

# 2020 Ratepayer Minute Book

## Index

### Business Plan

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. MUNICIPAL SERVICES.....  | 3  |
| 1.1 Roads – Three-Digit Highways & Major Market Roads .....                                       | 3  |
| 1.2 Roads - Minor Market Roads .....  | 3  |
| 1.3 Roads - 1-3 Farm Roads and Back Trails .....  | 4  |
| 1.4 Building Infrastructure .....   | 9  |
| 1.5 Emergency Protective Services .....   | 11 |
| 1.6 Protective Services – Enforcement/Community Peace Officer Program .....                       | 14 |
| 1.7 Parks .....   | 16 |
| 1.8 Youngstown Service Centre .....   | 20 |
| 1.9 Waste Management .....  | 21 |
| 1.10 Water Services .....   | 23 |
| 2. PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION .....  | 24 |
| 2.1 Public Land Management – Agricultural Uses.....   | 29 |
| 2.2 Public Land Management - Industrial Uses.....   | 31 |
| 2.3 Public Land Management - Environmental.....   | 34 |
| 2.4 Land Use Planning And Development.....  | 37 |
| 2.5 Assessment & Taxation.....  | 38 |
| 2.6 Water Development.....  | 38 |
| 3. AGRICULTURAL SERVICES .....  | 41 |
| 4. COMMUNITY PASTURES .....   | 45 |
| 5. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION.....  | 48 |
| 5.1 Rural Stabilization – Community Economic Development.....                                     | 48 |
| 5.2 Rural Stabilization – Community Health Services & Physician Retention And<br>Recruitment..... | 53 |

### Reports

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Road Work Summary Of Expenditures .....                           | 5  |
| Subdivision Mileages For 2019 .....                               | 6  |
| Aggregate Resources Report.....                                   | 8  |
| Special Areas Facilities Manager .....                            | 9  |
| Fire Chief's Report .....   | 12 |
| Protective Services – Enforcement 2019 Report.....                | 14 |
| Parks Report .....  | 17 |
| Big Country Waste Management Commission Report .....              | 21 |
| Water Technical Services Report.....                              | 24 |
| Special Areas Tax Recovery Land Sale .....                        | 30 |
| M.S.L.'S, R.O.E.'S and L.O.C.'S as of December 31, 2019 .....     | 32 |
| Development Control Reports .....                                 | 33 |
| Acreage By Land Use Classification, as of December 31, 2019 ..... | 33 |
| Regrassing, Grazing, Feed, Cultivation, And Hay Permits .....     | 35 |
| Range Management Report.....                                      | 36 |
| Assessment Report.....  | 38 |
| Water Development Credits .....                                   | 40 |
| Pumping Units Report As Of December 31, 2019 .....                | 40 |
| Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 2 .....      | 41 |
| Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 3 .....      | 42 |
| Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 4 .....      | 43 |
| Community Pasture Report .....                                    | 45 |
| Special Area No. 2 Recreation Report For 2019 .....               | 49 |
| Special Area No. 3 Recreation Report For 2019 .....               | 50 |
| Special Area No. 4 Recreation Report For 2019 .....               | 51 |
| Economic Development .....  | 52 |
| AFSC.....   | 54 |
| CARA .....  | 55 |
| Wildlife Management Update For Special Areas .....                | 59 |
| Motions & Resolutions From 2019 Ratepayer Meetings .....          | 61 |
| Special Areas Advisory Council Meetings .....                     | 63 |
| June 19, 2019 .....   | 63 |
| September 25, 2019.....   | 69 |
| December 4, 5, 6, 2019.....                                       | 72 |
| Resolutions and Actions Taken.....                                | 90 |

## 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 2,514 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:       | 4,184   |
| Area:             | 5,080,353.85 acres (7,938 sq. miles)<br>(222 Townships)                       |
| Assessment:       | \$4.00 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:

- 67 kms of Reconstruction,
- 32 kms of Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 269 kms of Granular Base Course (GBC)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 305 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 was renewed in 2017 for another three-year term.

### Current Status - Major Market Roads

Major market roads are defined as all local surfaced roads. There are 224 kms of major market roads in the Special Areas.

Major market roads require:

- 6.4 kms of reconstruction,
- 0 kms of Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 128 kms of Granular Base Course (GBC)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 154 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 2017 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:

- 287.2 kms of 2-3 family farm access roads,
- 490.5 kms of 1 family farm access roads,
- 2145.8 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.<br><br>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

| January 1, 2019– December 31, 2019          |                          | 2018                 |                         | 2019                 |                           |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
|   |                          | Prior Year Kms       | Prior Year Expenditures | Current Year Kms     | Current Year Expenditures |
| <b>ROAD MAINTENANCE:</b>                    |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | Grading                  |                      | \$ 4,850,540.74         |                      | \$5,457,130.88            |
|   | Snow Removal             |                      | \$ 683,030.64           |                      | \$510,034.05              |
|   | Gravelling               | 1019                 | \$ 2,103,855.54         | 890                  | \$1,809,563.16            |
|   | Other **                 |                      | \$ 3,612,213.29         |                      | \$4,157,056.52            |
|   | <b>Total</b>             |                      | <b>\$ 11,249,640.21</b> |                      | <b>\$11,933,784.61</b>    |
| <b>BRIDGES &amp; CULVERTS:</b>              |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      | <b>\$ 33,036.05</b>     |                      | <b>\$183,374.51</b>       |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION: Local Roads</b>            |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          | <b>28</b>            | <b>\$ 6,858,482.70</b>  | <b>28</b>            | <b>\$7,007,448.74</b>     |
| <b>BACK TRAIL REPAIRS</b>                   |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      | <b>\$ 595,483.26</b>    |                      | <b>\$1,065,155.09</b>     |
| <b>GRAVEL LOCK</b>                          |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      |                         |                      | <b>\$47,152.39</b>        |
|   | Shoulder Pull            |                      |                         | <b>66</b>            | <b>\$1,402,236.61</b>     |
|   | Shoulder Pull - Contract |                      |                         | <b>40</b>            | <b>\$640,163.05</b>       |
| <b>CALCIUM/LIGNO DUST ABATEMENT</b>         |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      | <b>\$ 195,588.66</b>    |                      | <b>\$257,583.34</b>       |
| <b>OILING:</b>                              |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | Hamlet                   |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | Oil Repair:              |                      | \$ 391,170.44           |                      | \$ 500,497.94             |
|   | New Oil:                 |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | Dust Control:            |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | <b>Total</b>             |                      | <b>\$ 391,170.44</b>    |                      | <b>\$ 500,497.94</b>      |
| <b>STAGED SURFACING PROGRAM:</b>            |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | <b>GBC &amp; DSC</b>     | <b>886</b>           | <b>\$ 3,890,979.81</b>  | <b>886 &amp; 899</b> | <b>\$5,013,304.08</b>     |
|   |                          | <b>30</b>            |                         | <b>43</b>            |                           |
| <b>CSG (Cement Stabilized Grade)</b>        |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   | <b>Secondary Roads</b>   | <b>586 &amp; 862</b> | \$ 3,054,040.52         | <b>3</b>             | \$ 257,514.27             |
|   | <b>Total</b>             | <b>34</b>            | <b>\$ 3,054,040.52</b>  |                      | <b>\$ 257,514.27</b>      |
| <b>GBC (Granular Base Course) Local Rds</b> |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      | <b>\$ 413,806.69</b>    | <b>22</b>            | <b>\$3,451,575.09</b>     |
| <b>DSC (Double Seal Coat) Local Rds</b>     |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          | <b>12</b>            | \$ 500,758.93           | <b>5</b>             | \$343,223.26              |
|   | <b>Secondary Roads</b>   | <b>33</b>            | \$ 1,618,930.45         |                      |                           |
|   | <b>Total</b>             |                      | <b>\$ 2,119,689.38</b>  |                      | <b>\$343,223.26</b>       |
| <b>REPORT TOTAL</b>                         |                          |                      |                         |                      |                           |
|   |                          |                      | <b>\$ 28,801,917.72</b> |                      | <b>\$32,483,387.03</b>    |

\*\*Other: Administration, Base, Checking, Culvert Install, Culvert Repair, Earthwork, Education, Engineering, Equipment Haul, Equipment Move, Equipment Repair, Equipment Service, Fence Material, Fire Guard, Flagging, Gravel Checking, Gravel Testing, Haul, Mowing, Road Side spraying, Rock Picking, Safety, Salt & Sand, Signs, Snow Fence, Staking, Stockpile, Supervision, Sweeping, Texas Gate, Travel, Water, Weeds & Brush.

## Subdivision Mileages for 2019

| <b>Special Area No. 2</b>                                   | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
|   | Kilometers  | Kilometers  |
| <u>Subdivision No.1</u>                                     |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 60          | 51          |
| Construction  |             | 4.6         |
| ACP (Asphaltic Concrete Pavement)                           | 0.35        |             |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium                                    | 1.16        | 1.1         |
| Micro Surfacing   |             | 5           |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Kevin Bossert, Hanna</i>        |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 2</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 110         | 71          |
| Construction  |             | 6.3         |
| CSB (Cement Stabilized Base)                                | 13          |             |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)                                      | 13          |             |
| Back Trail Repair   |             | 3           |
| Soft Spot Repair  |             | 0.2         |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium                                    | 23          | 23.4        |
| Dust Abatement – Lignosulfonate                             |             | 6           |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Neal Roes, Homestead Coulee</i> |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 3</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 27          | 46          |
| Dust Abatement - Lignosulfonate                             |             | 0.3         |
| Back Trail Repair   | 3           |             |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Brad Slorstad, Sunnynook</i>    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 4</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 62          | 41          |
| Back Trail Repair   | 6           |             |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Brent Horner, Pollockville</i>  |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 5</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 155         | 88          |
| CSB (Cement Stabilized Base)                                | 20          |             |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)                                      | 20          |             |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, James Madge, Stanmore</i>       |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 7</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 12.5        | 38          |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)                                      | 6           |             |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium                                    |             | 0.6         |
| Granular Base Course  | 6           |             |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Daryl Swenson, Bindloss</i>     |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| <u>Subdivision No. 8</u>                                    |             |             |
|   |             |             |
| Gravel  | 27          | 19          |
| Construction  | 15          | 0.8         |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium                                    |             | 0.3         |
| <i>Advisory Council Member, Brad Osadczuk, Iddesleigh</i>   |             |             |

**Special Area No. 3**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2018</b>  | <b>2019</b>  |
| (Kilometers) | (Kilometers) |

Subdivision No. 4

|                            |     |      |
|----------------------------|-----|------|
| Gravel                     | 109 | 105  |
| GBC (Granular Base Course) |     | 34.6 |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)     |     | 34.6 |
| Back Trail Repair          | 1   | 31   |

*Advisory Council Member, Travis Foot, Esther*Subdivision No. 5

|                            |    |     |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Gravel                     | 77 | 130 |
| Construction               | 3  | 6.5 |
| Back Trail Repair          |    | 9   |
| Re-shaping                 |    | 2   |
| GBC (Granular Base Course) | 8  | 9   |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)     | 8  | 9   |
| Shoulder Pull              | 2  | 27  |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium   |    | 1   |

*Advisory Council Member, Sam Shadlock, Cereal*Subdivision No. 6

|                                 |    |     |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Gravel                          | 59 | 63  |
| Construction                    | 1  | 7   |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)          | 24 |     |
| GBC (Granular Base Course)      | 24 |     |
| Dust Abatement - Lignosulfonate | 11 | 12  |
| Back Trail Repair               |    | 0.5 |
| Shoulder Pull                   |    | 13  |

*Advisory Council Member, Kevin Wilson, Oyen***Special Area No. 4**Subdivision No. 1

|                          |     |     |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Gravel                   | 152 | 90  |
| Construction             | 5   | 5   |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)   |     | 3   |
| Shoulder Pull            |     | 30  |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium |     | 0.3 |
| Soil Stabilization       |     | 2   |
| Back Trail Repair        |     | 13  |

*Advisory Council Member, Graham Schetzle, Veteran*Subdivision No. 2

|                        |     |     |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Gravel                 | 137 | 105 |
| Construction           | 4   |     |
| Back Trail Repair      |     | 8   |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat) | 1   | 1   |
| Soil Stabilization     |     | 1   |
| Gravel Lock            |     | 1   |
| Shoulder Pull          |     | 27  |

*Advisory Council Member, Barry Redel, Consort*Subdivision No. 3

|                            |    |      |
|----------------------------|----|------|
| Gravel                     | 30 | 43   |
| GBC (Granular Base Course) |    | 21.3 |
| DSC (Double Seal Coat)     | 6  |      |
| Dust Abatement - Calcium   |    | 0.3  |
| Gravel Lock                |    | 1    |

*Advisory Council Member, Doug Noble, Altario*

## Aggregate Resources Report

1. Exploration:
  - a. Continue to focus on demand driven exploration.
  - b. Focus areas for Fall 2019/Winter 2020 are:
    - i. SA#3 Hwy. 570 South/886 East to replace the Lanfine Pit (now exhausted)
    - ii. SA#4 from Hemaruka to NE corner of SA Boundary to replace Doolaege and Hadwin Pits.
    - iii. Exploration to verify if aggregates exist on grazing leases that have been requested for exchange.
2. Pit Operations:
  - a. JMB Crushing Systems was awarded a 3-year tender with 2-year option in Q1-2019.
  - b. Tender prices have decreased 20% compared to the previous contract.
  - c. Crushing in the Moench pit began on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and finished March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.
  - d. Pit run stockpiling began November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the Simkins pit.
  - e. JMB has subcontracted a larger, dual cone plant to ensure the 2019-2021 material is all crushed by the summer of 2020.
3. Reclamation:
  - a. Reclamation focused on the Suntjens, Crisp and Rutledge Pits to maintain the target of annual reclamation area being equal to or greater than disturbance area, reclamation liability remained steady at \$3.3M.
  - b. Soil screening in the Hadwin pit is 50% complete and is budgeted to be finished in 2020 pending budgetary constraints. This screened rock and additional resources of marginal gravel will allow for one additional 50,000 Tonne crush in the future.
4. Focus for 2020:
  - a. Continue exploration in areas of high demand.
  - b. Continue with exploration on exhausted pits and focus on direct placement in active pits where practical – using new technology to decrease costs (UAV surveys, reclamation software, wetland development and machine control in dozers).
  - c. Continue with soil screening in Hadwin and Doolaege pits.
  - d. Develop an exhausted gravel pit reclamation master plan.
  - e. Update pit resources and develop a 50-year gravel management plan.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelsey Martin.



## 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 MANAGER – SPRING 2020 REPORT

An ongoing focus of the Special Areas facilities management continues to be developing a current inventory of facility infrastructure including detailed building system components. We will also be implementing a new Asset Management software to aid decisions surrounding investment in existing and future infrastructure. Already, we have introduced a 5-day, 30-day and 90-day Integrated schedule to effectively communicate Preventative Maintenance, Regulatory Items, Corrective Items and Project Based tasks to the stakeholders. The main deliverable from the existing and future processes will be the creation of an approved multi-year facilities capital plan which captures repairs, upgrades and new construction projects.

### 2019 Major Projects

- The Hanna administrative building upstairs lunch area and boardroom are complete. Some of the spaces have been furnished for use.
- The Sibbald North Water Well building has been constructed, with electrical planned to be completed in the Spring of 2020.
- The installation of backup power generators at our Greystone Tower, Handhills Tower, Hanna Office, Youngstown Office as well as Cereal, Bindloss, Cessford, Veteran & Oyen shops are complete.

### 2020 Major Projects (subject to budget approval)

- Bullpound Community Pasture main residence basement renovation is 90% complete, with just a small wall and door installation left.
- Sibbald North Water Well electrical installation planned for early spring.
- Sounding Creek Community Pasture combination shop/barn construction planned to begin in the summer.
- Consort office will have an engineering assessment done on the carport and existing retaining wall to determine a path forward.
- The Youngstown shop will have an energy efficiency study completed on the overall effectiveness of the insulation in the shop.
- Bindloss shop will have a new heater installed, the RFP will consider energy efficient options.
- The fuel tank at the Hanna Shop will be repainted and levelled, as well, the fuel tanks at the Youngstown shop will be repainted.
- Cereal shop will have energy efficient lights installed
- The Buffalo/Atlee bunkhouse requires a new tin roof which is planned for spring.
- Dorothy Elevator – we plan on issuing an RFP for the repair of the roof. We will make a decision to proceed with the repair based on the quotes we receive.

- Homestead Coulee fire hall/shop building and Excel and SDS water sheds have been put on hold pending budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryley Girletz,  
Facilities Manager

## 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>Pass QMP Audit</p>   |
|   | <p>Update appointments of Fire Guardians annually through a Board Order.</p>   | <p>Annual BO</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

2019 Call Numbers (Jan 1/19 to Dec 31/19)

| Type                        | Number     | % of total   |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Grassfires                  | 80         | 33.8%        |
| Equipment Fires             | 5          | 2.1%         |
| Vehicle Fires               | 17         | 7.2%         |
| Powerline Fires             | 5          | 2.1%         |
| Structure Fires             | 8          | 3.4%         |
| Hay Bale Fires              | 9          | 3.8%         |
| Flare Stack Fires           | 2          | .8%          |
| Arson                       | 1          | .4%          |
| <b>LL FIRES (TOTALED)</b>   | <b>127</b> | <b>53.6%</b> |
| MVC (Livestock response -3) | 59         | 24.9%        |
| Medical (MFR)               | 15         | 6.3%         |
| False Alarm                 | 20         | 8.4%         |
| Fire Investigations         | 1          | 0.8%         |
| Stood Down                  | 14         | 5.9%         |
| <b>TOTAL CALLS</b>          | <b>237</b> | <b>46.3</b>  |

This year the lion's share of grass fires occurred north of Youngstown in SA 3 & 4. There were various causes; a quad fire, 2 from flare stacks, welding/grinding operations, kids with matches, power poles arcing out and a trailer that was blown over while being towed.

The Flare Stack fires were caused by a lack of annual maintenance as well as grass within the 30 m radius of the stack base. I contacted Ed Rahn from AER (Alberta Energy Regulator) about this concern and AER ran a campaign to address these two causes, which was very effective.

We typically don't do burn outs, but this year we needed to do a couple to limit fire probability. It worked out very well and was good training for the fire departments involved.

One trend we noticed this year was the oddity of some of the calls we responded to; a boat in distress, a truck blown off of highway, a combine in a lagoon, a small airplane crash with an ensuing fire, MVA with armed suicide person, then a multi-vehicle incident involving hazardous goods, fire and unfortunately some fatalities.

We had 34 insurable losses, from vehicles fires to farm equipment, and structure fires – approximately 3+ million in losses.

For Cost Recovery revenue, we have invoiced over \$ 73,000 for the 2019 season.

Highlights for the Spring 2019 season is as follows:

## CFB

- Implementation of water tanks or bladders located on west & north perimeters of The Base at the following locations: Gates: 9,12,13 & 36.
- The Base has changed notification providers. Testing to be conducted in February 2020.
- The Base Fire Chief is working on another 5 water tanks for 2020 season.
- We met with CFB Fire on Dec. 12, 2019. This is part of our bi-annual meetings and to follow-up on recommendations that came out of the investigation. Next meeting will be March of 2020.

## Emergency Management

- We received an ACP grant for setting up a Regional Emergency Plan for Special Areas.
  - o Response group out of Calgary/Medicine Hat was awarded the project. We met on September 5, November 4. Next meeting is scheduled for January 6 and March 30, 2020. This will be a year-long project.
  - o This will help us comply with the mandated legislation of the Emergency Management Act starting in 2020. It will also provide a regional plan to address training, practice exercises and will provide depth and resiliency for all involved.

## Communications

- In May, the Village of Consort transitioned to Red Deer 911 for Emergency dispatching.
- The Acadia Valley radio system is now tied in with our Wide Area Radio system.
- We have backup power at our Handhills Tower site, but waiting for completion at remaining towers come spring.

## Capital Expenditures

- New Tender was put in service late December in Oyen.
- We have a couple small trucks on order for the 2020 season. (Big Stone & Bindloss). Chassis have been delayed & project has been pushed back to May 2020.
- The dirt work is completed for the proposed 2020 Fire hall at Homestead Coulee.
- The Veteran Fire Hall Grand Opening is scheduled for June 6, 2020. They will be moving into hall in early March 2020.

## Training

- We did an in-house training session for our equipment operators on expected response procedures should they be called to an incident.
- Two training courses were held at the Training Center in Hanna: An Extrication course and a Haz-Mat Awareness & Operations level.
- The Training Tower interior props are now operational. Training is scheduled for May of 2020 for a 1001 Level 1 course. A second Level one course is scheduled for Oct 2020 – May 31, 2121.

With every call there are challenges due to initial unknowns. This certainly puts stress on our first responders who selflessly commit their time and energy to serving this community. Considering this we need to be vigilant to ensure that these incidents don't have a lasting impact on our responders and their families. By providing training and support networks, this can help members to manage these situations most of the time. Our chiefs watch for signs in members who may be struggling to cope and certainly something Rob & I watch for as well.

Thanks to the Special Areas council and our staff for the support they provide and most importantly to those that answer the call – our responders.

We all have a role in Public Safety.

Yours in Public Safety,  
Glen Durand,  
Special Area 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. |

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES – ENFORCEMENT 2019 REPORT**

Public safety and infrastructure protection continue to be the primary focus of Protective Services for the Special Areas.

Special Areas employs three Peace Officers: John Armstrong, Terry McMahon and Jamie Erickson.

Effective January 1, 2019 the MD of Acadia opted to no longer have a Peace Officer for their municipality and provided notice they were terminating the cost-sharing agreement with Special Areas.

The Village Council of Cereal met several times with CPO Armstrong and Erickson and the Oyen RCMP to strategize on how best to deal with enforcement issues in the village. It was agreed that authorizing Special Areas CPO’s through an inter-municipal agreement between the Special Areas and the Village would be the most effective solution. This agreement is in the works and enforcement duties are expected to begin in 2020.

**Parks Enforcement**

CPO Armstrong completes most enforcement activities in Special Areas municipal parks including: Prairie Oasis, Blood Indian, Carolside and other parks. A uniformed presence continues to have a positive effect on any behavior issues which occur. It is anticipated additional enforcement at Carolside will be needed as a result of the increased use of the area. The protection of municipal infrastructure, fish stocks, and public safety continue to be the focus of enforcement in the municipal parks.

### Roads/Infrastructure Enforcement

Special Areas CPOs patrol throughout the Special Areas, including secondary highways. Significant increases in traffic volumes continued to be seen throughout our region; most notably on Highway 570 where multiple complaints of dangerous driving habits had the community and Road Committee members ask for extra enforcement. Our staged surfacing strategy created high quality surfaced roads throughout the region, and these routes are becoming primary inter-provincial travel routes.

The north east portion of Special Areas #4 continues with heavy oilfield activity and vigilant patrolling is required.

Enforcement activities in 2019 focused on many of these routes, with an emphasis on public education when possible. As of December 31, 2019, 102 warnings (42%) and 143 citations (58%) were issued for a variety of infractions. We continue to use statistical data gathered to focus our enforcement activities on priority routes, issues and areas. Information including peak travel days and times inform enforcement activities, often with shift schedules targeting these periods.

Roadata continued to manage road permits, contacting CPOs with issues related to permits. We work with Roadata on an ongoing basis to determine whether routing is meeting requirements and if loads and axle groups are consistent with other moves throughout the province.

| <b>ROADATA PERMITS ISSUED</b> |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                               | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Total Permits Issued          | 1411 | 2500 | 2294 | 1866 |

### Regional Enforcement

CPOs have been working closely with other enforcement agencies this year, enhancing agency working relationships. These operations have focused on regional priorities and resident complaints, including Commercial Vehicle Regulations, speeding concerns, and passenger traffic.

As a result of two separate collisions and due to multiple driving complaints in the sixty (60) kilometer construction zone on Highway 9, Hanna and Oyen RCMP detachments increased traffic enforcement; inviting Special Areas CPO Erickson to participate in a Joint Force Operation from August 26, 2019 to October 3, 2019, specifically focusing on speeding and dangerous driving on Highways 9, 36, & 41. In addition to increased enforcement resource visibility on targeted roadways, the Special Areas Board launched an online weekly public education campaign focused on public safety. In general, the local and regional response to the JFO was positive, with many individuals expressing their appreciation.

Work with other internal departments was completed as required for enforcement activities related to road damage, native prairie, well site and construction access, and noxious weeds.

### Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Audit

As a part of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's regular audit process, Public Security Division completed an audit of the Special Areas Board enforcement services in July 2018. The audit generated one recommendation – an updated Traffic Safety Plan - which has been completed. An outcome from this audit was the streamlining of our administrative processes and reporting, with standardized processes being put in place for all CPOs. Additional work on safe work practices, standard operating procedures, and policies continued into 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Owen Francis, Director  
Municipal Services

## 1.7 PARKS

### Current Status

Major Park Developments include:

- Blood Indian Park – 37 serviced sites plus 300 random camping sites.
- Prairie Oasis Park – 101 serviced sites.

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). There is an elevated degree of maintenance and supervision. Overnight camping permitted, with \$15/unit/night fee in place for 2018 season.
- 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.<br><br>Capital plan projects completed as per capital plan (Business Plan 2017 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

- Completed realignment of main entry road (east side) into Park
- Repaired drainage issues in the yard and parking area
- Buried 3,800-gallon tank for more accessible trailer dump
- Completed yearly dust abatement program
- Continued with mulching and tree planting program
- Continued with shoreline erosion control
- Reservoir was recipient of varied species and sizes of trout (Rainbows, Brooks, Browns & Tigers)

| Waterbody Name         | Species       | Number | Size (cm) | Stocking Week |
|------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Brook Trout   | 6,500  | 21.0      | May 6, 2019   |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Brown Trout   | 5,800  | 19.9      | May 6, 2019   |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Rainbow Trout | 30,000 | 5.4       | Sept 9, 2019  |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Tiger Trout   | 3,500  | 24.2      | Sept 16, 2019 |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Brown Trout   | 1,543  | 26.1      | Sept 16, 2019 |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Brown Trout   | 10,000 | 10.5      | Sept 16, 2019 |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Tiger Trout   | 2,316  | 24.6      | Sept 30, 2019 |
| Blood Indian Reservoir | Tiger Trout   | 65,369 | 10.1      | Sept 30, 2019 |

### Prairie Oasis Park

- Installed Marina Fueling System (operational 2020)
- Installed Traffic Calming Sign - effective
- Completed Handicap and Senior friendly washroom
- Completed sodding of low spot in main day use area
- Dismantled playground in main day use area – new playground is purchased and stored in Youngstown until spring installation
- Continued with mulching and tree planting program

### Carolside Campground

- Self-registration for overnight camping fee has been received with little push back as most campers appreciate the facility upgrades
- With the space available completed graveled campsites
- Installed docks and pilings
- Moved water station off main road over into campground (required pulling a 1" waterline across toe of dam)
- Removed old playground equipment and prepped site for new playground- new playground is purchased and stored in Youngstown until spring installation
- Rest Area has been signed by Transportation on the 570 and it is very busy and requires much maintenance

### Parks General

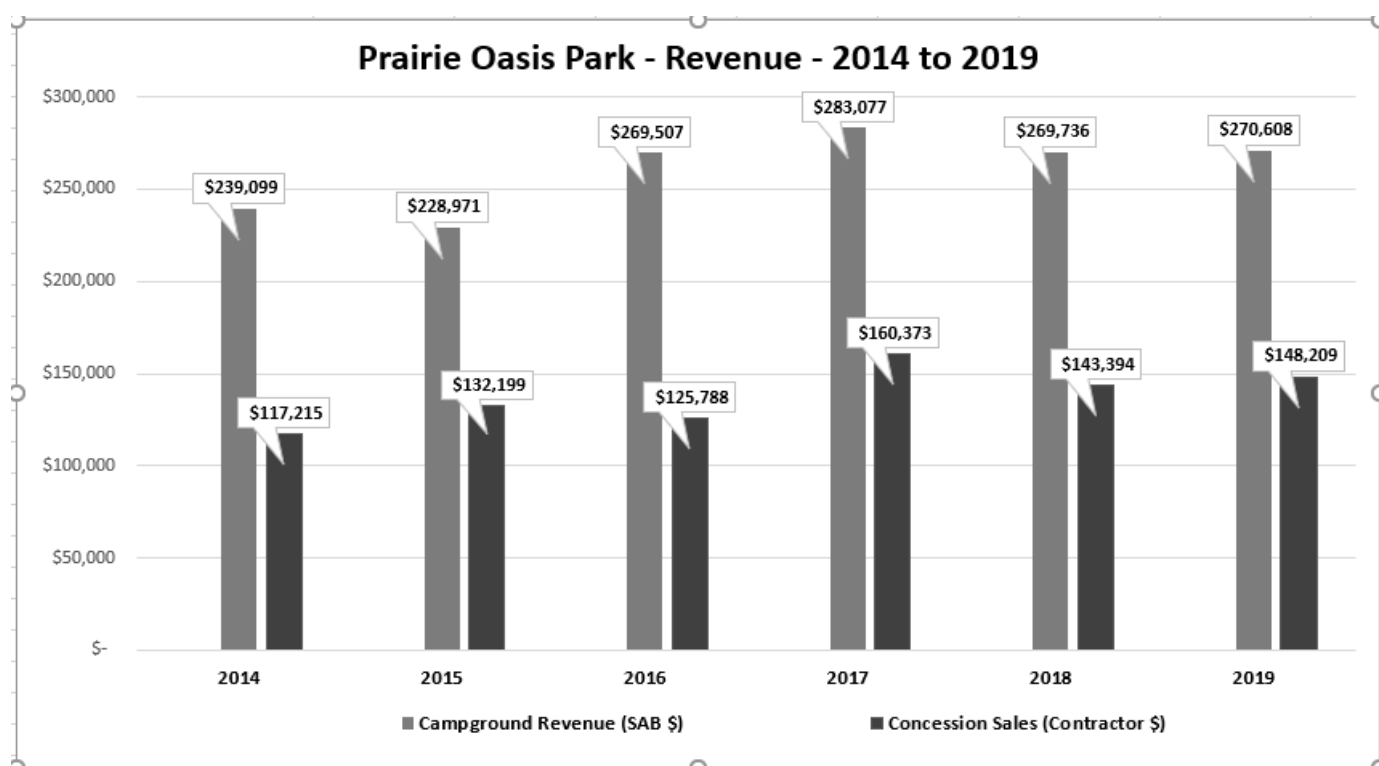
- Veteran's memorial entry gate at Cactus Corner will be installed spring 2020

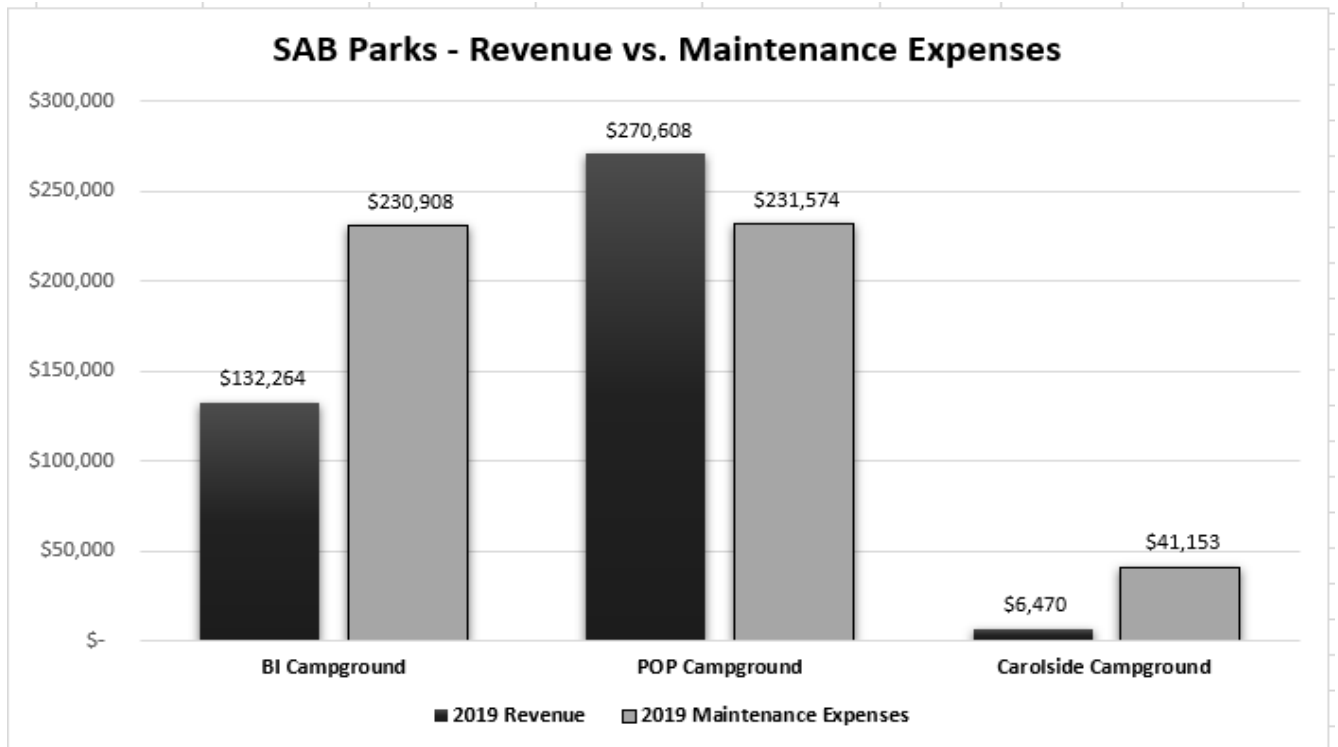
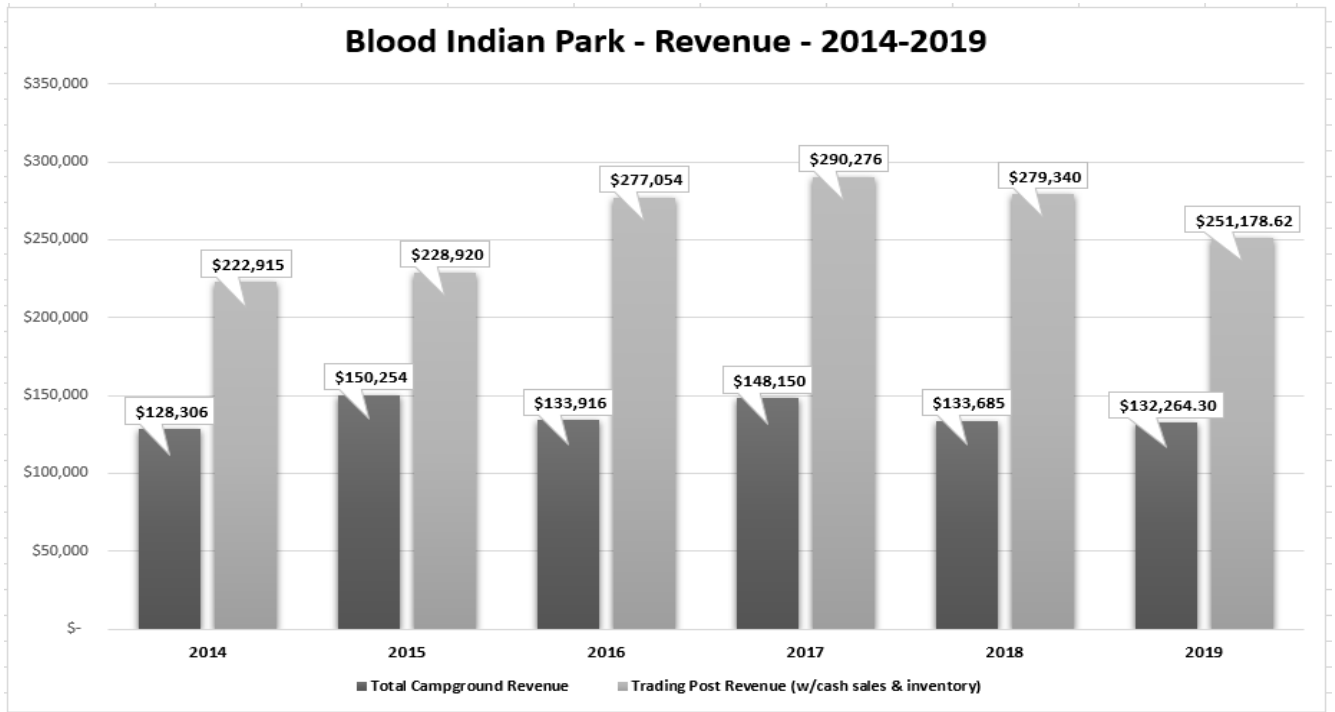
- Re-fenced Jenner campground with canoeist entry along river
- Designated most north Rest Areas as propane fires only
- Hamlets, water stations, grader sheds, outlying campgrounds and waste sites were kept mowed and trimmed
- Continue contract with Alberta Environment & Parks for maintenance of Spray Park and shower building at Gooseberry

Respectfully Submitted,

CPO John Armstrong  
Parks Supervisor

| Year | Prairie Oasis Concession<br>(Non SAB – Contractor) |                                  | Blood Indian Trading Post |                                  |
|------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
|      | Total Cash Sales                                   | Total Inventory/<br>Labour Costs | Total Cash Sales          | Total Inventory/<br>Labour Costs |
| 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                     |
| 2016 | \$125,787.96                                       | \$121,214.61                     | \$226,847.74              | \$227,186.30                     |
| 2017 | \$160,373.19                                       | \$147,418.79                     | \$225,490.78              | \$238,066.42                     |
| 2018 | \$143,393.92                                       | \$145,123.97                     | \$218,664.10              | \$238,871.35                     |
| 2019 | \$148,209.44                                       | \$145,968.23                     | \$193,697.27              | \$210,920.64                     |





## 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 \$124.00/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.

7 heavy duty mechanics with 2 apprentices, 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.

| Desired Outcome   | Actions  | Measurements/Standards   |
|---|--|--|
| 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

### Youngstown Regional Class II Landfill including a Waste Treatment and Storage Facility (Approval No. 307766-00-00)

5,113,000 acres (8000 square miles), approximately 10,208 population. One Regional Landfill to which all waste is hauled from 28 Transfer Station Sites. Involves nine-member municipalities: The Special Areas, Hanna, Youngstown, Cereal, Oyen, Empress, Veteran, Consort, and MD of Acadia.

#### Member Municipalities and Representatives:

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kevin Bossert    | Special Areas 2 Representative |
| Kevin Wilson     | Special Areas 3 Representative |
| Graham Schetzsl  | Special Areas 4 Representative |
| Robert Blagen    | Youngstown Representative      |
| Gerald Campion   | Hanna Representative           |
| James Walker     | Oyen Representative            |
| Crystal Anderson | Cereal Representative          |
| Roy Gill         | Empress Representative         |
| Jerry Wipf       | Veteran Representative         |
| Michael Beier    | Consort Representative         |
| Aaron Skappak    | MD of Acadia Representative    |

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

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman - Gerald Campion          | Vice-Chairman - Robert Blagen   |
| Secretary/Treasurer – Kevin Wilson | Member-At-Large – Kevin Bossert |

#### Financial:

- Revenue derived in 2019 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 2019.
- Grants from Alberta Environment were received for initial construction.
  - o \$1,867,200.00 Construction Grant from Alberta Environment
  - o \$ 225,360.00 Construction Shortfall Grant from Alberta Environment
  - o \$ 24,000.00 Chemical Storage Sites
  - o \$ 64,900.00 2nd Waste Trailer
  - o \$ 92,700.00 Upgrade of Oyen Transfer Station
  - o \$ 85,000.00 Construction - Handhills Transfer Station
  - o \$ 17,988.00 Tire Marshalling Grant Hanna – ARMA 2013
  - o \$ 200,000.00 Compactor - Alberta Community Partnership Grant 2016
  - o \$ 21,250.00 Tire Marshalling Grant Oyen – ARMA 2017
  - o \$ 23,400.00 Tire Marshalling Grant Consort – ARMA 2019

**Equipment & Vehicles:**

- 1 2013 MAC Tri Axle Trailer (Unit 9012)
- 1 2011 Mac Tri Axle Trailer (Unit 9010)
- 2 2012 Kenworth W900 (Units 9123 & 9124)
- 1 2004 Ford F450 c/w Compactor (Unit T-413)
- 1 2002 Ford 1 Ton with Portable Welder – Miller Big Blue 251D (Unit T-214)
- 1 2011 Bobcats S185 – (Unit 9111)
- 1 2007 JD Model 624J Loader (Unit 962)
- 1 Toyota Forklift (Recycle – Unit F-08)
- 1 Dur-Bilt Tite Wad 72” Baler – Hanna Transfer Station & Recycling Centre (Baler 1)
- 1 Harmony Baler – Hanna Transfer Station & Recycling Centre (Unit Baler 2)
- 1 2013 966K Wheel Loader (Unit 966K-13)
- 1 2013 973D Track Loader (Unit 973D-13)
- 1 2016 Chev Silverado LT (Unit T1 – Operations Manager)
- 1 2011 Ram 1500 Quad (Unit T2 - Foreman)
- 1 2010 Aljon Advantage 600 Compactor (Unit Aljon-10)
- 1 2008 Yamaha Rhino 450 (Unit LF Side X Side)
- 1 2005 Chev Silverado (Unit T-511)
- 2 2019 Bobcat – S570 Loader T4 – (Units B9123 & B9124)
- 1 2019 Sierra 2500 GMC – (Unit T-2019 Recycle)

**Employees:**

Five full time salary employees - one landfill operations manager, one landfill foreman/equipment operator, one truck driver, one admin/maintenance employee, one recycling attendant.

One full time wage employee – truck driver

Two full time wage employees – recycling & attendant (Hanna Transfer Station).

One full time wage employee - general laborer/equipment operator.

One part time wage employee - landfill attendant.

**Contracts:**

15 transfer station attendants.

Administrative support supplied by Special Areas.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Darlene Herzog  
February 14, 2020

## 1.10 WATER SERVICES

### Current Status

The Special Areas provides treated potable water to 40 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. Remote monitoring and control systems are present in 19% (5/27) hamlets Jenner, Monitor, Cessford, Wardlow, Pollockville, Empress, Youngstown, Cereal and Hanna East.

There are 40 water plants in Special Areas: 1 requires daily site inspections (falls under the Code of Practice for High Quality Groundwater), 5 require five days/week site inspections, 26 require 2-3 days/week site inspections and 8 require weekly site inspections. There are 12 water treatment/distribution systems, 19 are water distribution systems, 8 are potable drinking water truck fills, and 7 are non-potable water truck fills. There are 3 regional water lines (Hanna East, Sunnynook-Wardlow, and Loyalist-Monitor). 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, and 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 compiled 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.<br><br>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**

The water services department continues to focus on delivering current projects while streamlining operations to capture cost efficiencies.

### **Staffing Update**

The water services department has 6 certified operators including: Wyatt Girletz, Dale Rolheiser, Ken Lenfesty, Janice Berg, Mike Kern and Levi Westerlund. Mike Kern passed his Level 1 Water Treatment and Level 1 Water Distribution in 2019. Levi and Mike both have plans to write their Level 2 exams. Our department is rounded out with our plumber Ian Hernden.

Our certified operators continue to fulfill AEP's continuing education requirements, allowing them to respond quickly and safely to water/wastewater issues. There has been a large volume of projects in 2019 both planned and unexpected. Due to the preventative maintenance program in place, and because of our operator's excellent performance and knowledge of the systems all issues were resolved in a timely and safe manner. We have continued to supply safe drinking water and have enjoyed providing services for the Special Areas. This service includes not only the hamlets, villages and towns within Special Areas but also provides support and services to the parks, shops, offices, community pastures and all the road crews.

Special Areas continues to provide relief operating support for the Town of Oyen, Village of Cereal, the Village of Empress and from January to June will provide operating services to the Village of Youngstown as their operator is on paternity leave.

Some major highlights of our year were getting the new approval for Jenner and reducing the site visits from 7 days a week down to 3 days a week. This has reduced operating costs and allows our operators to be able to avoid driving there if the roads or weather isn't good thus eliminating a safety issue. We have 90% of our water systems collected into GIS and by the time 2019 is done we will have it all collected, updated and maps will be made for our water plants replacing the very inaccurate ones we currently use. Jenner distribution system was finished this year so that system is all new and accounted for. Bindloss distribution was also replaced in parts of the community. Another ongoing project is balancing our water meters which we have had some success in this year, this is also reducing our operating costs. This year we also started doing our own first calls for the regional water line that runs from highway 9 to Wardlow. This keeps us busy as we get lots of first call requests. We took this on as we weren't included in the past and if someone was to hit this line the result would not be good. AEP has also rolled out a lead management system that we will be busy implementing in 2020.

Attended RUSA conference in Red Deer. Some highlights included were the trade show, networking with other operators and the lead management session that AEP presented. Also attended technical sessions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wyatt Girletz,  
Technical Services Supervisor

### **Special Areas 2:**

**Scapa:** Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Hanna East:** Continue replacing plastic fittings that were used and are resulting in leaks due to degrading. Built a walkway to distribution building after getting approval from Alberta Transportation. This was a safety issue in the winter. Replaced sample hydrant in building as it wasn't working and lifted and worked on landscape and levelled building. Inspected line with side by side and collected GIS for new mapping. When inspecting distribution line we exercised all valves and hydrants. When inspecting found an air relief valve that wasn't



working correctly and was causing water loss. Repaired and closer to having meters balanced. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory. Repair at Lana Greene meter vault. Found old plastic fittings leaking so replaced and flushed line.

**Stanmore:** No operational issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Scotfield:** Only truck fill is operational. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Big Country Waste Management:** No operational issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Richdale:** No operational issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**570 Truck Fill:** Tank clean completed. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Dorothy:** Replaced check valve in well pit to prevent loss of pressure on well line. Plant fills quicker and less pumping time. McAllister's drilling performed an airlift on the well, performed maintenance on the well pump and inspected casing. Replaced lid on well pit and insulated better to prevent freeze up in the winter. Cleaned tank. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Sunnynook:** Repair at PRV vault, copper line was leaking so replaced with stainless steel and ran new line. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Cessford:** We have implemented a flushing program of our sewer system to prevent sewer backups and we are also planning sewer replacement for 2020 after finding depths of existing line and seeing it runs uphill- not ideal. We now flush the sewers once a month with our own tank and it has reduced calls regarding sewer issues. Installed clean out on sewer line we have issues with for preventative flushing program. Repaired pump #2 in the lift station, cleaned floats and sensors and reprogrammed the pumps on the lift station PLC. Installed Generac generator for lift station with a 500-gallon permanent propane tank. Replace copper lines in the PRV vault as they seemed to keep corroding due to chlorine and replaced with stainless steel lines to prevent future leaks. We also replaced influent line PRV in water plant and plumbed in pressure gauge. Troy Life and Fire Safety completed fire pump inspection and maintenance November 15<sup>th</sup>. Dugouts for raw water fire protection were filled this year. At the end of the filling season the Bartman dam line was pigged and flushed to prevent freezing in the line and to increase pumping rate. A new dock was installed making it easier to place pump and perform maintenance on the pump. Calibrate analyzers. Water lines froze at the hall and in a few homes due to the colder than usual winter. We ran garden house to keep feeding homes. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Pollockville:** Inspected regional line from #9 highway all the way to Wardlow with side by side. Replaced truck fill pump and motor due to age of equipment. Calibrate analyzers. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Wardlow:** Completion of new Wardlow water building that includes a truck fill. This involved transferring all SCADA and instrumentation, flushing, sampling and trouble shooting. We had no water shortage issues this year as we have in the past, we increased the storage and that has eliminated the issue. In September we finished removing all tanks and fittings from old building and performed tie-in of water lines underground to eliminate old plant. We had to put a boil water advisory on and all sampling and flushing was completed in a safe, timely fashion so we could lift it after just a couple days. We also installed two new main stops so we can isolate parts of Wardlow now. Plumbed in a 1000-gallon permanent propane tank for the plant. Calibrate analyzers. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Iddesleigh:** Old storage tank was replaced with a new 2000-gallon tank. Old fittings that were corroding and leaking were replaced. McAllister's drilling performed an airlift on the well, performed maintenance on the well pump and inspected casing. Flushing of the distribution continues but filtering will be investigated in 2020. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Jenner:** AEP inspection that we passed. TLC Instrumentation performed annual calibration on chlorine and turbidity analyzers stationed at the water plant along with all operator's handheld colorimeters and turbidimeters. Working with BPC Services a new 2-inch HDPE water distribution line was bored in from the water plant to the school and the arena. We had an ongoing water loss on this length of line that we were unable to locate but with the new line eliminated the water loss reducing operating cost. Sampling and flushing were all completed before returning this line to service. We now are working with WSP to transfer an analyzer that will reduce operating costs. Another big project was the ongoing upgrades (new thermowell to test temperature, ph probe and raw turbidity analyzer) of our water plant and SCADA so we could reduce site visits from 7 to 3 days a week. This was completed with MPE and the water plant continues to run normally. A new approval was also implemented as the old one expired and with the new regulations AEP has included more testing. Our June safety meeting was held here which we performed mock emergencies within the water plant due to various issues that could arise according to AEP. McAllister's drilling performed an airlift on the wells, performed maintenance on the well pump and inspected casing. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory. TLC Instrumentation was on site to calibrate all analyzers within the water plant, also had TLC calibrate all handheld meters. We did this in partnership with Oyen, Cereal, Youngstown and Empress to cut costs for all involved. Continue working with WSP to get stamp of approval for upgrade of water distribution system.

**Bullpound Community Pasture:** Bacteriological samples taken monthly and have been satisfactory.

**Social Plains Truck Fill:** No operational issues.

**Homestead Coulee:** Piggged and used compressor to blow out lines to prevent freezing and increase pumping rate. Repaired a leak on this line in the summer.

**Bindloss:** Once again frozen water lines so we took a tank down and reversed the flow through the SA shop to feed the home effected by the frozen lines. It was then decided we would replace this stretch of water line as it was found to be only 4 feet deep. Worked with BPC Services to install new 2-inch HDPE water line. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Buffalo Truck Fill:** No operational issues.

**Remount Community Pasture:** Continue looking into water treatment system for the home. Repaired a well pump.

**Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture:** Replaced UV bulb. Bacteriological samples taken monthly and have been satisfactory.

**Burnatt Truck Fill:** Cleaned tanks and water is clear in storage tanks.

**SDS (Watts) Truck Fill:** Coin box was replaced due to vandalism. This continued and it was decided that the coin box would be removed and only the card reader would be used at this truck fill. Built a cover over the card reader as it was found that it wouldn't work when the card reader got to hot in the summer. After doing this we never had that issue again. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**POP:** Met with Clay Williams to make sure everyone is on the same page. Crossing agreement put in place with the mine to ensure the water line doesn't get hit. We also had

Craig Wright go to site and survey water line to have a more accurate map of where line runs for both parties. The mine also had their own survey done.

### **Special Areas 3:**

**New Brigden:** Tank clean performed. Replaced old chlorine pump for new Walchem chlorine pump. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory. Install new console heater.

**Sedalia:** Continue hauling safe, clean drinking water to this hamlet. This has significantly reduced operator time and operating costs. Installed a curb stop that allows us to isolate part of line we had no control over. Cleaned truck fill tanks. Replaced distribution pump due to age. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Youngstown:** Trained village operator throughout the year until he passed his small water/wastewater exam. Install air gap on truck fill. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Chinook:** Installed a new truck fill meter and replace some leaking fittings. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Excel:** Install curb stop on east end of line so we can isolate if break happens. Cistern was cleaned. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory. Upgrade on baseboard heaters – install new thermostat to get a more consistent building temperature.

**Lanfine:** Curb stop installed so we can have system run and leave hall off. Installed a truck fill meter. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Oyen:** Supplied relief operator for the Town of Oyen when their operator was away from December 23- January 2.

**Oyen Co OP Distribution Line:** SA operators continue to operate line for co -op group. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Oyen West Distribution:** Frozen water lines so we dug to inspect. Lines were not buried to depth so we cleared lines of ice then buried to depth also installed curb stops so we can isolate and test for water at points within the system. Bacteriological samples taken monthly and have been satisfactory.

**Sibbald:** Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Sibbald Truck Fill:** Work has begun on new building for a truck fill that had been requested over the years by people living in the area. Work should be completed on a fully operational truck fill with 12,000 gallon storage by spring of 2020.

**Big Stone:** Tank clean. Main line into parks was hit by road crew so we were called out to perform a repair. After line was fixed and flushed, we sampled and placed a boil water advisory to the park. Once results came back satisfactory, we lifted the boil water advisory. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Sounding Creek Community Pasture:** Replace UV bulb on treatment system. Sewer field issues inspected and found that new sewer field would be the way to go. Bacteriological samples taken monthly and have been satisfactory.

### **Special Areas 4:**

**Altario:** Found leak on hydrant outside of town we didn't know existed. Repaired and capped the hydrant and now meter reads are balanced. We have implemented a new sewer flushing program to prevent sewer issues. A new water line was installed to the new ag barn for the school. The school division now houses multiple animals at the barn like cows, sheep and chickens. They also installed two cattle waterers and a new hydrant. We installed a new meter and a flow restrictor in case the waterers malfunction and they don't

pump the hamlet out of water in case no one notices over the weekend. Someone hit a curb stop and bent the curb stop so it was leaking. We repaired curb stop and removed hydrant that wasn't metered or in use. Installed new meter at a home that is being fixed up. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory. Water leak was found in alley behind water plant. Repair was done the next day and it was found the existing water line had cracked so we replaced section of line. Line was flushed and sampled and meters are now balanced again.

**Compeer:** Install curb stop at home that is going to be demolished in 2019. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Kirriemuir:** Found a RO system in a home and replaced meter. Install new line and curb stop as it was found one line ran through an abandoned home and it froze thus causing no water at the other two homes. Meter reads are now balanced. A resident had a plastic fitting freeze and break under their trailer and operator went and assisted with repair. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Consort South:** Repaired fittings in meter vaults twice throughout the year as we had found our meter reads were reading higher than what our distribution meters were upon meter reads. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Monitor:** HACH on site to calibrate our analyzers and replace probe. Card reader issues throughout the year repaired once issue discovered. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

**Loyalist:** Install main stop so we can control flow east and west of plant as office told us family was planning on tying onto distribution line. This is to prevent water from sitting in the west side of water line and becoming stagnant. Bacteriological samples taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

## 2. PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT – AGRICULTURAL USES

#### Current Status

Special Areas administers approximately 2.5 million acres of agricultural lease land, maintaining native prairie habitat.

Composition of public lands in the Special Areas is:

- Grazing Leases - 83%
- Cultivation Leases – 11%
- Vacant Land – 6%

#### Outcome Statement

Administer approximately 2.5 million acres of agricultural lease land, maintaining native prairie habitat, with an added emphasis on facilitating options within Special Areas existing policies for items such as; sublets, re-grassing, 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.<br><br>Compile inventory of leases in healthy, healthy w/ problems, and unhealthy condition.                                 | 100% leases inspected every 20 years. (approx. 125,000 acres/yr)<br><br>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>• Re-grassing</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.<br><br>Review of Cultivation Lease Rates annually.   |
| Develop phase 4 of a Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLs) policy.                                       | As per council/board recommendation.  |  |
| 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.             | Expiry repealed by OC 398/2018.         |
| Special Areas Service Fee Regulation is current.   | Undertake a review of all rates within Special Areas on a five year schedule. | Expiry date was removed by OC 166/2018. |

### Special Areas Tax Recovery Land Sale

|  | As of Dec 31, 2018 | As of Dec 31, 2019 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2004 Sale Total Agreements in Place to Date      | 951                | 951                |
| New Agreements Initiated During Year             | 5                  | 0                  |
| Acres Sold this Year                             | 1,234.05           | 0.00               |
| 2004 Sale Total Acres Sold to Date (2004 - 2018) | 245,680.11         | 245,680.11         |
| Agreements Paid Out & Transferred to Date        | 903                | 917                |

#### Agreements For Sale in Arrears:

*\*\*All Arrears Includes Penalty Interest*

|               | As of Dec 31, 2018 | As of Dec 31, 2019 |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Area          | Number             | Number             |
| SA #2         | 0                  | 2                  |
| SA #3         | 2                  | 3                  |
| SA #4         | 1                  | 3                  |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>3</b>           | <b>8</b>           |

|               | As of Dec 31, 2018 | As of Dec 31, 2019 |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Time          | Amount             | Amount             |
| < 1 Year      | 9,926.36           | 14,917.30          |
| 1 Year        | 6,442.59           | 3,236.64           |
| 2 Years       | 1,773.07           | 3,560.30           |
| > 2 Years     | 0.00               | 0.00               |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>\$18,142.02</b> | <b>\$21,714.24</b> |

#### NOTE:



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

Respectfully Submitted: Brenda Schnurer

## 2.2 PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT - INDUSTRIAL USES

### Current Status

Special Areas administers approximately 2.5 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 – 1,487 (Active 1,449, Inactive 38)
- License of Occupation – 76 (Active 75, Inactive 17)
- Rights of Entry – 728 (Active 348, Inactive 380)
- Pipeline – 8,757 (Active 7905, Inactive 852)
- Pipeline Applications - 549 (Active 135, Inactive 414)
- Mineral Surface Leases (MSL) – 15,831 (Active 10,471, Inactive 5,360)

### Outcome Statement

Administer approximately 2.5 million acres of agricultural lease land, with regard to oil and gas, mining, power lines, seismic, etc., with an added emphasis on reclamation compliance.

| Desired Outcomes  | Actions   | Measurements / Standards   |
|---|---|--|
| Reclamation on oil & gas developments since 1992 are in compliance.           | Yearly program in place to inspect and ensure new reclamation applications are in compliance.<br><br>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). As of December 31, 2019**

**Active Oil & Gas Leases:**

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Easements             | 1481   |
| License of Occupation | 75     |
| Mineral Surface Lease | 10,074 |
| Right of Entry        | 344    |

**Pending:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mineral Surface Lease | 1 |
|-----------------------|---|

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| Total | <u>11,975</u> |
|-------|---------------|

**Inactive Oil & Gas Leases:**

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Easements             | 39    |
| License of Occupation | 17    |
| Mineral Surface Lease | 5,819 |
| Right of Entry        | 389   |

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| Total | <u>6,264</u> |
|-------|--------------|

**Pipeline Agreements/Applications:**

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Pipeline Agreement    | 8,863 |
| Pipeline Applications | 572   |

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| Total | <u>9,435</u> |
|-------|--------------|

|                       |   |             |   |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|---|-------|
| Pipeline Agreements   | - | Inactive    | - | 910   |
|                       | - | Active      | - | 7,872 |
|                       | - | Abandonment | - | 81    |
| Pipeline Applications |   |             |   |       |
|                       | - | Inactive    | - | 462   |
|                       |   | Pending     | - | 114   |

**MSL, PLA, ROE, LOC and EASEMENT REVENUE  
January 01, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

|   | <u>Dec 31, 2018</u>    | <u>Dec. 31, 2019</u>   |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mineral Surface Lease Applications Received | 36                     | 24                     |
| Mineral Surface Lease Revenue               | \$ 3,248,214.11        | \$ 3,210,954.35        |
| Pipe Line Application Revenue               | \$ 40,018.50           | \$ 68,174.50           |
| Rights of Entry Revenue                     | \$ 94,903.50           | \$ 93,045.00           |
| License of Occupation Revenue               | \$ 67,034.00           | \$ 67,034.00           |
| Easement Revenue                            | \$ 212,790.23          | \$ 110,980.50          |
|   | <u>\$ 3,662,960.34</u> | <u>\$ 3,550,188.35</u> |



# DEVELOPMENT CONTROL REPORTS

2018

-----December 31, 2019-----

| <u>APPLICATIONS</u>         | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>HANNA</u> | <u>OYEN</u> | <u>CONSORT</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Received                    | 43            | 12           | 17          | 13             | 42            |
| Approved                    | 39            | 12           | 17          | 13             | 42            |
| Appealed                    | 1             | 0            | 0           | 0              | 0             |
| Estimated Development Costs | \$85,969,509  | \$2,542,200  | \$2,427,850 | \$3,440,745    | \$8,410,795   |

Brett Richards, Administrator, Hanna  
 Darran Dick, Administrator, Oyen  
 Corinne Kelts, Administrator, Consort



## Acreage by Land Use Classification, as of December 31, 2019

|                     | SA #2        | SA #3      | SA #4      | TOTAL        |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>PRIVATE LAND</b> |              |            |            |              |
| Private Patented    | 1,085,997.33 | 824,507.35 | 665,517.45 | 2,576,022.13 |

|                          |                     |                   |                   |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>PUBLIC LAND</b>       |                     |                   |                   |                     |
| Crown                    | 775,157.08          | 490,858.45        | 303,485.02        | 1,569,500.55        |
| Tax Recovery             | 479,173.38          | 321,143.25        | 129,908.02        | 930,224.65          |
| Departmental Patented    | 3,274.62            | 355.03            | 855.42            | 4,485.07            |
| <b>TOTAL Public Land</b> | <b>1,257,605.08</b> | <b>812,356.73</b> | <b>434,248.46</b> | <b>2,504,210.27</b> |

|                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ALL Land</b> | <b>2,343,602.41</b> | <b>1,636,864.08</b> | <b>1,099,765.91</b> | <b>5,080,232.40</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|

### CLASSIFICATION

|             |   |              |            |            |              |
|-------------|---|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Disposition | Community Pasture   | 129,356.94   | 43,174.85  |            | 172,531.79   |
|             | Cultivation Lease   | 7,665.28     | 40,673.88  | 14,053.90  | 62,393.06    |
|             | Cultivation Permit  | 140.37       | 23.57      |            | 163.94       |
|             | Grazing Lease   | 1,038,454.93 | 690,592.86 | 370,030.74 | 2,099,078.53 |
|             | Grazing Permit  | 5,846.20     | 347.93     | 11,975.79  | 18,169.92    |
|             | Miscellaneous Lease                                       | 5,321.57     | 363.40     | 123.62     | 5,808.59     |
|             | Water Body  | 23,046.67    | 6,958.97   | 12,959.65  | 42,965.29    |
| Private     | River Accrued Area  | 820.45       | 38.69      |            | 859.14       |
|             | Tax Recovery AFS  | 8,597.50     | 13,393.60  | 7,497.61   | 29,488.71    |
|             | Titled / AFS Paid   | 1,108,912.74 | 838,513.78 | 678,946.18 | 2,626,372.70 |
|             | Exceptions [e.g. crown vacant, road plans, railway, etc.] | 15,439.76    | 2,782.55   | 4178.42    | 22,400.73    |

|                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ALL Land</b> | <b>2,343,602.41</b> | <b>1,636,864.08</b> | <b>1,099,765.91</b> | <b>5,080,232.40</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|

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

Administer approximately 2.5 million acres of public land, with policies in place to protect native prairie habitat.

**Outcome Statement**

Administer approximately 2.5 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.<br><br>Ensure developers & ratepayers are aware of all restricted areas.<br><br>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.<br><br>Work with AEP to ensure effective programs are in place to control populations.              |   |

**GRAZING LEASES, CULTIVATION LEASES AND PERMITS**

(January 1 to December 31, 2019)

|                           | HANNA            | OYEN             | CONSORT          | TOTAL                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>G.L. Rentals</b>       |                  |                  |                  |                        |
| 2019 Current Levy         | \$915,547.37     | 802,160.14       | 428,110.42       | <b>\$ 2,145,817.93</b> |
| Current Outstanding       | \$ 56,673.27     | \$ 33,115.55     | \$ 10,824.86     | <b>\$ 100,613.68</b>   |
| Number of Accounts        | 33               | 41               | 22               | <b>96</b>              |
| 1 Year in Arrears         | \$ 622.37        | \$ 30,459.35     | \$ 2,187.95      | <b>\$ 33,269.67</b>    |
| No. of Accounts           | 2                | 41               | 4                | <b>47</b>              |
| 2 Years in Arrears        |                  | \$ 3,656.20      | \$ 1,230.45      | <b>\$ 4,886.65</b>     |
| No. of Accounts           |                  | 3                | 1                | <b>4</b>               |
| >2 Years in Arrears       |                  |                  |                  | <b>\$ -</b>            |
| No. of Accounts           |                  |                  |                  | <b>-</b>               |
| <b>Total G.L. Rentals</b> | <b>57,295.64</b> | <b>34,115.55</b> | <b>14,243.26</b> | <b>\$ 138,770.00</b>   |
|                           |                  |                  |                  |                        |
| <b>G.L. Taxes</b>         |                  |                  |                  |                        |
| 2019 Current Levy         | \$281,458.46     | 241,459.59       | 147,216.73       | <b>\$ 670,134.78</b>   |
| Current Outstanding       | \$ 9,428.38      | \$ 8,604.86      | \$ 3,556.47      | <b>\$ 21,589.71</b>    |
| Number of Accounts        | 23               | 33               | 20               | <b>76</b>              |
| 1 Year in Arrears         | \$7.18           | \$ 7,476.29      | \$ 234.36        | <b>\$ 7,717.83</b>     |
| No. of Accounts           | 1                | 33               | 3                | <b>37</b>              |
| 2 Years in Arrears        |                  | \$ 1,128.57      |                  | <b>\$ 1,128.57</b>     |
| No. of Accounts           |                  | 3                |                  | <b>3</b>               |
| >2 Years in Arrears       |                  |                  |                  | <b>\$ -</b>            |
| No. of Accounts           |                  |                  |                  | <b>-</b>               |
| <b>Total G.L. Taxes</b>   | <b>9,435.56</b>  | <b>17,209.72</b> | <b>3,790.83</b>  | <b>\$ 30,436.11</b>    |
|                           |                  |                  |                  |                        |

| <b>C.L. Rentals</b>       |                     |                     |                     |                      |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2019 Current Levy         | \$ 37,495.31        | 301,597.97          | 97,532.30           | \$ 399,130.27        |
| Current Outstanding       | \$ 576.21           | \$ 17,481.57        | \$ 4,770.18         | \$ 22,251.75         |
| Number of Accounts        | 1                   | 12                  | 4                   | 16                   |
| 1 Year in Arrears         |                     | \$ 17,481.57        | \$ 2,220.81         | \$ 19,702.38         |
| No. of Accounts           |                     | 12                  | 2                   | 14                   |
| 2 years in Arrears        |                     |                     | \$884.52            | \$ 884.52            |
| No. of Accounts           |                     |                     | 1                   | 1                    |
| >2 years in Arrears       |                     |                     |                     | \$ -                 |
| No. of Accounts           |                     |                     |                     | -                    |
| <b>Total C.L. Rentals</b> | <b>576.21</b>       | <b>34,963.14</b>    | <b>7,875.51</b>     | <b>\$ 419,717.17</b> |
| <b>C.L. Taxes</b>         |                     |                     |                     |                      |
| 2019 Current Levy         | \$ 5,105.22         | 39,768.17           | 12,293.40           | \$ 57,166.79         |
| Current Outstanding       | \$ 46.01            | \$ 1,552.83         | \$ 453.75           | \$ 2,052.59          |
| Number of Accounts        | 1                   | 5                   | 3                   | 9                    |
| 1 Year in Arrears         |                     | \$ 1,254.18         | \$ 187.12           | \$ 1,441.30          |
| No. of Accounts           |                     | 5                   | 1                   | 6                    |
| 2 Years in Arrears        |                     | \$ 298.65           |                     | \$ 298.65            |
| No. of Accounts           |                     | 1                   |                     | 1                    |
| >2 Years in Arrears       |                     |                     |                     | \$ -                 |
| No. of Accounts           |                     |                     |                     | -                    |
| <b>Total C.L. Taxes</b>   | <b>46.01</b>        | <b>3,105.66</b>     | <b>640.87</b>       | <b>\$ 58,906.74</b>  |
| <b>Total Outstanding</b>  | <b>\$ 67,353.42</b> | <b>\$ 89,394.07</b> | <b>\$ 26,550.47</b> |                      |

### Regrassing, Grazing, Feed, Cultivation, and Hay Permits

|   | 2018 ACTUAL    |                 | TO Dec 31, 2019   |                 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|   | NO. OF PERMITS | AREA (ACRES)    | NO. OF PERMITS  | AREA (ACRES)    |
| <b>REGRASSING PERMITS</b>   |                |                 |   |                 |
| Hanna   | 4              | 726             | 11  | 1750.43         |
| Oyen  | 5              | 1042            | 12  | 1,893           |
| Consort   | 5              | 775             | 9   | 992             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>14</b>      | <b>2543</b>     | <b>32</b>   | <b>4635.43</b>  |
| <b>GRAZING PERMITS</b>  |                |                 |   |                 |
| Hanna   | 26             | 7453.21         | 29*   | 7865.61         |
| Oyen  | 4              | 140.49          | 6   | 335.49          |
| Consort   | 32             | 10,958.81       | 33  | 11,476.32       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>62</b>      | <b>18552.51</b> | <b>39</b>   | <b>19677.42</b> |
| <b>FEED PERMITS</b>   |                |                 |   |                 |
| Hanna   | 5              | 40              | 4   | 40              |
| Oyen  | 14             | 657             | 14  | 657             |
| Consort   | 2              | 62              | 2   | 63              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>21</b>      | <b>759</b>      | <b>20</b>   | <b>760</b>      |
| <b>CULTIVATION PERMITS</b>  |                |                 |   |                 |
| Hanna   | 4*             | 252.14          | 4*  | 359.46          |
| Oyen  |                |                 |   |                 |
| Consort   |                |                 |   |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>0</b>       | <b>252.14</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>359.46</b>   |
| *2 Permits under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 436.4 acres and 1 permit to Luscar under ROE130 for 70 acres |                |                 | **1 Permit under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 110.85 acres |                 |
| <b>HAY PERMITS (TONS)</b>   |                |                 |   |                 |
| Hanna   | 1              | 12              | 4   | 4.18            |
| Oyen  |                |                 |   |                 |
| Consort   |                |                 | 5   | 71              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1</b>       | <b>12</b>       | <b>9</b>  | <b>75.18</b>    |

## 2019 Range Management Report

The 2019 year was highlighted again by below average growing season precipitation with the driest areas being in the Cabin Lake and Pollockville areas with 68% and 64% respectively, relative to long term averages. Areas of near normal precipitation in the growing season was around Cereal and Sedalia, with 93% and 89% of long-term normal precipitation. The summer was cooler than normal at all the weather stations with growing degree days ranging from 85% to 97% of long-term averages. The cooler weather helped lessen the dry conditions to the grassland as our native ranges are comprised of mainly cool season grasses.

The range management department was busy during 2019 with grazing lease inspections; range survey of Remount community pasture; disposition approvals for well sites & pipelines; disposition cancellations; and well site reclamation inspections. A staffing change occurred in April for the range management team with Nicole Viste deciding to move on from her 10+ years with the Special Areas Board to other aspirations in her life. Diana Boxma, who was originally hired in April to fill a seasonal, part-time role filled her role well and proved to be valuable to the team with her previous experience in reclamation consulting. The permanent position left by Nicole was advertised for competition in October and Diana was the successful candidate, moving into full-time employment with the Special Areas moving forward.

This year we were able to inspect 89,198 acres covering 134 grazing leases and 598 parcels of land throughout the area. One range health inspection was completed per parcel to capture the range condition for that quarter section. Approximately **67%** (402 inspections) resulted in *Healthy* range condition, **22%** (134 inspections) resulted in *Healthy with Problems* range condition and **10%** (62 inspections) resulted in *Unhealthy* range condition. These results are consistent with the observed grazing pressure throughout the season. Almost 75% of the parcels contained *light to moderate* grazing pressure which normally results in *uniform* carryover (58% of the parcels) and *reference to late-seral* plant communities (53% of the parcels). Erosion signs were observed on 142 parcels ranging from *slight to moderate* levels. This erosion can range from slight wind and water erosion to moderate levels of cattle damage and tracking. Noxious weeds were present on 77 parcels, mostly consisting of Canada Thistle and Perennial Sow Thistle.

The Remount community pasture was surveyed over the course of nine days in July. This work was done to assess the recovery of the burned area from 2017 and document the range condition within the remainder of the pasture. The area affected by the burn was not grazed in 2019; this is the second year of full rest since the fire. The native grass and forb species are recovering well under the sporadic amount of moisture over the region in the past two summers. The 2019 growth should start to develop carryover on the pasture which will be critical to supporting grazing in the future.

This year was busy again with well site reclamation inspections. We have inspected 130 well sites that were or will be submitted to the AER for reclamation certificates. Reclamation of shallow gas well sites continues to be a large focus for a few of the large operators in the region. This work is being prioritized behind Area Based Closure (ABC) programs initiated by the AER. Operators are encouraged to focus on completely removing the entire field rather than addressing individual well bores as they become depleted. To date, a total of 811 wells have been abandoned within Special Areas, 461 of these wells (57% of total) occur on public land.

Drilling activity in 2019 slowed down with 192 wells being drilled in the area, 29 occurring on public land (15% of total).

Two extension courses were held in Special Areas this summer. The first was the Alberta Range Stewardship Course held on July 30-31 at Buffalo in conjunction with the Prairie Conservation Forum. The second course was a Pre-site Assessment and Reclamation Workshop held on August 14-15 in Consort in conjunction with the Grasslands Restoration Forum. Special Areas played an important role in hosting and delivering the courses which were well attended and valuable to all the participants attending.

Submitted By:  
Nolan Ball, Rangeland Agrolgist

## 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 emphasis 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.<br><br>Strategic Operational Plans in place for each economic development alliance, approved annually.<br><br>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.<br><br>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

### Key Points

- The annual assessment was completed prior to the end of the February 2020 deadline.
- Benchmark Assessment Consultants Inc. has been working with our assessment department and has been reviewing residential aspects of the roll and helping with any questions and problems we have as well as working to finalize our roll for 2020.
- The annual 2020 Designated Industrial Property Assessment will be mailed to the assessed persons (owners/operators of designated industrial property) on February 28, 2020 with a copy to the affected municipalities. A complaint about an assessment for designated industrial property must be filed at the start of May 2020 as pursuant to s. 309(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*.
- In 2019 Farm residences were re-inspected in Special Area #4 portions as well as the following hamlets and villages: Veteran, Consort, Altario, Monitor, Kirriemuir and Compeer areas as part of our five-year cycle to re-inspect all residences within Special Areas. Farm residences will be re-inspected in Special Area #3 around the Oyen, New Brigden, Sibbald and Cereal areas starting in the spring of 2020.

2019 was still a bit of a transition year for the Assessment department. Staffing is still at one Assessor and he is working alongside Benchmark Consultants to finalize the roll while he learns all the procedures for assessing land and improvements as well as working towards his accreditation. The goal of the department is to maintain status quo while all the changes with staff and any direction from Municipal Affairs is given. Processes, workload and responsibilities are subject to change in the future as we work together with Benchmark Assessment Consultants Inc.

Assessment Department

## 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.<br><br>Complete annual inspections and document all findings for SAB licensed dams and repair as needed<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>Work with AEP and Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee (CSIAC) to move expansion plans forward.<br><br>Promote use of more efficient irrigation systems.<br><br>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.<br><br>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

| 2018                 | Hanna      | Oyen       | Consort  | TOTAL      |
|----------------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Number of Leases     | 1          | 2          | 1        | 4          |
| 2018 Applied Credits | \$87.49    | \$1,555.32 | \$354.38 | \$1,997.19 |
| 2018 Carry Forward   | \$900.01   |            |          | \$900.01   |
| 2019                 | Hanna      | Oyen       | Consort  | TOTAL      |
| Number of Leases     | 3          | 3          | 0        | 6          |
| 2019 Applied Credits | \$1,974.42 | \$808.43   |          | \$2,782.85 |
| 2019 Carry Forward   | \$925.59   |            |          | \$925.59   |

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Lisa Bietelspacher  
 Lease Supervisor

### Pumping Units Report as of December 31, 2019

|                       | 2018               | 2019              |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Applications For Use  | 12                 | 8                 |
| Customers Pumped      | 10                 | 7                 |
| Usage of Pump (Hours) | 8 to 54            | 9 to 50           |
| Total Hours Pumped    | 141                | 129               |
| Customers Cancelled   | 2                  | 1                 |
| Customers to Do       |                    |                   |
| Charges For Usage     | \$10,800.00        | \$7,575.00        |
| <b>Total Revenues</b> | <b>\$10,800.00</b> | <b>\$7,575.00</b> |

|                         | 2018               | 2019               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Man Hours Moving Pump   | \$2,506.12         | \$1,205.13         |
| Truck Hours Moving Pump | \$6,833.60         | \$3,321.60         |
| Pump Repairs            | \$15,408.09        | \$9,161.96         |
| Trailer Repairs         | \$8,511.92         | \$1,182.41         |
| Pipe Parts/Labour       | \$3,025.41         |                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$36,285.14</b> | <b>\$14,871.10</b> |

The line item "Pipe Parts/Labour" represents hose that was replaced on M-140 and M-175 (small pump trailers).

Respectfully Submitted,  
 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 2017 Appendix H  |
| Provide effective roadside weed control on municipal roads.  | Work with Municipal Services on roadside spray projects.<br><br>Evaluate expansion of the project.                         | Business Plan 2017 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 2017 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.<br><br>Include SAB articles in CARA quarterly newsletter. | Education efforts for producers are resulting in greater awareness.  |

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

In 2019 three summer students were hired; returning students Jordyn Stockwell & Janay Durand, and new summer student, Austin Smith. Marcia Raymond was acting Agricultural Fieldman for the year while Jesse Williams was on maternity leave.

The 2019 annual inspections totaled 247, including all 14 hamlets (twice), all 15 active and 20 inactive SA2 gravel pits, ATCO, and the west and south areas of Prairie Oasis. All 41 bridges within SA2 received two herbicide applications for total vegetation control. The Clean Farm pesticide container recycling program also required two visits at the 10 sites. New signage was put up at each site this year to clarify accepted recycled materials.

This year only ASB4 joined us to complete Special Project work. Over 7 days and up to 6 staff, a total of approximately 220 hours were spent inspecting, picking burs and spraying plants at the Majestic Special Project for burdock control. The majority of this work was completed with backpack sprayers and quads, as the burdock plants tend to live in brush/coulees where wildlife and livestock can rub the Velcro-like burs off. This project is of particular importance to continue investment, as it is directly across from the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture and probability of weed spread is high.

The Jenner Special Project for leafy spurge control was completed over 7 days and approx. 235 manhours from ASB2 staff. Work was completed via quads and truck sprayers along the Red Deer River as part of annual efforts to prevent noxious weed spread downstream. While leafy spurge is the major concern, small pockets of Russian knapweed, common tansy, scentless chamomile and burdock were located and controlled riverside. Within the borders of the 42,000 acre Jenner Special Project, there are multiple landowners and leaseholders with cultivated or tame pastures with severe leafy spurge infestations. Future direction should include producer control of these acres, while ASB focus should be on native and hard to access areas that producers otherwise wouldn't have the resources to complete.

Railway inspections occurred on the railway from Buffalo west to Christmas Tree corner (8 miles) for leafy spurge, from Richdale to Scotfield (11 miles) and a small portion west of Hanna for common mullein, toad flax and scentless chamomile.

Scentless chamomile, white cockle, baby's breath and dames rocket are all aggressive in the North portion of Special Area No. 2. Leafy spurge, knapweed, burdock and baby's breath seems to be more prominent in the southern area.

Downy Brome seems to be an aggressive noxious species that is rearing its head in the Jenner/Buffalo areas. Discovered in 2017, there have been early spring applications of Esplanade and late fall applications of glyphosate that appear to be improving the infestation bordering the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture. A new infestation has been located on a lease access closer to the town of Jenner that will require early spring attention. ASB2 is watching this species extremely closely as it poses a large fire risk, in addition to its invasive nature.

Three annual pest surveys were conducted this year including bertha armyworm, grasshopper and clubroot. Provincial funding for fusarium testing was not received in 2018 or 2019. Grasshoppers could be a threat to producers in 2020 if dry conditions persist. Special Area No.2 continues to be a clubroot free municipality.

ASB2 rental equipment utilized this year included the 2" pipe plow (2) and skunk traps (4).

Strychnine sales for ASB2 were 1993 bottles to be used over approximately 388 land parcels, purchased by 60 landowners from May to August. This was a 60% increase in overall sales with 50% more landowners purchasing than the previous year. This increase is likely attributed to increased gopher pressures, as well as the fear that PMRA was reviewing the registration for 2% LSC. Their decision has been to cancel the registration.

Municipalities have until March 4, 2021 to sell the product, with producers having an additional one year to use up their supply. Additional purchases of strychnine are expected to be available in April 2020 to replenish our supply but are not guaranteed after 2020.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jesse Williams, Agricultural Fieldman

Special Area No. 2

On behalf of Marcia Raymond

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

The 2019 summer season began with training for new and returning staff. Kyle Hoffmann (fourth year) and Kallie Caskey (first year) attended Special Areas Orientation and ASB Orientation. Cortreva Day, previously known as Dow training, was hosted in High River. The first part of June the staff went to Weed School, hosted by the County of Newell. Kyle, Kallie, and the river staff attended both courses.

A considerable number of weed infestations were controlled with chemical or picked and bagged throughout the summer. Leafy Spurge, Baby's Breath, Burdock and Scentless Chamomile are SA3's most prevalent noxious weeds.

The staff sprayed bridges in late May and again in July to control the vegetation around the guard rails. They also cleaned the pesticide container transfer sites four times over the summer. The MD of Acadia manages the rat program along the Saskatchewan and Alberta border for Special Areas #3 and #4. The SA3 summer staff completed the annual grasshopper survey at the end of August; all townships in SA3 were covered. The clubroot

survey was done at three locations throughout SA3. One 25-acre island on the South Saskatchewan River that is overrun with leafy spurge had 4,000 beetles released on it. Due to the release of beetles, no chemical was sprayed on this island this year.

Bill Kolkman was very helpful, taking on various tasks again this year. Bill sprayed various roads and conducted weed inspections throughout Special Areas #3. Bill sprayed 1,875 km of roads, back trails and brush for various weeds and grasses.

555 Leafy Spurge Project – The project was inspected and sprayed. Progress is being seen and we are beginning to get ahead of the problem. SA3 staff and river staff spent 15 days together on this project.

Burdock Project – Joined by the MD of Acadia staff, a total of 10 days were spent picking and spraying Burdock at the Hern Ranch. We are seeing lots of first year growth and are getting good control on this noxious weed. We will continue routine control of this site.

Baby's Breath Project – This project felt the combined efforts from the SA3 staff, the river staff, and Alberta Transportation. Transportation did two cuts on; Highway 555 from Jenner to Highway 41, Highway 9 East of Oyen to the Saskatchewan Border, and Highway 899 to Esther. This year the SAB staff picked and sprayed various locations in Special Areas #3.

Sedalia Scentless Chamomile Project – Quad sprayers were used on this project, bringing the total time down to only two days. The quad spraying also reduced the amount of chemical used. This project will continue to be checked regularly to ensure the Chamomile is kept under control.

V—V Project Russian Knapweed – This project was completed in early August with a total of 10 days spent quad spraying, skid spraying and backpack spraying. The river staff joined the project as well. The infestation is different from year to year making this a recurrent project.

Don Hogan, Ag. Fieldman  
Special Areas No. 3, Oyen

### **Agricultural Services Board – 2019 Red Deer River Report**

An air boat training day was held at Carolside Reservoir in June to give staff a chance to familiarize themselves with the boat and boat safety. Red Deer River staff included James Skjenna (first year), Austin Wiltse (second year), Tanya Dick (first year). The Red Deer River project began on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the forks East of Empress.

The river staff found Scentless Chamomile, Toadflax and Black Henbane. From Empress on, Burdock, Leafy Spurge and Russian Knapweed were also found. In the last few years Black Henbane has been found spreading to new areas and has even been found as far as Empress. Most of the infestations were in small spots; however, a few larger spots were also discovered. Mechanical issues plagued the river project this year. A few days of poor weather also hindered inspections along the river. These combined issues prevented the river project from being completed. Staff were unable to reach the South Saskatchewan River this year.

Don Hogan, Ag. Fieldman  
Red Deer River Project

Overall, it was a successful summer. Thank-You to Kyle Hoffmann, Kallie Caskey, James Skjenna, Tanya Dick and Austin Wiltse and Bill Kolkman for their hard work and dedication.

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

My first year acting as the Agricultural Fieldman for the 2019 season has been extremely enjoyable and educational to say the least. The season began with training of new summer staff Farrah Fischer and returning staff Shania Kropinske. It was the first summer the three of us had worked together and it was very productive! We travelled to High River for Corteva training and to Rainier for weed school early in the year. Farrah then succeeded in obtaining her Pesticide Applicators License for Agricultural/Industrial classes, making both students certified applicators.

To start out the working season in May and June, the staff went out to inspect old weed sites that were filed and hadn't been mapped on our online database yet, and to previously mapped problematic sites that needed to be re-inspected. Because of the delayed spring rains, many

weeds didn't pop up until June, this led to the staff spraying for brush until the weeds could be readily identified. Going through old weed files led to the discovery of a few sites that needed to be chemically controlled due to noxious weeds emerging. One notable infestation of leafy spurge was located in the Neutral Hills at an old site, control required usage of the truck, quad and Kubota. Other old small sites included Hoary Cress, which were also chemically controlled. The staff also covered the inactive railway bed between Consort and Monitor and the toadflax found was controlled.

The primary chemical of choice this year was Navius, a product of Bayer. I decided to use this to control leafy spurge, white cockle and brush because it was easily accessible to me as we already had plenty of it in our inventory, and of course because it met all the criteria for the goals of each site. It is a group 2 & 4 wettable granule that uses metsulfuron-methyl & aminocyclopyrachlor as active ingredients. Resistance management is one of my main goals when dealing with problem weeds.

Spraying season began with Scentsless Chamomile at the Tanaschyk project and only required a day and a half of our time. The staff then headed down to Special Area No. 2 to help with the Majestic project. The Forrester project is our main project, it is located south of Altario. An effective reduction in leafy spurge population has been noted, as this year we did not ask for help from Special Area 2 or 3, leaving the project solely to ourselves. We spent around 3 days at the project in July, and then returned in August when more plants had popped up. New walkie talkies made the control of this site much easier as trying to communicate from a quad, Kubota and truck isn't the easiest task.

The most challenging weed issues posed this year were White Cockle, Baby's Breath, and Leafy Spurge. White Cockle was in abundance this year NE of Consort. Baby's Breath remains a problem in Monitor and S of Altario, a new site S of Compeer was found very late and will be revisited in early 2020. Common Mullein appeared near Loyalist once again, and an infestation S of Monitor along the old railway was found covered in both first- and second-year plants, one over 6 feet tall. A few Common Tansy plants were found along highway 886 and the Kirriemuir Road. The Blueweed project required little attention with only a few plants being spotted at time of inspection due to great landowner cooperation and its biennial nature. A total of 180 sites confirmed to have noxious weeds requiring control from previous years were tended to and 88 new sites were mapped, including one site containing a prohibited noxious weed, Purple Loosestrife, all to be re-inspected next year. I contacted Agriculture and Forestry, and they notified me I do not have to give them any information about the weed infestation, I simply must keep it in our records and be sure to return to it. We ended up identifying Water Hemlock at one site, which isn't a noxious weed but is very poisonous to stock.

Besides tending to weed sites, the staff and I were busy managing sites called in by ratepayers and conducting required Provincial surveys throughout the summer. This season we did Diamondback Moth, Bertha Armyworm, Grasshopper, Blackleg and Clubroot surveys. Funding was lost to continue the provincial initiative for the fusarium surveys last year, hopefully they will find more funding for next year. The staff also cleaned the pesticide container sites twice this year, other than Veteran because of the time changes to the hours open. Along with cleaning containers out, the staff were busy weed eating and spraying the weeds in each container site to ensure they remained clean. The 2-inch pipe plow was rented 3 times this year, tree planter once, skunk traps continued to be popular this year, however mag pie traps didn't show as popular as last year. Other tasks this summer included weed eating around the Consort fire hall and spraying around Altario's fire hall.

Strychnine sales for 2019 concluded with 2853 bottles sold, up significantly from 719 bottles sold in 2018. We have been informed that our Strychnine provider has been bought out by a different company and the production of 2% Strychnine has come to an end as of now, although PMRA has yet to make a final decision on the fate of its use.

Update: On March 4, 2020 Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency publicized their final decision on the registration of Strychnine for control of Richardson's Grounds Squirrels. The registration has been cancelled.

The following deadlines will be in effect:

Manufacturer can sell to municipalities until March 4th, 2021.

Municipalities (SAB) can sell the product until March 4th, 2022.

Producers have until March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to USE ALL REMAINING PRODUCT.

After talking to the manufacturer, stock is low in the warehouse and they have begun sourcing the raw material for further production. They expect manufacturing to resume in April.

Submitted by:

**Kaylee Dick** with edits from Justine Comeau

Agricultural Fieldman

Special Area No. 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 emphasis 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.<br><br>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:<br>100% healthy<br>0% healthy w/problems<br>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.  |

### Community Pasture Report

#### Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture

Dry conditions continued into 2019 though reduction of grazing days was not yet needed.

Total AUM'S = 10,608      Total Allotment = 10,608      % Allotted in 2019 = 100%

One new patron was admitted into the pasture in 2019. One Remount patron was transferred to become a Buffalo Atlee patron. The old house was torn down in January 2020.

Future plans:

- Range Heath assessment planned for 2020; and
- Continue interior fence replacement, as is warranted.

#### Bullpound Community Pasture

Dry conditions for past three years have drawn into the carryover reserve of grass, no reduction of grazing days is yet planned.

Total AUM'S = 4,658      Total Allotment = 4,656      % Allotted in 2019 = 100%

Two new patrons admitted into Bullpound Breeders.

Future plans:

- Examine placement and condition of existing interior fences, replace where needed; and
- Continue to monitor the mine reclamation for additional grazing opportunities.

Remount Community Pasture

In the unburnt area, general dry conditions have drawn into the carryover reserves of grass. The area burnt in 2017 was assessed this fall and found to be recovering but will take time to build up volume of litter needed to sustain grazing.

Total AUM'S = 8136      Total Allotment = 6059      % Allotted in 2019 = 74%

No new patrons were admitted into Remount. Allotment for 2019 was generally 20% reduction of 2017 allotment (Cavendish and Remount Breeding).

Future plans:

- Fire recovery;
- Continue to rebuild corrals with pipe; and
- Additional water development.

Richdale Community Pasture

The pasture handled the increase from 336 AUM to 700 AUM well in the 2018 grazing season. Capacity has been updated from the previous 915 AUM to 700 AUM based on Grassland Vegetative Index data.

Total AUM'S = 700      Total Allotment = 700      % Allotted in 2019 = 100%

No new patrons continue to have one Remount patron's allotment temporarily moved to Richdale, which has brought the pasture to full capacity.

Future plans are to investigate options to recruit additional patrons to stock pasture at capacity when Remount fire recovery is complete or as patrons retire.

Sounding Creek Community Pasture

Dry conditions continue. A reduction of grazing days is not yet planned.

AUM'S = 7,920      Total Allotment = 7,919      % Allotted in 2019 = 100%

Two new patrons admitted to Cereal West and one new patron in Sedalia.

Main corrals were relocated out of the valley and replaced with steel High Hog/freestanding panel corral this summer.

Future plans:

- Shop/Barn build;
- Interior fence replacement; and
- Replace bunkhouse and remove old bunkhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brett Richards

**SPECIAL AREAS COMMUNITY PASTURE  
2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTED TO DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**REVENUE:**

|                                  |        |                      |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 912,116 days                     | \$0.75 | \$ 684,087.00        |
| 5,959 calves                     | \$8.00 | \$ 47,672.00         |
| Pasture Supervisor House Rentals |        | \$ 17,280.00         |
|                                  |        | <b>\$ 749,039.00</b> |

Note: Reduction of allotment for Remount Fire Recovery amounts to approximately \$58,000.00 in lost revenue in 2019.

**Operating Expenditures:**

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Salaries                       | \$ 235,130.85 |
| Wages for Assistants           | \$ 124,487.39 |
| Employer Contributions         | \$ 61,242.31  |
| Worker's Compensation Board    | \$ 4,160.10   |
| Travel & Sub                   | \$ 3,182.33   |
| Mileage                        | \$ 4,429.79   |
| Membership and Conference fees | \$ 450.00     |
| Telephone                      | \$ 10,984.79  |
| Advertising                    | \$ 1,471.00   |
| Training & Education           | \$ 160.00     |
| Building Repairs               | \$ 22,290.48  |

|                         |  |  |    |           |                      |
|-------------------------|--|--|----|-----------|----------------------|
| Mach Repair             |  |  | \$ | 21,285.72 |                      |
| Contract Repairs        |  |  | \$ | 7,103.20  |                      |
| Machinery Equip. Rental |  |  | \$ | -         |                      |
| General Supplies        |  |  | \$ | 12,098.84 |                      |
| Water Development       |  |  | \$ | 69,970.03 |                      |
| Fuel/Oil                |  |  | \$ | 55,033.07 |                      |
| Fencing Supplies        |  |  | \$ | 19,486.19 |                      |
| Attractive Items        |  |  | \$ | 9,560.00  |                      |
| Chemicals & Salt        |  |  | \$ | 9,129.23  |                      |
| Grass Seed & Fert       |  |  | \$ | -         |                      |
| Natural Gas             |  |  | \$ | 6,707.22  |                      |
| Electric Power          |  |  | \$ | 15,412.56 |                      |
|                         |  |  |    |           | <b>\$ 693,775.10</b> |

**Depreciation of Capital Assets:**

|   |        |    |    |           |                      |
|---|--------|----|----|-----------|----------------------|
| 2019 Internal Fencing                   | 10 yrs | 1  | \$ | 16,800.00 |                      |
| 2019 Sounding Creek Corrals             | 40 yrs | 1  | \$ | 2,646.00  |                      |
| 2019 Generator                          | 5 yrs  | 1  | \$ | 410.00    |                      |
| 2018 Generator                          | 5 yrs  | 2  | \$ | 410.00    |                      |
| 2017 Buffalo Atlee House                | 40 yrs | 3  | \$ | 10,000.00 |                      |
| 2017 Buffalo Atlee Jeep                 | 10 yrs | 3  | \$ | 2,730.00  |                      |
| 2017 Two Gators (Bullpound & Remount)   | 5 yrs  | 3  | \$ | 9,200.00  |                      |
| 2016 Remount Gasoline Tank              | 5 yrs  | 4  | \$ | 1,560.00  |                      |
| 2016 Two Generators                     | 5 yrs  | 4  | \$ | 700.00    |                      |
| 2016 Three Shipping Containers          | 10 yrs | 4  | \$ | 840.00    |                      |
| 2015 30' Goose Neck Trailer             | 5 yrs  | 5  | \$ | 4,000.00  |                      |
| 2015 Buffalo Atlee Spratt Camp          | 10 yrs | 5  | \$ | 1,000.00  |                      |
| 2013 Post Pounder (Bullpound)           | 10 yrs | 6  | \$ | 1,300.00  |                      |
| 2013 Bullpound Water (Cystem & Bldg)    | 10 yrs | 6  | \$ | 769.70    |                      |
| 2013 Bullpound Corrals                  | 40 yrs | 6  | \$ | 1,074.46  |                      |
| 2013 Cereal West Corrals                | 40 yrs | 6  | \$ | 769.88    |                      |
| 2012 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 7  | \$ | 1,776.70  |                      |
| 2012 SCCP Natural Gas                   | 40 yrs | 7  | \$ | 562.50    |                      |
| 2012 Buffalo-Atlee Corrals              | 40 yrs | 7  | \$ | 1,875.00  |                      |
| 2011 Trucks                             | 10 yrs | 8  | \$ | 11,731.00 |                      |
| 2011 Buffalo Atlee Barn                 | 20 yrs | 8  | \$ | 2,063.00  |                      |
| 2011 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 8  | \$ | 197.00    |                      |
| 2010 Assistant Quarters (Bullpound)     | 40 yrs | 9  | \$ | 1,890.23  |                      |
| 2008 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 11 | \$ | 1,941.00  |                      |
| 2007 Remount Barn                       | 20 yrs | 12 | \$ | 1,250.00  |                      |
| 2007 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 12 | \$ | 280.00    |                      |
| 2006 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 13 | \$ | 1,650.00  |                      |
| 2005 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 14 | \$ | 1,000.00  |                      |
| 2005 Assistant Quarters (Buffalo Atlee) | 20 yrs | 14 | \$ | 2,660.00  |                      |
| 2004 Fire Skids                         | 20 yrs | 15 | \$ | 500.00    |                      |
| 2004 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 15 | \$ | 2,250.00  |                      |
| 2003 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 16 | \$ | 1,583.00  |                      |
| 2002 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 17 | \$ | 5,700.00  |                      |
| 2001 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 18 | \$ | 4,000.00  |                      |
| 2000 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 19 | \$ | 2,000.00  |                      |
| 1999 Water Development                  | 20 yrs | 20 | \$ | 1,350.00  |                      |
|   |        |    |    |           | <b>\$ 100,469.47</b> |

**TOTAL OPERATIONS** **\$ 794,244.57**

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$ 749,039.00**

**SURPLUS / LOSS** **-\$ 45,205.57**

**EXPENDITURES:**

**Rental and Taxes**

|           |            |        |           |    |                      |
|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|----|----------------------|
| Rental    |            |        |           |    |                      |
| 173,206   | acres      | 1.0032 | (\$/acre) | \$ | 173,760.26           |
| Taxes     |            |        |           |    |                      |
| 5,662,500 | Assessment | 9.33   | (mils)    | \$ | 52,831.13            |
|           |            |        |           |    | <b>\$ 226,591.38</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.<br><br>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 2019

| COMMUNITY CLUB                     | 10 YEAR<br>ADVANCE<br>ADJUSTMENT | GRANT \$              | INSURANCE<br>DEDUCTION | CHEQUE<br>ISSUED       |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Berry Creek Ag Society             |                                  | \$ 22,178.81          |                        | \$22,178.81            |
| Berry Creek Community Club         |                                  | \$ 3,500.00           | \$ 2,438.89            | \$1,061.11             |
| Berry Creek (Cessford) Library     |                                  | \$ 2,089.65           |                        | \$2,089.65             |
| Big Country Riding & Roping Club   |                                  | \$ 2,612.07           | \$ 1,585.00            | \$ 1,027.07            |
| Bindloss Community Hall Board      | \$ 22,178.81                     |                       |                        |                        |
|                                    | \$ (2,500.00)                    | \$ 19,678.81          | \$ 2,715.89            | \$16,962.92            |
| Buffalo Agricultural Society       | \$ 25,574.50                     |                       |                        |                        |
|                                    | \$ (18,000.00)                   | \$ 7,574.50           |                        | \$ 7,574.50            |
| Cessford Home & School Association |                                  | \$ 1,567.24           |                        | \$ 1,567.24            |
| Diamond Jubilee Rec & Cult Centre  |                                  | \$ 28,495.26          | \$10,648.89            | \$17,846.37            |
| Dorothy Community Club             |                                  | \$ 8,643.56           | \$ 883.00              | \$ 7,760.56            |
| Empress, Village of                |                                  | \$ 42,220.48          |                        | \$42,220.48            |
| Empress & Dist Friendship Centre   |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           |                        | \$ 5,224.13            |
| Empress Library                    |                                  | \$ 1,424.76           |                        | \$ 1,424.76            |
| HandHills Lake Club                |                                  | \$ 13,060.33          |                        | \$13,060.33            |
| Hanna, Town of                     | \$ 184,364.34                    |                       |                        |                        |
|                                    | \$ (90,000.00)                   | \$ 94,364.34          |                        | \$94,364.34            |
| Hanna Municipal Library            |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           |                        | \$ 5,224.13            |
| Hanna Motorcross Association       |                                  | \$ 2,089.65           |                        | \$ 2,089.65            |
| Homestead Coulee Community Assoc   |                                  | \$ 10,994.42          | \$ 2,097.89            | \$ 8,896.53            |
| Iddesleigh Community Centre        |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           |                        | \$ 5,224.13            |
| Jenner Hall Committee              |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           |                        | \$ 5,224.13            |
| Pollockville Curling Club          |                                  | \$ 21,656.40          |                        | \$21,656.40            |
| Richdale Community Club            |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           | \$ 1,795.89            | \$ 3,428.24            |
| Sandhills Roping Club              |                                  | \$ 2,089.65           |                        | \$ 2,089.65            |
| Scapa Athletic Association         |                                  | \$ 5,224.13           |                        | \$ 5,224.13            |
| Social Plains Community Club       | \$ 2,374.61                      |                       |                        |                        |
|                                    | \$ (500.00)                      | \$ 1,874.61           |                        | \$ 1,874.61            |
| Spondin Community Club             |                                  | \$ 8,881.02           |                        | \$ 8,881.02            |
| Table Rock Riding & Roping Club    | \$ 2,089.65                      |                       |                        |                        |
|                                    | \$ (1,900.00)                    | \$ 189.65             |                        | \$ 189.65              |
| Supplemental Library Funding       |                                  | \$ 22,000.00          |                        | \$22,000.00            |
| TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUM DEDUCTIONS |                                  |                       | \$22,165.45            |                        |
|                                    |                                  | TOTAL<br>GRANT        | \$ 348,529.99          |                        |
|                                    |                                  | HOLDBACKS             | \$(112,900.00)         | Total of Chq<br>Issued |
|                                    |                                  | TOTAL ALLOCATION LEVY | <b>\$461,430.00</b>    | <b>\$326,364.54</b>    |

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

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matt Clarke                         | Cody Mashon               |
| Mark Sturm                          | Wade Christianson         |
| Darcy Ferguson, Special Areas Board | Brett Richards, Secretary |

*Submitted by: Brett Richards,  
Secretary*

*Special Area No. 2 Recreation Board*

## SPECIAL AREA NO. 3 RECREATION REPORT FOR 2019

The 2019 Recreation Mill Rate Levy was designated as follows:

|  | Grant<br>Withheld for<br>10 yr Advance | Insurance    | Total<br>Amount     |        |
|--|--|--------------|---------------------|--------|
| Village of Cereal                          |  |              | \$21,729.29         | note 1 |
| Cereal & District Library Board            |  |              | \$5,000.98          |        |
| Village of Youngstown                      |  |              | \$38,269.50         |        |
| Youngstown & District Library Board        |  |              | \$5,000.98          |        |
| Town of Oyen                               | (\$10,000.00)                          |              | \$116,754.40        | note 4 |
| Oyen Municipal Library Board               |  |              | \$10,021.42         |        |
| Big Stone Community Building Fund Assoc.   |  | (\$2,448.67) | \$9,802.22          |        |
| Cappon Community Club                      |  | (\$1,317.67) | \$4,127.25          |        |
| Chinook & District Community Club          |  | (\$1,750.67) | \$7,566.63          |        |
| Esther Community Hall New Building Society |  | (\$1,516.67) | \$8,942.38          |        |
| Lanfine Hall Community Association         |  | (\$1,111.66) | \$3,439.38          |        |
| New Brigden Community Association          |  | (\$2,011.66) | \$9,802.22          | note 2 |
| New Brigden Central Curling Club           |  |              | \$8,942.38          |        |
| Sedalia Hall Club                          |  | \$0.00       | \$9,430.77          | note 3 |
| Sibbald Community Club                     |  | \$0.00       | \$9,430.77          | note 3 |
| Big Country Agricultural Society           |  | \$0.00       | \$11,675.44         |        |
|  |  |              | <b>\$279,936.00</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:

Erin Logan - Member - Resident, Chair  
 Quinn Wagstaff - Member - Resident  
 David Eaton - Member - Resident  
 Darcy Ferguson - Member - SAB Staff  
 Darran Dick - Member - SAB Staff, Secretary

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

note 2 (Insurance paid directly)

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

note 4 (Year 4 of 10 year rec advance - ball concession/training facility)

**SPECIAL AREA 4  
RECREATION REPORT FOR 2019**

The 2019 Recreation Mill Rate Levy of \$237,430 was designated as follows:

|                                  | Advance       | Jubilee Insurance | Total Grant         |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Village of Consort               | (\$92,500.00) |                   | \$111,850.28        |
| Consort Municipal Library Board  |               |                   | \$15,000.00         |
| Village of Veteran               |               |                   | \$48,211.33         |
| Veteran Municipal Library        |               |                   | \$5,000.00          |
| Altario Community Association    |               | (\$2,068.88)      | \$8,870.88          |
| Compeer Community Centre         | (\$4,500.00)  | (\$6,907.78)      | \$23,141.44         |
| Hemaruka Hall Association        | (\$350.00)    |                   | \$4,000.00          |
| Kirriemuir Community Association |               | (\$1,143.95)      | \$7,713.81          |
| Monitor Community Club           |               |                   | \$4,000.00          |
| Consort Lakeview Golf Club       | (\$4,030.00)  |                   | \$9,642.27          |
|                                  |               |                   | <b>\$134,414.45</b> |
|                                  |               |                   |                     |

The 2019 Special Areas No. 4 Recreation Board consists of the following members:

Gordon Long  
 Krista McGregor  
 Carley Day  
 Darcy Ferguson  
 Corinne Kelts

Corinne Kelts, Secretary  
 Special Area No. 4 Recreation Board

## Economic Development

Special Area No. 4  
Regional Economic Development  
Spring Project Report



---

### **BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION PROGRAM**

Special Area 4 Regional Economic Development has undertaken several economic development initiatives to further understand and engage with the business community. Business retention and expansion (BR&E) activities have and continue to be employed to ensure business needs are monitored and addressed.

A Triage BR&E was facilitated to engage businesses and report on observations generalizable to the broader business community, while also allowing for the identification of individual expansion or retention opportunities.

The project targeted 80 survey completions with 85 surveys completed within Special Area 3 and 4. The survey provided the opportunity for staff to connect with businesses and identify red flags (issues) and green flags (successes) and provide support where necessary. The economic development firm of MDB Insight was contracted to analyze the information and provide recommendations. The information collected and the recommendations provided will help with future planning for business attraction and retention.

One red flag that the survey identified was that over 52% of businesses in the area do not have a succession plan or exit strategy for their business. Partnering with Community Futures Meridian and the Consort & District Chamber of Commerce, a Business Succession Series is being facilitated. The first session featured Ron Robichaud from C&R Care Consulting Ltd. His business acumen and real-life experience from owning multiple businesses brought an interesting dynamic to succession planning.

### **VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURAL PROJECT**

The Value-Added Agriculture Project, which received matching funding from the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program, had 8 value added agriculture business plans developed for entrepreneurs within the the region. Business plans were developed for the following: Craft Brewery, Malting Plant, Bio – Fuel Plant, Bison, Lentils, Greenhouse, Industrial Land, Vertical Farming. The second phase of this project will be to connect the entrepreneurs with resources and assist, where possible, to turn their idea into a sustainable business.

### **SPECIAL AREAS AGRI-FOOD ASSET MAP**

I am working with a group of economic development practitioners in south – eastern Alberta to develop a regional Agri – food asset map for the Palliser Economic Partnership region. I will be covering all of Special Areas and the MD of Acadia. The data compiled will:

- Provide a representation of what each area has for key processors, producers etc. to be used for investment attraction project development
- Identify agriculture strengths and opportunities within Special Areas and SE Alberta
- Identify potential partnerships between various regions in Southern Alberta (using maps from Lethbridge/Taber Corridor and Calgary)
- Identify research and commercialization facilities that will support the agriculture industry

### **RETURN TO RURAL**

In planning for investment coming to the area a regional business directory was developed and is now on the new [www.returntorural.ca](http://www.returntorural.ca) portal. Businesses are able to add and/or update their own information. The goal is to have every business in the region on the site and used as a main directory. Municipalities are encouraged to put the link on their website. The site features many new features including a regional event calendar. As always, Return to Rural continues to promote our local businesses through our social media platforms. An example of this is the Sunday Spotlight on Facebook which features an interview with a business from the region.

### **TOURISM**

Six new Special Areas entrance signs were installed by our Special Area's Sign department at a cost savings of \$20, 000.

Canadian Badlands Scenic Driving Tour project is a proposed designated driving route from the Tyrell Museum in Drumheller to Dinosaur Park in the County of Newell. The largest portion of the trail will be through the Special Areas. Sign applications have been submitted to Alberta Transportation for approval

Billboard Program – This program is now under Travel Special Areas. Billboard packages are being updated and will include a posting schedule.

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:<br>Oyen: 3<br>Hanna: 4<br>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 2019 Advisory Meeting. November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019.

|                      | <b>Hanna Approved</b>      |                            | <b>Provincial</b>          |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
|                      | <b><u>Oct 31, 2019</u></b> | <b><u>Oct 31, 2018</u></b> | <b><u>Oct 31, 2019</u></b> |                     |
|                      | <b>#</b>                   | <b>Loan Amt</b>            | <b>#</b>                   | <b>Loan Amt</b>     |
| Alberta Farm Loans   | 62                         | \$24,640,456               | 39                         | \$12,079,995        |
| Rural Business Loans |                            | \$ 0                       |                            | \$ 0                |
| AgriBusiness Loans   |                            | \$ 0                       |                            | \$ 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>62</b>                  | <b>\$24,640,456</b>        | <b>39</b>                  | <b>\$12,079,995</b> |

| <b>Loan Statistics</b> | <b>Hanna<br/>Oct 31, 2019</b> | <b>Hanna<br/>Oct 31, 2018</b> | <b>Provincial<br/>Oct 31, 2019</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Portfolio              | 439                           | 430                           | 11,850                             |
| Approved Amount        | \$126,219,316                 | \$109,026,677                 | \$3,327,801,993                    |
| Loan Balance           | \$100,237,429                 | \$87,657,585                  | \$2,482,842,407                    |
| Arrears #              | 25                            | 23                            | 677                                |
| Arrear \$              | \$322,004                     | \$129,877                     | \$58,324,803                       |
| % of total             | 0.320%                        | 0.148%                        | 2.35%                              |

|                            | <b><u>Provincial<br/>Oct. 31, 2018</u></b> | <b><u>Provincial<br/>Oct. 31, 2019</u></b> |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Loan statistics:</b>    |  |  |
| Portfolio                  | 11,842                                     | 11,850                                     |
| Loan Balance               | \$ 2,340,029,154                           | \$ 2,482,842,407                           |
| Average loan balance       | \$ 197,604.22                              | \$ 209,522.57                              |
| Difference in loans        | +8 or 1.00% increase                       |  |
| Difference in loan balance | +142,813,253 or .99% increase              |  |

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 Relationship Managers (LS)**

*Nichole Martin*

*Shaina Griffith, B. Comm*



2019 might be remembered as the year of highs and lows, be it weather, markets, funding, health or any other measure of success a person could refer to. Our trial results reflected the weather extremes, with yields ranging from really poor to above average. Event attendance also ranged from excellent to disappointingly low – again a reflection on the year, the economy and the fact that haying and harvesting seemed to never end.

Completion of the first processing year for our Soil Health Lab Initiative was a definite success, as Yamily and crew have channeled over 800 samples through the lab to date, with hundreds more in cool storage. Some of these samples are part of a Soil Health Benchmark study, which is documenting the status of various soil health parameters at points across Alberta thanks to a partnership with other applied research associations and funding from the Canada Agricultural Partnership (CAP). Yamily has presented at events in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia as producers become more and more engaged in monitoring soil health. We also had the pleasure of hosting a Youth Soil Lab Camp as well as a group from the Altario Agriculture School of Excellence at our lab facility.

The ability to carry out a broad-ranged program (as the list below indicates) requires a dedicated staff. I would like to thank both our full time and seasonal staff for all the heavy lifting in meeting the demands of an ambitious program. Your enthusiasm, effort and energy makes it all possible. All the local support we receive in funding, hosting project sites or partnering on events enables us to is essential to complete our program each year.

*Dianne Westerlund*

#### **CARA 2019 Board of Directors and Staff**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Richard Bailey, Veteran                             | Dianne Westerlund, <i>Manager &amp; Forage Agronomist</i>            |
| Curtis Benedict, Hanna                              |  |
| Nathan Berg, Cessford                               | Yamily Zavala, <i>Soil &amp; Crop Nutrient Management Specialist</i> |
| Terry Berry, Hanna                                  |  |
| Kyle Christianson, Sedalia                          | Olivia Sederberg, <i>Conservation and Extension Technician</i>       |
| David Eaton, Sibbald, <i>Past President</i>         |  |
| Matthew Gould, Consort                              | Lacey Gould, <i>Conservation Agronomist (part-time)</i>              |
| Dan Grudecki, Acadia Valley                         |  |
| John Kimber, Youngstown                             | Shelley Norris, <i>Office Manager</i>                                |
| Kirby Laughlin, Youngstown                          | Jerry Pratt, <i>Field Technician</i>                                 |
| Kevin Letniak, Consort                              | Karen Raynard, <i>Field Technician</i>                               |
| James Madge, Stanmore <i>Vice President</i>         | Dan Rude, <i>Field Technician</i>                                    |
| Marvin Molzan, Sibbald, <i>Financial Supervisor</i> | Lizanne Booker, <i>SHL Technician</i>                                |
| Gloria Nelson, Veteran, <i>President</i>            | Jennifer Dick, <i>Summer Technician</i>                              |
| Landon Olsen, Cereal                                | Irene Timms, <i>Summer Technician</i>                                |
| Barry Redel, Consort                                | Anna Yasinsky, <i>Summer Technician</i>                              |
| Aaron Skappak, Acadia Valley                        |  |

## CARA 2019 PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Crop Component

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Dan & Vince Grudecki, Acadia Valley               | AB RVT's: Wheats, Durum, Triticale, Nutrien Durum Crop Rotation Study, AWC & ABC Fertility Trials   |
| Barry Redel, Consort                              | SK Oats & Barley; AB Barley, Green & Yellow Peas; Barley & Triticale RST  |
| Dwayne Smigelski, Oyen                            | Green & Yellow Peas, CCC Demos, Alternative Forages Winter Wheat & Fall Rye, AWC Agronomy   |
| Scory Estate, Oyen                                | Quinoa Seeding Rate (NorQuin), Oat & Pulse Mix RST Durum RVT, Cocktail Cover Crop Demo Lentil, Flax, EcoTea, Humaterra                    |
| Landon Olsen, Cereal                              | CCC Demo – seeding rates, weed control Fall Rye & Winter Wheat  |
| Jenner Colony, Jenner<br>Aaron Rude, Sedalia      | Plant Nutrient Trial with RA West International<br>CCC - Reduced Fertility Inputs Study<br><i>(Funding Consortium and AB Canola Comm)</i> |
| Multiple Sites:<br>Caskey, Kuhn,<br>Gould Ranches | Pest & Disease Surveys: Bertha army worm, Diamond back moth, Cabbage seedpod weevil, Sawfly, Wheat midge, Swede midge, Wheat midge soil   |

### Crop Extension

|   |  |                        |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Crop Strategy Seminar                   | CANCELLED – due to low registration  | March 26, Oyen         |
| RVT Protocol Training                   | Cereal Protocol GTM<br>Pulse Protocol GTM  | March 12<br>April 2    |
| Young Farmer/Rancher Forum              | 1 night/month<br>Miscellaneous Topics, eg. Apps, finances, rotations   | ??Oyen                 |
| Soil Health and Crop Field Day          | ACPC Demo (Keith Gabert), AWC Agronomy (Clair Langois), RVT's, RST (Dianne)<br>Soil Benchmark Demo, Lab Demo | July 23<br>Oyen        |
| Crop Scouting Field Day                 | Scott Meers, Entomologist<br>Dr. Pat Juskiw, Barley breeder  | August 2<br>Redel Site |
| Field Diagnostic Calls                  | Crop disease, pests and fertility issues   | On-going               |
| Facilitation of Seed & Disease Analysis | Submit samples to labs; provide info for producers   | On-going               |
| One-on-one producer consultations       | On-going; follow-up from extension events  | CARA Center or On-farm |
| Monthly Newsletters                     | Research information, coming events  | Mass mailed            |
| Crop Contact List                       | Research information, coming events  | 100 producers          |

### Forage/Grazing Component

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Redel, Scory           | Regional Silage Trial   |
| Aaron Rude, Sedalia    | Perennial Forage Trial<br>(CARA coordinating for 9 sites across the province) |
| TBD                    | New Perennial Forage Trial  |
| Gould Ranches, Consort | High Legume (Sainfoin) Pasture Demo   |
| Tim Westerlund, Esther | EcoTea on Perennials  |



## Forage/Livestock Extension

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Cowbytes Workshop  | How to Use Cowbytes software with Barry Yarmcio, Lacey & Olivia  | January 15, Consort<br>Nov 25, Handhills<br>Nov 28, New Brigden |
| Feed What You Need Cowbytes  | Barry Yaremicio (Feed Quality Concerns); Lacey Gould (Watering Systems & CAP) Cowbytes   | January 28, Spondin<br>Nov 25, Handhills<br>Nov 28, New Brigden |
| Ladies Calving Clinic  | Dr. ML Gendron (Border Vet Services), AntiMicrobial Stewardship & Calving Tips; Jen O'Reilly (Cross 5 Cattle), cattle cooler; Melissa Downy (Verified Beef); Christina Harvey (AHS), Managing Stress (AHS); Essential Oils & Livestock | January 29, Czar  |
| Verified Beef Plus Workshop  | Melissa Downey, Verified Beef<br>CANCELLED – low registration  | February 11, Youngstown   |
| Calving Clinic   | General Calving Tips, Dr. Cec Ruschkowski (Oyen Vet Services); Grazing Plans Following Drought; Andrea Hansen (AAF), CAP Update, Olivia  | February 19, Cereal   |
| Broadview Ranch, Duchess Gould Ranching, Consort Madge Farms, Stanmore | Rancher/Researcher Pilot Project Evaluation of Several Innovations   | On-going  |
| Southern Alberta Women's Grazing School                                | Various presentations related to grazing management, riparian health and plant identification  | July 16, 17 Milk River  |
| Cattlemen Clinic   | Canfax Market Outlook (Dallas Rodger); Feeding Different Rations (Dwayne Summach, SK Ag); Body Condition Score (demo at Crossroads) (Dianne); Feed Analysis Tool (Dianne)  | November 18, Oyen   |
| Facilitation of Feed Analysis  | Hay probe; various labs  | CARA Center   |
| Assistance with Ration Development                                     | Assistance for producers<br>Lacey Gould  | On-going  |
| Forage/Livestock Team  | Provincial Initiatives; represented by Dianne  | On-going  |
| Beef/Forage Email Contacts   | Event, information updates   | 194 members   |
| One-on-one producer inquiries  | Various Topics   | On-going  |
| Alberta Forage, Beef and Grazing Center                                | Dianne represents Forage and Livestock Team  | Lacombe   |
| Forage U-Pick Project  | Calculator Tool for Establishing Forages   | On-going  |
| Monthly Newsletters  | Research Information; Coming Events  | Mass-mailed to all producers                                    |

## Conservation Component

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Niwa Ranching, Acadia Valley<br>Bar X Ranch, Kirriemuir<br>Don Osadczuk, Iddesleigh | Biological Control of Canada Thistle Demo   |
| CARA/Mark Strutt, Oyen  | Shelterbelt Demo, Mulch Demo  |
| Berry, Big Stone and Sounding<br>Creeks   | Riparian Health Assessments<br>Lacey & Olivia   |
| Soil Health Benchmark Project   | Coordination and analysis of soil samples from across<br>Alberta                              |
| Carbon/Pasture Management<br>Project  | Monitoring of carbon levels under various grazing<br>management practices (analysis of soils) |
| Several Sites   | Cocktail Cover Crop Demos   |

## Conservation Related Extension

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Ag Service Board<br>Conference                            | Yamily presented Soil Health & CSH Lab<br>info  | January 23, Calgary                         |
| Altario School Ag<br>Presentations                        | Crop Demo   |   |
| Environmental Farm<br>Plan Workshops &<br>Individual Help | Assisting individual producers<br>Group Seminars  | April 18, BRRG                              |
| Soil Health Mini-Conference &<br>Lab Sessions             | Dr. Elaine Ingham (Soil Food<br>Web) and Yamily   | February 11, Fairview<br>February 13, Oyen  |
| Soil Health Lab Training                                  | Yamily to Corvallis, Oregon   | February 12-15                              |
| Soil Health Presentation                                  | Yamily to BC Forage Conference  | March 20,<br>Fort St John, BC               |
| Organic Conference  | Yamily spoke on soil health &<br>CARA SHL   | March 28-29, Saskatoon                      |
| Kids Soil Health Camp                                     | Hands-on with Yamily  | August 21, SHL                              |
| School Classes to Lab                                     | Altario, Youngstown, Berry Creek  | October 8                                   |
| Soil Health and Crop Field Day                            |   | July 23, Oyen                               |
| Periodic Newsletters                                      | Updates (newsletters, newspapers)<br>Research Information; Coming Events<br>Respond to inquiries, assist with applications,<br>CAP Info | On-going<br>Mass-mailed to all<br>producers |
| Oyen Public School Ag<br>Club                             | Soil health and other ag related topics<br>(Olivia)   | On-going                                    |

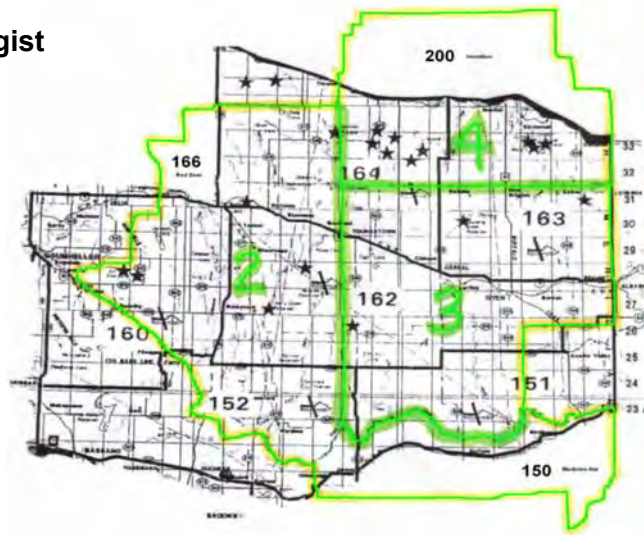
## Economic Development and General Awareness Component

|                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Cooperator Appreciation<br>Night    | Laura Hayes, music   | February 7, Cereal                             |
| Meals on Wheels                     | Staff delivers meals   | January 21-31                                  |
| Annual Meeting & Projects<br>Review | Project Update<br>Barry Mullany (Employment Standards<br>Branch) Employment Standards for<br>Farmers | February 28, Cereal                            |
| Succession Planning                 | Merle Good   | February 21, Youngstown                        |
| 4-H Weigh-in & Achievement<br>Days  | Use of CARA's scale  | June 3, Delia; June 4,<br>Consort June 8, Oyen |
| Age Verification                    |  | CARA Center                                    |
| General Inquiries                   | Weed ID, custom rates, business<br>contacts, etc.  | CARA Center                                    |
| Newsletters                         | Monthly or Bimonthly   | Mass mailed                                    |

## Wildlife Management Update for Special Areas, 2019

Scott Stevens, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Alberta Environment and Parks



Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in Special Areas

Since 2014, winter Aerial Ungulate Surveys (AUS) have been conducted in Special Areas WMUs 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, and 166. WMU 164, last surveyed in 2009, is a regional priority for the RDNSR and will be flown in winter 2019/20 conditions permitting. When funding is available, aerial Pronghorn surveys are conducted annually (last survey 2018).

Results of most recent AUS in WMU 160 indicate that big game populations have increased there since last survey in 2010 (2019 estimates: mule deer 4,827; white-tailed deer 986; moose 200). Four elk and 169 Pronghorn were also observed.

### **Elk**

- No elk were observed north of the Red Deer river during Pronghorn surveys conducted July 2018. This is unusual compared to previous surveys where multiple groups, primarily bulls, were observed in 151, 152, and 162. Fewer elk were observed north of Suffield base in WMU 150 than in previous years (187 in 2018 vs 553 in 2016).
- Surveys in January 2015 indicated no resident herd established in WMU 151 (i.e. no cows/calves); appeared to be a small resident herd in WMU 152 located (January 2015) east of highway 36 in vicinity of Cessford.
- No elk were observed in WMU 163 during the aerial survey in January 2016. The first hunter harvest report of elk harvest in WMU 163 occurred in 2018. Elk may be moving south through Sounding Creek drainage from established populations in vicinity of Wainwright.
- Four elk were observed in WMU 160 during the aerial survey in January 2018 but expect that some groups were missed in the Handhills and Wintering Hills.
- 2019 is the sixth year of a general archery hunt for elk in WMUs 151/152 and 164/166/162/163 and the fourth year in WMUs 156/158/160.
- All Special Areas WMUs now have regulated elk hunting. These regulation changes were brought in to increase harvest on elk and provide harvest opportunity for landowners (antlerless elk), while general archery seasons limit increases of hunter density during the rifle season November 1-November 30.
- In 2017, the combined harvest of elk including Special Licence, General Licence and Landowner Licences, was estimated to be 46 in WMU 151/152, 57 in WMU 162/163/164/166, and 52 in WMU 156/158/160.
- In 2018, those numbers declined to 29, 36, and 12, respectively, which indicates lower abundance of elk in Special Areas WMUs.

### **Moose**

- There are antlered and antlerless moose seasons in all WMUs in the Special Areas.
- Complaints were received from WMU 152 in winter 2014-2016 reporting damage to fences from moose. Surveys of WMUs 151 and 152 in 2015 substantiated increased number of moose in those units, and special licences were increased by 60% for antlerless and 80% for antlered moose. Similar allocations for 2017-2019.
- Survey of WMU 163 in 2016 indicated substantial increase of moose in that WMU. Allocations in 2016 were increased by 60% for antlerless and 55% for antlered moose. Given similarities between WMU 163 and 164, population of moose inferred to have increased there as well. Similar moose allocations in WMUs 163 and 164 in 2017-2019. WMU 164 to be assessed in 2020.
- Survey of WMU 160 indicated moose numbers (~200) in agreement with expectations given hunter harvest reporting and communications.

**Mule deer**

- Based on 2016 aerial survey in WMU 163, 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. In 2016, 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 and current information from aerial surveys, special licences were reduced slightly in most Special Areas WMUs in 2015-2017, with modest increases in 2018 and 2019.
- Survey of WMU 160 indicated mule deer numbers have recovered and are on the increase.

**White-tailed deer**

- A General Licence (no draw) can be purchased for white-tailed deer which allows harvest of an antlered animal during rifle season. Currently there is also a Special Licence draw for antlerless white-tailed deer in all WMUs in Special Areas.
- Based on 2016 aerial survey in WMU 163, 2015 aerial surveys in WMUs 151 and 152, and 2014 surveys in WMUs 162 and 166, white-tailed deer populations appear to be near department goals in most WMUs in Special Areas. Antlerless special licence numbers were reduced slightly in 2015, and double tags removed; 2019 allocations similar to 2018.

**Pronghorn**

- Provincial survey was conducted in July 2018. AMAs G (WMUs 150,151,152) and H (WMUs 160,162,163,164,166) combined had 13% higher abundance than the last provincial survey in 2017. Moderate increase in allocations for trophy, archery, and non-trophy tags.
- Provincially, the population increased 23% between 2015 and 2017 to an estimated 18,185 but declined 18% to 14,972 in 2018. The decline is attributed to harsh winter/spring conditions in southern parts of the range. Anecdotal information and reports indicate the provincial population likely increased in 2019.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**

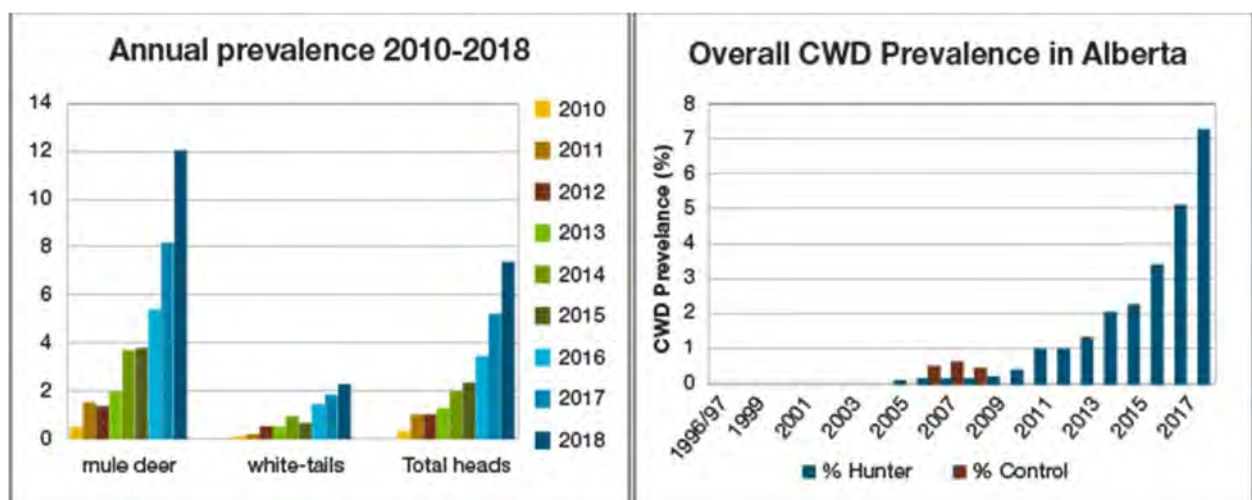
CWD was detected in:

- 579 of 7,866 testable heads (7.4%; up from 5.2% in 2016/17).
- 12.0% of 4,222 mule deer
- 2.3% of 3,070 white-tailed deer
- 0 of 204 moose (primarily from CFB Wainwright).
- 0.8% of 361 elk (primarily from CFB Suffield).

In the 7,269 deer for which gender/sex was reported, CWD was detected in:

- 17.8% of 2,236 male mule deer
- 5.5% of 1,976 female mule deer
- 2.7% of 2,307 male white-tailed deer
- 1.1% of 750 female white-tailed deer

The great majority of infected deer come from areas in eastern alberta; WMUs 150, 151, and 163 are among the highest in the province for prevalence of CWD. The disease also continues to expand westward. In 2018, it was detected in five WMUs where not known to previously occur (128, 132, 252, 260,501).



## 100 YEAR FARM FAMILY AWARDS

| Year: | # of Awards |
|-------|-------------|
| 1908  | 12          |
| 1909  | 36          |
| 1910  | 46          |
| 1911  | 36          |
| 1912  | 14          |
| 1913  | 6           |
| 1914  | 4           |
| 1915  | 3           |
| 1916  | 3           |
| 1917  | 1           |
| 1918  | 1           |
| 1919  | 1           |
| TOTAL | 163         |

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shyanne Jones*

### Motions & Resolutions from 2019 Ratepayer Meetings

**SA2SUB1&5 - Motion 1:** Mike Hart moves that the Special Areas Board move forward with the 2014 Tax Recovery Land Sale by the end of 2020. Seconded by Merle Blair. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 - Motion 1:** Whereas other counties and municipalities have successfully implemented online payment systems for land taxes and other services.

Be it resolved that Special Areas implement an online payment system for the 2020 fiscal year. Moved by Neil Dornan. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 - Motion 2:** Stella Hart moves to proceed with purchase of tax recovery land, with equality to all leaseholders. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 3:** Colin Kloot moves that Little Fish Lake Miscellaneous Leases are increased from 10 years to 20 years. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 4:** Colin Kloot moves that Special Areas Board investigate the possibility for ownership by title of the leased lots at Little Fish Lake. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 5:** Stella Hart moves that Special Areas research acquiring gas wells to be used for economic development initiatives. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 6:** Stan Fullerton moves that Special Areas repair to some degree, fence and board up the Dorothy Elevator to be less of a liability. Seconded by Frank Roes. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 7:** Frank Roes moves that Special Areas investigate options to repair the drainage of Little Fish Lake. Seconded by Colin Kloot. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1:** Regan Curry moves the SAB explore ownership (either whole or in part) of the ATCO waterline and pumps that service the Sheerness Power Plant to protect and possibly enhance the water licence associated with it. Seconded by Trevor Kingcott. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2:** Brad Rooke moves that SAB initiate a new Tax Recovery Land Sale. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3:** Craig Horner moves that SAB make a policy to have leaseholder signoff before issuing comment on a reclamation application. Seconded by Brad Rooke. **Carried.**

**SA2SUB3&4 - Motion 4:** Regan Curry moves that SAB lobby the Minister of Environment and Parks to ensure current reclamation meets the standards laid out by the AER. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

**No motions from SA2 SUB7&8.**

**SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 1:** Moved by Mark Perrault to have TwpRd 29-0 constructed to a backtrail standard from 884 to 886. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

**SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 2:** Moved by Kyle Christianson and Seconded by Kirby Laughlin to appoint Glen Roseneau to replace Bruce Peacock as the Road Committee member for the SW corner of Special Areas 3-5. **CARRIED.**

**SA4SUB1,2,3 – Motion 1:** Erica Hadwin moved that Special Areas have another tax recovery land sale with as many quarters as possible available for purchase by the lessee. Seconded by Shirley Evaskevich. **CARRIED.**

**SA4 SUB1,2,3 – Motion 2:** Moved by Sandy Kelts that Barry Davis replace Don Kozlinski as road committee member in SD#3, NW Corner. Seconded by Colin Ulseth. **CARRIED.**

**SA4 SUB1,2,3 – Motion 3:** Moved by Sandy Kelts that Carley Day replace Dana Henfrey-Sansregret on the Special Area #4 Recreation Board. Seconded by Pat Rutledge. **CARRIED.**



## SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

June 19, 2019

HANNA PROVINCIAL BUILDING

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Kevin Bossert | 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 – Regrets |
| James Madge   | Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 5 – Regrets |
| 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 |
| Sam Shadlock | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5 |
| Kevin Wilson | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6 |

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Graham Schetzle | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1 |
| Barry Redel     | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2 |
| Doug Noble      | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3 |

### SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jordon Christianson | Chair, Special Areas Board            |
| Owen Francis        | Director, Municipal Services          |
| Darcy Ferguson      | Director, Finance & Administration    |
| Trent Caskey        | Director, Property Administration     |
| Corinne Kelts       | Administrator, Special Area No. 4     |
| Brett Richards      | Administrator, Special Area No. 2     |
| Darran Dick         | Administrator, Special Area No. 3     |
| Shaune Kovitch      | Superintendent of Roads and Equipment |
| Kelsey Martin       | Aggregate Manager                     |
| Darren Jones        | Coordinator of Financial Services     |
| Maeghan Chostner    | Communications                        |
| Shyanne Jones       | Recording Secretary                   |

### **CALL TO ORDER 9:39 A.M.**

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the summer Council meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the agenda. The minutes from Fall Advisory Council were reviewed.

### **MOTION AC01-01-19: ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 2018 MINUTES**

**MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZYK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 6, & 7, 2018 AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.**

Mr. Jones came forward to review the audited 2018 Financial Statements. The audit was clean again this year. Special Areas continues to be in a strong financial position and focus on lowering expenditures through operational efficiencies and competitive contract pricing. Revenue for 2018 was budgeted at \$52.1M and came in at \$57.6M due to an increase in oil well drilling and MSI advance payment. Expenses were budgeted at \$55M and came in at \$53.9M. The budgeted deficit was \$2.8M, the actual cash basis settled at \$3.7M in surplus making the total accumulated surplus \$15.4M.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the 2019 Budget Variance. The graders are coming with savings which could be due to the improvements in the US dollars. If cash flow is favorable, Special Areas will look to

buy-out scrapers earlier than their five-year lease. There was discussion on rebuilding scrapers versus purchasing new. The GBC contract is expected to come in under budget as well. Federal funds were received for the Bindloss fire and have been distributed to partner municipalities who assisted.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed recreation funding noting the Consort Swimming Pool is likely to move ahead this year, more funding may be required for this project.

The new projected deficit for 2019 is \$1.9M down from the original projection of \$2.8M.

Mr. Christianson noted there has been provincial conversations regarding municipal property taxes industry is required to pay

Special Areas has been managing for the past few years using the bad debt levy. It was suggested assessment reflect productions on low producing wells.

Mr. Christianson will send the RMA position on this issue to Council.

Mr. Ferguson noted Special Areas budget is proceeding well – nice to see some savings in expenditures early in the year.

Discussion move to mill rates with the categories being reviewed in detail.

It was noted abandoned wells continue to increase faster than new wells are being installed. Non-residential assessments account for 85.5% of Special Areas assessment base. The municipal mill rate is set at 5.51mills. The allowance for bad debt was reviewed noting the goal this year was to keep the mill rate the same as last year for industry. The provincial budget has not been passed so the school requisition is yet to be determined. Designated industrial property rates are mandated through a Ministerial Order and set by the province. The Medical mill rate is set at .15 to bring in \$612,396 to assist medical committees in the three areas.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the total mill rates as well as comparisons with surrounding municipalities.

Mr. Caskey came forward to provide an update on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP) required by the new *Municipal Government Act* for every municipality (or special area) that shares a boundary. A number of requirements address conflict resolution which has not been an issue for Special Areas in the past. Special Areas will require a Ministerial Order to sign off on ICF's. Public consultation is required and will be advertised.

Mr. Caskey noted Mr. Nolan Ball was named the Young Agrologist of the Year from the AIA. Congratulations Nolan.

Mr. Ball provided precipitation data so far this year in Special Areas to Council. Most areas are ¼ to ½ of the normal precipitation usually received. Rain has been spotty and inconsistent.

Mr. Ball gave an update on the land inventory within Special Areas. The goal is to inspect 170,000 acres of grazing leases. The land ownership classifications were reviewed. Policy 05-17: Issuing Cultivation Leases was reviewed and based on criteria, an estimated 146,638 acres are eligible to be converted to a Cultivation Lease. There are 11,568 acres classified sand/loamy sand and not able to be converted.

Mr. Ball informed the Council of a Stewardship course happening in Buffalo this year and the theme is resiliency for drought and fire. The course is scheduled July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. A reclamation course is scheduled in Consort in August. There are a numerous oil & gas companies and consultants working in the area and education prior to construction will be beneficial for all involved. There was discussion on seed mixes and recommended mixes or guidelines companies can use for reclamation. The AER provides reclamation certificates and there is sometimes a disconnect as Special Areas receives a notice stating rentals are terminated however no inspection has been done to ensure the reclamation has occurred.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Ball for the information.



There was a question on the number of leaseholders who would have access to conversion.

Mr. Caskey provided a review of the Community Pasture Policy committee noting public consultation closes July 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is expected results will be available for the September Council meeting and a final draft presented at Fall Council for implementation in 2020. The statement of purpose for Community Pastures has not been defined, the committee is looking for public input. Discussion items include raising the assessment maximum, long-term patrons, and proximity. Feedback has been consistently tracking with Ratepayer meetings and to date, all responses have been online. It was noted this is not a discussion on the sale of community pasture.

There was discussion on TRLS.

## **LUNCH**

Mr. Wilson departed.

Mr. Christianson noted he recently had a meeting on Dinosaur Provincial Park and tabled discussion to the Committee Roundtable later today, along with assisted living in Oyen and the TRLS discussion.

The SAWSP EIA is complete and there were no red flags – other than economic. The capital cost and return on investment is not attractive. The options were reviewed:

1. Do not proceed to Phase 2.
2. Submit the EIA to AEP for regulatory review and direct NRCB to undertake a Public Interest Determination without CEAA participation.
3. Submit the EIA to AEP for regulatory review and direct NRCB to undertake a Public Interest Determination with CEAA participation.
4. SAB undertake a public consultation on the project and request preferred next steps from the public.

Public consultation will be vitally important for this project. Part of the challenge is the future visioning for this area and securing water for irrigation, stock water, and domestic use in the Special Areas.

### **MOTION AC01-02-19: PROCEED WITH SAWSP PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**MOVED BY BARRY REDEL AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PROCEED WITH A PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SPECIAL AREAS WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN FALL 2019. CARRIED.**

Public consultation will be planned for Fall 2019.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Mayor Chris Warwick, CAO Kim Neill and Mr. Jay Slep to provide an update on the Hanna Solar Project. Mayor Warwick thanked the Council for the opportunity noting ATCO is going forward with the conversion to natural gas while retaining the ability to still burn coal. With the recent sale, some personnel are transferring to the new company and TransAlta still owns a portion. The issues facing the Hanna Solar Project were reviewed noting there is no longer a project. While funding was applied for and granted through the ERA Best Challenge, a request will be made to transfer the \$10M received to another project. Another opportunity is a community generation project, a consultant, CWL, has been hired to investigate options.

The Town of Hanna is looking to partner with Special Areas on economic development opportunities in this area.

Mr. Slep noted the frustration on the outcome of the Hanna Solar Project. The objective is to reduce the power costs for municipalities by developing a community power generation solution. There are several options such as investigating cost reductions for the Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission. There are gas generators or solar solutions that could be used to cut costs for rural recreation facilities like curling rinks, arenas and community halls.

Mr. Slemp thanked the Board and Council for their support on these initiatives. There was discussion on requesting the ERA Best \$10M be used to support a community project outside Special Areas or potentially to projects within such as the Canadian Solar project in Jenner.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for coming.

Mr. Francis provided an update on 2019 Road Surfacing projects noting there was an expansion for work on the Fullerton road. A few kilometers were added for re-construction. The Shoulder Pull program is underway and the crew is completing approximately 1,000m per day – one lane is done at a time. Mr. Francis updated the Council on the status of each of the crews noting GBC is now on Hwy 899 and ditch mowers have started in certain areas. There was discussion on pavement at Veteran on the road out to the fire hall noting the pavement failed and there is a CSG dust-free surface installed which is expected to last for five or six years. The District Offices are maintaining a list of ditch mowing to ensure requests are tracked and communicated.

Mr. Bossert departed the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

A concern was brought forward on a fresh oiled surface south of Consort that had cattle moving on it, and the road getting damaged. Mr. Francis suggested the road can be repaired once crews are notified there is damage.

## **BREAK**

Mr. Francis noted the Fire Commissioner's Office requested fire support from the Town of Hanna and Special Areas for High Level. A crew and truck were sent for a four-day tour.

Mr. Christianson noted there has been provincial discussion and RMA has conducted research on assessment for shallow gas wells. The RMA position paper will be sent to Council.

Mr. Christianson updated the council on Dinosaur Provincial Park (DPP) and the ERA Best funds.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the assisted living project in Oyen noting in January 2019, the project was on the provincial capital plan for 2019/2020 and according to the Executive Director of Capital Initiatives for Seniors and Housing the project status has not changed.

There was discussion on the proposed Oyen medical clinic noting this project will be paused until the assisted living and dementia care beds are settled.

The Council moved to discuss a possible Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS), with talk of the sale of Crown lands in the North and South now may be the time to bring a new policy forward. It was asked what information is required to make decisions. There was a 2014 TRLS policy drafted which could be used as the template.

The Property Administration department has a number of initiatives planned and capacity is a concern. Initiatives include: Abandoned Rail Beds Policy, ICF's/IDP's, and Community Pasture Policy – all these projects require resources.

The land inventory has been started. It was suggested this item be tabled until the September meeting providing some time for the new provincial government to become familiar with the current status.

### **MOTION AC01-03-19: COMMITTEE FOR TRLS**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY SAM SHADLOCK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL STRIKE A TRLS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE 2014 TRLS POLICY TO BRING TO CURRENT FOR POSSIBLE SALE IN 2020 AND APPOINT ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH SPECIAL AREA. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC01-04-19: APPOINTMENTS FOR TRLS COMMITTEE**

**MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT BRAD SLORSTAD, SAM SHADLOCK AND DOUG NOBLE BE APPOINTED TO THE TRLS COMMITTEE. CARRIED.**

Mr. Osadczuk brought forward a concern on drought conditions noting his area of the province is struggling with the lack of moisture. Ranchers are selling cattle and could be under financial stress if tax deferral is not in place. The programs are based strictly on rainfall data. This issue needs to be top of mind and a plan put in place should conditions worsen.

The Council moved to Committee Roundtable discussions.

**Alfred Brown Handibus:** Mr. Redel – Casino raised \$22,000. The old bus is repaired and in use, work continues on funding for a new bus.

**Acadia Foundation:** Mr. Horner, Mr. Swenson and Mr. Schetzle – Hanna and Consort have 9 empty units, Oyen will have some coming at the end of the month. A dementia building in Oyen is being discussed. The level of occupancy is becoming an issue, ideas are being brainstormed to increase occupancy. The average age of occupants is 89, in previous years the average was in the 70's; more seniors are aging at home.

**Ag. Service Board SA2:** Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Roes – haven't had a meeting recently.

**Ag. Service Board SA3:** Mr. Foot, Mr. Shadlock. – no major developments.

**Ag. Service Board SA4:** Mr. Redel and Mr. Schetzle – there was an issue with Baby's Breath, the ratepayer was fined – and he has broken the quarter. The SAB inquired on the fine noting it would require a Ministerial Order to place the fine onto the taxes. Ms. Kelts noted the ratepayer contravened the *Weed Act* twice and could have been fined much more than \$5,000. The ASB recommended a fine and Special Areas approved, if the fine is not enforced there is concern future issues will be created. The fine remains on the account and notices will continue to be sent.

**Battle River Watershed Alliance:** Ms. Kelts – missed last meeting, the AGM is next week in Camrose.

**Big Country Medical Centre:** Mr. Wilson, Mr. Foot – there is hope of a new clinic however there is the question of what to do with the current clinic. Another meeting is scheduled for this evening.

**Big Country Waste Management Commission:** Mr. Bossert, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schetzle – Mr. Sean Olmstead has proven to be very impressive as he's prepared and has plans clearly outlined. Recycling is more than plastic, Ms. Kelts noted a pilot project with grain bags and bailing was explored – it's expensive. There has been talk of manufactures being more responsible for disposal.

**Cactus Corridor Economic Development Corp:** Ms. Richards – the group is without an economic development officer. Work continues with Doug Griffiths and the transition.

**Canadian Badlands:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Wilson – they are seeking to add direct marketing funding to further their campaign. It is difficult to get past the mountains – the voice for tourism on the prairie tends to be lost.

**Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Roes – season is functioning well. Volume at Carolside is going down quickly – the system requires additional security built in and increasing FSL at Carolside would assist.

**MOTION AC01-05-19: CAROLSIDE RESERVOIR FSL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL REQUEST ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS PROCEED WITH A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO RAISE FULL-SUPPLY LEVEL ON THE CAROLSIDE RESERVOIR. CARRIED.**

**Consort and District Medical Centre Board:** Mr. Redel, Mr. Schetzle – there is a full-time doctor in Consort. Meetings are scheduled with AHS next month. One of the two rental houses are empty, the other is being used by physician. There are 24 houses for sale in Consort, so the Board would like direction on what to do with the empty house. The legal fees and court cases have been resolved. Mr. Schetzle noted Mr. Redel took on a lot of responsibility in handling the legal challenges and did a great job. The CDMCB goal is to have physicians running the clinic.

**East Central Housing Society:** Mr. Noble – defers to Ms. Kelts, a recent fundraising initiative brought in \$11,000.

**Municipal Planning Commission:** Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Redel – business as usual, the wind farm amendment went to AUC in January and the outcome has not been released. The project decreased the number of towers as the tower size has increased which created a fundamental change to the project which required AUC approval. There was discussion on the SA LUO and policy setbacks required for renewable energy projects.

Four projects were successful under the Renewable Energy Programs offered by the province: one in Jenner, two in Buffalo, and the Sharp Hills project. There are between 10-15 projects in Special Areas.

**Palliser Economic Partnership:** Mr. Slorstad – PEP is looking to increase their requisition – the AGM is June 21<sup>st</sup>. This organization is a lead generator for member municipalities.

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Noble – There has been staff changes resulting in a junior planner and senior planner. Members are getting better service. PRMS is looking at a different funding model.

**Prairie Conservation Forum:** Mr. Osadczuk – Mr. Nolan Ball is chair – tour in June celebrating 30 years.

**Recreation Boards** – Business as usual, a hall in SA2 may shut down soon.

**Red Deer River Watershed Alliance:** Mr. Foot – The group is concerned with water use for oil & gas fracking and looking to slow that down.

**Red Deer River Municipal Users Group:** Mr. Foot – meetings aren't close – haven't been able to attend.

**SAMDA:** Mr. Shadlock – group is on hiatus.

**Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission:** Mr. Redel – The Brownfield truckfill station is completed. There was discussion on the large size of the lagoon at Consort and a question if it was built to be a regional lagoon. The lagoon could be used for Monitor, but the cost of pumping waste would be prohibitive.

**South Eastern Alberta Watershed Alliance:** Mr. Swenson – haven't had contact from this group.

**Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Alliance:** Mr. Sheppard is the representative. Mr. Francis noted siting options for a facility have been submitted.

**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board:** Mr. Swenson, Mr. Shadlock and Mr. Schetzle – recently had an appeal to split a quarter into two 80acre subdivisions for estate planning purposes. All members of the group have attended training. Mr. Slemm did a good job chairing the hearing. Training sessions have occurred which need to be revisited every few years. Special Areas staff now have training.

That concludes the Roundtable Committee discussions.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for the support of the Safety Program – staff appreciate it very much.

**ADJOURNMENT 5:19 P.M.**

# SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 25, 2019

Gem Centre, Consort, AB

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Kevin Bossert   | Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 1 – Regrets |
| 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 – Regrets |
| 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 – Regrets |
| Sam Shadlock    | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5           |
| Kevin Wilson    | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6           |
|                 |   |
| Graham Schetzle | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1           |
| Barry Redel     | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2 – Regrets |
| Doug Noble      | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3           |

## SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jordon Christianson | Chair, Special Areas Board            |
| Owen Francis        | Director, Municipal Services          |
| Darcy Ferguson      | Director, Finance & Administration    |
| Trent Caskey        | Director, Property Administration     |
| Corinne Kelts       | Administrator, Special Area No. 4     |
| Brett Richards      | Administrator, Special Area No. 2     |
| Darran Dick         | Administrator, Special Area No. 3     |
| Shaune Kovitch      | Superintendent of Roads and Equipment |
| Kelsey Martin       | Aggregate Manager                     |
| Darren Jones        | Coordinator of Financial Services     |
| Maeghan Chostner    | Communications                        |
| Shyanne Jones       | Recording Secretary                   |

## **CALL TO ORDER 10:31 A.M.**

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this Council meeting. The agenda was reviewed with no additions. The minutes from the June Advisory Council were emailed for review.

## **MOTION AC02-01-19: ADOPTION OF JUNE 19, 2019 MINUTES**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2019 AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.**

Mr. Ferguson reviewed budget highlights and budget variances to date. The provincial budget has not been released as of today, meaning numbers could change before the end of year. Assessment numbers are up, and bad debt can't be calculated until after November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Shoulder Pull program did go over budget by completing more kilometers. The largest change to the budget is the proposed outright purchase of two scrapers versus the budget plan of a lease/loan purchase of these scrapers. Total revenue changes net of expenditure changes in the budget, equate to an additional deficit of \$869,000 bringing the projected deficit to \$3.6M instead of \$2.8M.

There was discussion on the scraper rebuilds noting the overrun there was due to other pieces requiring work. At the original estimate of \$800k, it appeared economical to rebuild a scraper and add it back into the fleet, but the additional costs have changed that view. However, costs for this are lower than buying new.

The Compeer Hotel has also exceeded budget as the RFP produced quotes based on a 2016 Environmental report. Once the demolition work was started it was discovered asbestos between the first and second floor requires further mitigation. The company subcontracted to do the air study was the same one who produced the 2016 Environmental report.

Community Pasture rehabilitation shows a deficit however, federal funds were received and revenue was recorded in 2018 with the expenditures recorded in 2019.

Mr. Ferguson noted the numbers will continue to fluctuate until December 2019.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the 35% reduction for Shallow Gas producers; the Province suggests municipalities give a 35% credit to companies and the province will credit that value back on the education requisition amounts for 2019. There was a meeting with the top affected municipalities to discuss options. Special Areas wrote-off \$2.4M. Special Areas has implemented the Bad-Debt Levy to assist with the loss of revenue.

The Orphan Well program does not pay taxes and that is another issue to be addressed provincially.

Mr. Christianson brought forward a request from Prairie Rose School Division for Special Areas to continue with assistance for New Brigden School. The school operates at a deficit but there is no talk of school closure at this point. Enrollments have increased and are projected to increase for the next few years.

**MOTION AC02-02-19: SUPPORT FOR NEW BRIGDEN SCHOOL**  
**MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD CONTINUE PROVIDING \$10,000 PER YEAR FOR TWO MORE YEARS TO THE NEW BRIGDEN SCHOOL FOR OPERATIONS. CARRIED.**

Mr. Martin provided a review of Gravel Haul rates and history to the Council. The compensation rate for the GBC project on Hwy 889 was a concern due to the road conditions and the operational requirements for this specific job. In GBC jobs there are inefficiencies not present in maintenance jobs due to the stoppage and wait times. A history of the SAB Gravel Haul rate was reviewed. Based on analysis, the load factor and haul factor for this project was increased 16% (which equates to a 1.1% yearly increase since 2005). Accommodations were made for haulers to access fuel closer to the site reducing long travel times. The haulers are local and important for the surrounding communities. This rate change was only in effect for the Hwy 899 GBC job. A cost comparison between Hwy 899 and the Kirriermuir Road will be brought to Fall Advisory Council.

#### **LUNCH**

Mr. Caskey provided information on the Community Pasture Policy Committee noting the committee was not put forward to sell the pastures. Ms. Chostner provided an overview of the Community Pasture Public Consultation process and participation results.

Mr. Caskey reviewed the changes from the current Community Pasture Policy and is looking for direction today. It is hoped the new policy can be implemented for 2020 allotments. Significant changes were made to assessment and patron retirement options. There was discussion on the resources in Community Pastures and the rates the province dictates by Ministerial Order as well as the reasonable amount of time required to stabilize a unit. Current patrons would be given time to qualify for the new policy.

**MOTION AC02-3-19: COMMUNITY PASTURE POLICY 2019**  
**MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD ADOPT THE COMMUNITY PASTURE POLICY AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.**

Discussion moved to the 2020 Community Pasture rates. Mr. Caskey noted the rates are set by Ministerial Order and generally the rate is proposed in fall so the rate can be put on patron applications. This year a five-cent increase is proposed bringing the rate to \$0.80. It was suggested if a new policy is being implemented, it would be a good time to have the pastures 'break-even'.

**MOTION AC02-4-19: COMMUNITY PASTURE RATE 2020**  
**MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD REQUEST A 2020 COMMUNITY PASTURE RATE OF \$0.85/HEAD/DAY AND INCREASE BY \$0.05 EACH YEAR UNTIL THE RATE IS \$1.00/HEAD/DAY, WITH THE CALF RATE REMAINING AT \$8.00/HEAD/SEASON. CARRIED**

It was suggested Community Pasture rates be part of the Red Tape Reduction.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the SAWSP public consultation. In June, it was discussed to have the consultation this fall however the consultation will occur in early 2020. The plan is to have open houses in Hanna, Consort and Oyen. Information will be available to ratepayers ahead of the meetings and feedback will be solicited. The purpose of the open houses is to gather information to make recommendations for the project.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the current status of SAMDA noting the organization has been without an Economic Development Officer (EDO) since last year. Direction for the organization is not clear so a new EDO has not been hired. The SAMDA Board has made a recommendation for respective

Councils to determine next steps. Special Areas will continue to be involved in and support economic development in each of the areas. Cactus Corridor is also without an EDO. There is a model to utilize regional partnerships and this can be explored.

Mr. Christianson discussed the response from Minister Nixon regarding increasing FSL on the Carolside Reservoir. A meeting has occurred with Mr. Clayton Weiss and it was suggested a high-level study be done to determine assets in the area for future irrigation.

Mr. Noble departed at 2:05 p.m.

There was discussion on SAB partnering with AEP and using Special Areas assets to investigate the increase in irrigation acres. The SAB has requested a meeting with Minister Nixon prior to Fall RMA and this item would be on the agenda along with elk at the Suffield Base.

Mr. Osadczuk brought forward a concern with the Jenner bridge. The summer was spent rebuilding the deck and replacing boards and now they are falling apart. Mr. Francis will connect with Alberta Transportation.

There was a suggestion for SAB to reach out federally and inquire why ratepayers have not received compensation from the Bindloss Fire event. It was noted Special Areas recovered loss of grazing days and loss of use but not loss of grass.

**MOTION AC02-5-19: LETTER TO FEDS ON BINDLOSS FIRE CLAIMS**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY SAM SHADLOCK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SEND A LETTER ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED CLOSURE TO THEIR FIRE CLAIMS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC02-6-19: MOVE IN-CAMERA**

**MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MOVE IN CAMERA AT 2:15 P.M. AS PER *FOIP S. 19*. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC02-7-19: MOVE OUT-OF-CAMERA**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MOVE OUT-OF-CAMERA AT 2:30 P.M. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for attending.

**ADJOURNMENT 2:30 P.M.**

## SPECIAL AREAS FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 4, 5, 6, 2019

Hanna Provincial Building

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Kevin Bossert | 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 – Regrets Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| 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 |
| Sam Shadlock | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5 |
| Kevin Wilson | Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6 |

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Graham Schetzle | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1 |
| Barry Redel     | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2 |
| Doug Noble      | Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3 |

### SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jordon Christianson | Chair, Special Areas Board            |
| Owen Francis        | Director, Municipal Services          |
| Darcy Ferguson      | Director, Finance & Administration    |
| Trent Caskey        | Director, Property Administration     |
| Corinne Kelts       | Administrator, Special Area No. 4     |
| Brett Richards      | Administrator, Special Area No. 2     |
| Darran Dick         | Administrator, Special Area No. 3     |
| Shaune Kovitch      | Superintendent of Roads and Equipment |
| Kelsey Martin       | Aggregate Manager                     |
| Ryley Girletz       | Facilities Manager                    |
| Darren Jones        | Coordinator of Financial Services     |
| Maeghan Chostner    | Communications                        |
| Darlene Herzog      | Admin Assistant                       |
| Shyanne Jones       | Recording Secretary                   |

### **CALL TO ORDER 1:01 P.M.**

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this Council meeting. Introductions were made around the room. The agenda was reviewed with an emergent issue added for cell phone service and concerns with Community Pasture policy. Board Appointments will be required this meeting as the current appointments expire April 30, 2020. Elections for SA2 and SA3 will be needed, Mr. Noble has agreed to let his name stand for a second term representing SA4.

### **MOTION AC03-01-19: ELECTION OF MEETING CHAIRMAN**

**TRAVIS FOOT NOMINATES JORDON CHRISTIANSON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, KEVIN WILSON MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC03-02-19: ELECTION OF MEETING VICE-CHAIR**

**BRAD SLORSTAD NOMINATES DARCY FERGUSON AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, TRAVIS FOOT MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY NEAL ROES. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC03-03-19: ELECTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR**

**KEVIN WILSON NOMINATES BRAD SLORSTAD AS ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR OF THE FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, NEAL ROES MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE, SECONDED BY JAMES MADGE. CARRIED.**

### **MOTION AC03-04-19: ELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

**BRAD SLORSTAD NOMINATES BRAD OSADCZUK; KEVIN WILSON NOMINATES TRAVIS FOOT, AND DARYL SWENSON NOMINATES NEAL ROES TO THE**



**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, GRAHAM SCHETZSLE MOVES NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT. CARRIED.**

The minutes from the September 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting were reviewed.

**MOTION AC03-05-19: ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 MINUTES  
MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson reviewed the motions from Ratepayer Meetings. Some motions will be dealt with during discussions over the next few days.

**MOTION AC03-06-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 1 TO THE FLOOR  
MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT MOTION 1 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 - Motion 1:** Whereas other counties and municipalities have successfully implemented online payment systems for land taxes and other services.

Be it resolved that Special Areas implement an online payment system for the 2020 fiscal year. Moved by Neil Dornan. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

There are two options for cash receipting: 1. Go through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party and pay a fee or, 2. Manage in-house which would require handling data differently and requiring someone to manage. It was suggested SAB investigate working with a bank to get a lower rate. This could come forward in a resolution.

**MOTION AC03-07-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 3 TO THE FLOOR  
MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT MOTION 3 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 3:** Colin Kloot moves that Little Fish Lake Miscellaneous Leases are increased from 10 years to 20 years. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

Lessee's at Little Fish Lake are looking for more security and would like the same length of lease as others in SAB.

**MOTION AC03-08-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 4 TO THE FLOOR  
MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT MOTION 4 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 4:** Colin Kloot moves that Special Areas Board investigate the possibility for ownership by title of the leased lots at Little Fish Lake. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

These issues were discussed at the Handhills Ratepayer meeting, Little Fish Lake leaseholders are looking for tenure and extended security. Typically, a miscellaneous lease is 10 years and other leases are up to 20 years. Leases at Little Fish Lake are typically 10 years. Survey work would be required to create a title. It was noted the yearly renewal is beneficial if there is cleanup required on a property. There are no services provided to these lots.

**MOTION AC03-09-19: LEASES AT LITTLE FISH LAKE  
MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD KEEP MISCELLANEOUS LEASES AT LITTLE FISH LAKE WITH A TERM OF 10 YEARS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-10-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 5 TO FLOOR  
MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT MOTION 5 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 5:** Stella Hart moves that Special Areas research acquiring gas wells to be used for economic development initiatives. Seconded by Stratton Peake. **Carried.**

Natural Gas is difficult now, Medicine Hat is divesting of natural gas assets. In past, the Board has stepped away from taking back wells. This could come forward in a resolution.

**MOTION AC03-11-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 6 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT THAT MOTION 6 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 6:** Stan Fullerton moves that Special Areas repair to some degree, fence and board up the Dorothy Elevator to be less of a liability. Seconded by Frank Roes. **Carried.**

There is a lot of concern, it's not safe. The community is split on tearing down or fixing up. The elevator is a photo icon. Special Areas does own the land through tax recovery. Administration has planned work for the structure.

**MOTION AC03-12-19: DOROTHY ELEVATOR**

**MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD MOVE AHEAD WITH THE ROOF REPAIR AND FENCING AROUND THE DOROTHY ELEVATOR. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-13-19: MOVE SA2SUB2 MOTION 7 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT MOTION 7 FROM SA2SUB2 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB2 – Motion 7:** Frank Roes moves that Special Areas investigate options to repair the drainage of Little Fish Lake. Seconded by Colin Kloot. **Carried.**

There is a natural canal at the end and continues to lose water every year.

**MOTION AC03-14-19: DRAINAGE AT LITTLE FISH LAKE**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INVESTIGATE A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO REPAIR DRAINAGE AT LITTLE FISH LAKE. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-15-19: MOVE SA2SUB3&4 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT MOTION 1 FROM SA2SUB3&4 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1:** Regan Curry moves the SAB explore ownership (either whole or in part) of the ATCO waterline and pumps that service the Sheerness Power Plant to protect and possibly enhance the water licence associated with it. Seconded by Trevor Kingcott. **Carried.**

A relationship with Heartland Generation should be cultivated to ensure water keeps flowing.

**MOTION AC03-16-19: MOVE SA2SUB3&4 MOTION 3 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT MOTION 3 FROM SA2SUB3&4 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3:** Craig Horner moves that SAB make a policy to have leaseholder signoff before issuing comment on a reclamation application. Seconded by Brad Rooke. **Carried.**

Concern over the past few years that the reclamation process has been fast tracked with certificates sent before crews are out to perform the reclamation. There is concern requirements are not being met. Only AER signs off, the Landowner does not. Mr. Ball reviewed the process.

**MOTION AC03-17-19: MOVE SA2SUB3&4 MOTION 4 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT MOTION 4 FROM SA2SUB3&4 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA2SUB3&4 - Motion 4:** Regan Curry moves that SAB lobby the Minister of Environment and Parks to ensure current reclamation meets the standards laid out by the AER. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

This motion is similar, but requests AER ensure standards are met. It was noted AER and AEP are two separate ministries and adding regulations at this time will be difficult. The ask is for the current regulations to be followed.

**MOTION AC03-18-19: MEETING WITH AEP & ENERGY RE RECLAMATION**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SEEK A MEETING WITH MINISTER NIXON AND MINISTER SAVAGE TO DISCUSS RECLAMATION CONCERNS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-19-19: MOVE SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY SAM SHADLOCK THAT MOTION 1 FROM SA2SUB4,5,6 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 1:** Moved by Mark Perrault to have TwpRd 29-0 constructed to a backtrail standard from 884 to 886. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

Mr. Francis noted this is a backtrail, unimproved on a gravel road and the request is to move this portion to a high-grade gravel standard. Administrative policy is to attempt to keep the road network with the same kilometers, this project would add 20 miles. Mr. Wilson noted this would assist in keeping large farm equipment off Hwy 9. This request has not been discussed at the Road Committee meeting to this magnitude, it is a lower priority road and keeps getting bumped.

**MOTION AC03-20-19: SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 2 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY SAM SHADLOCK AND SECONDED BY TRAVIS FOOT THAT MOTION 2 FROM SA3SUB4,5,6 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-21-19: APPOINT ROAD COMMITTEE SA3**

**MOVED BY SAM SHADLOCK AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPOINT GLEN ROSENEAU TO REPLACE BRUCE PEACOCK AS THE ROAD COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR SW CORNER OF SA3 SUB 5. CARRIED.**

SA4Sub1,2,3 Motion 1 regarding a TRLS will be discussed later.

**MOTION AC03-22-19: SA4SUB1,2,3 MOTION 2 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT MOTION 2 FROM SA4SUB1,2,3 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-23-19: ROAD COMMITTEE SA4**

**MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY BARRY REDEL THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPOINT BARRY DAVIS TO REPLACE DON KOZLINSKI AS THE ROAD COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR NW CORNER OF SA4 SUB4. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-24-19: SA4SUB1,2,3 MOTION 3 TO FLOOR**

**MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT MOTION 3 FROM SA4SUB1,2,3 BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-25-19: SA4 REC BOARD APPOINTMENT**

**MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPOINT CARLY DAY TO REPLACE DANA HENFREY-SANSREGRET ON THE SA4 RECREATION BOARD. CARRIED.**

## **BREAK**

Mr. Christianson reviewed the emergent issues. Cell phone service will be discussed when Mr. Osadczuk is available. The Community Pasture policy has revealed two concerns: the yearling rate and phasing out after transferring to a family member.

Mr. Foot is a patron and has heard concerns related to the 10cent rate jump. A heifer is being charged the same as a cow. On economics, the heifer doesn't take the same as a cow. It was noted \$0.85/day is a cheap rate for yearlings – some are looking for recognition that yearlings eat less than cows. There could be push back from the Richdale pasture as it is strictly yearlings. There is a lot of material from the public consultation on the policy to draft a response.

The other concern relates to the change in not being able to roll 50% allotment to others. In the policy, those who don't meet the criteria for land have three years to phase in but not those phasing out. The allotment committee can determine what to do with AUM's. It was suggested this be handled with a motion or a resolution.

**MOTION AC03-26-19: COMMUNITY PASTURE ROLL OUT**  
**MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY KEVIN BOSSERT THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXTEND THE ROLL OUT PERIOD TO THREE YEARS ON POLICY 11-02 COMMUNITY PASTURE POLICY. CARRIED.**

Mr. Noble brought forward a question on sublets – the sublet policy states you must be a resident of Special Areas. This brings concern when someone outside can purchase TRLS land, but someone outside can't sublet or have access to Community Pastures. It's a challenge for those on the borders.

Mr. Joel Nicholson and Mr. Scott Stevens from Alberta Environment and Parks joined the meeting, Mr. Nicholson came forward to provide an update on the Elk surrounding the Suffield Base. Mr. Nicholson thanked the Council for the opportunity and appreciates the invitation to provide an update on wildlife issues. The growth projections for elk were reviewed along with harvest data from the past six years. There have been 6,490 elk harvested since 2012/2013 (which doesn't include the First Nation's harvest outside CFB Suffield). The survey completed in March 2016 counted 4,574 elk. It was noted the CFB Suffield will tolerate 125 hunters on the Base at any one time. The Base Commander has reduced the hunts to three sessions and each session is reduced to three days (from four days).

Bovine TB testing is a federal program and wildlife is considered low risk. CFIA is the only testing facility, three years of testing was arranged and of the 138 samples all tests were negative.

It was noted an issue is elk leaving the Base by breaking fences, depleting water sources and damaging crops – especially in the NE corner outside CFB Suffield. To combat this, the new Base Commander has suggested water development in that area. In 2020 a well will be drilled for water storage for fire fighting capacity and a trough available for elk. He has also suggested adding salt blocks and intends to monitor the success of these initiatives. It was suggested this will be a breeding ground – military are not wildlife experts.

Mr. Nicholson noted the Base dictates the access and the dates for hunts.

Concerns were raised with the costs neighbours of Suffield have incurred with fencing and crop damage – plus having the added burden of dealing with hunters on a regular basis. Insurance is not covering the cost of broken fences.

It was noted the hunts over the past few years have led to a larger distribution of elk, there are resident herds establishing outside the Base. The population needs to be reduced further, in addition to being managed.

There was discussion on CWD and noted it is a concern in elk.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Nicholson for attending and providing an update and hearing Council's concerns— this issue will not be resolved today. Special Areas has a meeting with Minister Nixon in December and will bring this issue forward.

Ms. Shaina Griffith and Ms. Nichole Martin from AFSC joined the meeting to review current statistics. It was noted the report in the Minute Book is skewed as if a loan is not renewed it goes to collection and then once renewal is complete the arrears numbers drastically go down. Direction has been given to increase growth by 13% next year and expedite the loan application process. A few things have changed: a quick loan of up to \$150k can be done in 10 minutes for existing customers and \$100k for new customers; a five-year loan with 20% cash down can be done in approximately 10 minutes. It was noted dealerships are more competitive with new equipment, but AFSC is very competitive for used equipment. Electronic signatures are now accepted, and the renewal process is changing to use legal services instead of going through the AFSC office.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Griffith and Ms. Martin for attending.

Ms. Wanda Diakow came forward to provide an update on economic development activities in the region. Work has been done on the Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) toolkit with businesses in SA3 and SA4 being surveyed, over 100 businesses have been called and results calculated for 85 that were able to provide data. 88% are locally owned and 12% are external. It is important to ensure communities are built with amenities required like child care, medical care, schools etc. There was discussion on Special Areas stepping in to assist businesses with overcoming soil contamination or other barriers, it would help to have the area set up for success and ready for a new business to walk in. Towns are not required to keep an inventory of industrial land.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Diakow for providing an update.

There was discussion on cellular service in the Special Areas –noting the concern is safety and emergency issues. The technology today uses a smaller footprint and the new frequencies don't travel like the old ones did. This is regulated by CRTC, there is no provincial oversight. The market is driving towards data and there's no business model for voice. It was suggested this be brought forward as a resolution at RMA.

The Village of Cereal Viability Review was discussed noting the work is in progress and the Board will prepare a position paper on available services for the public to review ahead of the public meeting scheduled in January 2020.

Committee round table discussions began.

**Alfred Brown Handibus:** Mr. Redel – all is well, the bus is being used a lot.

Mr. Redel departed at 4:55 p.m.

Mr. Christianson noted, when Councillors are appointed to various committees – if a situation arises and there is a question on future direction, inform SA administration.

**Acadia Foundation:** Mr. Horner, Mr. Swenson and Mr. Schetzle – One on-going issue is vacancy – residents are staying at home longer. Hanna has 90% occupancy; Consort is 80% occupied and Oyen is 90% occupied. The dementia/assisted living project continues to move forward and is waiting on federal funds.

**Ag. Service Board SA2:** Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Roes – things are good. The South Region ASB conference was held in Handhills.

**Ag. Service Board SA3:** Mr. Foot – a meeting is scheduled.

**Ag. Service Board SA4:** Mr. Redel and Mr. Schetzle – A weed notice and fine was issued and land has now been sprayed out as recommended. Ms. Kelts noted the landowners requested to make a donation to a local charity in lieu of paying the fine and the request was granted.

**Battle River Watershed Alliance:** Ms. Kelts –AGM held in June, there is drought resilience day folks can attend with a lot of good information. Funding is becoming more of an issue; they have been successful in getting corporate sponsorship for events.

**Big Country Medical Centre:** Mr. Wilson, Mr. Foot – Christmas supper/appreciation had 30 in attendance. The community has three doctors and there are two years remaining on the loan. The building is on hold until the dementia/assisted living building is underway. The blueprints are complete, and land is in process of being transferred for the new building.

**Big Country Waste Management Commission:** Mr. Bossert, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schetzslle – revenue is down but so is intake which will extend the life of the landfill. With revenue reduced, the capital replacement plan is impacted, and a larger requisition will be sent to municipalities.

**Canadian Badlands:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Wilson – the logo has changed, and trail signs have been approved.

**Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Roes – lots of demand for water, two more circles have been allocated. The system is stretched now until more water is available. Good news on the Blowdown canal rehabilitation moving up on the AEP priority list. Mr. Christianson noted there were some funding issues and Special Areas stepped in to assist winterizing the Deadfish pumphouse and repairing the Bogi dam.

**CARA:** Mr. Madge – table until Mr. Redel returns.

**Consort and District Medical Centre Board:** Mr. Schetzslle – annual requisition will be less this year. Sources of revenue are limited and there is still a large deficit. There is doctor coverage 4.5 days/week (Mon-Fri a.m.).

**East Central Ambulance:** Mr. Schetzslle: A new ambulance was purchased in the spring.

**East Central Housing Society:** Mr. Noble – defers to Ms. Kelts, focus has been to fundraise for the Gem Centre, generous donations have reduced the loan to \$400,000. More activities are being booked. The Ag Society pays the utilities as it's their building, this group operates it. There is one issue with a strip of sidewalk that is icy and is becoming a problem.

**Hanna Medial Society:** Mr. Bossert – there are three doctors doing well. The rates will increase eight percent over the next three years.

**Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission:** Mr. Madge – lots of water was sold over the summer months. Rates are stable with small increases planned over the next five years.

**Municipal Planning Commission:** Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Redel – relatively quiet and normal activity. Wind and solar projects are expected in the near future.

**Palliser Economic Partnership:** Mr. Slorstad – things are going well; PEP continues to promote and assist with investigating projects for rural areas. This is a very worthwhile group.

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services:** Mr. Slorstad, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Noble – staffing issues resulted in an HR Consultant being hired and issues have been ironed out.

**Prairie Conservation Forum:** Mr. Osadczuk – will make connections with this group in 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT 5:32 P.M.**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019**

---

**CALL TO ORDER 9:00 A.M.** Missing Sam Shadlock and Brett Richards.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the days agenda – no additions. Mr. Gary Sandberg, ADM and Mr. Darin Perusini were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Sandberg thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend and noted the appreciation the department has for the great working relationship with the SAB. Fiscal prudence and Red Tape Reduction are the focus of the province – balancing the budget and paying off debt.

For the budget – the direction is to reduce the footprint of government. Reductions will be spread across non-critical ministries; education, health and social services have been exempted from the reduction. Those ministries have large budgets which equates to the remaining ministries seeing larger reductions. Grants will see modest reductions with MSI down 9% next year – grants represent 90% of the Municipal Affairs budget. The Local Government Fiscal Framework is part of a new bill and represents \$860M for the province. Its tied to provincial revenues, if revenues go up 2% grants will go up 1% - same for decreases. The big unknown is how the funds will be allocated across the province – the allocation model is still being negotiated. Recently the Minister of Justice released a new approach to funding police services – next year all municipalities will be required to fund policing. Previously, those with populations less than 5,000 have not paid.

Another focus is Red Tape Reduction (RTR), this is a big priority for the next three years with a goal of reducing regulatory requirements by 30%. Special Areas is included in this work and is responsible for part of Phase 2 which includes counting all requirements within public policies and public facing forms. One substantive change from this reduction has been changes to requirements for ICF's and IDP's – this fall the requirements have been cleaned up making the ICF provisions much simpler, and IDPs are not required if both municipalities agree.

There is a list of amendments to be made to the MGA – if there are further amendments the department is open to hearing ideas. The Village of Cereal Viability Review Team has met, and the infrastructure study is complete. In early 2020, a public session will be held to allow for the project to wrap up in April/May 2020. The Minister's preference is for a public vote giving the residents an opportunity to say what they'd like.

Discussion continued on budget noting a 2.8% shrinkage over the term of government – with MSI held this year and a 9% reduction next year. There was a question on coordination of environmental studies required during road construction, Mr. Sandberg noted this has come forward through RTR between AEP and AT and Deputy Minister's have had initial meetings. It was asked if municipalities would have more of a say in policing if they are paying. The increases will be phased in with 2020 at 10%, 2021 at 15%, 2022 at 20% then 2023 paying 30% of the cost paid by municipalities. The rate will be based on 50% per capita and 50% of equalized assessment plus other factors such as distance to a detachment. This increase could break some smaller municipalities. With all the proposed changes: shallow-gas tax, downloading policing, changes to MSI – there needs to be awareness of the cumulative impacts on each of these decisions has on rural municipalities.

Mr. Shadlock joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Regarding assessment, the technical model is complete and will be presented to the Minister for decision. If a decision is not made, assessment year modifiers will need to be implemented.

It was asked if any discussion have occurred regarding the implications of AEMA and plans required by the January 1, 2020 deadline. Mr. Sandberg will inquire.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Sandberg and Mr. Perusini for attending, noting appreciation for the time spent and cooperation SAB receives from the department.

The next item on the agenda is the 2020 Budget. The budget presented to the Board contained a deficit, work has been done to balance the budget – then the police funding numbers were released this morning.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the 2019 Financial Statements noting a deficit of \$1.2M is projected. The original 2020 budget presentation has been amended to come in with a balanced

budget. A slight surplus of \$6,568 is planned for 2020 and a deficit of \$633,094 planned for 2021, 2022 will be closer to a balanced budget.

The current accumulated surplus should be able to finance operations – but at \$13M it won't and TRLS reserves must be used to meet operational requirements each year.

Each revenue area was reviewed beginning with investment income and moving through licenses and permits noting there is a lot of horizontal drilling which is a good revenue source. Special Areas is fiscally conservative in budgeting for revenue.

There was a question on grazing rental rates and adopting the provincial formula – Special Areas intends to remain with the current formula. Mr. Ball will provide information on changes to leaseholders with the proposed formula and the current formula. The agreement with AT for provincial highway maintenance is coming up for renewal and the Board will need to decide if the work should continue.

In Misc. Revenue: used equipment is getting good pricing using Alberta Surplus Sale – a reserve is set on the equipment.

Revenue in 2020 is budgeted at \$53.3M. The Industrial Tax transfer outlined has an increase which has a levy in the mill rate that would be offset by the Acadia Foundation reduction.

Discussion moved to the expenditure details. Bad debt is budgeted at \$200k each year, the MSL lease rentals are kept on as the clean up timeline is not confirmed. There was discussion on Jubilee Insurance and insurance for community halls. Infrastructure planned for each of the District Offices was reviewed nothing the Hanna Administration building renovation is almost complete. Working with Netago, funding for next generation wireless to increase capacity and speed for rural customers is being investigated. There is grant funding for coal impacted communities – but the hard part is licencing the frequency. Moving onto Assessment – appeals have been reduced as the province has taken over industrial appeals; there's been a reduction in wage/salary as assessment is covered by contract.

## **BREAK**

Expenditure discussions continued with details provided for Fire Protection noting SA cost-shares with Hanna Fire on equipment. The Fire Skid Hanna has requested is on the In/Out list for Council to decide. Funds have been included for dementia care/assisted living in Oyen – funding will build the building but then it needs contents. The Consort & District Medical Centre requisition will be down to \$202,000 for 2020. Youngstown Shop expenditures were reviewed, \$33.9M is currently budgeted. There was discussion on the scraper rebuilds, the rebuild program will not be continued with current pricing models. Hamlet Services includes \$100,000 for hamlet clean-up – this can be discussed on the In/Out list.

The Issues Binder has the long-term capital plan available for Council to review.

There was a question on running scrapers longer than 7500hrs, administration tries to manage downtime with the work to be done. Special Areas has a reputation of selling well maintained good working equipment which enables good resell values. Downtime is pricey in the short construction season.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed construction replacement noting two scrapers, two graders and two crawlers are budgeted for. Capital purchases for 2021 and 2022 were reviewed. Discussion moved to water supply, waste management, ag. service boards, range management, community pastures (which contains significant funds for water development), economic development, recreation board funding, parks, and transfers out for taxation.

The In/Out will be reviewed later in the meeting.

## **LUNCH**

Ms. Richards joined the meeting.



## CALL TO ORDER: 1:27 P.M.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda noting the budget In/Out still needs to be reviewed.

- The Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy group consisted of Mr. Trent Caskey, Mr. Jordon Christianson, Mr. Doug Noble, Mr. Brad Slorstad, Mr. Sam Shadlock and Ms. Morgan Horvath. The group reviewed the proposed 2014 policy and updated the draft. Mr. Caskey reviewed the highlights of the last sale. The total acres sold in all sales amount to 1,129,000 equating to \$65,500,000 in sales. Average sale prices of leases and deeded lands were reviewed. For the proposed sale, it is recommended to use current sale assessments as opposed to 1978 assessed values. There was discussion on residence requirements, number of acres to sell, price, along with discounts for restrictive agreements. Maps of titled and tax recovery lands were reviewed. It was noted that funds from TRLS goes to benefit all of SA. Leaseholders who have invested and made improvements to their lease should be recognized.

The policy requires further work to be done prior to 2020 Ratepayer meetings, so it can be reviewed, and feedback provided. Consideration for price, exchanges, and withdrawn parcels must be made and addressed if the policy is to move through channels in Edmonton.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Caskey and the group for the work on the TRLS policy.

Mr. Caskey presented the Sale of Abandoned Railbed chart to review options of what lands are available for sale and what lands are off limits. There was discussion on public access, railbeds are not a roadway open to the public. Mr. Christianson noted railbeds are an asset of all SA not just landowners adjacent and moving forward with this policy could distract from a TRLS policy. It was noted SA has encountered problems with the evolution of authority, when the next landowner will not allow access for a Netago tower or extension of a water line or a municipal utility.

## BREAK

Ms. Angela Burkinshaw and Ms. Teresa Stokes from AEP joined the meeting to review the Modernization of the Public Land Grazing Disposition Fee Framework. Ms. Burkinshaw thanked the Council for the opportunity to present. The range policy team has worked on the *Public Lands Modernization Amendment Act* which takes the public lands rental formula out of the *Public Lands Act*. That *Act* received royal assent on October 30, 2019 and comes into force on January 1, 2020.

The new rate reflects genetic improvements and replaces outdated forage values to provide a fair return to Albertans for grazing on public lands. The new formula has moved to a market-based model that calculates rent based on profit margins. There are 27 inputs for the formula, including these three key calculations:

1. Net revenue calculation
2. Operating cost calculation
3. Rental rate calculation.

A 10-year Olympic average is used to prevent wild swings.

There was a question if slaughter (D class) cows are included in the calculations as Special Areas does use D1, D2, D3 and feeder cows. The new formula will be phased in over five years to ensure there are no sudden changes to leaseholders. If the full rate was put in now it would equate to \$2.78 in the north and \$4.29 in the south – both higher than current SA rate. Assignment fees have also moved to be consistent province wide with a flat rate. There's an application fee of \$3,150. Another part of the new fee framework is a dedicated revenue stream: 30% of all revenue collected (over \$2.9M) will be used for rangeland sustainability initiatives.

The new framework does not affect head tax permits, provincial grazing reserve, Rocky Mountain Forest Reserves and grazing dispositions in Parks. Further information on the framework can be found on the AGLA website and the WSGA website.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Burkinshaw for providing the information noting it will raise questions for SAB. If SAB implements the new formula it will mean significantly lower revenues.

Mr. Jones came forward to review the Budget In/Out listing. A hard copy was provided to Council. At present, there is no plan to increase the split or the municipal mill rates. The Board is looking to change the investment policy and related earnings. A 5% increase in the cultivation lease rate along with the community pasture rate increase will result in an additional \$113,500 in revenue. The operational surplus is projected at \$6,500. Items on the In list are included in the proposed budget, those on the Out list are not in and changing status will affect the bottom line.

There are no big projects on the expenditure side, one item being looked at is the Honoria amounts as they have not been increased since 2009. A 2<sup>nd</sup> CPO is on the out list, but consideration should be given to protect the investment SA has put into roads – that's a lot of ground for one person to cover.

CARA has requested an increase in funding – Mr. Madge noted CARA wages have been frozen for the past five years and the provincial funding is questionable. Mr. Redel noted the soil lab brings in research which is of value and a resource for SA.

Mr. Ferguson noted revenue was conservatively budgeted for, oil well drilling and additional funds could be added. Talks have also started with AIMCo to discuss investment strategies, SA would like to investigate 20-30 year products instead of 3-5 year products. Information will be brought back to Council.

#### **ADJOURNMENT 4:36 P.M.**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019**

---

#### **CALL TO ORDER 9:01 A.M.**

Absent: Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Slorstad, and Ms. Richards.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the days agenda noting elections for Board Members for SA2 and SA3 are required. If Council are not interested in running, they should strike their name from the list at the front of the room. If there's an election, it will be by secret ballot with Mr. Dick and Ms. Kelts as scrutineers.

Mr. Francis introduced Mr. Brent Fecho, the successful candidate for the Shop Superintendent competition.

Mr. Francis and Mr. Martin reviewed the proposed 2020 Road Program and the shoulder pull or re-crowning program.

Some of the work completed this year included the Veteran Fire Hall pad, the Homestead Coulee Fire Hall pad, and an access road at Blood Indian Park. For surfacing, GBC and chip seal was done internally on Hwy 886 and Hwy 899, the Kirriemuir Road was done by contract.

Ms. Richards joined the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Historical GBC costs were reviewed noting good data is being submitted, another year of construction data is required before informed decisions can be made. The equipment tracking sheets have made an impact, crews worked well and there was good weather this season.

It was noted the Esther road is breaking up to almost washboard conditions – the roughness test didn't show any failures. This will be investigated.

There was a comment the contract work for shoulder pull was narrower than the SA forces jobs. Some road may have been built to different standards to begin with.

2019 Productivity initiatives were reviewed:

- Equipment Time Entry sheets – gave supervisors real time data to analyze.
- Micro-survey grade control – good but learned it is expensive wasting approximately 10% of GBC.
- Geotech testing – done on Ellerby/Healy Road.
- Shoulder pull or Re-crowning program – looked at internal and external jobs.

This was a trial year for shoulder pull or re-crowning – based on results, re-crowning has been included in future road program plans. It's warranted and can be built into SAB operations.

Re-crowning initiatives will be brought forward at Road Committee meetings.

The proposed 2020 Road Construction Program was reviewed noting once Council recommends, it will go to Road Committees then come back at Spring Council for a motion to move forward.

**MOTION AC03-27-19: 2020 Road Construction Program**

**MOVED BY TRAVIS FOOT AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE 2020 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO ROAD COMMITTEES. CARRIED.**

Mr. Francis reviewed the proposed 2020 Road Surfacing Program. Work will be done on Hwy 862; this work was scheduled for 2023 but to protect the investment work is required now. Work is also scheduled for the Sedalia Road and Girletz Road. The purchase of scrapers is lined up with paving – there's a dip in the capital plan when ACP is scheduled.

**MOTION AC03-28-19: 2020 Road Surfacing Program**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE 2020 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM OUTLINED IN APPENDIX B BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO ROAD COMMITTEES. CARRIED.**

It was noted the In/Out list contains a GBC project from Cereal to Hwy 570 – it is expected contract pricing will be favourable and there is a need to stabilize the surface.

Maps and schedules are available on the Issues Binder online.

Mr. Darcy Berg and supports from Sedalia area joined the meeting to provide Council with input on the EDP Renewables Sharp Hills Wind project. The project is for 380MW and the company was successful under REP. Understand Council has heard from other residents, and this group has a different perspective. Mr. Berg noted EDP Renewables has not requested the group come and present, however he appreciates the opportunity to provide community support for the project.

One of the current challenges is road construction – the project requires roads in the middle of no where. Putting gravel on a road in SA classifies it as something else, other projects have not followed the Special Areas does road standards. It was noted if the company builds a road, it must meet standards as the road becomes part of the SA road network. Another challenge is the noise allowance, the previous government altered the wording of Rule 12: Noise Control (AUC) moving some of the turbines approved in round 1 out of compliance.

EDP Renewables has put a lot of funds into the communities of Oyen and Consort for the Badlands Baseball Academy and the Consort Swimming Pool. This project is expected to generate \$2M in taxes, 10-15 full-time jobs in Sedalia, construction will bring in 300 jobs and result in \$500M in expenditures – several small local companies could benefit from this project.

There was discussion on the criteria for transmission/collection lines noting turbines cannot be located on crown land, but collections can with an easement for electrical collection systems.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for coming and providing a different perspective, noting SA will connect with EDP to clarify requirements.

## **BREAK**

Council welcomed Mr. Mike Damberger and Mr. Craig Siewert from Alberta Transportation (AT). Mr. Damberger thanked the group for the opportunity noting the great partnership for the agreement on three-digit highways and hopes the agreement continues. AT does not have agreements like this with other municipalities. The challenges with Hwy 9 were brought forward noting issues have been ongoing since the 2012 resurfacing. A rehab project is not in the current plan; however, AT is aware of the issues and is balancing the budget. Maintenance is the cheapest part of operations – crack filling is cheaper than re-paving. Mr. Damberger noted the budget is shifting to reactionary instead of preventative measures.

There was discussion on ditch mowing, noxious weeds, and summer maintenance. A concern was raised regarding a cement barricade on a bridge near Carolside on Hwy 570 – it's blocking a portion of the driving lane and sits on the white line. It was noted b-trains are starting to divert south to Hwy 570 from Hwy 9 at Youngstown and now Hwy 570 is beginning to deteriorate.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Damberger for attending and providing an update.

Council returned to the Board & Committee Roundtable discussion.

**Recreation Board SA2:** Mr. Roes – a new member has been appointed, business as usual and work is being done with the Hanna Library to provide more funding.

**Recreation Board SA3:** Mr. Ferguson – waiting to see what happens with the Village of Cereal.

**Recreation Board SA4:** Mr. Ferguson – new member, there was a tour of facilities and noted the Veteran curling rink has been transformed into a sports facility.

**Red Deer River Watershed Alliance:** Mr. Foot –no meetings unless lumped in with RDRMUG and those meetings tend to be held in Drumheller. Mr. Slemp usually attends. There is a proposed declaration to protect source water quality in the Red Deer River watershed which requires further discussion.

**Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission:** Mr. Redel – the Brownfield line is complete – the line has 10 tap-offs and is priced for household use; would be expensive to water cows. Mr. Francis noted the extension of the SMRWSC line to the Saskatchewan border was the goal, the line has made it to Pemukan with the last grant. The next goal is to get water to Altario utilizing the railbed track.

**Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Alliance:** Mr. Francis noted Mr. Greg Sheppard attends and there's an update in the Issues Binder from Spring 2019.

Mr. Slorstad arrived at 11:32 a.m.

**Special Areas and Oyen Development Corporation:** Mr. Caskey, Mr. Swenson, Mr. Doug Jones, Mr. Joe Lazzari and Mr. Jay Slemp – Not a lot of action in 2019, however, work has been done to move the mainline south. Work has been done to get the rail yard ready for purchase, a subdivision is in progress. Iron Horse will be close to shipping their 1500 car minimum for the year. It was asked if the Promissory Note has been finalized for a repayment schedule noting final numbers are still being firmed up.

**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board:** Mr. Swenson, Mr. Shadlock and Mr. Schetzle – recently had one appeal dealing with a split for succession planning.

That concludes the Roundtable Committee discussions.

Ms. Diane Bannister joined the meeting to provide an overview of the HR Processes for recruitment and hiring. Special Areas manages payroll for BCWMC and the Village of Empress and has provided assistance to Acadia Foundation in the past. There are nine Government of Alberta positions within the Special Areas structure, however the GoA manages the recruitment, evaluation, interview tools, and position compensation. Special

Areas HR manages 110 salary employees plus seasonal wage positions. The hiring process and objectives were reviewed noting an effort is made for open and fair competitions to ensure good staff are found. Advertising is being done for all positions, including seasonal. Once staff are hired, there are orientations for Special Areas, safety, and site-specific.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Bannister and the HR group for the great work on payroll and pensions – great work.

## **LUNCH**

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda noting the In/Out sheet needs review and a motion on budget is requested.

The Issues Binder items were reviewed, some issues have already been discussed throughout the meeting. Issues are located on the Advisory Council Sharepoint site and available for review at any time by Council.

There was discussion on the Community Pastures and questioned if the SAB is interested in getting rid of them. Looking at fencing and buildings, it's not clear \$0.85/day recovers the cost –it was noted the goal is to get cost recovery on the pastures and the increasing of rates annually is getting closer. The Board would require direction from Council to begin discussions.

SAWSP was reviewed noting open houses are being scheduled in Q1 to get public feedback.

Dinosaur Provincial Park: conversations are ongoing, the Board is meeting with Minister Nixon.

Abandoned Railbeds: policy was brought forward.

Land Use Order: PRMS will assist but it's a large time commitment and it's not scheduled at this point.

ICF's & IDP's: PRMS is working on some, SA4 has completed, SA3 is close, and SA2 still needs work. As noted, IDPs are not needed if both municipalities agree.

Village of Cereal Viability Review Team – has been covered.

Financial Targets: neighbour municipal mill rates are updated.

Medical funding and grant funding were reviewed along with the recreation capital plan expenditures. The capital equipment summary was reviewed with explanations provided for fire trucks and related ratings/insurance standards.

An update was provided for the Hanna Climate Change Taskforce; there are federal funds for coal transition communities – infrastructure grants will be investigated for projects like the Hanna Pool, broadband, and irrigation expansion at Carolside.

The Red Tape Reduction initiative is required as Special Areas is a crown agency. There are three phases and SAB is involved in phase 2: policies and public facing forms. After the count of requirements is complete, the goal is to reduce requirements by 1/3 as per government mandate. This is an opportunity to find efficiencies in operations and administration.

Council returned to the In/Out budget discussions.

### **MOTION AC03-29-19: BUDGET 2020 - CARA FUNDING**

**MOVED BY BRENT HORNER AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INCLUDE \$100,000 FOR CARA IN THE 2020 BUDGET AND REDUCE THE OYEN MULTIPLEX FUNDING TO \$75,000. CARRIED.**

It is recommended a balanced budget be forwarded to the Minister for signing showing fiscal responsibility.

There was discussion on the Special Constable to assist with protecting the investment in roads.

**MOTION AC03-30-19: BUDGET 2020 - COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER**

**MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INCLUDE \$100,000 FOR COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER IN THE 2020 BUDGET AND REMOVE THE CAMP KITCHEN AT PRAIRIE OASIS PARK. CARRIED.**

**MOTION AC03-31-19: BUDGET 2020 TO MINISTER**

**MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SEND THE PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET TO THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS. CARRIED.**

Council was asked to provide direction on the agreement with AT for three-digit highways.

**MOTION AC03-32-19: AT AGREEMENT FOR 3-DIGIT HIGHWAYS**

**MOVED BY JAMES MADGE AND SECONDED BY KEVIN BOSSERT THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD ENTER INTO A FURTHER LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION FOR MAINTENANCE ON SPECIFIC THREE-DIGIT HIGHWAYS. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson noted an election for Board Members is not needed and the following members are acclaimed.

**MOTION AC03-33-19: BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS BY ACCLAMATION:**

**MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD THE FOLLOWING BOARD APPOINTMENTS BY ACCLAMATION: BRAD SLORSTAD REPRESENTING SA2, DARYL SWENSON REPRESENTING SA3, AND DOUG NOBLE REPRESENTING SA4. CARRIED.**

The Council reviewed the proposed resolutions.

**RESOLUTION #1: Cell Phone Service in Rural Areas**

**WHEREAS** cell service in the rural areas has deteriorated,  
**WHEREAS** land line installation has long wait times or won't be installed at all, thus the need for trustworthy cell service,  
**WHEREAS** good cell service is needed for emergency situations,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas administration invite the cell providers out to the spring council, and engage RMA in discussions around the extent of rural cell service issues across the province.

**MOVED BY** Brad Osadczuk

**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot

**CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #2: Online Payments**

**WHEREAS** ratepayers have been requesting online payments for many years,  
**WHEREAS** alternative payments exist and would provide better customer service,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Special Areas Administration investigate the best options for electronic banking for the Special Areas for the Spring 2020 council meeting.

**MOVED BY** Neal Roes

**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot

**CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #3: Little Fish Lake Spillway Investigation**

**WHEREAS** the water levels in Little Fish Lake have subsided,  
**WHEREAS** the natural spillway has widened and eroded,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the options for repair of the Little Fish Lake spillway be investigated and provided to council with costs.

**MOVED BY** Neal Roes

**SECONDED BY** Brad Osadczuk

**CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #4: Reclamation Certificates**

**WHEREAS** there are concerns with the process of the issuance of reclamation certificates in the province,

**WHEREAS** landowners and leaseholders in the Special Areas are finding reclamation certificates that shouldn't have been issued,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas Board lobby the Ministers of Environment and Parks and Energy to ensure that the current reclamation standards are being met prior to issuing a reclamation certificate.

**MOVED BY** Neal Roes

**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot

**CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #5: Grazing Rental Rate Formula**

**WHEREAS** the Special Areas Lease formula (formerly in the public lands act) takes in a wider representation of cattle and grazing types utilizing the land in question,

**WHEREAS** the royalty rate has been consistently applied, is understood and accepted by leaseholders,

**WHEREAS** the new Public Lands formula is not significantly different,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas Grazing Lease Rental Rate formula remain the same.

**MOVED BY** Brent Horner

**SECONDED BY** Brad Slorstad

**CARRIED.**

Two items remain to discuss: TRLS direction and Abandoned Rail Bed Policy direction.

**ACMOTION03-34-19: ABANDON RAIL POLICY**

**MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY SAM SHADLOCK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PROCEED WITH THE ABANDONED RAIL POLICY. CARRIED.**

Discussion continued on TRLS policy. Concerns were raised on the price, exchanges, and restrictions/caveats.

**ACMOTION03-35-19: TRLS POLICY FURTHER WORK**

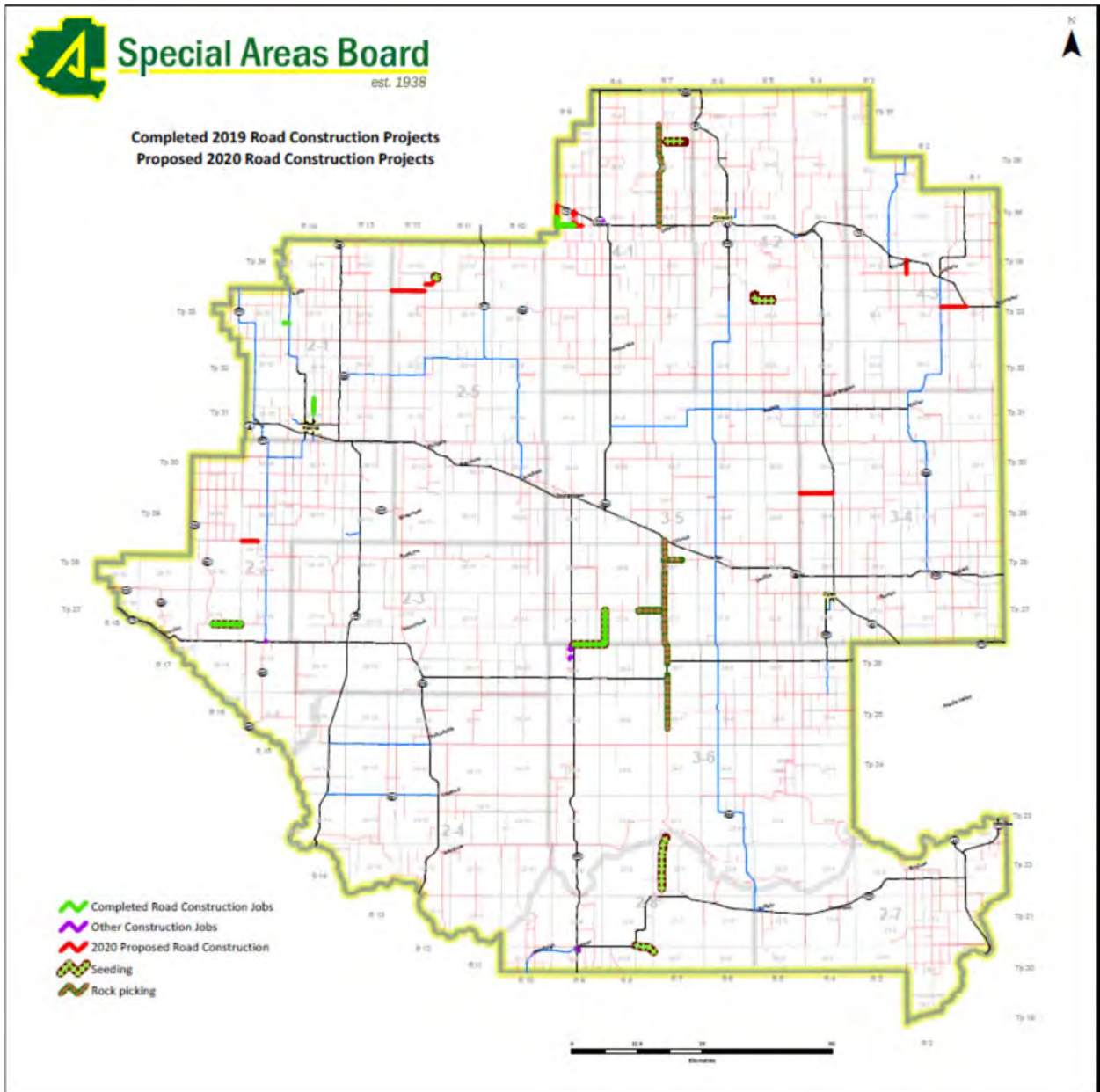
**MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SEND THE PROPOSED TRLS POLICY BACK TO THE TRLS COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER WORK ON PRICE AND EXCHANGES. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson recognized Mr. Brent Horner for his 24 years of service and leadership on Advisory Council and as a Special Areas Board member. He has carried a large load and has provided sound advice to the Board as well as his community.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for attending, Ms. Herzog for the refreshments and Ms. Jones for organizing the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT 2:50 P.M.**

APPENDIX A

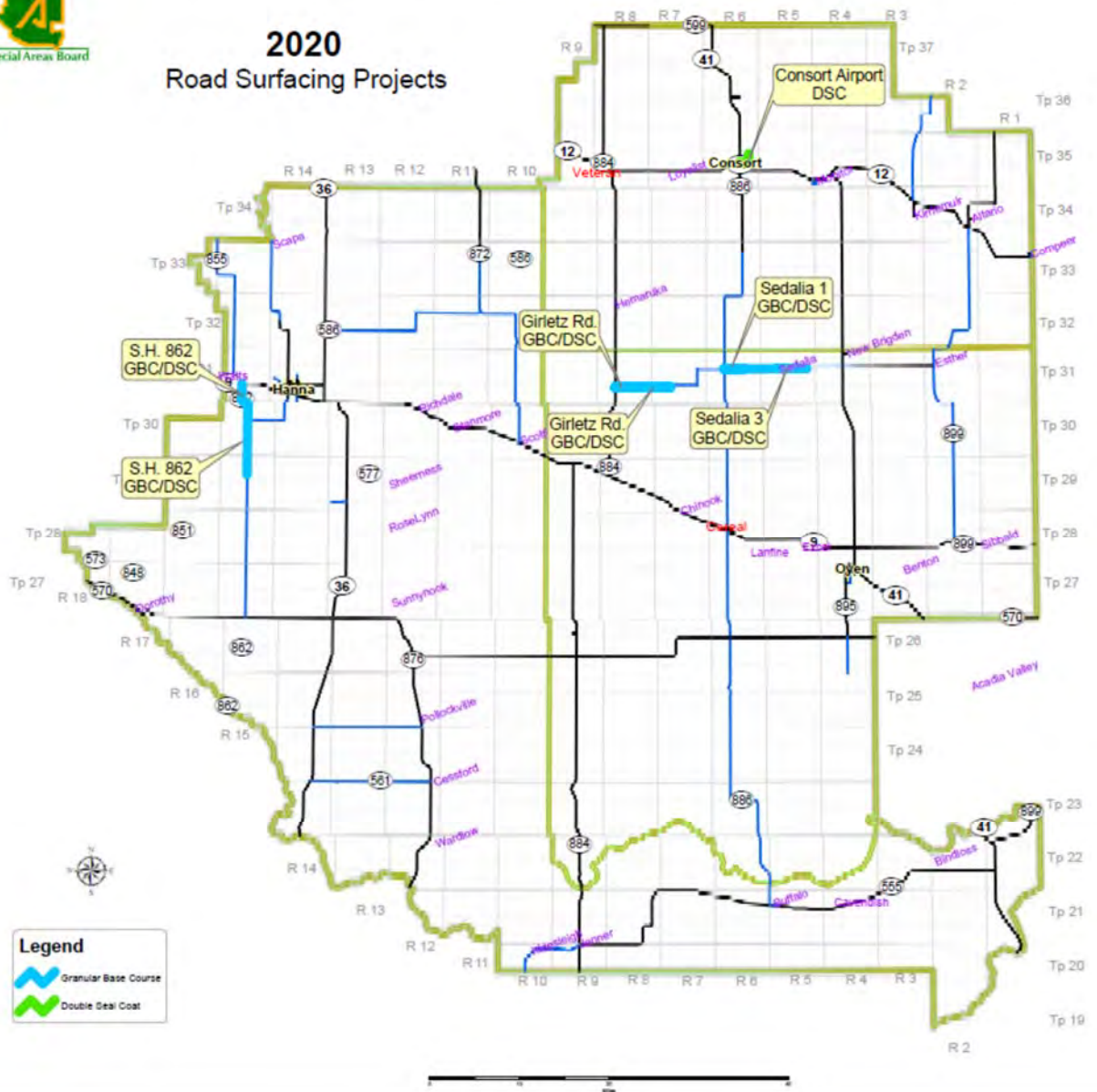




APPENDIX B



2020  
Road Surfacing Projects



## Resolutions and Actions Taken

### **RESOLUTION #1: Cell Phone Service in Rural Areas**

**WHEREAS** cell service in the rural areas has deteriorated,  
**WHEREAS** land line installation has long wait times or won't be installed at all, thus the need for trustworthy cell service,  
**WHEREAS** good cell service is needed for emergency situations,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas administration invite the cell providers out to the spring council, and engage RMA in discussions around the extent of rural cell service issues across the province.  
**MOVED BY** Brad Osadczuk  
**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot  
**CARRIED.**

#### **Action Taken:**

Special Areas had reached out to cell service providers and have extended an invitation to attend the Spring Advisory Council, including Telus, Rogers, and Bell. We were scheduled to hear from some of our providers, however, with the changes in the format of our spring meeting, these presentations will have to be rescheduled.

### **RESOLUTION #2: Online Payments**

**WHEREAS** ratepayers have been requesting online payments for many years,  
**WHEREAS** alternative payments exist and would provide better customer service,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Special Areas Administration investigate the best options for electronic banking for the Special Areas for the Spring 2020 council meeting.  
**MOVED BY** Neal Roes  
**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot  
**CARRIED.**

#### **Action Taken:**

Administration is currently investigating options for Online Payments for residents of the Special Areas. The Advisory Council and SAB will be updated in spring '20 on how this will proceed.

### **RESOLUTION #3: Little Fish Lake Spillway Investigation**

**WHEREAS** the water levels in Little Fish Lake have subsided,  
**WHEREAS** the natural spillway has widened and eroded,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the options for repair of the Little Fish Lake spillway be investigated and provided to council with costs.  
**MOVED BY** Neal Roes  
**SECONDED BY** Brad Osadczuk  
**CARRIED.**

#### **Action Taken:**

The SAB has made a motion to support the recommendation made by Advisory Council to investigate the feasibility of repairing the dam located on the west side of Little Fish Lake. Upon initial review, it appears that DUC may hold the diversion license on Little Fish Lake, so any work will have to be in coordination with DUC. Administration will investigate the logistics of the work and report back to the SAB and Advisory Council on potential options.

#### **RESOLUTION #4: Reclamation Certificates**

**WHEREAS** there are concerns with the process of the issuance of reclamation certificates in the province,

**WHEREAS** landowners and leaseholders in the Special Areas are finding reclamation certificates that shouldn't have been issued,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas Board lobby the Ministers of Environment and Parks and Energy to ensure that the current reclamation standards are being met prior to issuing a reclamation certificate.

**MOVED BY** Neal Roes

**SECONDED BY** Travis Foot

**CARRIED.**

#### **Action Taken:**

The Special Areas Board agrees with the request of the Advisory Council to request a meeting with both the Ministers of Environment and Parks, and Energy to discuss the concerns regarding AER and the issuance of Reclamation Certification. A letter requesting a meeting has been sent to both Ministries, however at this point, only Energy has responded.

#### **RESOLUTION #5: Grazing Rental Rate Formula**

**WHEREAS** the Special Areas Lease formula (formerly in the public lands act) takes in a wider representation of cattle and grazing types utilizing the land in question,

**WHEREAS** the royalty rate has been consistently applied, is understood and accepted by leaseholders,

**WHEREAS** the new Public Lands formula is not significantly different,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Areas Grazing Lease Rental Rate formula remain the same.

**MOVED BY** Brent Horner

**SECONDED BY** Brad Slorstad

**CARRIED.**

#### **Action Taken:**

The Special Areas Board has set the 2020 Grazing Lease rentals based on the 'old' formula under the Public Lands Act. As this requires a Ministerial Order to be signed, a package has been forwarded to the department for approval, based on the recommendation of the SAB. As of March 2020, we have not received approval on the recommended rates.