-Purpose Facility. There was enough interest that a committee of ten people was formed in the Fall and the Committee is participating in a series of meetings to investigate the feasibility of this project.

**Hanna Business Walk** – The first annual Hanna Business Walk took place in December 2014 and 109 businesses in Hanna were surveyed. The second annual Hanna Business Walk took place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Survey results should be available by the end of December.

**Sustainable Economic Futures (SEF)** – Cactus Corridor is participating in this RABC program as a Project Management Team member and as a Project Resource Team member. The program is seeing great results for entrepreneurs/business owners in a short period of time, approximately one month.

**Regional Economic Development Services** – Participating in a pilot program with Government of Alberta's Regional Economic Development Services. They are currently evaluating our region and providing recommendations to improve our economic development efforts. They will provide resources along the process to further our economic development goals.

**Hanna Chamber Business Awards** – The second annual Hanna Chamber Business Awards were held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> during Small Business Week and Cactus Corridor sponsored the Employee's Choice award, won by Jerry's Liquor Store. Cactus Corridor also was nominated for Rookie Business of the Year.

## **SAMDA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS REPORT 2015**

2015 regional economic development initiatives were successful. The SAMDA program involves Special Areas, MD of Acadia No.34, Town of Oyen, Village of Empress and Village of Cereal. Here is a sampling of our many effective projects and programs this year.

### **BUSINESS SERVICES**

Our office provides services to entrepreneurs and community organizations upon request. Services provided: grant information, community information, business planning, investment attraction, marketing planning & workforce/recruitment coaching. We've developed a good repour with the community and services are requested frequently. Stats: 43 Business & Community Client Consults completed; posted 300 jobs online; supported 3 municipal boards/committee & 5 of their projects.

### **PROJECT LISTING**

**Regional:** \*Return to Rural \*Alberta's Special Area Tourism \*Exploration for Legacy Buildings  
\*Physician Careers in Oyen \*Special Areas Cultural Centre \* R2R Next Leaders Event  
\*#workwednesday \*R2R Career & Entrepreneurship Expo \*Take a Rural roadtrip

**Supporting Communities:** \*Seniors Health Task Force Oyen \*CAO Recruitment MD \*Empress & District Summer Musical Event \* Investment Attraction Community Hubs

### **HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS (for more project details see [samdaonline.ca/boardroom](http://samdaonline.ca/boardroom))**

**Take a rural roadtrip** - 3 new self-guided trips, travel planner and maps, linking/building off of Travel Special Areas marketing. This project is designed to encourage more travelers to visit attractions, businesses and member communities. More details @takearuralroadtrip.ca

**Return to Rural** ~ inviting young people to engage, stay and return to Rural is R2R's focus. The project provides a unique opportunity to assist municipalities, youth, business and communities. The initiative continues to be well-supported and many activities were completed this year:

- #workwednesday
- Business/Job/Rental Listings available online
- Business and youth lead follow-up & consults
- R2R Next Leaders Skill Development
- R2R Career & Entrepreneurship Event
- Recruitment Event/Booths & Investment Communications Strategy
- Social Media communications program & recruiting
- Regional Collaboration Framework & portal development

**Seniors Health Task Force Oyen** –the task force continues to meet quarterly, since 2013. In partnership with Alberta Health Services, the group has identified two main priorities and continue to work towards achieving them. Priorities are Oyen Medical Clinic replacement and seniors supportive living spaces. More details @[www.samdaonline.ca/projects](http://www.samdaonline.ca/projects)

### **BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

A big thank you to our Board of Directors for their leadership and commitment to Rural economic development & SAMDA. The Board of Directors, appointed by member municipalities, meets quarterly. AGM was held in April 2014. Executive: Chairman: Tami Olds, Vice-Chairman: Brent Williams, Treasurer: Stacey Wiechnik, Secretary: Darran Dick

Thank you to the Special Areas Board Members, Councilors and Staff for your continued support, participation and collaboration!

Respectfully submitted by, Christie Dick, Economic Development Practitioner

[samdaonline.ca](http://samdaonline.ca) | [travelspecialareas.com](http://travelspecialareas.com) | [returntorural.ca](http://returntorural.ca) | [physiciancareersinoyen.com](http://physiciancareersinoyen.com)

## **SPECIAL AREA NO. 4 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Special Area No. 4 Regional Economic Development is working hard for all communities within Special Areas. The communities of focus are Altario, Compeer, Consort, Hemaruka, Kirriemuir, Monitor, and Veteran. The following is a summary of various projects carried out throughout the past year.

### NEWCOMERS CANADA JOB FAIR

This was an amazing experience! Along with Larae Pierson we shared the RURAL experience with people from around the world. Attending the fair with us was Rural Physician Opportunities Canada and local business Gateway Junction.

### #100CUPSOFCOFFEE

I am always looking for creative ways to connect with people living or visiting our region. This idea worked well and was a simple and effective way to reach out to people.

- Ask one question.
- Discuss it over a coffee. Good coffee!
- Enter a draw for a weekend pass to Gooseberry Lake Rodeo.
  - 100 cups of coffee drank.
  - Feedback from 100 people

### SPECIAL AREAS TRAVEL WRITER TOUR

This was a wonderful learning experience. Travel writer Ole Helmhausen has been commissioned by a travel magazine in Germany to do a 14 page article on the Canadian Badlands. Three pages of the article is dedicated to the Special Areas. Joining Ole was photographer Brown W. Cannon III. Brown was on contract to provide photos to accompany the article.

### NEUTRAL HILLS LEARNING & COMMUNITY CONNECTION CENTRE

In the spring of 2015 the Neutral Hills Learning and Community Connection Centre Board reviewed the structure of the Community Connection Centre and concluded that the programs and services being offered were not meeting all of the needs in our region. A meeting with Village of Consort, Village of Veteran and Special Area No. 4 council members confirmed this and they (council) provided the board with a list of specific expectations that they would like to see implemented. A thorough evaluation of all programs and services being offered combined with facilitated planning has resulted in restructuring the organization.

### HIWAY 12 CORRIDOR TOURISM VISIONING

This is a regional project among communities along Hiway 12. The partners, who formed an advisory committee of representatives, are from the Towns of Castor and Coronation, the Villages of Consort, Halkirk and Veteran, the County of Paintearth and Special Area No. 4. This project incorporated primary and secondary research along with community input to gather information and determine the regional theme, individual municipal tourism niches, and priorities. 9 key steps were taken to complete the project. The following municipal tourism niches are recommended:

#### **Regional Theme: From our Past...Into our Future**

- **Village of Consort: Ol'Time Sports**  
*Offering opportunities to experience fun and adventure through games and sport.*
- **Village of Veteran: Connecting People through Community**  
*Providing experiences of traditional community values.*
- **Special Areas No. 4: Cultural Influences of Settlers**  
*Offering a glimpse into how local cultures influenced the area.*

### BOARD GOVERNANCE

The need for board leadership has been identified. Working with Karen Blewett from Alberta Government Culture and Tourism workshops were planned and facilitated. Feedback from attendees of the sessions has shown that one organization, based on the on the information learned at the Making Meetings Meaningful, adopted a Consent Agenda for their meetings.

### BUNNOCK TOURNAMENT

The Bunnock Tournament celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2015 with 84 teams. The SA4 office provides assistance by taking in registrations and maintaining the data base. The hi-light was working with the Village to expand the permanent court size and install permanent fencing. This makes it more attractive to host more events at the Sports Grounds. Future wish list item would be to revamp the partially enclosed shelter attached to the concession to allow attendees to watch the activities from under the shell.

### MADE IN ALBERTA

Made In Alberta continues to grow and provide awareness of products produced in Alberta.

- In August MIA partnered with the Village of Veteran and the Canadian Badlands to host an 'eat local' long supper. The event raised awareness of local suppliers and attracted attendance from out of the Special Areas.
- Coordinated *Marketing and Pricing for Profit* Workshop in June. Explore Local staff from Alberta Agriculture facilitated the workshop. Ten producers from Special Areas 3 & 4 attended.
- Provided resources for Open Farm Days in August, including billboard on Hwy 9

**NEUTRAL HILLS CHILD CARE SOCIETY - NHCCS**

NHCCS is the governing board of the Stepping Stones Daycare and meets monthly to review the business of childcare including finances and programming. Fall 2015 the daycare increased classroom space and is operating an afterschool program for families with children in daycare and school. NHCCS recently received CFEP funding for \$12, 500. It is a matching grant to be used for a wheelchair access ramp and playground.

**CONSORT FARMERS' MARKET**

Consort Farmers' Market formed in 2010 to provide a venue for local producers. Through the SA4 RED office marketing and business support was provided to vendors.

- SA4RED provided marketing and HR support to the Consort Farmers' Market (C-FM) season. Market Stats: 1600+ people attended, 237 plus volunteer hours were recorded by the most amazing volunteers ever, approximately 780 meals were served, 4 non-profit organizations raised money, \$530 in prize money was awarded, three contests were held and the really cool, spectacular thing that happened this year was that we had 35 vendors believe in CFM-2015 and 17 of them were new to our market AND there were endless smiles from people happy to be in the community.
- Special Area No. 4 provides in-kind services to the market, with Neutral Hills Ag. Society financially contributing to the insurance and advertising expenses.

**EAST CENTRAL HOUSING SOCIETY**

ECHS has been tirelessly fundraising and applying for grants since 2002. With approximately \$600k in funding secured the Community and Seniors Centre is finally moving forward. The group anticipates breaking ground in March 2016.

<i>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS</i>	<i>REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS</i>
<i>Consort &amp; District Medical Society Association</i>	<i>Battle River Alliance for Economic Development</i>
<i>Consort Bunnock Committee</i>	<i>Cactus Corridor Economic Development Corporation</i>
<i>Consort Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Canadian Badlands Product Development Committee</i>
<i>Consort Farmers' Market</i>	<i>Economic Development Alberta</i>
<i>East Central Housing Society</i>	<i>Palliser Economic Partnership</i>
<i>Neutral Hills Agricultural Society</i>	<i>Return to Rural Project</i>
<i>Neutral Hills Child Care Society</i>	<i>Rural Alberta Business Center</i>
<i>Neutral Hills Learning and Community Connection Centre</i>	<i>SAMDA</i>
<i>Village of Consort</i>	
<i>Village of Veteran</i>	

I am looking forward to a busy year in 2016. As our communities come together we will be building on the values we trust to create an environment we desire. **THANK YOU** to the *Special Areas Board, Village of Consort and Village of Veteran* for your continued support of Community and Economic Development initiatives in the region

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Wanda Diakow  
 Economic Development Officer  
 Special Area No. 4 Regional Economic Development

## 5.2 RURAL STABILIZATION – COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES & PHYSICIAN RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

### Current Status

Strategies are in place to preserve health services in the region, focused on the three health services centers in the region: Big Country Hospital Oyen, Consort Hospital and Hanna Hospital. Special focus is on proactive physician retention and recruitment strategies and initiatives to ensure diverse services are maintained.

### Outcome Statement

Diverse, community focused health services are in place for the people of Special Areas, with special focus on physician retention and recruitment.

Desired Outcomes	Actions	Measurements / Standards
The hospitals in Hanna, Consort, & Oyen are strong and deliver diverse, community focused services.	Continue to support relationships with local health stakeholders, Alberta Health Services and the Medical Dental Boards to identify bottlenecks, issues, and work with these stakeholders to eliminate problem areas.	Hospitals with active care beds and emergency services in Hanna, Consort, and Oyen.
Full quotas of physicians are maintained at the hospital sites in Hanna, Consort & Oyen.	Effective physician recruitment and retention strategies in place and operating and include: effective incentive packages; working relationships with Physicians, municipal partners, AHS and community stakeholders.	Physicians quota is met: Oyen: 3 Hanna: 4 Consort: 2
Modern physician clinics in three communities for both the physicians and residents.	Determine the needs for physician clinics and ensure appropriate clinics are constructed and operating.	Three modern physician clinics.
Full spectrum of seniors' health care services are available. (i.e.: aging in place, homecare, diverse housing, long term care, dementia, hospital services, etc.)	Partnerships are maintained and conversations continue on improving health services via: Acadia Foundation, Seniors Health Task Forces, BCMDB, AHS, municipal partners and community stakeholders.	
Health professionals are in place in our communities: (dentists, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, optometrists, etc.)	Where required, support recruitment and retention strategies over the full spectrum of professionals in health services.	

## AFSC

The following information has been prepared for the Special Areas Fall 2015 Advisory Meeting. Nov 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015

	<b>Hanna Approved</b>		<b>Provincial</b>	
	<b>Oct 31, 2015</b>	<b>Oct 31, 2014</b>	<b>Oct 31, 2015</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>Loan Amt</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Loan Amt</b>
Alberta Farm Loans	37	\$ 7,488,042	30	\$ 7,657,399
Commercial Loans	0	0	1	\$ 90,000
VAAP	0	0	1	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL Approved</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$ 7,488,042</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$ 7,797,399</b>
<b>Average loan amount</b>				<b>\$202,379.51</b>
				<b>\$243,668.72</b>

	<b>Hanna</b>	<b>Hanna</b>	<b>Provincial</b>
<b>Loan Statistics</b>	<b>Oct 31, 2015</b>	<b>Oct 31, 2014</b>	<b>Oct 31, 2015</b>
Total Loans	378	386	12,080
Approved Amount	\$76,627,033	\$76,443,689	-----
Loan Balance	\$59,347,015	\$61,960,657	\$2,101,717,262
Arrears #	29	53	1085
Arrear \$	\$125,640	\$757,855	\$29,706,060
% of total	< 1.00%	1.00%	1.00%

<b>Loan statistics:</b>	<b>Provincial</b>	<b>Provincial</b>
	<b>Oct. 31, 2015</b>	<b>Oct. 31, 2014</b>
Total direct loans	12,229	12,078
Loan Balance	\$2,217,087,843	\$ 2,101,619,317
Average loan balance	\$ 181,297.56	\$ 174,003.92
Difference in loans	+151 or 1% increase	
Difference in loan balance	+ \$ 115,468,526 or 5% increase	

<b>Paid out loans Provincially (Total 959)</b>	<b>Oct. 31, 2015</b>	<b>Oct. 31, 2014</b>
Total	959	891
Paid out normal	722	654
Refinanced with another institution	76	80
Still Farming/own resources	17	33
Still Farming/sold security	35	28
Alternative Financing	8	19
Refinance elsewhere/restructuring	28	12
Exiting farming voluntarily	12	9
Cease operations	5	8
Financial Management	7	7
Life Insurance	2	5
Other	47	36

We would like to express our appreciation to the Board Members, to the staff of Special Areas, plus to the Advisory Council, for their help and cooperation this past year. We look forward to working with all of you in the future.

### **Hanna AFSC Lending Specialists (LS)**

*Carla Heiland*

*Sandra Beaudoin, P. Ag*

*Shaina Griffith, B. Comm*



2015 proved to be an interesting year for agriculture in Alberta. Highlights of CARA's year include:

- Spring and early summer drought conditions reduced crop yield at most project sites while a few sites yielded surprisingly well.
- Some purchases were made thanks to the 2014 increase in our AOF Grant (truck, trailer, sprayer, soil sampler, tractor mower and soil monitoring equipment)
- Unfortunately, the increase made to the AOF Operational Grant was clawed back in 2015
- Jesse Williams, Program Agronomist, left CARA in June
- Lacey Ryan-Gould, Conservation Agronomist, returned from Maternity Leave on a part-time basis in November to focus on EFP and Growing Forward
- Dr. Yamily Zavala generated lots of interest in cocktail cover crops and other soil health projects
- ARECA's Soil Health Team celebrates 2015 as International Year of the Soil
- ARECA partnerships bring international speakers to east central Alberta (Kurt Pate, Montana (cattle handling); Peter Donovan, Oregon (carbon challenge); Dr. Christine Jones, Australia (harvesting sunlight; improving soil)
- CARA staff participate in the development of the Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health planned for December 8-10 in Edmonton – Yamily is one of the keynote speakers
- Record turnout for 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cattleman Clinic in November



#### CARA 2015 Board of Directors and Staff

Richard Bailey, Veteran	Dianne Westerlund, <i>Manager &amp;</i>
Kyle Christianson, Sedalia	<i>Forage Agronomist</i>
Darryl Conners, Hanna	Yamily Zavala, <i>Soil &amp; Crop Nutrient</i>
George Doupe, Oyen	<i>Management Specialist</i>
David Eaton, Sibbald	Lacey Ryan-Gould, <i>Conservation</i>
Matthew Gould, Consort	<i>Agronomist (part-time)</i>
Dan Grudecki, Acadia Valley	Jesse Williams, <i>Program Agronomist</i>
Craig Horner, Pollockville	<i>(to May 31)</i>
John Kimber, Youngstown	Olivia Sederberg, <i>Conservation</i>
Kirby Laughlin, Youngstown	<i>Technician</i>
Kevin Letniak, Consort	Shelley Norris, <i>Office Manager</i>
James Madge, Stanmore <i>Vice President</i>	Jerry Pratt, <i>Field Technician</i>
Marvin Molzan, Sibbald, <i>Financial Supervisor</i>	Karen Raynard, <i>Field Technician</i>
Gloria Nelson, Veteran, <i>President</i>	Janelle Hawkins, <i>Summer Technician</i>
Anne Rafa, Empress, <i>ARECA Rep</i>	Dan Rude, <i>Summer Technician</i>
Peter Rafa, Acadia Valley	Kale Scarff, <i>Summer Technician</i>
Charles Schmidt, Chinook	
Walter Suntjens, Hanna	



## **2015 Ducks Unlimited Report to the Special Areas Advisory Council**

2015 was an exceptionally busy and exciting year in the Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Hanna office. Early this spring DUC hired an additional full-time field delivery person out of the Hanna office. His name is Brian Larson and he was born and raised in the Hanna area. He will be focusing on Wetland Restoration Programs along with our forage seed program. We also recruited a new summer operational contractor by the name of Ed Hofman. Ed was the former Ab. F&W biologist stationed out of Hanna for a number of years. We also had a great summer student who was an invaluable asset in managing our project inspections for 2015.

DUC has ramped up the promotion of our Wetland Restoration program, largely thru support by the provincial governments WRRP (Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program). They provided DUC with \$11.7 million dollars over three years to increase the awareness and uptake of wetland restoration (WR). The Hanna office has received many inquiries from local landowners who have heard the local radio ads and print media on our WR program. The Hanna DUC office will also be hosting an open house on our delivery programs to give local landowners another option for seeking out more information.

Currently, the Hanna office is in the middle of a large land purchase in the Cereal area with hopes of it closing early in the new year. This land is part of our Revolving Land Purchase (RLP) program, which will have the land converted back to grass/permanent cover and then put back on the market for sale. A Conservation Easement that will be placed on this property at the time of sale which will see this land stay in forage/grass and be utilized as either grazing and/or hay land.

The CPS/DUC forage seed program saw another 7 producers sign up to seed approximately 1700 acres back to hay and grass in 2015. The program is a partnership between DUC and CPS which provides a rebate of \$100/bag of forage seed. To qualify a producer must purchase CPS forage seed and sign an agreement with DUC to see the forage stand stay in for 10 years.

On the operational side, DUC was able to inspect all 280 projects managed by the Hanna DUC office, this year. Seven projects had a more in-depth engineering inspection completed by a contracted engineer. Minor operational repairs were required this year, with the Storch project being in the process of having a portion of the dam re-faced with rip-rap. Four siphons (Alhut, Dan, Orville, James 2) were run this year at the request of downstream landowners to provide late season stock water. One project (Jorgenson) was decommissioned, with the final works completed this year. Upcoming next year is the repair on the Prince's Springs project located on the Remount Community Pasture. Its water control structures have lasted their useful life and are beginning to fail. This area is a very important Leopard Frog habitat area, with one of the most genetically diverse populations known in the province.

Ducks Unlimited Canada, appreciates the opportunity to present to the SA's Advisory Council and the great working relationship it has with the Special Areas Board and its staff.

Submitted by:

Morgan Stromsmoe, Senior Conservation Program Specialist  
Ducks Unlimited Canada (Hanna)

**Animal Health and Assurance Division  
Inspection and Investigation Branch  
Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist Report**

**Agricultural Pests Act and Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation**

**Provincial Rat Control Activities**

The Pest Insider, continues to be a good resource of current rat control activities to fieldmen and Pest Control Officers to keep rat control personnel up to date on current events. The digital bulletin is free to any PCO interested enough to send us their email address. Our Rat Resource Manual also is also available to staff and interested Albertans. It is designed for staff who are new in rat control or aren't continually involved with rat control activities and need reminding of our procedures for rat control and eradication. It is a comprehensive 100 page document with every aspect of rat control included. Our interactive rat display is being well used at trade shows and fairs. It has a kid friendly touch screen computer that has all the rat control information available in a fun and informative program. Our 310 RATS line is an extremely active, 24/7 line that has been a good innovation to get quick reports from the public of suspected rat sightings and rat activity. It is answered by our office during the day and goes to an on call person after hours and weekends. The new A-24 rat traps purchased from New Zealand are proving to be a good trap for situations that poisons can't be employed and has the advantage of a multicatch trap.

Alberta's rat free status has attracted worldwide attention. This spring Josh Dzieza from "The Verge" a noted scientific publication from New York City did a excellent article on Alberta's rat free situation and compared it to the rat problem in New York. He spent two days in the Oyen area taking pictures and meeting PCO personnel and producers in the area. This fall we had a Radio talk show host Eanna Ni Lamhna from Ireland visit to see if it was true we had no rats over here. She was entertaining and learned a lot about Alberta. She is a member of the "Money goes Wild" panel that discusses environmental and wildlife concerns in Ireland. Check out her initial comments on <http://bit.ly/1PMc0xp> more to come from her. Also the Globe and Mail is doing a story on our rat free status in a couple of weeks. A reporter Justin Giovannetti came and visited the Sibbald area to see out rat control program and is writing a report to be published in the Globe and Mail soon.

We are happy to report no rat activity at the Medicine Hat dump this year. In the MD of Cypress we only had one confirmed rat reported. This rat appears to be a distant import from as the rat did not look quite like a typical Norway rat or Roof rat. Site area evidence suggested a Mexican origin.

In the Province we have had 21 single confirmed rats. In addition, 4 landfills (Stettler, Edmonton NE, Lloydminster, Lac LaBiche) reported rats but all of these dumps managed to eradicate the infestation before the rats could multiply. This spring we had a nasty infestation of Roof rats at Bon Accord in a new subdivision. This infestation managed to spread to the adjacent property before we eradicated them. At the first location nine rats were known to be removed from a shed used for chicken feed and another approx. dozen or so rats were eradicated in a compost pile at the adjacent property. Although we believe the rats started at the first location, we're not sure, but the compost infestation wasn't found until fall. We do believe that both nests were started from the same source. This infestation was responsible for 6 of the 21 single rats reported in the Province. We have been busy.

**Acadia Valley Report for Special Areas Pest Control Zone**

There are currently three people trained who can carry out the duties of the Pest Control Officer. Jordan Hoffman is the Assistant Ag Fieldman for the MD of Acadia and is the Head Pest Control Officer in our operation. This is Jory's second year working the program. He worked as the Assistant Ag Fieldman and Pest Control Officer for the season in 2014 and returned to the MD in April of this year. Jory trained under Phil Merrill last year and has his Form 7 for Coyote and Skunk Control. Jordan was involved in the Infestation cleanup at Sibbald last year.

Stacy Scheuerman is the Ag Fieldman for the MD of Acadia and joined the team in March of this year. Stacy has her Form 7 as well as the Exterior Rodent Control portion of her Pesticide Applicators Certificate.

Chris Tucker works for the MD of Acadia as well, in the Public Works department. Chris trained and received his Form 7 under Phil last year and was also part of the Sibbald Infestation cleanup.

**VISITORS**

As Phil Mentioned in his provincial report we had several journalists in our area this year. Josh Dzieza from New York Cities web-based publication The Verge toured with Phil and stopped in our office for a visit. He wrote an amazing article called Enemy at the Grate which you can find at [www.theverge.com](http://www.theverge.com). When Eanna Ni Lamhna came to the office Jory was away but she sat down with myself for a quick interview regarding Rat control and inspections. The last visitor, Justin Giovannetti with The Globe and Mail, did not get to see us in person but Jory and I did a short phone interview with him the next week.

## **SIGHTINGS AND CONTROL**

This year we received four calls to investigate possible rat sightings. One in SA4 south of Altario, One in SA3 south of Esther, one the MD of Acadia north of Acadia Valley and one in SA3 right in Oyen. The first three were investigated and we determined they were most likely Muskrats and not Rats. The one in Oyen was found dead. Jory and I went to the Seniors Lodge in Oyen and staff gave us the body of the rat, which was found in the bushes outside of the Seniors Rec Centre. We conferred with Phil Merrill and determined it was in fact a Juvenile Norway Rat. We checked the area around the Rec Centre and found no evidence of activity. More than likely the rodent came into town on a truck or trailer that had been out of province and died. There was no evidence or concern of an infestation.

Our Rat control zone includes Special Area 2, 3 and 4 as well as the MD of Acadia. Inspections were done in Ranges 1 and 2 both in the spring and the fall. In Special Area #2 there were 90 sites, Special Area #3 120 sites were visited, Special Area #4 had 116 and the MD had 70. At these sights there was 17 boxes (250bags/box) of Ramex distributed, 34 pails (18kg/pail) of Contrac blocks and one pail of Resolv soft pack bait.

The Sibbald sights were revisited a number of times throughout the year. Jory checked them during regular inspections and Phil stopped in multiple times with myself and our media visitors. The bin just into Saskatchewan, which we believe was the source of the Sibbald Infestations, has also been monitored and baited by us, Phil and our Saskatchewan counterpart Larry Mann. We will continue to monitor it.

### **Two Percent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) Program**

We have a PMRA registration for two percent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) until Dec 31, 2019. The availability of the product depends on the supply of raw strychnine overseas. Maxim has a concentrate registration till Dec 31 2020. ARD is basically removed from the registration process other than deciding which areas in the province have a severe Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS) infestation and defining what a severe infestation consists of. Currently, if a producer has 20 percent crop damage, or has 1 mound per 4 strides, for 100 meters then it is considered a severe RGS infestation. The two percent LSC registration should continue for the foreseeable future.

We need to develop another toxicant for RGS so when strychnine gets scares, we have an alternative. We feel a single feeding anticoagulant (bromodiolone) may be the next product to be successful as a toxicant for RGS.

### **Coyote Predation Management Program**

There has been no change in our coyote control program this year. We know that a resolution for coyotes to be put on the Environments predator list has been discussed so that compensation for coyote losses would be considered. This resolution has not passed yet but we are watching for it. Agriculture and Forestry's 1080 use in Alberta has a PMRA registration for another 4 years so should continue without further changes at least until 2019.

### **Rabies Control – Skunk Vector Program**

ARD's rabies surveillance program continued in the counties along the United States border again this year. Funding for this program is shared between the participating counties. Emphasis of the program has decreased as there has not been an incident of rabies in skunks for over 15 years. The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) reduced their priority on rabies last year. Surveillance testing has now become a function of AHAD and the rabies coordinator Dr. Darcia Kostiuk takes the lead. Currently the sampling occurs mainly along the United States border.

With the increased threat of Rabies from the North and the decreased threat from the South future emphasis on sampling could shift more to the Saskatchewan border rather than the U.S. border.

The Central Rabies Control Committee (CRCC) will look at changing their emphasis on sampling in 2016. The CRCC in partnership South Eastern region counties continue to monitor rabies in the southeast.

One of my functions as the Rat and Pest Specialist is to meet and report to the Agricultural Service Boards in the Rat Control Zone. If you have any questions or concerns with our programs, please let me know.

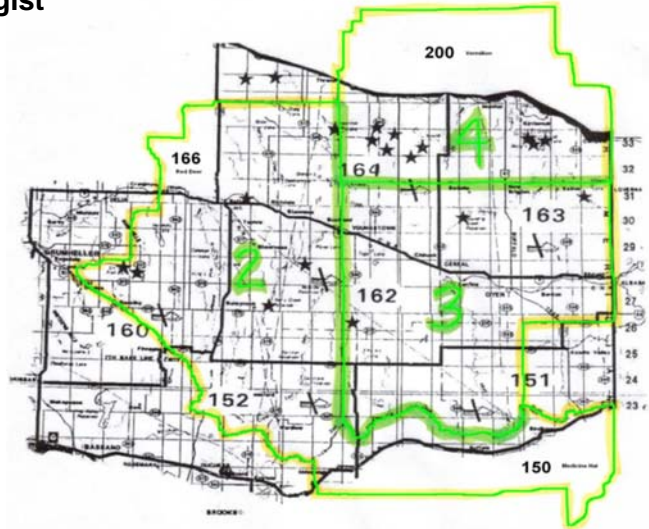
I enjoy working with your Board and fieldmen and look forward to continuing this relationship.

Phil Merrill, Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist

## Wildlife Management Update for Special Areas, November 2015

Scott Stevens, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Alberta Environment and Parks



### Proposed Big Game regulation change for 2016

#### **Create new elk zone in combined WMUs 156/158/160.**

- Two resident elk herds have established in WMU 160. One herd of roughly 75 animals in the Handhills, and a smaller herd of roughly 50 animals in the Wintering Hills that overlap into WMU 156. Estimate 100-150 elk in these WMUs.
- There has been documented reports of elk in WMU 158, which is central to herds established along the Red Deer River both north (WMU 208) and south (WMU 160) of the unit, and to the Rumsey herd in WMU 166.
- Recommend creating a new elk zone in WMUs 156/158/160 with same regulations as for adjacent elk zone in WMU 151/152.

### Aerial Ungulate Surveys January 2015

#### WMU 151

- Fifty-one transects were surveyed between January 4-8, 2015 for a total survey effort of 1837 km.
- Mule deer increased slightly since last survey in 2006 (2,730 compared to 2,384). Healthy buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios.
- Substantial decline in white-tailed deer since last survey (1,622 compared to 3,000).
- Substantial increase in observations of moose (48, from 3) and elk (24, from 5).

#### WMU 152

- Thirty-one transects were surveyed between January 9-12, 2015 for a total survey effort of 2437 km.
- Decline in mule deer since last survey in 2009 (2,420 compared to 3,051). Healthy buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios (highest buck:doe ratio reported in province).
- Slight decline in white-tailed deer since last survey (1,360 compared to 1,831).
- Substantial increase in observations of moose (79, from 45) and elk (46, from 0).

### Wildlife Summaries

#### **Elk**

- Surveys in January indicate there is no resident herd established in WMU 151 (i.e. no cows/calves); appears to be a small resident herd in WMU 152 located (January 2015) east of highway 36 in vicinity of Cessford.
- 2015 is the second year of a general archery hunt for elk in WMUs 151/152 and 164/166 (now with 162/163 included in the zone). This regulation change was brought in to increase harvest on elk, while not increasing hunter density during the rifle season November 1-November 30. This added season resulted in the harvest of 21 elk in WMU 151/152 and 14 elk in WMU 164/166 in 2014. Including rifle seasons, an estimated 57 elk were harvested in WMU 151/152; an estimated 26 elk were harvested in WMU 164/166 in 2014.
- 1439 elk were harvested in and around CFB Suffield with a post-season population estimate of 5612. With hunting being expanded to include bull elk in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, the projected harvest for the next two seasons is 4100 total, resulting in a projected post-season population of 3334 in 2016/2017. Work on a Suffield elk management plan is ongoing.

### **Moose**

- Numbers appear to be increasing where habitat is present, as are hunting licenses and harvests. There are antlered and antlerless moose seasons in all WMUs in the Special Areas.
- Some complaints were received from WMU 152 in winter 2014 reporting damage to fences from moose. Survey of WMU 152 substantiated increased number of moose in unit, and special licenses were increased by 60% for antlerless and 80% for antlered moose.

### **Mule deer**

- Based on 2015 aerial surveys in WMUs 151 and 152, and 2014 surveys in WMUs 162 and 166, mule deer populations appear to be near department goals in most WMUs in Special Areas. Numerous complaints were received from hunters that numbers are 'too low'.
- After increased allocations in 2013 and 2014, combined with difficult winters in 2012 and 2013, special licenses were reduced slightly in most Special Areas WMUs.

### **White-tailed deer**

- A General License (no draw) can be purchased for white-tailed deer which allows harvest of either an antlered or antlerless animal. Currently there is also a Special License draw for antlerless white-tailed deer in all WMUs in Special Areas.
- Surveys in WMUs 151 and 152 indicated white-tailed deer numbers have decreased. Antlerless special license numbers were reduced slightly in 2015, and double tags removed.

### **Pronghorn**

- Pronghorn numbers remained relatively stable in 2015.
- Buck:doe ratios in AMA G (WMUs 150,151,152) and H (WMUs 160,162,163,164,166) were similar to the overall provincial average.
- Fawn:doe ratios in AMA G and H were the highest in the province for the second year in a row, indicating the importance of the region to recruitment in the population.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**

- 86 of 4163 deer (2.1%) tested positive, almost double the number of positive cases in 2013 (49 of 3667 deer; 1.3%).
- 74 of 2048 (3.6%) positive cases in mule deer (59 male, 15 female).
- 12 of 1062 (1.1%) positive cases in white-tailed deer (all male).
- 0 of 131 moose.
- 0 of 909 elk (including over 870 elk from CFB Suffield).
- CWD continues to move up the Red Deer River basin, with new positives in the Handhills (WMU 160) in 2014.
- WMU 166 was added to the list of mandatory head submission in 2015.

### **Non-Game Species**

- Northern Leopard Frog Populations appear to have stabilized and may be expanding.
- Piping Plover Surveys – due to high water levels no plovers were observed at Handhills or Littlefish Lakes in 2015. Populations at Chain Lakes and Dowling Lake remained stable in 2015. Provincially, numbers remain low.
- Ferruginous hawk populations appear to be stable or increasing in Special Areas. A provincial survey was conducted in 2015, results pending.
- Concern over the status of burrowing owls, which continue to decline provincially.
- Western Grebes have been listed as 'Threatened' in Alberta. Surveys this summer indicate breeding populations on Fox and Little Fish Lakes, possibly others. SAM notations may be requested as management action.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Scott Stevens

## 100 YEAR FARM FAMILY AWARDS

Year:	# of Awards
1908	13
1909	35
1910	41
1911	36
1912	13
1913	6
1914	2
1915	3
TOTAL	152

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shyanne Jones*

### Motions from 2015 Ratepayer Meetings

#### SA2- Sub 3 & 4 – June 3, 2015

Darcy Robb makes a motion that the price of water at the truck fill should be equal to the price in an individual yard regardless of overage. David Kingcott seconded. Carried.

Niki Rooke makes a motion that Jordon Christianson have the work “Acting” stripped of his Acting Chairman title. Brad Pierson seconded. Carried.

Ed Curry moves that the Special Areas Board educate the new government on what makes the Special Areas special. Lee Stringer seconded. Carried.

Murray Rooke moves that the Special Areas liquidate their inventory of road construction equipment and hire out the road construction of Special Areas roads to private industry by a tendering process. Kevin Slorstad seconded. Defeated.

Niki Rooke moves that the Special Areas put a moratorium on the expansion of the office building in Hanna until such time as all roads in the Special Areas are deemed acceptable. Tom Thompson seconded. Carried.

#### SA2 - Sub2 – June 16, 2015

Doug Stanger moves that the timeframe for a sublet be extended from six to ten years and that the Board examine the current sublet policy and that it match the current economic conditions of the cattle market. Dean Hart seconded. Defeated.

Neil Dornan moves that the Special Areas investigate naming the cooling pond at the Sheerness Generation Station. Dean Hart seconded. Carried.

#### SA3 – Sub. 4, 5, 6 – June 2, 2015

MOVED by Glen Rosenau to have Special Areas lobby Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to have Elk hunting treated under a general license tag for both male and female. Seconded by Shane Hertz. **CARRIED.**

MOVED by Nancy Hanson to appoint Walter Scarff as a Road Committee Representative for the SA3-6 Road Committee. Seconded by Marlene Caskey. **CARRIED.**

# **SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Bob Gainer	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 1
Neal Roes	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 2
Brad Slorstad	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 3
Brent Horner	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
James Madge	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 5
Daryl Swenson	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 7
Brad Osadczyk	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 8
Travis Foot	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4
Graham Caskey	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6
Lawrence Letniak	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1
Bonnie Sansregret	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2
Robert Woroby	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3

## **SPECIAL AREAS STAFF**

Jordon Christianson	Acting Chairman; Director, Property Administration
Owen Francis	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Corinne Kelts	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
Trent Caskey	Administrator, Special Area No. 2;
Dorothy Cornforth	Office Manager, Special Area No. 2
Marilyn Lazzari	Office Manager, Special Area No. 3
Taryl Abt	Office Manager, Special Area No. 4 - Absent
Evelyn Manion	Office Manager, Service Centre
Wayne Bosch	Roads & Equipment Superintendent
Ken Orum	Manager of Equipment & Facilities
Shaune Kovitch	Shop Superintendent
John Armstrong	Parks Superintendent
Nicole Viste	Rangeland Agrologist
Darren Jones	Financial Services Co-ordinator
Terry Jacobsen	Assessor
Rob Smyth	Assessor
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

Call to Order 9:58 a.m.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room.

### **MOTION AC01-01-15: ELECTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIRMAN**

**DARYL SWENSON NOMINATED BRENT HORNER TO ACT AS ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIRMAN; MOVED BY BONNIE SANSREGRET THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC01-02-15: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**DARYL SWENSON NOMINATED JORDON CHRISTIANSON TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN; MOVED BY JAMES MADGE THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY BOB GAINER. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC01-03-15: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**ROBERT WOROBY NOMINATED DARCY FERGUSON TO ACT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN; MOVED BY BONNIE SANSREGRET THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY GRAHAM CASKEY. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC01-04-15: RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

**BONNIE SANSREGRET NOMINATED TRAVIS FOOT;  
DARYL SWENSON NOMINATED GRAHAM CASKEY;  
BOB GAINER NOMINATED BRAD SLORSTAD;  
LAWRENCE LETNIAK MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY BRAD  
OSADCZUK CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson noted some housekeeping items to be discussed: election of Board Member, expense claims, and appointment of the Chairman of Special Areas.

Mr. Christianson noted the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister had planned to attend the Spring Council meeting but are not able to make it as the provincial budget is being released later today.

Special Areas has four Board Members, three of the members are Advisory Councillors who have been elected. Board Member terms are four years, and the member from Special Area 2 will expire in 2016. At the Fall Council Meeting an election will be held for a Board Member from Special Area 2. Mr. Horner could let his name stand for another term. The representatives from Areas 3 and 4 are two years into their four year term.

A note on expense claims, meals are typically on a per diem basis. If meals are receipted, please inform Mrs. Jones who else is covered on the receipt to ensure there is no duplication when reimbursing expenses.

The Appointment for Chairman of the Special Areas is still in process. Interviews were held two weeks ago and now waiting on Cabinet Appointment. A spring provincial election could delay any announcements.

The Council reviewed the agenda.

Additions to agenda: Community Pastures (Mr. Foot).

Mr. Christianson discussed the Special Areas Business Plan noting in Fall 2014 the management team undertook to change the Business Plan. Focus was to be more driven by outcomes. After review/meetings with Advisory Council and requests for input on the outcomes Council wants to see; the Business Plan has been restructured to be more outcome based, measurements and standards have been implemented for those outcomes. The intent is to have a completed document by June 2015. Managers are not getting the sense from staff that direction is required. The document is used operationally to ensure staff are meeting outcomes/targets. This is the measurement document – what managers use to ensure all employees are supporting the overall organization goals.

The provincial Results Based Budgeting did have an impact on this plan and was the impetus to go in that direction.

The Municipal Government Act is looking for longer planning from municipalities.

**MOTION AC01-05-15: ADOPTION FALL 2014 MINUTES**

**MOVED BY GRAHAM CASKEY AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE  
SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ADOPT THE FALL 2014 ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the proposed Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) Policy 2014. Council provided a recommendation to move forward, and the Board concurred to move forward. Initial discussions with the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister to review the draft policy have occurred to get a sense of their feel/appetite on the policy. They had questions on policy and requested a comparison with previous policy. This topic is covered in the Issues Binder. Administration is finishing off applications received from the 2004 TRLS. The 2004 sale closed February 2014.



There was a question on the issues the TRLS appeal committee has reviewed. A number of Councillors have been involved in at least one appeal. This past year, one appeal was an estate issue, there were some appeals based on removing quarters from the sale due to Fish and Wildlife (F&W) habitat. It is important for F&W staff to physically come out and inspect the quarter and not just review on a map. It was also recommended that F&W staff are present at the hearing to provide insight as to why deeded land beside a proposed TRLS quarter should be any different. Mr. Ed Hofmann, a biologist, has been hired by SAB to inspect quarters. It was noted sometimes the rationale seems contrary to progress for example, irrigation. Mr. Christianson noted the Board considers circumstances like that outside the normal policy. However, if the policy is changed, it is important it is palatable to the public to ensure other policies keep going.

There was discussion on public interest noting that the person holding the title has interest on the land. And wildlife runs on public lands and is a public interest.

Mr. Christianson noted the Board will move this forward as soon as possible noting checks are required before the new policy is approved.

It was suggested the Special Areas Act be amended to give lease holders more rights to police on lands they lease. The public is damaging creeks with the use of quads. Giving public access to a creek or riparian area is cause for concern as they abuse the area and leave garbage behind. If leaseholders had more control, more fish and wildlife habitat would be protected. There are more and more issues and not all complaints are forwarded to the Special Areas offices. For example, residents don't drive on native grass, but when going out in the fall during deer season you see one track then many more. There is a difference between public interest and the best interest of the land, there needs to be more interest in the land. It was noted those wanting access to lease lands don't feel the lease holder has any right to say no.

The Council reviewed Issue Binder: Scope of Appeal Committees. It was recommended with the new sale on the horizon, a clearer policy is needed for appeal committees.

If a caveat is put on land that could devalue the land; if the caveat is registered on the title there is consideration in the sale price.

A motion from a Ratepayer meeting in 2014 requested the Board look into having pipelines pulled on abandoned lines. It was thought other municipalities were requesting companies pull the pipe. The intent was to request the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) come and speak to the Council on this issue, but a person with background on this issue has not come forward yet. Regardless of what others are doing, Special Areas needs to do something; however, our responsibility is the surface disposition and it is difficult to enforce when there is no regulatory background to do so. Special Areas can provide comments on reclamation only. Special Areas has a Crested Wheat policy and AER doesn't recognize that policy so there can be friction there. On deeded land, owners may wish to include a removal clause in the consent to pull the lines at the time of abandonment. There are issues in that when one company abandons a line, they will not allow another company to cross the line.

Special Areas is also struggling with ATCO on their reclamation as the Minimum Disturbance policy has no teeth. There are struggles with construction as the environmental protection plan is not followed. The Alberta Utilities Commission has indicated requirements must be written into the easement agreement.

Mr. Terry Raymond from Cochrane sent a request to the Board to support a change to the hunting on undeveloped road allowances. The Board referred the matter to Advisory Council to get a broader opinion. Road allowances are throughout the province, and the current regulation allows for hunters to shoot off an undeveloped road allowance even if the hunter does not have permission to enter the adjacent lands. Mr. Kelly Wilson, Fish & Wildlife Officer from Oyen, was contacted to discuss the matter. Mr. Wilson noted it is a difficult issue and he treats any undeveloped road that has seen a grader in the past year as a trail.

There was discussion on why permission was required for both sides of the undeveloped road allowance. Some trails have fences that shouldn't be opened without the owner's permission. It was suggested the Council bring forward a resolution.

Mr. Travis Foot brought up an issue at the Sounding Creek Community Pasture surrounding the placement of the corrals. The current placement is in the main yard at the bottom of the creek and if there are wet conditions, the road down is a challenge for a pick-up truck let alone a cattle liner. Access to the corrals requires travelling a hill either direction. If there corrals were moved up to Hwy 41 there would be easier access.

There was discussion on the Rangers and if they are paid year round, leaving the bulls in the pasture may be an option. It was noted the Rangers are paid year round however in summer they do not keep time and generally are working longer hours so winters have been left open to. There would also be a safety issue to have someone working alone with bulls for the winter, in the summer there are Range Rider Assistants. Special Areas manages the grass and labour of the pastures, feeding bulls is association business.

The Council reviewed the Resolutions and actions taken from Fall 2014.

### **RESOLUTION #1**

WHEREAS the movement of large loads on Highway #36 is becoming an ongoing issue to our residents

WHEREAS in the interest of public safety this needs to be addressed

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Transportation use permit fees to construct roadside pullouts to alleviate some of this issue.

MOVED BY Bob Gainer

SECONDED BY Graham Caskey

**CARRIED.**

The letter has been sent and the Prairie Post has picked up the story. Special Areas has yet to receive a response from the Minister.

### **RESOLUTION #2**

WHEREAS some councillors have expressed concern as to quantity of information presented in the spring and fall meetings,

WHEREAS the Special Areas is a huge organization with many complex and detailed interaction with numerous organizations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of the operations of the Special Areas that the council recommend having more meetings throughout the year.

MOVED BY Bob Gainer

SECONDED BY Brent Horner

**CARRIED.**

Additional Council meeting dates have been set and a memo sent to Councillors. The meetings will be quarterly, March regular Spring Advisory Council, with two days in June; one tour day and one meeting day, one day in September and the regular Fall Advisory Council meeting the first week in December. Board Meetings are being scheduled in different locations as well to give Council an opportunity to attend.

### **RESOLUTION #3**

WHEREAS the elk population from the CFB Suffield is currently at approx. 7000-8000,

WHEREAS increasing harvest tag numbers and seasons has been ineffective in reducing the current elk population;

WHEREAS elk threaten the cattle industry in southern Alberta, which is already a drought sensitive area, due to destruction of feed stocks, forage, fences;

WHEREAS our cattle industry could be jeopardized from introduction of diseases, namely tuberculosis which elk are known to carry;

WHEREAS civilian safety on the major and secondary highways that surround CFB Suffield is a serious concern with the number of elk collisions rising steadily;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government and Department of National Defense produce a wildlife management plan in conjunction with ESRD, the neighboring municipalities and ranchers to decrease the current elk population on CFB Suffield to levels under 1000 that could be managed to be sustainable for the base and neighboring ranchers.

MOVED BY Brad Osadczuk

SECONDED BY Daryl Swenson

**CARRIED.**

Minister Fawcett was sent a letter and held a meeting with Special Areas in January to discuss the scope of the program. There has been good cooperation with the Department of National Defence on the issue. At the meeting the issue of disease was raised as was the increased pressure on local ranchers by the hunters. Mr. Osadczuk has received a call from the head biologist indicating a draft plan has been completed. The expectation on the base is to have the herd down to 3,000 head in 3-5 years. The math presented has been conservative but is moving in the right direction. There has been some talk of concerns with First Nations hunting bulls and trophy elk however the goal is to reduce the herd size it's not to provide a quality hunt. It has been a success.

## **LUNCH**

Mr. Darcy Ferguson and Mr. Darren Jones came forward to review the Financial Statements and mill rates for 2015. The Board will have mill rate conversations in April after provincial budget is released today.

Mr. Ferguson noted the cash position is down but investments are up. Taxes receivable are still a concern, the tool to deal with is a levy on taxation and it is being managed on go forward basis. The Board will increase collection efforts. Two affiliated gas companies are the majority of the bad debt. Accounts payable, long term debt, and net financial assets were reviewed. Overall there has been an improvement in the financial position over the last year due to the tax recovery land sale. The Board is in a strong financial position and there are significant reserves, as well the Board has an operational surplus which is the rainy day fund. It was noted the Board is able to borrow funds but has opted not to except for the past few years because it was fiscally advantageous. The statement of operations is detailed on a modified cash basis and outlined in the yellow pages, the auditor's report is on the white pages. The actual revenue is \$57M with the key revenue changes occurring because of the assessment trends. As the province is starting to back out of schools, Special Areas has stepped up. Additional revenue is based on increased assessment of \$188M. The residential rate decreased from 3.08 to 2.84. Mr. Ferguson noted the MSL increase was delayed and three-digit highways have more funding. The 2014 grazing was short so there was conservative budgeting in 2015 and it is expected to surpass the budgeted amount. There has been a bump in grant funding for hamlet projects. Bridge program funding has been delayed. Special Areas expenditures were on target however there was a lot of flux

within departments. The audited financial statements will be available during the ratepayer meetings.

The Council reviewed cash positions outlined in the Issues Binder. TRLS monies are used for operation and investment. SAB doesn't borrow money to operate. Reviewed tracking reserve and deficit.

Building Canada – federal/provincial program for infrastructure. Special Areas qualifies under the Small Communities Fund which is communities under 100,000 people.

While waiting for technical issues to resolve, Mr. Christianson welcomed Mr. Jay Slemp and Ms. Charmayne Shapley, Communications Officer to the gallery.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed Surplus and Reserves outlined in Issue Binder #25.

Mr. Terry Jacobsen and Mr. Robert Smyth moved to the presentation table to provide an update on assessment. Overall total assessed value in Special Areas is up \$4.5 billion mostly from the linear side. Residential assessments are up substantially due to general re-inspections in Special Area 2 and parts of Special Area 3. Average increase of \$22,000 per property. Farmland assessment is regulated. The market data is only being used to generate the residential portion on farmland. Special Areas treats farm quarters more like an acreage.

The CARB hearing for the 2012 assessment appeal by ATCO has decided to reduce the assessment. Special Areas had consented to make concessions on the points the CARB described. The 2013 assessment appeal was deemed to be filed late so Special Areas will not have to go through the process for that appeal.

There is a possibility of appeals because of the added land value on Machinery & Equipment.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the ATCO appeals noting the total for all appeals to date is \$620,000 for two full hearings, one Court of Queen's Bench appeal, and the late hearing. When appeals go to Court of Queen's Bench costs can be awarded back to Special Areas based on a schedule. The appeal points have included: age life of plant, crane ways, etc.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Jacobsen and Mr. Smyth for the good information.

Mr. Francis reviewed the 2015 Road construction and surfacing programs as outlined in Issue Binder #2. The process is to bring a draft plan to Council in December and get a motion to bring forward to the Road Committee meetings early in the next year, once the Road Committees approve the plan is brought back to Spring Advisory Council for approval.

The surfacing plan was reviewed (see Issue Binder #2), as well as the construction plan. It was noted in Special Area 4 a change was made to the program to construct Kroeger Rd in place of T&E Pumps road due to safety issues.

A letter is sent to affected parties once the Council recommends the new direction. The representative from that area was not present at the Road Committee meeting. Ms. Kelts noted T&E Pumps will need to be informed of the change since the road has been cancelled and it was expected. Local road priorities put T&E Pumps road on last year but it was not able to be done. It's a busy road, but it is flat. Road committee indicated T&E Pumps was a road of convenience and Kroeger was safety concern.

**MOTION AC01-06-15: ADOPT 2015 ROAD PLAN**  
**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY BONNIE SANSREGRET THAT**  
**SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2015 ROAD PLAN AS**  
**RECOMMENDED. CARRIED.**

**BREAK**

Mr. Francis welcomed Mr. Glen Durand, Special Areas Fire Chief and Mr. Dave Mohl, Hanna Fire Chief. The other fire chiefs in attendance were introduced: Mike Prosser and Chad Van Dam from Empress, Keith Ritz and Jeff Lewandoski from Jenner, Bruce Kohlman from Altario, Pat Kukura from Buffalo, Wade Christianson, Cessford, Jim Faubion from Homestead Coulee, and Darryl Tkach from Veteran. Thanks and welcome to the meeting, others were not able to attend but are in support.

Mr. Durand reviewed the proposed Fire Burn Notification system. In reviewing written policies and it came to light Special Areas is not following the guidelines/regulations in the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*. A presentation was made to the Board who recommended it be presented to Council. Special Areas does not have a fire permit or notification system and notification across the areas is not consistent. Volunteer departments are being dispatched to controlled burns. Every year Fire Chiefs meet to review previous year's issues. Notification system has been brought up a number of times. This is a concern to address as the volunteers are putting their lives on the line. Want a system that's easy to use and doesn't create a lot more work for volunteers. Proposing something with easy access via web. Or via telephone with office hours. Any requests would be referred to the Fire Chief if there is a ban or advisory in place. This would allow more flexibility. Kneehill County has a good web form and it sends to 911, Fire Chief etc. Special Areas is such a large area it's difficult to manage, but the proposed system could be based on fire area as it could have rained for two days in SA2 and not seen rain south of the river for two months. The province is endorsing four levels: No Restriction, Fire Advisory, Fire Restriction, and Fire Ban. The intent is not to be prescriptive or restrictive – more for information and notification. Special Areas is not looking at imposing penalties at this time. However there is a clause that firefighting 'may be charged' if a controlled burn takes place in contravention of a fire advisory or fire ban. There would not be any lead time if the website was utilized. It was noted most residents call their neighbours when they intend to burn. Mr. Van Dam noted the Empress Fire Department was called to Bindloss and Buffalo as someone decided to burn on a day after a skiff of snow came down, the next day had 30-40 km/hr winds and the fire burnt another three to four sections. It was wet and hard to fight. Mr. Kukura noted when volunteers see smoke, they tend to get off their tractor to ensure everyone is ok and would not need to if notification was provided. Mr. Lewandoski noted most volunteers are land owners, but our time is valuable and when we see smoke over the hill we drop everything to go see to help because time is of the essence. So if it's standard and can be notified as volunteers they appreciate that.

Mr. Madge noted a web based form is simple and easy – should be a good idea.

Mr. G Caskey commented the awareness piece is good. Web based is a good idea however, not all residents are there so a phone system would be required as well.

Mr. Dick questioned if farmers could go online to see where notifications are, and suggested the information be pushed to CAMS.

The volunteers are all over so an easier system to notify volunteers would be very beneficial.

Mr. Durand noted a decision is not expected today – but think about it, talk about it, maybe come with a Resolution. Point was to hear the same info as the Board.

Mr. Dave Mohl reviewed the East Central Emergency Training Partnership (ECETP). There are 14 Fire Departments within SAB & Acadia Valley. ECETP was established in 2005 in accordance with Regional Training Initiative which required partners for funding. The partnership complies with OH&S legislation. Since 2005, 23 fire courses with a total of 393 students have been offered. Volunteers commit to two weekends for each course. Typically courses are in Hanna, Consort and Oyen based on what's available and type of course. Training boils down to safety – never want to have to attend a funeral because of lack of training. For the NFPA 1001 only seven of the required 14 courses can be taught in this

region. ECETP wants to be able to offer all of them. Want to build a training tower similar to the one in Brooks, but more steel c-can with smoke and fire – so we can do live fire training and looking at natural gas appliances and wood. Can make it so the interior can be changed by moving walls. Looking at livestock rescue and farm rescue – have the trailer. The bonds created with this regional training initiative are beneficial not only at the command level also at the initiation level. Also doing first aid, STARS landing courses. Jenner lands HALO and STARS more often than any other department.

There was a question on who pays for training and it was indicated provincial grants cover most and each municipality pays mileage for volunteers.

Why not keep using Brooks smoke house? They are busy and can only do smoke – they would rent to us. Small classroom in an ATCO trailer not close to Fire Hall.

The building will cost approximately one fire truck to get there – time will be spent this spring and summer looking at facilities in other locals. Haven't finalized what would be built. Have received positive feedback from Mine and Sheerness Plant.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for coming to present and the local Fire Chiefs for taking the time and effort to come – the volunteers are a big part of the Special Areas.

Ms. Sansregret provided an executive summary on the Rural Health Review. A ton of miles and ton of time on meetings and preparing the review. The communities have been silenced for so long, it took much longer than the one hour allotted per community. 56 recommendations for the Minister to implement. Think we need a Rural Skills Day not only for physicians but for nurses as well. Think it would showcase the rural lifestyle. Maybe Council would like to submit a resolution to form an ad hoc committee to encourage young folks to return.

Ms. Sanregret noted Minister Mandel wants to speak with FCC before 6 p.m. tonight.

One recruitment tool could be to use scholarships however it's on going work. Try to get local interest in health sciences field and want graduates returning. There were questions on if it should be a scholarship or bursary; there are a lot of options. It was suggested a group be formed to investigate a bit more. It was suggested a residency requirement be attached to the scholarship. Might be better to pay the preceptors (those mentoring aspiring physicians/nurses). The intent is to bring back information at the June meeting.

Mr. Slemp provided a brief update on the Hanna Medical Clinic noting there is a lack of space for the Primary Care Network. Doctor's don't have an office to make phone calls and require privacy. The waiting room is crowded and the dental clinic is expanding, with another dentist and someone working on bridges. Cost for the new building is estimated at \$750,000. It was suggested a review of the capital side and maybe look at bridge financing. Funding could come from medical mill rate as there is some fiscal capacity. The Clinic Board will most likely approach the Council/Board once more things are finalized. It was noted Mr. Slemp has been appointed to Medical Dental Clinic Board until Ms. Weins is able to return.

Mr. Caskey provided an update on the Big Country Medical Dental Board noting it is active. The breakdown is 60/25/15 (SAB/Oyen/MDA) for operational and 65/20/15 (SAB/Oyen/MDA) for capital. The Board has been looking for a long time to build a clinic. Oyen is trying to expand to three doctors however there are privacy issues as the walls are paper thin. The incentive package offers a house for a year. A location to build has been determined and grant applications have been submitted.

It was noted any resolutions should be brought to the Resolutions Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 4:35 P.M.**

**MARCH 27, 2015 9:00 A.M.**

Mr. Christianson reviewed the agenda for the day.

The Council reviewed the Cultivation Lease policy 05-17. Mr. James Madge thanked the Council for the opportunity to discuss. Opening statement – it is not sufficient to only have two quarters turned over. Ratepayers want the flexibility to manage land currently leased; they don't need to own but want to be able to manage it. By turning over more acres it would allow more families to live off the same acres. It may also allow for growing more secondary businesses like feedlots for example. Keeping more people in Special Areas is the goal, putting more acres into cultivation would add more value and keep younger folks around. Take the cap of two quarters off and allow three to eight quarters available for cultivation.

The Board did struggle with the two quarter limit per operation, but didn't want to have a wide open policy. The previous Council dealt with the two quarter policy. If it was opened up, it was suggested Special Areas would still have opportunity to refuse some applications. At time of the current policy, there were outsiders coming in and buying up big chunks of land and didn't want them breaking up a lot of acres and not knowing the practice of farming. It is important to maintain consistency; the Board is not in favor of approving one and denying another.

Mr. Bob Gain noted the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) has indicated at meetings that they control some of Special Areas public land. And Endangered Species think they can protect all public lands based on endangered species.

Mr. Christianson noted this discussion is not about buying public land, just converting from grazing to cultivation. He noted the PCF is great sounding board for policy like this because of the wide diversity of participation. The PCF focus is on conservation of native grass lands. Special Areas is not discussing cultivating undisturbed native prairie, the discussion is surrounding abandoned cultivation. There has been consideration for marginal lands and marginal soils outlined in the current policy. The Administrators inspect the quarters and provide recommendations.

It was noted that Regrassing permits are only six years and generally it takes 10 – 12 years to achieve a deep till, take rocks out and get it seeded back to grass.

There was a question on what percentage of Grazing Lease land this policy would cover as there are some groups who would rip every acre. A change in policy makes sense however there is concern around the repercussions. Mr. Christianson noted some work will be done on this by using GIS to see how much grazing lease would be eligible.

There was discussion on what qualifies as there is some land that has been previously farmed, then abandoned, and reverted back to native prairie. Mr. Nolan Ball, the Special Areas Rangeland Agrologist, inspects lands in question and provides a recommendation. If the native grasses have stalled out or are dominated by a single species it is not considered native prairie. The Council will provide a resolution on this issue.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the Special Areas Grazing Rental rates outlined in Issue Binder #20. The formula includes a factor based on cattle prices – so 65% increase in cattle results in a 65% increase in rental rates. This information will be brought forward at the Ratepayer Meetings – and Councillors may get calls. Mr. Christianson reviewed specific cases to show the change in rates. Rentals rates have increased but it still takes the same number of calves to pay for a lease. Formula is responsive since it takes the last six months of previous year. The provincial rate is frozen at \$27.54, Special Areas is \$54.76 this year. On years when cattle prices were repressed, Special Areas lease holders paid much less than ESRD rates.

**Acadia Foundation** (Brent Horner, Daryl Swenson, Lawrence Letniak, Bonnie Sansregret)

Administration has shifted around, there are two capable folks at the helm and making the Boards job considerably easier. The Foundation is very appreciative of Special Areas help to get the payroll system setup – it has taken a lot of effort. The Acadia Foundation set up for seniors housing. There was a question on the purpose of the Acadia Foundation and it was noted it is under the provincial housing and health departments. The Seniors Health Task Force is trying to solve the puzzle with dementia units and assisted living and it is clear Acadia Foundation is not interested in having those type of units. There are some Foundations throughout the province that have become involved with those types of units however Alberta Health Services has taken the nursing funding away. So the concern is that would happen here in Special Areas.

**Seniors Task Force** – (Graham Caskey, Kevin Wilson)

The Oyen and district, housing, clinic and recruitment and retention been very active. Finally have organization in order, however the group is still limited on budget. Looking to advance seniors housing in Oyen. Have a draft plan of what seniors housing looks like in Oyen, but there is a gap on how to put this into place. Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been informed. There's a lack of funding issue and a reluctance from AHS to apply for funding, lack of communication. Alberta Health is difficult to deal with.

**Big Country Waste Management Commission (BCWMC)** (James Madge, Kevin Wilson, Robert Worobo).

Mr. Francis noted approval was received December 29, 2014 for a Class II Landfill. A letter was sent to the Deputy Minister of ESRD requesting length of time and added costs of application be reviewed. ESRD is beginning to look at prescriptive regulations as they don't have the people to review application requirement. Bringing in waste (construction and demolition and asbestos) from other communities. There was a question on why BCWMC can't take salty soils and it was indicated the Landfill can only take certain types of soils and up to certain levels. As well, BCWMC did take over recycling initiatives and there are huge volumes of cardboard coming in now. It was questioned if smaller towns would receive recycling bins and this will be investigated. It was noted tin doesn't really have a market.

**Canadian Badlands Ltd.** (Brad Slorstad, Graham Caskey, Bonnie Sansregret).

The annual general meeting dates overlapped this year, it was recommended Special Areas be more sensitive to others schedules. The organization is moving ahead rapidly.

**Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee** (Neal Roes, Brad Slorstad, Jay Slemp).

The Carolside dam is full, there is lots of water and there are carp everywhere. The irrigation moratorium has been lifted and applications are being accepted. The committee is looking to expand to capacity. The Pipeline has 1,000 acre allotment now, South reach canal and lower Berry Creek have 2,000 acres allotted. The reaches will be reviewed once the current applications have moved forward. ATCO has thrown up road blocks by requesting re-engineering on the pipeline if there is a tap off. There's approximately 10,000 acres and the plan is to move to 20,000 acres with a goal of ensuring water security for the irrigators using the system. Priority is given to new applicants who haven't irrigated before.

**Chinook Applied Research Association** (James Madge)

Met with Minister Olsen last year, he was responsive and research organizations are doing the outreach. Somewhere around \$200k, ½ for capital and ½ for projects if it's still secure. Looking at extension into Starland and MD of Provost. CARA looks good so long as government funding keeps coming.

**Consort Medical Centre Board** (Bonnie Sansregret, Lawrence Letniak)



The CMCB took over operation of clinic over a year ago because of turn over. There are a lot of meetings to deal with all the issues. Met with a recruiter on Monday and he's working with the group. At job fair spoke with over 100 potential, have 28 referrals. Looked at incentive package – haven't finalized yet.

#### **East Central 911 and East Central Ambulance (Robert Worobo)**

On East Central 911 there are not many updates except renovations are required in Wainwright.

East Central Ambulance has received a new ambulance after rolling on while transporting a patient. The group does budget for things but the funds come in late. Been getting good money to keep staff etc.

#### **East Central Housing (Bonnie Sansregret, Corinne Kelts)**

A consultant has been hired to build the recreation centre for seniors which will be adjacent to the new lodge. Fundraising has been actively pursued with seniors and the Ag. Society. The Lions and Legion have also partnered. Over \$500k fundraised, Special Areas has committed \$300k, the Village has committed as well and is looking for federal and provincial grants. This project has been worked on for the past 10 yrs. It is a much needed community building to hold gatherings. The last estimate on the building is \$1.4M.

#### **Hanna Medical Society (Bob Gainer, Jay Slemp)**

Special Areas puts in a lot.

#### **Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission (James Madge)**

The big tank on Hwy 9 is leaking and requires \$200k worth of work. The Commission is looking at computer upgrades. The water rate increase is based on the cost of business. Planned projects have been forecasted for the next three years. Henry Kroeger gets paid for what goes through that meter.

#### **Marigold Library (Bob Gainer)**

Special Areas contributed \$40k/year on a per capita basis. There are six drop offs in the area as well resources are available from iCloud. Marigold received \$40k in the provincial budget yesterday which is good as CAP funding was denied.

#### **Municipal Planning Commission (Brad Slorstad, Kevin Wilson, Bonnie Sansregret, and Administrators)**

Pretty much business as usual, have dealt with a couple of appeals. Seeing more use of Rural Small Holdings district which is good for development.

#### **Oyen Interpretative Centre (Daryl Swenson, Darran Dick)**

Initiative undertaken, thinking about possible spot out by tourist centre. Thinking about a theatre and displays; there is still a lot work to be done. A consultant from Ontario was hired to review the business plan. It was a good process, and now that part is done. The group is looking for new members to bring the project forward.

#### **Palliser Economic Partnership (Bob Gainer, Jay Slemp)**

At a recent meeting of the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor (EATC) in Vermillion a presentation was made indicating Hwys 36 & 41 are being looked at to create hubs to connect into cities. PEP is part EATC. Where traffic goes economic development follows. Did speak with Shaun Hammond, ADM Safety, Policy and Engineering Division of Alberta Transportation, regarding Alberta Transportation investigating pull-outs on Hwy 36 as that would be a good strategic investment. There is also a plan in Medicine Hat to create an

inter-model site to put products on rail to move to trucks. Other work includes Legacy buildings in Special Areas to see if there are uses.

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services** (Bob Gainer, Travis Foot, Lawrence Letniak)

There was a trial for staff to vary their work schedules but it was cancelled after two months due to public pressure. There have been problems with inspections on buildings. In particular the Hanna Lodge and two doctors houses in Consort – the inspections weren't done or not done properly. People are paying and not getting the services. The pictures of land and areas are better resolution than Google Earth.

It was noted if inspections are not complete, there should be no payment. This feedback needs to be communicated to the representatives to bring forward.

**Prairie Conservation Forum** (Graham Caskey, Bob Gainer)

Generally focus has been to conserve native prairie and think Special Areas adds good balance. A summer tour is being planned. Glad Special Areas has a seat at the table. Operationally PCF is looking at a five year business plan.

**Provincial Endangered Species Conservation Committee** (Bob Gainer)

Mr. Stratton Peak has indicated he would like to step down. The Committee want to list all the species they can, but some models are shaky. Once a species is listed, there is power behind it. A little concerned how much influence Special Areas will have over lease land in the future.

**BREAK**

Welcome Mr. Rod Simpson, MNP and Ms. Amanda Miller, ESRD to discuss the Provincial Grazing Rental rate.

The Council will review the last three committee reports prior to the presentation.

**SAMDA** (Travis Foot, Jay Slem, Darran Dick)

Ms. Christie Dick and Ms. Wanda Diakow are still working to build economic growth in the area.

**Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission** (Bonnie Sansregret)

SMRWSC supports Special Areas application under Small Communities Fund to extend the waterline to Monitor. Business as usual.

**Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Alliance** (Neal Roes, Owen Francis)

Mr. Greg Sheppard is at a meeting there today. It is good for Special Areas to be present at the table.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council and staff for the reports. There was a lot of good information.

Mr. Rob Simpson from MNP, and Ms. Amanda Miller from ESRD stepped forward to review the proposed Provincial Grazing Rental rates.

Discussion around rental rates has been going on for a while. Changes around assignment fees are also being looked at. The current rates are outlined in the *Public Lands Act* so the first step is to get the rates removed. The rationale for the rates being put into the *Act* was to regulate assignment fees. The intent is to have rates change by Ministerial Order as Special Areas does. The target is to amend the *Act* in the Fall 2015 sitting of Cabinet and target 2017 for amending the rates.

There was a three zone rental rate system implemented in 1960 based on distance to livestock markets and outdated understanding of forage quality. Reviewed current formula which was forward thinking at the time. Rates were frozen in 1994 Zone A (Southern) - \$2.79/AUM, Zone B (Central) – \$2.32/AUM and Zone C (Northern) - \$1.39/AUM. Special Areas is in Zone B and the SA rate is \$4.56 this year. Comparisons with AB, BC, SK and MN were reviewed for context. Other component is Assignment Fees – designed to capture 50% of capitalized value of a grazing lease. The Assignment Fee is to be paid when lease is transferred to another lease holder. In 2003, a decision was made that Assignment Fees were a tax and put into legislation. Don't want the assignment fee to be a barrier, and it is a considerable barrier for those wanting to enter the industry.

In 2013, ESRD undertook to review the grazing lease rental rate and assignment system with the intent to implement a new framework. The proposal includes moving to two zones that would have different minimum rental costs. The proposed formula is a market-based administrative formula. With minimum AUM amounts for Zone 1 and Zone 2 the formula will incorporate market price, transportation cost, and grazing lease activities (output value less input value) is the basic principle of formula.

The goal of the group is to ensure lease holders are no worse off with new formula. There will be a phased in implementation. The assignment rate would be flat and consistent throughout province. There is a proposal to review the formula every five years, and resurvey costs every 10 yrs.

There was a question if any discussion happened on tackling the assignment fee alone. It was noted some goals could have been achieved that way, however the direction from the ESRD department was to come up with a new framework. The new system seems pretty complex and folks may not know where they are at year to year.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Simpson and Ms. Miller for coming to present – there is great food for thought.

## **LUNCH**

Mr. Brian Andjelic and Ms. Cathy Cooper from Prairie Rose Regional Division (PRRD) came forward to provide an update. The Ball Academy at South Central High School in Oyen is doing some exciting things. The provincial budget made a strong announcement to teachers that the number of teachers will remain the same if enrollment remains the same.

Transportation is a major issue for 21 out of 21 Board Chairs in rural schools.

Transportation deficit is \$300k this year. There are 60 kids riding 90mins or more one-way on a bus to get to school. There is no ask for money only for understanding. There is a \$200k deficit in infrastructure. Schuler School has a template and received a donation of approximately \$1M. Teachers have raises and support staff has not received even cost of living increase. The challenges with the new budget will translate into not coming close to pleasing everyone. The cuts amount to 1.4% to 2.9% - on everything but teachers. Ms. Cooper thanked the Special Areas for support to Family School Liaison program – it's very valuable to the students and parents. AB Education has tendered rural education study – waiting to see what that entails. The Rural Education Symposium promoted more emphasis on the importance of partnerships. Great working relationship with Christie Dick and Larae Pierson did a great presentation at the Symposium. No sure how to turn around the rural depopulation but looking forward to working together. There is a lot of unrest about how the transportation service is provided, it was noted any contracts over \$75,000 must be tendered. Increase in bureaucracy makes it a barrier. Safety and Compliance issues prevent Mom/Pop operations from being successful. Mr. Wilson noted he has a bus contract and cheaper is not always better. Mr. Angelic noted PRRD does appreciate local drivers and try to value that if it fits with rural sustainability, but living with a \$1.4M deficit is difficult.

Information on the Rural Education Symposium will be forwarded to Council next year.

Continue the process to inspire in learning and PRRD is going to return the focus to literacy. Well researched base program is \$700k across the Division (17 public schools) does not include colony schools. Some resources have been purchased but can't afford more. There are dual credit opportunities at South Central High School where by students can receive High School credits along with College credit at the same time. The main partner is Lakeland College. Two areas are childcare and extracting heavy oil courses. This creative partnership helps to keep kids in school. Ms. Cooper thanked the Council for the invitation noting they really appreciate having opportunity to come and update Special Areas. The PRRD Board has committed to view all decisions through a rural lense.

Mr. Christianson noted the Council appreciates both Mr. Andjelic and Ms. Cooper taking the time to come and provide updates.

Mr. Cam McKeage and Mr. Ed Brinkman from Prairie Land Regional Division (PLRD) stepped forward to provide an update. PLRD has committed to a week off in November and February so families can take vacations without missing school. The enrollment profile has been in steady decline. Funding is done on a per pupil basis so continual decline there too. The Division has been forced to embrace different ways of learning, embraced video conferences to keep small schools open. The advocacy plan is to meet with MLA and government officials and ask for fairness. In transportation, the cap is one student per 3.2 sq miles in PLRD it is one student per 6.2 sq miles. Not sure why there is a cap. Also asking for fairness and have costs based on courses that are required for students to take. Courses like Physics 30 have to be offered. There are 80 students enrolled in dual credit courses. Tremendous opportunity for those interested in trades – get started in high school. The budget is pretty much the same as for PRRD, there will need to be \$500k in cuts without touching teachers and can't cut transportation – it will be significant in area that can be cut. Mr. McKeage noted their role is to review learning and based on the accountability pillars measured by Alberta Education, changes will be made based on research. Have committed to professional development for teachers who are secluded but need to retain skills. Still need to request community input in what schools should be offering. Health care certificates – can have in Gr. 12 to begin career.

There was a question about issues with Math in the High School in Hanna. It is hard to retain good quality math teachers in rural areas. Made a point to work very closely with math cohorts and a math specialist in Calgary. Trying to make sure we touch on all building blocks, not just at high school level.

There has not been any forecasting on enrollment levels yet. The Berry Creek School is participating in an Empathy program in connection with the REACH program building mental health in schools. Some of these programs take time from school curriculum. Some fit into curriculum areas. Mr. McKeage thanked the Board for the generous support of the Family Resource Worker program. Funds about \$89,000. The program is strong with high levels of satisfaction, one area to improve is ensuring the Family Resource Worker is fair across schools. PLRD has solicited a lot of input in the new school design. A lot of visiting of schools that have been built in last few years was done. Hoping to begin work 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April and hope to have completed by June 2017. Not bringing younger kids over until construction is done. Rural Ed Symposium – very proud of this and it's a great communication tool. Thanks for supporting and supplying the coffee table refreshments.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Brinkman and Mr. McKeage for coming to speak to Council.

## **BREAK**

The Council reviewed the Resolution and motions prepared:

## **RESOLUTION #1**

WHEREAS the current cultivation policy limits an operation to 2 quarters of new cultivation lease;

WHEREAS a farming unit can be made more viable by farming more acres but is limited by this policy;

WHEREAS conversion to cultivation lease will yield more revenue to the Special Areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas Board increase the number of quarters that can be converted from grazing lease to cultivation lease.

MOVED BY James Madge

SECONDED BY Bob Gainer

Discussion:

There was a question on if there should be a cap on the number of quarters. Some indicated there should be no cap and some indicated a cap was required since there is concern some may not be as interested in the land. Once the Board approves the policy, each application is dealt with administratively. The Administrator does make a recommendation.

CARRIED.

### **MOTION AC01-07-15: SUPPORT CHANGE TO HUNTING REGULATIONS**

**MOVED BY GRAHAM CASKEY AND SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT, THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SUPPORT TERRY RAYMOND WITH A LETTER OF SUPPORT WHICH WOULD MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO DISCHARGE A WEAPON ALONG OR ACROSS AN UNDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCE UNLESS THEY HAVE PERMISSION TO HUNT ON THE ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND.**

Discussion:

This could affect fathers and sons going to hunt gophers – may have a bigger impact.

**DEFEATED.**

### **MOTION AC01-08-15: AD HOC MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**MOVED BY BONNIE SANSREGRET AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM CASKEY, THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL INITIATE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO FURTHER EXPLORE, RESEARCH AND DESIGN A SUSTAINABLE MONETARY STRUCTURE TO GROW OUR OWN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND BRING THIS PLAN BACK TO THE COUNCIL AT THE JUNE MEETING FOR FEEDBACK.**

CARRIED.

### **MOTION AC01-09-15: SUPPORT FIRE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORT A FIRE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLED BURNS.**

Discussion:

Just need a simple system to help our volunteer fire fighters from chasing smoke. More aware everyone is better off we'll all be.

**CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC01-10-15: CHANGE CORRAL LOCATION SOUNDING CREEK**

**MOVED BY TRAVIS FOOT AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE CORRALS AT THE SOUNDING CREEK COMMUNITY PASTURE TO ALLOW FOR EASIER ACCESS.  
CARRIED.**

The Council reviewed the Issue Binder updates on the Sharepoint site.

There was a question about communication with the MD of Acadia regarding Community Peace Officer tracking. It was noted there location of the CPO office is plotted on a map and send to the CAO. In Fall 2013, a motion was made to not hire another CPO so advertisement did not proceed. However, a CPO was put in the 2015 budget and advertisement will proceed this year. Mr. McMahon is tasked with patrolling the surfaced roads with large investments.

The *Application of the Public Lands Act* is waiting to coordinate with the Legislative Planning Group. Once that is updated, Special Areas can more actively pursue MSL rates.

Community Pastures – all are full except the yearling pasture (Richdale).

The Scope of Appeals Committees is still being worked on.

Dinosaur Provincial Park has administrative issues to be handled i.e., who is responsible to issue a lease.

Blood Indian Park – a letter was sent to Minister Fawcett and the response indicated ESRD is not interested in stocking with Tiger Trout. Brown Trout may be of some benefit. It is hoped to install this fall.

Prairie Oasis Park - reservations open 8:00 a.m. April 2<sup>nd</sup> and are electronic only.

Going back to Community Pastures there are three patrons in the Richdale pasture. The pasture is wet, and is down to 105 head from 270 head six years ago. The range rider from Bullpound pasture manages. If it were to be sold, it would most likely be open for public tender as a grazing lease.

### **New Business**

It was recommended the Board investigate staying at the Marriot for the Fall AAMDC conference.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Shyanne Jones for organizing the meeting, Ms. Dorothy Cornforth for the refreshments and room setup, and Mr. Trent Caskey for the hospitality room. He also noted how much the Board appreciates the Councillors taking the time to attend and provide their input.

### **MOTION AC01-11-15: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING ADJORN.**

# SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

June 23, 2015

Hand Hills Lake Club, AB

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Gainer	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 1
Neal Roes	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 2
Brad Slorstad	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 3
Brent Horner	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
James Madge	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 5
Daryl Swenson	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 7
Brad Osadczuk	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 8
Travis Foot	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4 - Absent
Graham Caskey	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6 - Absent
Lawrence Letniak	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1 - Absent
Bonnie Sansregret	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2
Robert Worobo	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3 - Absent

## SPECIAL AREAS STAFF

Jordon Christianson	Acting Chairman; Director, Property Administration
Owen Francis	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Corinne Kelts	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
Trent Caskey	Administrator, Special Area No. 2;
Wayne Bosch	Roads & Equipment Superintendent
Darren Jones	Financial Services Co-ordinator
Nolan Ball	Agrologist
Jesse Williams	Ag Fieldman, SA2
James Skjenna	Ag Fieldman, SA3
Darlene Herzog	Administrative Assistant
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Shirley Swanson	Executive Assistant, ADM Municipal Services and Legislation
Jeanne de Valois	Coordinator, Municipal Legislation

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room.

This is going to be a condensed meeting to review information on the costs of road construction, medical scholarships, the Hanna office expansion, and review the Application of the Public Lands Act as well as the Special Areas Service Fees Regulation.

Mr. Francis provided a handout with historic cost information for Special Areas construction on roads versus Alberta Transportation's provincial average. Special Areas is competitive and decisions are made with knowledge of the costs and private industry costs as well. When Special Areas takes on the work, the money stays in our communities. There are more than 10 crews and approximately 15 employees per crew plus a foreman and supervisor who are local residents. It was noted the vast majority of costs for GBC (Granular Base Course) is the trucking which can vary widely depending on where the gravel is located. There is on-going maintenance costs on the staged approach, however to get to full base course pavement at Alberta Transportation standards the cost is \$875,000/km.

There was discussion on the amount of idle time for machinery and it was noted the construction crews work 12hr days with one hour for lunch and two fifteen minute breaks. Special Areas has not been able to hire qualified staff to run the equipment with longer shifts. Also, if the hours are extended there is additional costs as the seasonal employees

are unionized. There is a job advertisement out for a grader operator and of the 20 applicants only one has indicated actual grader experience.

Mr. Francis noted the equipment was moved early this year but GBC could not be laid until after the frost was out. The construction season is generally the same number of days year to year.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Francis for the information and noted Special Areas will continue to monitor work and costs.

Mr. Ferguson presented information from the Medical Scholarship Committee which was formed after the Spring Advisory Council. The original intent of the group was to encourage local residents into the medical field and have them return home to practice. There are a lot of issues to consider not just scholarships. A bursary may be a better tool as part of the condition can include a service clause and can be targeted at those already studying in the medical field. Another issue to consider is the Preceptor support for doctor recruitment. The Preceptor supervises non-Canadian doctors wishing to practice in Alberta for a specified time period.

It was noted involvement with AHS will be required as this is their system and we need to play within the confines of their rules. It would be beneficial to develop working relationships with AHS representatives to ensure Special Areas is acquiring the services needed. The South Zone seems to be more willing to work with Special Areas, however the Central Zone is beginning to be more receptive.

The intent of this resolution is to create a tool to have in the toolbox when it's needed. Each area may require different support, for doctors, nurses, houses etc. The 1/3 split is arbitrary and funds can be moved around as needed between the communities.

The proposed Resolution:

**Whereas** there is an issue with attracting qualified professional medical practitioners and staff in the medical facilities located in the Special Areas.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Special Areas Board direct the Medical Boards in each area to establish a process with their local AHS representatives to help assist them with their recruitment efforts. That either bursaries or recruitment incentives be used, the Medical Boards can decide which tool is appropriate for the recruitment situation, to help with this effort.

**Furthermore** that the Special Areas Board fund this initiative in the amount of \$10,000 annually to each Medical Board and that the funds be allocated from the Medical Millrate Fund.

**MOVED BY Brent Horner**

**SECONDED BY Brad Slorstad**

**CARRIED.**

Mr. Ferguson presented information on the Hanna Office Expansion. Quotes were received high and a request was made for the architect to provide some cost saving options. The costs for expansion are \$2.1M with additional costs for architecture, supervision of building and building permits for a total of approximately \$2.4M. There is a short construction window and the Board made a motion to proceed at the June 9, 2015 meeting but wanted to ensure Council had input. Special Areas has been in the current office since the 1960's and does not pay rent or utilities. The proposed expansion will enable staff to be in one building and provide much needed space. Infrastructure has been contacted to inquire about Special Areas purchasing the current building. The expansion would be built on an adjacent lot that is owned and it is expected to be adequate for the next 40-50 years. As government changes and Special Areas takes on more roles in communities, more staff may be



required. Council indicated the Board should ensure there is enough space and renovate one time properly.

Mr. Christianson provided some background on the Application of Public Lands Act (APLA) noting that Special Areas uses parts to administer public lands. The Public Lands Act (PLA) was revised in 2010 and now the APLA needs updating after the formation of the Alberta Energy Regulator – Special Areas wants to ensure legislation we follow supersedes other legislation on lands within our power.

Ms. de Valois thanked the Council for the invitation and noted the majority of changes in the PLA from 2005 to 2010 were to delegate from the Minister down to Directors. There were changes in enforcement and recreational access, some of which does not apply as Special Areas is exempt from specific sections of the PLA. Ms. de Valois highlighted changes noting the Special Areas Act provides authority for a number of items so Special Areas is exempt from those sections of the PLA. The important exemptions from the Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA) will allow Special Areas to retain responsibility for surface dispositions on lands within Special Areas. It is important to have clear legislation exempting Special Areas from REDA.

The next expiry for the APLA is set for September 2020.

Mr. Christianson noted part of the point of this is to have a targeted consultation with the Council. Typically, if legislation is drafted there must be public input and generally there has been zero interest from the public on this type of legislation as it is more administrative in how the lands are managed. The next step is for Ms. de Valois to send the draft to Legislative Council who will then produce a new Regulation.

The Special Areas Service Fees Regulation is set to expire in October of this year. This regulation determines the rates for various administrative processes. Looking at the current rates, Special Areas is extremely low compared to ESRD rates. A fee should be comparable to the cost of performing the service, the actual cost of the service has not been reviewed but we know they are not in line. Numbers will be reviewed and brought back to the Board for approval. This change is consistent with the proposed MSL rate increase, as well as the increases that have already occurred for pipeline rates, grazing and cultivation rates. It was suggested an increase in some of the service fee rates may encourage ratepayers to be more committed to their decisions on which quarters to exchange etc.

Mr. Christianson noted the Board will be discussing the emerging drought issue at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting as well as reviewing the rental rates on grazing lease. The purpose of reducing the rate would be to encourage good stewardship by giving a credit on rentals to de-stock the lease.

There was not a lot of discussion on the conversion of cultivation lease at the Ratepayer meetings, it was suggested a resolution be presented at Fall Council after discussions have occurred with neighbours.

The proposed Tax Recovery Land Sale policy has been brought forward but the change in the political landscape has stalled the process. Mr. Christianson will connect with the Assistant Deputy Minister to develop a plan to bring the policy forward.

**MR. JORDON CHRISTIANSON MOTIONED FOR ADJOURNMENT.**

# SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

September 23, 2015

Blood Indian Hall, AB

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Gainer	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 1
Neal Roes	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 2
Brad Slorstad	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 3
Brent Horner	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
James Madge	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 5
Daryl Swenson	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 7
Brad Osadczuk	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 8
Travis Foot	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4
Graham Caskey	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5 - Absent
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6
Lawrence Letniak	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1
Bonnie Sansregret	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2
Robert Worobo	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3 - Absent

## SPECIAL AREAS STAFF

Jordon Christianson	Chair, Special Areas Board
Owen Francis	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration
Trent Caskey	Acting Director, Property Administration; Administrator, Special Area No. 2;
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Corinne Kelts	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
Wayne Bosch	Roads & Equipment Superintendent
Shaune Kovitch	Shop Superintendent
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the day.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the process for electing a Board Member as Mr. Horner's term on the Board will be expiring in April 2016. An election for a Special Areas 2 member will be held on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> during Fall Advisory Council. Ms. Sansregret and Mr. Swenson also have terms expiring however they can be appointed for a second term.

Mr. Francis provided an update on Municipal Services. The Fire Notification system has been developed and will be rolled out this week. The system provides ratepayers the ability to go online and complete a notification form. Testing on the system took place over the summer and district fire chiefs are in favor of this system.

Blood Indian Park is still dealing with the Carp issue and the public has been encouraged to not throw back any Carp. There will be a release of larger (4-8lb) rainbow trout shortly and the public will be encouraged to throw any rainbow trout back as they may harvest the younger Carp. The installation of a secondary species is being planned.

Prairie Oasis Park was able to open new sites, two loops were opened for July long weekend and other sites were opened after irrigation work was completed. More trees will be planted next spring. The sites were well used considering the services available.

In the Water department, the Jenner water line project has been moving along. Special Areas took over the Jenner water co-op and installed new lines. Special Areas was successful with the Small Communities Fund application for an extension of the SMRWSC water line to the Hamlet of Monitor. It is a \$2.4M project with funding from federal, provincial, Special Areas and the SMRWSC. The design is expected this fall then a RFP for construction will be done.

On the construction side, the crew working in Sedalia is close to wrapping up and will move onto the Ness Slough. The other crew is working on the Kroeger road and moving huge amounts of dirt. The Repair crew is working south of Hanna on a new residence and will be moving to Empress for the Fire Hall site preparation. The Cement crew is on Hwy 561 from Cessford to Hwy 36 and they are 6-8 days away from completing. The GBC crew is working on Hwy 876 and have 6 days left to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> lift; after that is complete the target is to get GBC on portions they had to rebuild. It was noted there will be some portions of the road in the same condition as last year from Cessford south – it will be important to keep traffic off the shoulders. The Gravel crews will be done next week. Solon Rd (Hwy 586) is being worked on by a contractor who has run into significant delays and has needed to change equipment. They will continue to work until freeze up as they have lost the better part of three weeks due to weather.

There was concern about the Cessford south road and a question was posed on why it is not smooth. The base is smoother than the GBC which is quite rough. Mr. Francis noted the level is measured daily and staff are required to do the least number of passes to ensure large rocks are not brought to the surface. There has also been an issue with getting experienced staff on the blades this year. With some other layers like chip seal it is easier to perfect the finish. There is as much art as there is science in laying GBC with a blade.

A new approach has been taken on the Girletz Road by mixing in Gravel Lock, a chemical amendment, which binds with the clay and does not allow the clay to swell. The product is rototilled into the ground. There is surplus of funds from the SMRWSC that has been used for this project.

It was noted the GBC on Hwy 855 was able to be done in one lift, Hwy 876 is thicker and requires two lifts as there are regional differences in the ground. Chip seal was added to the south end of Hwy 886 but it was noted it is very rough and breaking up – it is hoped the fix will last until the next scheduled lift in 2017.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Francis for the updates.

Mr. Ferguson provided a financial update noting a review is usually done in summer to see where funds are and if projects can be moved ahead or need to be delayed. In the past, if funds were still available Special Areas advanced capital equipment purchases and has allowed for earth moving projects. The original budget deficit was \$3.2M and has been revised to \$3.15M.

He noted additional funds were received for MSI in the amount of \$207,000.

There are a small number of companies getting into arrears with their leases, Mr. Wilson noted he has received one letter from an oil & gas company stating they will not be paying this year. As companies shift, generally the one taking over clears the ledger and there is a lot of shifting happening.

There was a question on if the assignment fee of \$50 covers the administrative costs of moving the paper through the office. At the moment, the actual cost of that type of transaction has not been identified but that is the intent when the Special Areas Service Fees Regulation is updated. Alberta Environment and Parks has significantly higher fees to provide the same service.

In the budget, the Energy East pipeline is not proceeding which is a reduction of \$1.750M; grazing rental rates were reduced 25% in consideration of range conditions, and cultivation is down as well.

The savings on the expenditure side include: Hanna building expansion – due to delays there will be \$1M savings this year; due to late hires there will be \$300k in wages and salaries; and the high speed wireless project will be deferred until 2016. There will be \$400k in earthwork savings as the contractor is not interested in extending the work.

The SAWSP was not successful in attaining matching grants for EIA work done this year.

Overall, Special Areas is ahead on \$1.4M on expenditures which results in a \$3.153M deficit.

Mr. Letniak noted the high speed wireless is problematic in his area and wondered if there was a better route to try. Mr. Ferguson noted there is fringe coverage in that particular area.

There was discussion on the Community Partnership Funding projects for the next year: the Oyen Fire Hall, Hanna Fire Truck, and swimming pool in Consort are all eligible.

Mr. Christianson noted there are generally discussions with ATCO and TransCanada on when projects will be up and running so they can be put into the budget. The Energy East project has been delayed, however TransCanada was going to begin to try and acquire right-of-way in 2015 so that is why it is in the budget. It is estimated the Energy East project will be delayed until 2019.

An update was provided on the Office of the Auditor General Report released in July 2015. The Board met with Deputy Minister Pickering in August to discuss the report. While Special Areas was not specifically mentioned in the report, there were comments on managing public lands. As a manager of public lands, Special Areas has not increased Crown compensation which has remained at \$50/acre. Special Areas has adjusted rates for grazing and cultivation annually. Going forward it will be important to make Special Areas position clear. It is also important for lease holders to be able to utilize the equity in the leases they hold. Mr. Horner noted the Deputy Minister appreciated the grazing rental rates are tied to cattle prices and remain current. The Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association is looking to hold meetings in Pollockville as well.

Special Areas would like to amend the MSL rates but timing has not been favourable, the pipeline easements have been adjusted as well as power line easements, and cultivation and grazing are reviewed annually. The MSL is the last rate to be updated.

There was discussion on hunters and access to grazing leases – if leaseholders do not drive on their own GL hunters should respect that and it is reasonable to require foot only access. The current Special Areas Recreational Access Policy has not yet been made into a Regulation. Leaseholders cannot reasonably deny access, however there is concern when conditions are dry. There was a question on if hunters or those gaining access are liable if they burn up the lease. That is a good question, and some investigating will be done.

A comment was made about the gate signs noting the old signs had fire hazard and vehicles stay on trails but the new ones have softened quite a bit. They also say Use Respect instead of requiring those interested in gaining access ask permission from the lease holder.

Every year there are hunters who demand access but generally there is good cooperation between hunters and lease holders.

The Recreational Access policy will be sent to Council. It was noted Fish & Wildlife Officers cannot enforce the policy, but once it is made into a Regulation they can enforce.

The Jenner Service Station sells map books, it may be of value to add something in about hunting on grazing leases.

One issue is public land suggests there is no disposition and there are unoccupied GL's out west that are not the same – all of Special Areas GL's are occupied.

## **LUNCH**

Mr. Christianson called the meeting back to order and thanked the Blood Indian Ladies (Karen Beasley, Renee Laughlin, Diane Nelson, and Donna Armstrong) for providing a great lunch.

Ms. Julie Friesen, Community Development Officer, joined the meeting to provide information on writing resolutions. Introductions were made around the room.

Resolutions provide direction for future business and can be a mechanism for advising on policy matters. A resolution provides background and action that is intended while a motion provides direction. The resolution helps to provide context for issues. Resolutions need to be long enough to explicitly explain the intent so a motion can be created to provide the direction requested. If staff do not have a clear understanding of the Resolution Committee's intent, the research they provide may not provide the direction intended. However, caution must be applied as too specific of a resolution could limit it gaining support and being approved (i.e., if the money figure is too specific or there is a time constraint). There is a fine line with interpretation and too much interpretation. It can be difficult to put into black and white what the Council is thinking but not saying.

There was discussion on when/where resolutions are prepared and in past it was in the done over a lunch hour but lately the hospitality room has been a venue. It is difficult if the committee members are not able to get together to prepare the resolutions.

This issue will be discussed at Fall Advisory Council to determine a solution, potentially having committee members working on their Surface during the meeting or maybe having a separate meeting time.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mrs. Friesen for coming to provide information on Resolution Writing to the Council.

There are Board Leaderships courses and Elected Officials Courses being offered in the near future, those will be emailed to Council.

Fall Advisory Council has been scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

**MR. JORDON CHRSTIANSON MOTIONED FOR ADJOURNMENT.**

## Resolutions and Actions Taken

### **RESOLUTION #1 – Spring Advisory Council:**

WHEREAS the current cultivation policy limits an operation to 2 quarters of new cultivation lease;

WHEREAS a farming unit can be made more viable by farming more acres but is limited by this policy;

WHEREAS conversion to cultivation lease will yield more revenue to the Special Areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas Board increase the number of quarters that can be converted from grazing lease to cultivation lease.

MOVED BY James Madge

SECONDED BY Bob Gainer

CARRIED.

### **Action Taken:**

The issue was brought forward to the SAB. Since the implementation of the policy, there has not been a lot of uptake on the conversion of grazing lease lands. The SAB decided to address this issue specifically at ratepayers meetings to determine the level of interest. Through these discussions, there was very low interest in modifying this policy. At this time, the SAB has decided to leave the policy as is until there is a greater demand for this.

### **RESOLUTION #2 – June 23, 2015:**

**Whereas** there is an issue with attracting qualified professional medical practitioners and staff in the medical facilities located in the Special Areas.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Special Areas Board direct the Medical Boards in each area to establish a process with their local AHS representatives to help assist them with their recruitment efforts. That either bursaries or recruitment incentives be used, the Medical Boards can decide which tool is appropriate for the recruitment situation, to help with this effort.

**Furthermore** that the Special Areas Board fund this initiative in the amount of \$10,000 annually to each Medical Board and that the funds be allocated from the Medical Millrate Fund.

**MOVED BY Brent Horner**

**SECONDED BY Brad Slorstad**

**CARRIED.**