

SPRING 2023 Minute Book

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Special Areas Board Mission Statement

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

Introduction

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

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

The primary business of the Special Areas is:

- Responsible land management of the 2,514 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:	4,238
Area:	5,080,410 acres (7,938 sq. miles) (247 Townships)
Assessment:	\$3.813 billion
Km of Local Road:	6,390
Web Site:	https://www.specialareas.ab.ca/

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),
- 252 kms of Granular Base Course (GBC)/Double Seal Coat (DSC),
- 305 kms of Asphalt Surface.

Special Areas has 449.42 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 2020 for a four-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),
- 113 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 3,278 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	Land disturbance training is completed for operators.

	planning, training and dedicated operator hiring	
	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,
 - 492 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. 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

Report Dates: 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022

	Prior Year Kilometers	2021 Prior Year Expenditures	Current Year Kilometers	2022 Current Year Expenditures
ROAD MAINTENANCE:				
Grading		\$3,941,911.59		\$3,271,930.33
Snow Removal		\$447,748.55		\$1,343,080.98
Gravelling	734	\$1,749,461.81	788	\$2,279,537.60
Other **		\$3,658,688.00		\$3,018,297.80
Total		\$9,797,809.95		\$9,912,846.71
BRIDGES & CULVERTS:				
		\$ 147,103.32		\$36,764.76
CONSTRUCTION: Local Roads				
BCWMC Cell Cst.	34	\$ 5,808,846.95	20	\$5,577,299.34
Delia Seed Plant		\$ 572,344.80		\$0.00
Consort Ball Diamonds				\$107,931.86
Total		\$6,381,191.75		\$5,797,913.68
BACK TRAIL REPAIRS				
RE-CROWN	32	\$ 379,956.62		\$497,571.45
		\$1,444,318.78	30	\$1,483,243.82
CALCIUM/LIGNO DUST ABATEMENT				
		\$296,399.26		\$497,437.20
OILING:				
Hamlet:				
Oil Repair:		\$549,086.87		\$400,659.76
New Oil:				
Dust Control:				
Total		\$549,086.87		\$400,659.76
STAGED SURFACING PROGRAM:				
GBC & DSC	862, 872, 899 35 DSC 3 SSC	\$4,770,991.32	586, 561 & 899 22 DSC 12 SSC	\$4,158,710.04
GBC (Granular Base Course) Local Rds	0.2	\$64,613.32	0.0	\$0.00
DSC (Double Seal Coat) Local Rds	2.5	\$186,588.75	0.3	\$86,515.22
SSC (Single Seal Coat) Local Rds	5	\$54,343.60	2.4	\$52,274.39
Total		\$240,932.35		\$138,789.61
REPORT TOTAL		\$24,072,403.54		\$22,923,937.03

**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 2022

Special Area No. 2

2021 2022
Kilometers Kilometers

Subdivision No.1

Gravel	60	82
Construction	9.7	0.6
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	0.7	
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1	1.1
Back Trail Repairs	7	2.9

Advisory Council Member, Kevin Bossert, Hanna

Subdivision No. 2

Gravel	128	31
Granular Base Course	13	
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	13	0.4
Back Trail Repairs		0.7
SSC (Single Seal Coat)		1.1
Dust Abatement - Calcium	24	24.7
Dust Abatement - Lignosulfonate	5.7	3

Advisory Council Member, Neal Roes, Homestead Coulee

Subdivision No. 3

Gravel	36	63
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1.3	1.1

Advisory Council Member, Brad Slorstad, Sunnynook

Subdivision No. 4

Gravel	41	48
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	2.3	10.3
SSC (Single Seal Coat)		2.3
Re-Crown	17.8	16.6

Advisory Council Member, Justin Griffith, Cessford

Subdivision No. 5

Gravel	45	70
Construction	7.8	2.2
Re-Crown		19
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	9.7	12
Granular Base Course	9.7	11.8
SSC (Single Seal Coat)		1.2

Advisory Council Member, Mark Blair, Youngstown

Subdivision No. 7

Gravel	16	
Back Trail Repairs	0.8	
Re-Crown	10	
Dust Abatement - Calcium		0.6

Advisory Council Member, Daryl Swenson, Bindloss

Subdivision No. 8

Gravel	0	16.1
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.3	

Advisory Council Member, Brad Osadczuk, Iddesleigh

Special Area No. 3

2021
(Kilometers)

2022
(Kilometers)

Subdivision No. 4

Gravel	73	0.1
Construction	5.7	
GBC (Granular Base Course)	5.7	
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	5.7	
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	2.3	5.5
Back Trail Repair	8	
Calcium Chloride Dust Control	0.3	0.3

Advisory Council Member, Erika Tessier, Esther

Subdivision No. 5

Gravel	88	83
Construction	1.4	
Back Trail Repair	9.6	
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	5.4	
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1.5	0.5

Advisory Council Member, John Kimber, Youngstown

Subdivision No. 6

Gravel	40	103
Dust Abatement - Ligno Sulphanate	14.1	3.1
Back Trail Repair	1	
Re-Crown	4.05	

Advisory Council Member, Kevin Wilson, Oyen

Special Area No. 4

Subdivision No. 1

Gravel	45	116
Construction		4.3
Back Trail Repair		0.7
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.3	0.3

Advisory Council Member, Graham Schetzle, Veteran

Subdivision No. 2

Gravel	112	145
Construction	9	3.2
Back Trail Repair		0.1
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1.6	3.1

Advisory Council Member, Laurie Ference, Monitor

Subdivision No. 3

Gravel	50	31
Construction		10.8
GBC (Granular Base Course)	6.7	
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	6.7	
SSC (Single Seal Coat)		6.6
Dust Abatement - Calcium		1.4

Advisory Council Member, Doug Noble, Altario

Aggregate Resources Report

1. Exploration:

- a. Exploration for the winter season was postponed due to labour being re-focused on road maintenance (snow removal) and gravel hauling for the Snake Trail repairs. Exploration will be a key focus for the summer of 2023 when resources become available.

2. Pit Operations:

- a. The crushing contract with Hopkins Construction Ltd. was completed in the Spring of 2023, this contract completed crushing in 5 pits, valued at \$2.956M
- b. The company completed crushing in the following Pits:
 - i. Simkins Pit SA #2 - COMPLETE
 - ii. Finnegan Pit SA #2 - COMPLETE
 - iii. Rutledge Pit SA #4 - COMPLETE
 - iv. Ross Pit SA #3 - COMPLETE
 - v. Pollockville Pit SA #2 - COMPLETE
- c. In addition to the abovementioned pits, Hopkins Construction also crushed the Youngstown millings pile to a 20mm minus product in December, 2021.
- d. The Special Areas Board currently has 1.1m tonnes of processed aggregate in inventory, valued at \$5.7 million, this equates to an average cost of \$5.18/tonne.

3. Reclamation:

- a. Reclamation was also postponed due to prioritization of resources focused on road maintenance and snow removal.
- b. The Special Areas Board currently has \$3.1M in reclamation liability and strives to maintain or decrease that number through continuous reclamation, direct placement of soils and annual monitoring and reporting.
- c. Although budgeted for 2022, a soil screener rental was postponed to 20223 due to other emergent projects and labour resource challenges.

4. Focus for 2023:

- a. Continue exploration in areas of high demand (SA #2-1). As the fuel price has increased considerably, we are also considering purchasing private source aggregate if it makes financial sense (decreases haul distance).
- b. Postpone gravel crushing until tender prices subside. The previous crushing contract averaged \$4.00 per tonne and the current Alberta Transportation unit price averages for FY2022 was \$6.94/tonne.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelsey Martin.

1.4 BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Status

The facilities team, comprised of the Facilities Manager, Facilities Maintenance Worker and two Carpenters, are responsible for the maintenance of approximately 110 facilities including towers, offices, grader shops, water stations and offices. In addition, all new construction is managed by the Facilities Manager.

Outcome Statement

The goal of the facilities team is to have all facilities 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 2023 Report

2022 was a challenging year for projects for the facilities department, due to supply chain issues and the lack of responses on RFP’s posted to APC. Projects were delayed due to material supply chain issues, causing most projects to be completed in the Fall and Winter months. Various projects had material purchases completed in 2022 with plans to execute the work in 2023.

The DOT software system continues to be a work in progress. We have data uploaded for 100% of our hard top surfaces as well as project data dating back to 1985 for our gravel road system. In total, there are over 16,000 road segments, to which about 3000 road segments have been uploaded with data. 2023 goals regarding DOT will be to eliminate road segments of no value (town and village streets, primary highways) to SAB’s decision making, from the data. DOT software, provided by Infrastructure Solutions, is an online server-based software used to house information for the Special Area’s asset base, to assist in making decisions regarding the asset life cycles. Scenarios can be set up within the software to mimic strategies and aid the Special Areas in its spending decisions, to manage the asset throughout its useful life. We have challenged infrastructure solutions to prove the value of the software in 2023 and aid us in getting our data to a usable point. The time commitment required by SAB staff is significant, therefore a decision will be made on the software going forward, by the end of the year. For now, SAB continues to be in a strong position to make educated decisions and respond to repairs with more accurate information, using excel based data.

Projects included in the funding provided by FCM Canada through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) have now begun for various initiatives to help advance our asset management practices through FCM Canada. In December 2021, we were able to complete the energy efficiency study at the Youngstown Service Centre and we will apply some of the recommendations from the report, in 2022, including upgrading warehouse lighting to LED. Unfortunately, due to timing issues with our larger projects, this task may now fall outside of the grant opportunity. I was able to take and obtain my Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning in April 2022. This training was beneficial as it introduced the concepts involved in strategic, tactical, holistic, and integrated asset management planning that can be applied across all asset classes in the Special Areas. Due to uncertainty around the software upgrades and training portion of the grant, it was decided that funds would be allocated towards the creation of Asset Management Plans and Communications Strategies. Infrastructure Solutions was awarded

the RFP in December 2022, to create an Asset Management Plan for the Special Areas. All FCM grant activities will conclude September 1st, 2023.

In-house general maintenance and carpentry staff will be utilized to carry out several different projects, corrective work, and preventative maintenance tasks throughout 2023. The major projects include the Remount Range Rider House Renovation, Youngstown Fire Hall Mezzanine, Oyen Office Bathroom and Kitchen Renovation, Bindloss/Jenner/Veteran Overhead Door Upgrades, Jenner Shop Upgrades and multiple water department sheds. In addition to these tasks, the carpenters will also execute various parks and recreation activities due to the departure of their carpenter. This included the Prairie Oasis Park store renovation and roof replacement. The Facilities Department continues to gain traction in our effort to serve the Special Areas with quality maintenance and project work on facilities, while maintaining a high standard of safety. The Facilities Department will be carrying forward with the following projects in 2023, while continuing with the Preventative Maintenance Program as well as managing corrective tasks and activities:

2023 Internal Major Projects & Preventative Maintenance Summary

- 63 Facility Annual Roof Inspections
- 106 Annual Overhead Door Maintenance & Inspections
- 61 Annual HVAC Maintenance & Checks (smaller systems)
- 17 Monthly Generator Maintenance and Checks
- Bindloss Shop OH Door Upgrade (Already Purchased)
- Cereal Shop Perimeter Sump/Drain Install - \$25,000.00
- Consort Office Ceiling Tile Replacement - \$10,000.00
- Hanna East Pedersen H2O Shed - \$3000.00
- Jenner OH Door Upgrade - \$30,000.00
- Jenner Shop Bathroom Addition - \$10,000.00
- Jenner Shop Floor Replacement - \$30,000.00
- Oyen Bathroom and Kitchen Renovations - \$30,000.00
- Oyen Front Counter Refinish - \$10,000.00
- Remount Renovations - \$60,000.00
- Stanmore H2O Building Addition - \$5000.00
- Veteran OH Door Upgrade (Already Purchased)
- Youngstown Fire Hall Mezzanine (Already Purchased)
- Youngstown Warehouse Counter Upgrade & Firewall (Already Purchased)
- Youngstown Shop Roof Safety Guardrail Install - \$5000.00

2023 Major Contractor Projects Summary

- All Areas Hazardous Material Support – ASE Services
- Altario Shop Chain Link Fence - \$45,000.00
- Bindloss Shop Upgrade Interior Lighting - \$5000.00
- Consort Ag Services Chem Storage Seacan - \$10,000.00
- Consort Office Security Doors - \$10,000.00
- Hanna Office Bathroom & Back Entrance Renovation - \$30,000.00
- Oyen Ag Services Holding Tank Install - \$5000.00
- Oyen Office Basement Fire Escape - \$10,000.00
- SCCP Bunkhouse Set, Septic Tank & Electrical Upgrade - \$25,000.00
- Youngstown HVAC Engineering Investigation - \$15,000.00
- Youngstown Office West Vestibule Install - \$5000.00
- Youngstown Warehouse Receiving Bay Opener Install - \$10,000.00

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

	Management Plan (QMP) is updated annually	
	Update appointments of Fire Guardians annually through a Board Order.	Annual BO

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

2022 Call Numbers (Jan 1, 2022- Dec 31, 2022)

Type	Last Yrs.(#)	Number	% Of total
Grassfires	(84)	63	58 %
Equipment fires	(3)	5	5 %
Vehicle fires	(17)	11	10 %
Powerline Fires	(2)	7	6 %
Structure Fires	(15)	14	13 %
Feed Fires	(4)	9	8 %
All Fires (Total)		108	100 %
MVC	(53)	77	56 %
Medical (MFR)	(29)	49	35 %
False Alarm	(13)	11	8 %
Stood Down	(16)	0	0 %
Misc. (C0. Fire Investing...)(10)		1	1 %
Total Other calls		138	100 %
TOTAL CALLS	(2021) 248	246	100

Total Incidents for 2022 is 246. (Primary calls.)
 Total Responses for 2022 is 322. (More than 1 Fire Department responds to a primary call)

The 2022 fire season was on par with our 10-year average.

Medical responses were up to 35% of all calls for 2022. The renewable energy projects in Special Areas this year have contributed to an increase in medical calls. Our aging population in Special Areas is also contributing to higher MFR response numbers.

Overall incidents were down this year, but our departments responded to some large incidents.

- Remount Community Pasture approx. 900 acres 6 departments responded.
- Fire northeast of Jenner 750 acres 4 departments responded.
- Consort and Veteran fire responded to multiple rekindles from fires burning in slough bottoms at 2 locations. These multiple day fires are typically the result of lingering ambiguous “Hot Spots” that go undetected. With the extreme heat and low humidity, we experienced this year, these “Hot Spots” contributed to secondary fires which were much larger than the initial fire. This has prompted us to look at the viability of Drones for Visual and Thermal Imaging. Exposing these non-visual sources of ignition early, can offset fire suppression costs, reduce grassland losses, and fosters public and firefighter safety.
- During the month of August, we responded to 4 feed stack fires. The heavy rains in early spring caused some large feed stacks to heat and spontaneously combust when the ambient temperatures rose in late August.
- The last 2 weeks of December kept our crews extremely busy when 15mm of rain fell over most of Special Areas from highway 9 south. Treacherous driving conditions had our crews respond to 23 MVC calls in a 7-day period.
- There is a marked increase in traffic due to the wind tower projects. This obviously increases the probability of an incident occurring. To date there have been 3 MVC’s and one large grass fire in the Jenner area involving windmill equipment and employees.

2022 Capital projects:

- Bigstone Fire Hall is complete.
- Hanna Rescue was purchased. In service date is fall of 2023. (Costed Shared)
- Oyen Rapid Response is delayed due to supply chain issues with truck chassis. Spring of 2023 projected in service date.

2021 Donations - Revenue:

- Jenner, Youngstown, and Veteran fire received some funding from Enbridge and CNRL.
- Oyen Fire received funds from Richardson Fertilizers. Funding is used to buy gear, portable radios and equipment.
- Cessford and Jenner received funding for a portable radio from CNRL.
- A Special, “Thanks” to our corporate partners in stepping up to assist local fire departments.
- Fire Department revenue from Cost Recovery incidents for 2022 is \$137,286.25.

Training:

- The East Central Emergency Training Partnership (ECETP) started the training of 30 students, for the NFPA 1001 Level 1 program. Course will be completed in May of 2023. This is a National Fire Protection Association program that sets the standards for Firefighting worldwide. We were able to provide it locally with funds staying in SA and local students sharing & Training together which fosters team building within SA & Acadia Valley Fire Departments.
- ECETP has been working with Heartland Generation in providing training to their employees. The Hanna Training tower is an asset to this region as it provides high quality training locally.
- In November the Provincial Government announced the return of the Fire Services Training Grant Program for 2023. The ECETP will be able to apply for grants to offset the cost of training to fire departments in Special Areas.
- Air Endorsement & Class 3 Training opportunities is ongoing.
- Medical First responder training is ongoing with a refresher course held in Veteran in March and another one planned for Cessford in January of 2023.

Miscellaneous

On July 16th Fire Chief Glen Durand retired and Rob Palmer, Special Areas Deputy Chief was appointed to the Chiefs position. Kyle Rohl was chosen to fill the Deputy Fire Chiefs position effective August 2nd, 2022. Mr. Rohl was employed with Special Areas as Lead automotive mechanic at the Youngstown service center. Kye will be splitting his time between fire and the service center until April 1st, 2023, or until his position as lead automotive mechanic is filled.

- Youngstown Tender is getting a tank and pump assembly replacement and is due to be completed in April 2023.
- Cypress County hired a new Fire Chief Jason Linton. Jason was employed by Methanex in Medicine Hat and was a member of the Box Springs Fire Department.
- CFB Suffield Fire Chief Eric Schweitzer is on Stress leave. Status of return is unknown.

Training officer Derek Konosky is filling in as the acting Chief.

- I. We are meeting with the base command in May of 2023 to discuss mutual aid responses and training opportunities.
 - II. Some pre burns were completed this spring in the areas they had training planned.
- Annual Fire Chiefs meeting was held on December 1, 2022.

Lastly, 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.

Rob Palmer
Special Areas Fire Chief.



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

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

Outcome Statement

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

Desired Outcome	Actions	Measurements/Standards
Protection of municipal infrastructure through overload permitting and enforcement.	Utilize a joint service agreement with the MD Acadia for Peace Officer.	
	Utilize a mutual aid agreement with the County of Painteareth 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.

Enforcement Services Report

Special Areas CPO program went through a formal name change in 2022 and transitioned from Special Areas Protective Services to Special Areas Enforcement Services. New vehicle door decals and shoulder flashes were ordered to reflect the change.

Public Safety and Infrastructure protection continue to be the primary focus of Enforcement Services for the Special Areas.

Special Areas has a department of two Community Peace Officers John Armstrong and Jamie Erickson. Peace Officer Armstrong continues to focus enforcement activities within the Special Areas Parks, while Peace Officer Erickson focuses enforcement on Infrastructure Protection and Traffic Safety on all roadways within the Special Areas.

Roads/Infrastructure Enforcement

Special Areas Enforcement Services Peace Officers patrol throughout the Special Areas, including local roads as well as primary and secondary highways. Significant traffic volumes and violations continue to pose a public safety risk on highways within our region, specifically on Highways 9, 36, 41 and 570.

There was a significant increase in activity within the Special Areas due to the large number of industrial projects commencing in 2022. Numerous ratepayer concerns and complaints were received and a large increase in heavy hauls occurred within all three Special Areas. The north-east portion of Special Area #4 continued to see increased well servicing and drilling activity with year-to-date numbers meeting or exceeding 2021 totals. Enforcement activities focused on these areas and continued to emphasize education when practicable.

As of December 31, 2022, 127 Citations (41%) and 183 Warnings (59%) were issued for a variety of offences. Speed continues to be a serious concern on roadways within Special Areas with 31 (25%) of the 123 speeding violations being speeds of over 50+ km/h over the posted speed limit with a high of 176 km/h.

Commercial vehicle enforcement accounted for 108 (35%) of all recorded violations with the main issues being overweight vehicles 31(29%) and logbook violations 29 (27%) of all commercial vehicle infractions. A total of 20 Commercial Vehicle inspections completed with 14 (70%) of vehicles placed Out of Service, 4 (20%) required maintenance and 2 (10%) passing inspection. Accurate records and data from previous years as well as close monitoring of permits has allowed for precise targeted enforcement activities including days of the week, time of day and location.

A large portion of the time in 2022 has been spent working on revising, updating, and developing new Standard Operating Procedures and Policies for the department. This resulted in Administration time accounting for 47% of man hours with Patrol time at 53%.

From March 1, 2022, until December 31st, 2022, Special Areas Enforcement Services was contracted by the Town of Hanna to provide Municipal Enforcement. This resulted in a total of 370-man hours which was an average of 8.6 hours per week over the duration of the contract.

Roadata continued to manage road permits, contacting Peace Officers with issues related to permits. This partnership with Roadata facilitates routing, and approval of all loads requiring permits within the Special Areas.

ROADATA PERMITS ISSUED				
	2021	2022	+/-	+/- %
Service Rig	1106	1285	+60	+16%
Well Service	3	1	-2	-67%
Drill Rig	132	172	+40	+30%
Heavy Haul	1100	2199	+1099	+100%
Total Permits	2345	3560	+1215	+52%
Total Loads	3230	3694	+464	+14%

Parks Enforcement

Officer presence and education continue to be the main enforcement tool for the protection of park property and public safety. The addition of Gooseberry and Little Fish Lake Parks and the overall increase in usage of all SAB parks necessitated increased patrols. Many of these patrols are required in the late evening or on weekends and are a challenge to cover off.

Regional Enforcement

Peace Officers continue to work closely with other enforcement agencies throughout the year to enhance working relationships. These operations focus on regional priorities and ratepayer complaints and concerns. To date there have been 5 official Joint Force Operations in 2022 along with work on a regular basis is conducted alongside RCMP, Fish and Wildlife and the Sheriffs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shaune Kovitch, Director
Municipal Services

1.7 PARKS
Current Status

Major Park Developments include:

- Blood Indian Park – 37 serviced sites (18 P/W & 19 P/W/S); 300 random camping sites.
- Prairie Oasis Park – 101 serviced sites (P/W) including 17 group 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. 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

- The predicted collapse of the trout fishery at Blood Indian has finally come to fruition approximately a decade after the introduction of Prussian Carp into the reservoir. It has been established that the carp from predation have eliminated the freshwater shrimp population as well as other invertebrates which serve as the transitional food from hatchery to wild for the stocked fingerling trout. The carp have further destroyed much of the macrophytes where these invertebrates hatch and live.
- Some larger trout are still being caught in the reservoir, but the lack of angler success of trout in the ¾ to 1 ½ lb. range would appear to indicate very poor survivability of the stocked trout fingerlings.
- The team from AEP coordinated by Craig Copeland repeated for the third season their extensive carp netting program with very low numbers of carp captured. This finding is yet to be fully analyzed and understood but the damage to the ecosystem has already been done.
- The carp gate at the culvert is built and functional and ready for a 2023 spring runoff and carp spawn.
- Blood Indian Park, despite it's great camping and amenities, is mainly about fishing and low camper revenue this season bears this out. Strategizing with various partners is ongoing to regain the fishing prominence that has historically marked Blood Indian as one of the premiere stocked fishing reservoirs in the province.

Prairie Oasis Park

- Two significant changes were successfully implemented in the operation of the park
 - 1) The first was the securing of a new reservation system provider (Campspot) which resulted in a flawless launch day and a 100% increase in launch day revenue.
 - 2) The second was the construction and manning of a park entry registration booth, which allowed Park Staff much more control of the campground and gave visitors a much-needed point of contact for park and area information.
- New contractors were eventually secured in early June for the campground Host/Hostess position, and it was quite apparent that this contract is a vital part of mitigating infrastructure and camper safety concerns.
- A new phone line was drawn into the booth at Prairie Oasis Park and will become the new Parks Line in 2023. This new line will streamline operations as well as allow for cost savings. 403-854-PARK (403-854-7275)/
- Successfully contracted the campground attendants at Prairie Oasis Park, securing Corinne Taylor and Melanie Parent.

- Work is being done into investigating moving the opening date of the campground reservations at Prairie Oasis Park to an earlier date to align with industry standards and reduce workflow bottleneck during the spring.

Carolside Campground

- Extremely low water levels negatively affected campground usage.
- A contract was awarded for the construction of a skeletal model of a Mosasaur to be erected in the rest area turnout adjacent to the 570.
- The laying and burying irrigation line at Carolside around the playground and into the campground was completed.

Gooseberry Lake & Little Fish Lake PP

- Post pandemic usage of both these facilities dropped way off from the last few seasons.
- Hacienda Holdings provided excellent campground manager and maintenance services at Gooseberry but 2023 will have us in need of hiring a new contractor.

Parks General

- The River Campgrounds had registration boxes erected at them with most campers appreciating that it was time an overnight camping fee was administered.
- The parks foreman job was put out to competition, and we hired William Hoover in early 2023. William has 7 years of seasonal Parks experience with the SAB. (Updated Spring 2023)
- Further work has been done to develop strategic plans and organizational charts to provide guiding documents for future operations within the Parks Department. (Updated Spring 2023)

First and Last Things

Neil Stringer, after seven years as our Parks Dept Foreman, resigned his position late this fall and is taking up employment in the private sector. Neil, with his excellent carpentry skills and strong work ethic, has been an invaluable asset to many of our recent capital and maintenance projects.

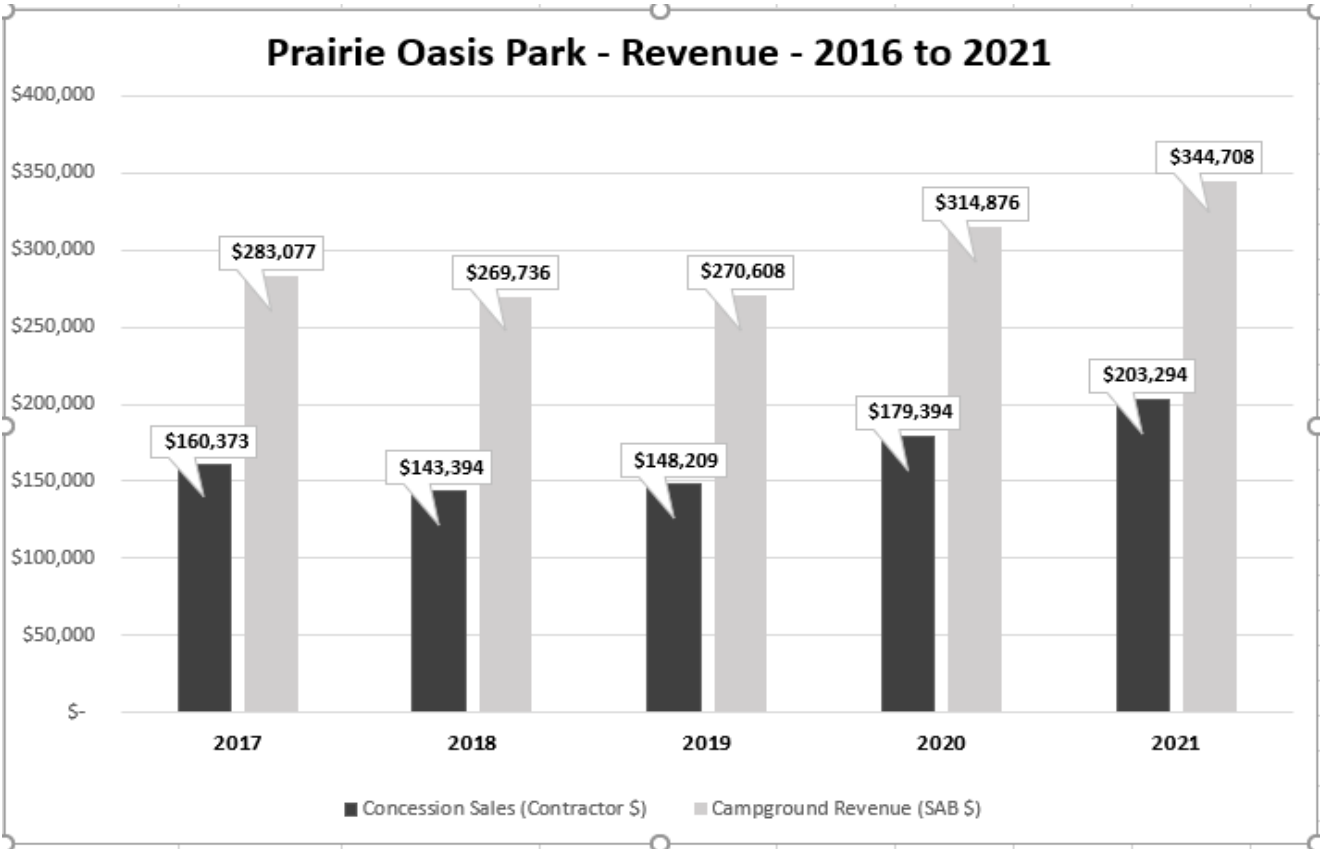
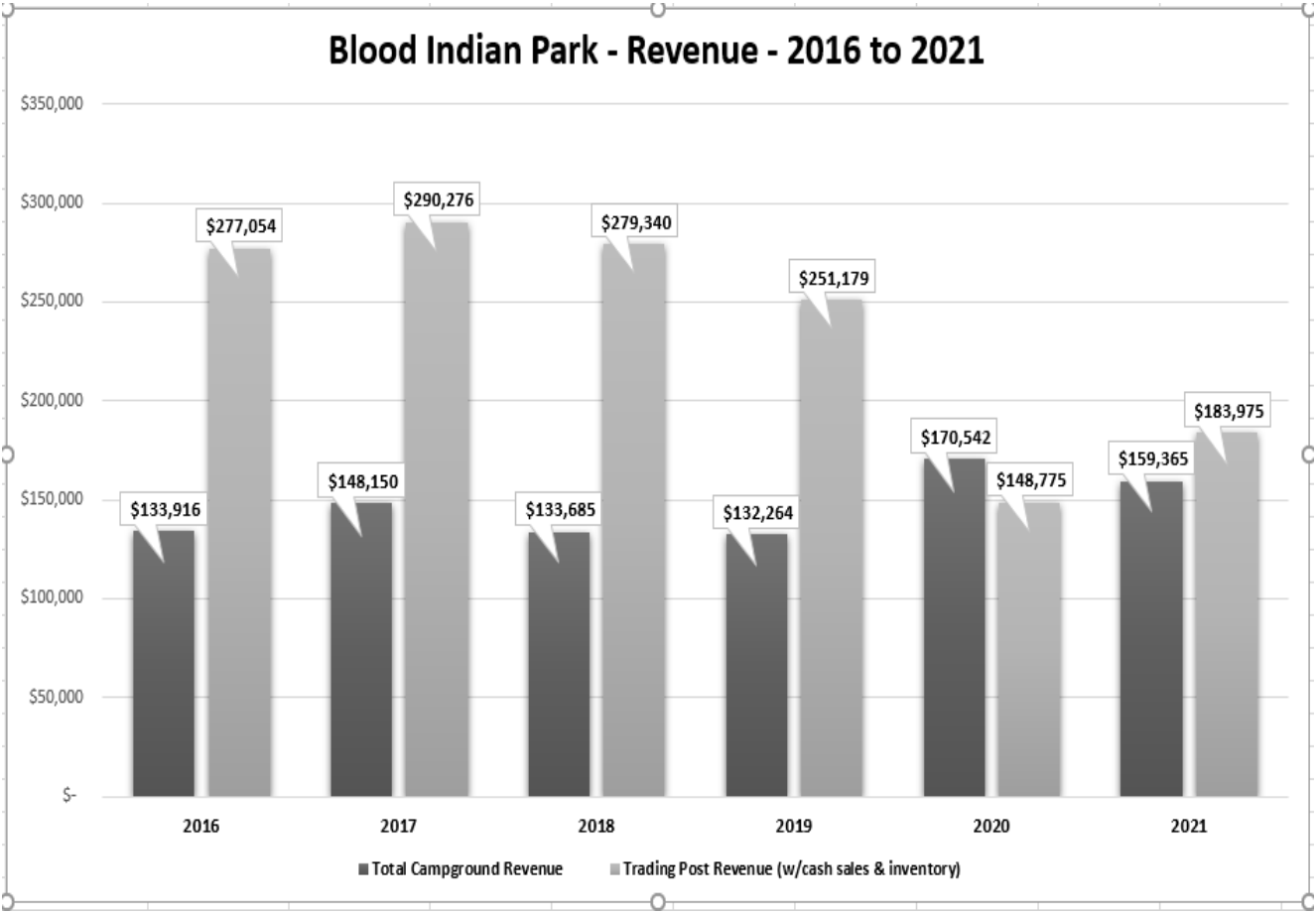
Melissa Lee was hired in April as an Assistant Park Supervisor, and I am confident that with her extensive education and parks related experience she will seamlessly and successfully transition into the main Supervisor role in the spring of 2023.

John Armstrong will be retiring in April, and I am confident he will greatly miss his employment for and with one of the best employers and work forces in the Province of Alberta and his transition to the retiree role will be...

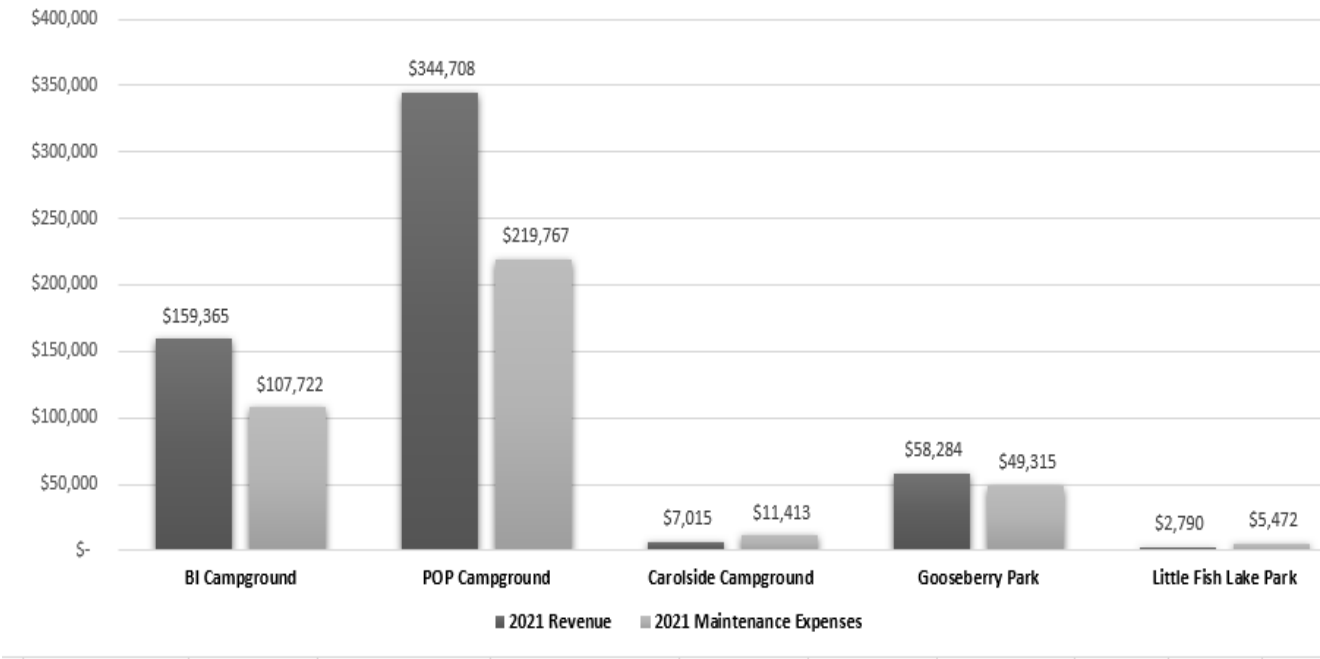
Respectfully Submitted,

CPO John Armstrong, Parks Supervisor
 Melissa Lee, Assistant Parks Supervisor

	Prairie Oasis Concession (Non SAB Contractor)		Blood Indian Trading Post	
Year	Total Cash Sales	Total Inventory/ Labour Costs	Total Cash Sales	Total Inventory/ Labour Costs
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	\$218,644.10	\$238,871.35
2019	\$148,209.44	\$145,968.23	\$193,697.27	\$210,920.64
2020	\$179,394.36	\$172,595.43	\$ 96,975.82	\$107,195.51
2021	\$203,294.68	\$198,825.98	\$137,956.21	\$160,858.78



SAB Parks - Revenue vs. Maintenance Expenses



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 \$118.00/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 3 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)

The Big Country Waste Management Commission was established in 1986 and is a legislated entity responsible for delivering service for the members as established by a Lieutenant Governor O.C. 286/86 and falls under the Regional Service Commissions Act.

The Commission involves eight member municipalities: The Special Areas, Town of Hanna, Town of Oyen, Village of Consort, Village of Empress, Village of Veteran, Village of Youngstown, and MD of Acadia; 5,113,000 acres (8000 square miles), approximately 10,208 population.

- **Member Municipalities and Representatives:**

Mark BlairSpecial Areas 2 Representative

Kevin WilsonSpecial Areas 3 Representative

Graham SchetzleSpecial Areas 4 Representative

Robert BlagenYoungstown Representative

Fred CrowleHanna Representative

James WalkerOyen Representative

Arlen JohnstonEmpress Representative

Jerry WipfVeteran Representative

Michael BeierConsort Representative

Scott HeegMD of Acadia Representative
- **Executive of Big Country Waste Management Commission:**

Chairman – Mark BlairVice-Chairman - Robert Blagen

Secretary/Treasurer – Kevin WilsonMember-At-Large – Fred Crowle

The regional landfill originally operated under a Code of Practice, managing less than 10,000 tonnes/year of waste disposal; grants from Alberta Environment were received for initial construction. Revenue is derived by requisitioning member municipalities at a 45% per capita and 55% assessment basis as well as tipping fees on non-household, non-local waste. The commission operates on a total annual budget of approximately \$2 million.

Operations History: In August 2012 the Commission received approval on the Code of Practice for Land Treatment of Soil Containing Hydrocarbons (Ridgeline Treatment Pad). In December 2014, AEP approved construction, operation, and reclamation of the Youngstown Regional Class II Landfill and Storage Facility subject to terms and set to expire December 2024. The Commission moved forward with building Cells A, B, C & D; Cell E construction is planned for 2023.

The Commission utilizes two 53-foot tractor trailer units to collect waste from 28 Transfer Station sites. Several sites have additional areas to collect material that can be diverted from the landfill. We divert from the landfill significant amount of cardboard, metals, white goods, fridges, air conditioners, tires, electronics, paint and clean untreated burnable wood, C&D waste.

Landfill Fire: On October 10, 2022 at approximately 10:00 pm a fire was reported at the Youngstown Regional Landfill in the domestic garbage in Cell D. Upon arrival the Director of Operations noted that tire shred was ignited in the southwest corner of Cell D and reported the event to the AEP emergency line. Suspect cause is a result of storm event passing thru the area at that time, igniting the tire shred in Cell D.

Approval Amendment Application: Cell space at the landfill is limited. The Director of Operations, along with Tetra Tech Canada Inc. (providing support and assistance for landfill development) remain in communication with AEPA regarding restoration plan of Cell D and Approval Amendment Application requesting permission to construct Cell E. Approval of Cell E is an emergent situation as Cell E could accommodate disposal of nonhazardous waste from Cell D in a cost-effective way. Otherwise, it will become very expensive operationally to manage a two-part restoration plan of Cell D.

Employees at the Youngstown Regional Landfill:

- One Director of Operations – Salary employee
- Three Equipment Operators – Salary employees
- One Scale Attendant – Full time wage employee
- One Scale Attendant - Casual wage employee

Employees at the Hanna Transfer Station/Recycling:

- One Recycling Maint. Serv. Worker – Full-time wage employee
- Two Attendants – Full-time wage employees

Transfer Station Contracts: sixteen attendants.

Administrative support: Supplied by Special Areas

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sean Olmstead, Director of Operations

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/m³ to \$55.32m³ with an average of \$14.30m³.

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. 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 six certified operators including: Wyatt Girletz, Dale Rolheiser, Ken Lenfesty, Janice Berg, Mike Kern and Levi Westerlund. Levi and Mike both have plans to write their Level 2 exams in 2022. The department is rounded out with plumber Ian Hernden.

Certified operators continue to fulfill AEP's continuing education requirements, allowing them to respond quickly and safely to water/wastewater issues. We received training in numerous safety courses, a manganese in well water course, supervision principles and I attended the annual RUSA conference. 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 short-term relief operating support for the Town of Oyen, the Village of Empress and the Village of Youngstown.

Some major highlights in 2021 were passing our inspections with Alberta Environment & Parks at the Hanna East and Cessford regional water lines. We were commended by the inspector for our operator's good work in keeping the systems in compliance with AEP regulations. Another ongoing project is balancing our water meters which we have had some success in this year, this is also reducing our operating costs. We continued doing our own First Calls for the regional water line that runs from highway 9 to Wardlow. This keeps us busy as we get a lot 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 implemented a lead management program that we completed in 2021. The extension of the Consort South water line was completed in order to service a few more lots. We also acquired a new enclosed trailer that we are setting up for digs/repairs that we can keep multiple parts, fittings, equipment and pipe in and save the travel time and give a safe warm area to work.

Our major highlight has been taking on the operating duties in the hamlet of Cereal which I will touch on in the report. As you will see in my report it is just not rolling into a community and start taking samples. There is a lot of time and work put in by SA operators especially Janice Berg as she is the operator in charge in Cereal. Cereal has been very time consuming and a big learning curve.

Finally, I would like to praise the water department for the many challenges we have adapted to as a group in the last 21 months. We for the most part we're not able to work from home as we had to be out checking on water plants daily and distribution systems to prevent issues from arising and repairing issues in these uncertain times. But we knew we had a duty to perform and to provide safe clean drinking water to the public. Many times, throughout this we have worked alone and went months without meeting together until recently for safety meetings which has been a welcome change to our group as some have said it's just nice to get together and see one another again instead of online and it has brought the team morale back up.

Respectfully submitted,
Wyatt Girletz,
Technical Services Supervisor

Special Areas 2:

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

Hanna East: Manually inspected all meter vaults for leaks and other infrastructure along the line. 2 repairs on residences meter vaults. Chamco came out to site and inspected distribution pumps and did a vibration test which is done annually. New propane tank

installed at distribution building. Leaking flow control valve in distribution building so had to replace diaphragm. Installed a new solenoid on flow control. Meter vault pump out and repair at Fishbuchs. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Stanmore: Repair a curb stop, repaired with tools we had welders make that allowed us to Hydrodig around the curb stop and repair it from above thus avoiding a large hole due to a dig. Shut off curb stop to old store. Put new bigger propane tank on site to eliminate the filling of the old propane tank that often happened. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Scotfield: Only truck fill is operational. Fix truck fill standpipe after someone had damaged it and replace truck fill hose. Repair solenoid valve on the fill line as the old one was allowing water to leak by. Cleaned cistern. Put new bigger propane tank on site to eliminate the filling of the old propane tank that often happened. Installed thermostat for baseboard heaters. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Big Country Waste Management: Change pex valve on sample line that was leaking. Bacteriological samples taken monthly have been satisfactory.

Richdale: Install a new truck fill pump after it was found the old one was leaking. Old pump was sent away for repair. Install control box for the truck fill pump with a hand/auto/off switch that can be used for testing and general repairs. Install new light sensor on outside of building because it wasn't shutting off. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Dorothy: Wi-Fi installed for users of the park to use since there's no service. Cleaned tank in spring. Replace well pit heater in fall. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Sunnynook: Repair truck fill hose. Replace flow restrictor that was leaking. New external truck fill pump, mag meter and card reader installed. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Cessford: We have continued the flushing program once a month of our sewer system to prevent sewer backups and it has reduced calls regarding sewer issues. Dugouts for raw water fire protection were filled this year. Drove regional line from highway 9 to Wardlow and inspected for leaks. Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in May. Replace valve on treated line into lift station that was leaking and causing water loss in water distribution system. Replace re-circ pump in raw water pit. Removal of old pumps in Cessford lift station that were seized. Install new curb stops for line north of lift station that services three residences. All 3 of these homes were controlled by 1 curb stop so ran new line to each and installed curb stop on each. Plugged sewer line and had to clean out. Backed up due to improper use of system. Replace distribution pump. Install check valve at lift station as pump was running more than it needed to. Also sent a letter out to the residents as a reminder of what can and can't be flushed as sewer issues had increased. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Pollockville: Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in May. Install new truck fill hose. Repair curb stop at residence. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Wardlow: Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in May. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Iddesleigh: Flushing of the distribution continues to try to scour water lines. Cleaned storage tank. We got our filter treatment system up and running a few months. Present treatment is as follows. Well water is injected with chlorine (to help precipitate out the manganese) before it enters the first of two 1000 liter holding tanks. Water is added at the base of the first tank and overflows at the top of the tank into the second 1000-liter tank. Water passes through the second tank and overflows into a smaller 250-liter tank. This tank has a pump attached to it that is operated by a float system within the tank. Water is then pumped through two different filters and then into the distribution tank. Have tried a few different combinations of filter micron levels and am currently using a ten-micron filter in both sets of filter casings. I have ordered five-micron filters for the second filter, but they have not come in yet. There have been a few upsets i.e., power bumps, pump in tank quit working, but we have worked through these issues and corrected them. Because of this extra flushing has had to occur to attempt to keep the water clear for the residents. Last four weeks process has been stable and extra flushing not needed. The manganese levels in our raw water were tested before this process and was tested after this process and it appears with our current holding capacity and filtration, we can strip it down a substantial amount. With this filtration micron level, we have been changing filters after 40m3 of water made up or roughly two weeks. Soon we are going to try a 5-micron filter which should strip out even

more manganese. At present time we are stripping up to 80% of manganese on a fairly consistent basis. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Jenner: Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Turbidity analyzers calibrated every 3 months, chlorine/ph analyzer calibrated as needed by operator. Biofilter backwashes take place numerous times a year. Wells pumped out every three months to help water quality, and water line to hamlet pumped out twice a year for same purpose. Monthly data entry to AEP submitted each month. TLC came to site and calibrated chlorine and turbidity analyzers. Also calibrated all handheld metering kits. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Pulled raw well meter and cleaned it. Calibrated effluent meter with HK water calibration tool.

Social Plains Truck Fill: Replace truck fill hose. Usage continues to be steady. Cleaned storage tanks.

Bindloss: Storage tank cleaned. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Buffalo Truck Fill: No operational issues.

Buffalo Hamlet: No operational issues. Clean storage tank. Bacteriological sampling performed weekly during months RV Camp is in service. Every second week the rest of the year. Bacteriological samples satisfactory.

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

Burnatt Truck Fill: Higher usage this year. Install flow restrictor online leaving plant that feeds cattle waterer as issues with high usage and not checking their line. This will allow the truck fill to keep up and not put as much wear and tear on the well.

SDS (Watts) Truck Fill: No operational issues. Change truck fill hose. New building in the process of being built with more storage. Will update on spring report for 2023. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Prairie Oasis Park: Cleaned tanks before season. No operational issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Install new boiler system.

Carolside: Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Fuse for parks when needed. Blow out line with air compressor in fall.

Bartman Raw Water Line: Blow out and pig water line in fall. Fuse for Harley when needed.

Special Areas 3:

Cereal:

Wastewater: No discharge taken place in 2022. Continued flushing program twice a year on all the sewer manholes in the hamlet to prevent fat buildup and hopefully decrease sewer main issues. Treated lagoon with Chemzyme and oxiboost to reduce solids in the lagoon and help activate bacteria growth to promote healthy wastewater treatment. This is done twice a week all spring/summer and fall. Began cleaning out sewer and lagoon manholes in a few sections deemed to be problem areas 4x a year using vac truck. Installed a new cover on the intake manhole at the lagoon. Repair manhole that grader caught and wrecked.

Water: Start up water in parks and campgrounds and operate through the summer. Fixed 3 leaks in the recreation grounds on a shallow water line and removed one hydrant. Installed meter vault for better meter balancing and control over rec grounds. Shut down and blow out the lines in the fall. 15 water shut off or turn on requests. Install seasonal meters at five residences and remove them all in the fall. Had an inspection with AEP for the water distribution system covering January 2021 until present day and the inspection was passed. Assist in new line installation at Peacock farms to avoid line shut down. Dig up and repair curb stop at Cardnew holdings shop. Dig and repair curb stop at CJ Peacock center. Locate and get curb stops working at arena and cottages. Back flow prevention device calibrated on truck fill. CHAMCO out to complete annual maintenance and vibration tests on the distribution pumps. Install new electrical controls and a new transfer switch to the generator and test. Move the truck fill card reader inside a covered box to protect from weather and moisture. Test all hydrants and flush the system. Blow out water lines in the fall at the rec grounds and for the fountain. High water usage events as followed- leak in Reimer

home, leak in united church basement and leak at Christianson trucking. All were found in a timely manner by our operators and thus prevented more damage to the property. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

New Brigden: Tank clean performed. In February there was a leak south of the plant in which we needed to dig under the building to repair this water line. In the future we will be doing an install of the water line, so it no longer runs under the existing building. Eliminated a curb stop in the community hall parking lot that has always been a risk of being hit. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Also in July, the flow at the Truck Fill seemed to be down, so we lifted the pump and found that a piece of insulation was sucked up by the well pump, everything was good afterwards. Blow out truck fill line in the fall. In December, the community hall burnt down and caused a leak on one of the water distribution lines. We couldn't turn it off as we had no curb stop for the hall. Once it was deemed safe to enter the hall we exposed the water line and capped it. We will be installing a new curb stop once the frost leaves the ground.

Sedalia: Continue hauling safe, clean drinking water to this hamlet. This has significantly reduced operator time and operating costs. Clean all raw and treated tanks. Dig to install curb stops at 3 properties so we have control in case of line breaks. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Chinook: Completed the new water building and tied on to existing water lines. Flushed and sampled. This building has two distribution pumps and an external truck fill pump. The truck fill line is 3" so it fills quicker than old building. We also increased storage from 3500 gallons to 12'000 gallons storage and cleaned all 6 tanks before putting them online. Since its start date we have increased truck fill usage which will be included in 2023 spring advisory report with all 2022 truck fill numbers. Installed a new card reader on the building with no coin reader. Some complaints about no coin reader but we have issues with coin readers being broken into and destroyed. Fixed a flush hydrant that wasn't operational, and a curb stop that didn't work on a residence. Had to return and fix electrical issues that caused pumps to shut down. Found wiring was operating fill line and distribution pump at same time so issue was resolved. Install fan and fan control switch to eliminate humidity in building. Hour counter installed on pumps to track run time and trouble shoot future pump issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Excel: No operational issues. Change truck fill hose. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Lanfine: No operational issues. Change truck fill hose. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Oyen Co-OP Distribution Line: SA operators continue to operate line for co -op group. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Supervised a meter vault repair that needed replaced due to leaking fittings. Install new lid on Oyen SAB cistern.

Oyen West Distribution: Bacteriological samples taken monthly have been satisfactory. Installed a curb stop at residence line.

Sibbald: Tank clean completed twice this year. Water retention tanks cleaned every two months. Install curb stop on hotel line. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Sibbald Truck Fill: Has become one of our highest used truck fills which is welcome site. This truck fill used to fill at 2 gallons per minute. Since we took over and did maintenance on this well it fills at 26 gallons per minute into multiple storage tanks therefore eliminating wait time for the farmers and ranchers who use this fill station. No operational issues.

Big Stone: Tank clean. Bacteriological samples taken weekly during park seasons have been satisfactory. Bacteriological samples taken bi-weekly during off season have been satisfactory. Trench in gas/water line to new firehall. Install new boiler system.

Sounding Creek Community Pasture: Replace UV bulb on treatment system. Install new hot water tank. Bacteriological samples taken monthly have been satisfactory.

570 Truck Fill: Water usage continues to increase. A few issues with the coin box but issue has been rectified. Clean all storage tanks. New truck fill hose installed. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Special Areas 4:

Altario: Continued sewer flushing program to prevent sewer issues. Installed new truck fill hose. School installed new treatment system in their school that caused stripping of chlorine and water also sat stagnant in storage tanks during the summer causing a bad bac-t result on the school side of things after Levi sampled. Once it was explained to the school and flushing occurred Levi resampled, and all samples came back satisfactory. All our distribution tests and plant test were satisfactory throughout the year. Clean storage tanks. Install restrictor online at barn as the cattle waterer ran hamlet out of water. AHS Inspector came out and wanted to inspect the well. He recommended that we put a new well casing over the well, so we did. Asked us to take a bacteria sample from the raw well line, it came back negative.

Compeer: Compeer continues to have sporadic high usages. With the irregular high usage and a small amount of storage available, it is very tough to keep a consistent level of chlorine in the distribution water thus causing complaints from residence. The hamlet could benefit from having a new, larger building. The current building is one of the worst in our department and lacks the space for more storage. If we had a bigger building we could try different treatment options and also set up a truck fill. Storage tank cleaned. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Kirriemuir: Installed new plumbing with more valves for control. Also was done as some old fittings were leaking. Fixed leak on north distribution system. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Consort South: No operational issues. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Monitor Non-potable and potable water truck fill are used regularly. Tanks were cleaned. Annual lead sample. Work to eliminate source of unsatisfactory bac-t results we kept getting in October in plant. In conjunction with AEP we kept investigating and following steps and at first found it was the new bottles they had sent out for collection. After switching back to old bottles we had a few good samples but then again ran into some bac-t samples that were coming back unsatisfactory. Again, we worked with AEP and flushed all storage tanks and resampled and after investigation further found the hot water heater and sample line into the sink were the cause of the issues. We knew early on issue wasn't in distribution system or in storage tanks after early investigations by Levi and numerous staff so just kept working our way backwards until we found source. All our distribution samples and then one of the two samples in the plant always came back satisfactory so we kept eliminating sources on our sample line. A new sample line has been installed and chlorinated and all samples have since come back satisfactory. This line didn't go out to distribution system and is only used for our sampling purposes within the water plant.

Loyalist: Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Continues to be highly used truck fill.

Gooseberry Lake: Clean tanks in both buildings. Two new distribution pumps installed at start of season. Two bacteriological samples were taken weekly and were all 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 - 87%
- Cultivation Leases – 3%
- Vacant Land – 10%

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 farmlands 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.	<p>All grazing leases inspected on a 20-year schedule, prior to expiry.</p> <p>Compile inventory of leases in healthy, healthy w/ problems, and unhealthy condition.</p>	<p>100% leases inspected every 20 years. (approx. 125,000 acres/yr)</p> <p>Follow up inspections of unhealthy range condition every 3-5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >75 % in healthy • <20 % in healthy with problems • <5 % in unhealthy
Lease holders able to utilize options as set out under SAB policies.	<p>Co-ordinate with leaseholders who are interested in alternative uses of leases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-grassing • Sublets • Conversion of Lease 	<p>Time frames to complete applications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 week • 4 weeks • Preparation & application to the Board – 5 weeks • Registration of Conversion– 3 weeks
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.	<p>Review of Grazing Lease Rates annually.</p> <p>Review of Cultivation Lease Rates annually.</p>
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. Work with lessee to bring issues into compliance.	100% leases in compliance with Special Areas Disposition Regulation and policies. 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, 2021	As of Dec 31, 2022
2004 Sale Total Agreements in Place to Date	951	951
New Agreements Initiated During Year	0	0
Acres Sold this Year	0.00	0.00
2004 Sale Total Acres Sold to Date (2004 - 2018)	245,680.11	245,680.11
Agreements Paid Out & Transferred to Date	940	956.5

Agreements For Sale in Arrears:		As of Dec 31, 2021	As of Dec 31, 2022
	Area	Number	Number
	SA #2	0	2
	SA #3	2	5
	SA #4	1	2
	TOTALS	3	5
	**All Arrears Includes Penalty Interest		
**Does not include credit balances		As of Dec 31, 2021	As of Dec 31, 2022
	Time	Amount	Amount
	< 1 Year	3,285.53	24,210.51
	1 Year	0.00	1,011.93
	2 Years	0.00	0.00
	> 2 Years	0.00	0.00
	TOTALS	\$3,285.53	\$25,222.44

NOTE:

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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 – 1,548 (Active 1,508, Inactive 40)
- License of Occupation – 92 (Active 74, Inactive 18)
- Rights of Entry –740 (Active 346, Inactive 394)
- Pipeline – 9,020 (Active 7,799, Inactive 931, Abandoned 209)
- Pipeline Applications – 546 (Inactive 485, Pending 61)
- Mineral Surface Leases (MSL) – 15,913 (Active 9,796, Inactive 6,188, Pending 1)

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. 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, 2022

Active Oil & Gas Leases:		
Easements		1517
License of Occupation		74
Mineral Surface Lease		9666
Right of Entry		346
Pending:		
Mineral Surface Lease		1
	Total	11,604
Inactive Oil & Gas Leases:		
Easements		40
License of Occupation		18
Mineral Surface Lease		6263
Right of Entry		395
	Total	6,716
Pipeline Agreements/Applications:		
Pipeline Agreement		8,955
Pipeline Applications		549
	Total	9,504
Pipeline Agreements		
- Inactive	-	948
- Active	-	7,749
- Abandonment	-	258
Pipeline Applications		
- Inactive	-	492
- Pending	-	57

**MSL, PLA, ROE, LOC and EASEMENT REVENUE
January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

	<u>Dec 31st, 2021</u>	<u>Dec 31st, 2022</u>
Mineral Surface Lease Applications Received	9	13
Mineral Surface Lease Revenue	\$ 3,069,949.71	\$ 3,043,076.40
Pipeline Application Revenue	\$ 114,054.05	\$ 20,190.00
Rights of Entry Revenue	\$ 90,974.50	\$ 92,124.25
License of Occupation Revenue	\$ 66,552.50	\$ 66,552.50
Easement Revenue	\$ 35,010.75	\$ 147,164.63
	\$ 3,376,541.51	\$ 3,369,107.78

Development Control Reports

2021 -----December 31, 2022-----

APPLICATIONS	ACTUAL	HANNA	OYEN	CONSORT	ACTUAL
Received	55	38	17	8	63
Approved	51	37*	16	8	61
Appealed	4	4**	0	0	4
Estimated Development Costs	\$926,379,695	\$526,850,400.00	\$14,960,258	\$3,278,800	\$545,089,458.00

Brett Richards, Administrator, Hanna
Darran Dick, Administrator, Oyen
Taryl Abt, Administrator, Consort

**1 Appealed to SASDAB, 3 Appealed to LPRT
*Including 1 approval from SASDAB, 3 approvals from LPRT



Acreage by Land Use Classification, as of December 31, 2022

		SA #2	SA #3	SA #4	TOTAL	TOTAL (Hectares)
PRIVATE LAND						
	Private Patented	1,086,629.54	825,127.50	666,782.75	2,578,539.79	1,043,498.03
PUBLIC LAND						
	Crown	775,134.89	490,487.46	302,248.57	1,567,870.92	634,494.85
	Tax Recovery	477,483.13	320,374.04	129,374.96	927,232.13	375,237.53
	Departmental Patented	3,682.77	257.55	876.80	4,817.12	1,949.42
	TOTAL Public Land	1,256,300.79	811,119.05	432,500.33	2,499,920.17	1,011,681.79
TOTAL ALL Land		2,342,930.33	1,636,246.55	1,099,283.08	5,078,459.96	2,055,179.82

CLASSIFICATION

Disposition	Community Pasture	129,463.55	43,156.50	0.00	172,620.05	69,856.86
	Cultivation Lease	8,616.71	40,658.53	16,406.23	65,681.47	26,580.35
	Cultivation Permit	159.17	23.56	0.00	182.73	73.95
	Grazing Lease	1,036,932.09	690,212.31	367,513.77	2,094,658.17	847,678.08
	Grazing Permit	5,846.08	277.94	12,041.05	18,165.07	7,351.14
	Miscellaneous Lease	4,888.60	513.09	123.84	5,525.53	2,236.10
	Water Body	23,050.50	6,942.34	12,954.08	42,946.92	17,380.00
Private	River Accrued Area	820.13	38.68	0.00	858.81	347.55
	Tax Recovery AFS	6,367.56	11,486.99	6,072.81	23,927.36	9,683.06
	Titled / AFS Paid	1,111,044.28	840,235.56	679,994.71	2,631,274.55	1,064,839.03
	Exceptions [e.g. crown vacant, road plans, railway, etc.]	15,741.66	2,701.05	4176.59	22,619.30	9,153.71
TOTAL ALL Land		2,342,930.33	1,636,246.55	1,099,283.08	5,078,459.96	2,055,179.82

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

Grazing Leases, Cultivation Leases And Permits

(January 1 to December 31, 2022)

	HANNA	OYEN	CONSORT	
G.L. Rentals				
2022 Current Levy	\$916,058.77	\$759,708.53	\$ 438,551.76	\$ 2,114,319.06
Current Outstanding	\$ 69,340.74	\$ 45,493.34	\$ 6,144.68	\$ 120,978.76
Number of Accounts	38	41	17	96
1 Year in Arrears	\$ 1,897.93	\$ 6,812.44	\$ -	\$ 8,710.37
No. of Accounts	3	5	0	
2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total G.L. Rentals	71,238.67	52,305.78	\$ 6,144.68	\$ 129,689.13
G.L. Taxes				
2022 Current Levy	\$282,841.68	\$236,459.76	\$ 151,413.92	
Current Outstanding	\$ 22,060.42	\$ 7,160.45	\$ 3,392.78	
Number of Accounts	40	28	28	96
1 Year in Arrears	\$ 1,333.71	\$2,440.75	\$ 110.15	\$ 3,884.61
No. of Accounts	5	5	2	12
2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total G.L. Taxes	23,394.13	9,601.20	\$3,502.93	\$ 3,884.61

	HANNA	OYEN	CONSORT	
C.L. Rentals				
2022 Current Levy	\$ 47,904.01	\$325,223.40	\$ 127,234.07	\$ 452,457.47
Current Outstanding	\$ 1,991.59	\$ 20,955.05	\$ 3,665.82	\$ 24,620.87
Number of Accounts	3	11	3	
1 Year in Arrears	\$ -	\$ 4,044.63	\$ -	
No. of Accounts	0	2	0	
2 years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ 2,463.39	\$ -	\$ 2,463.39
No. of Accounts	0	1	0	1
>2 years in Arrears	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total C.L. Rentals	1,991.59	27,463.07	\$3,665.82	\$ 454,920.86
C.L. Taxes				
2022 Current Levy	\$ 5,960.04	\$ 38,934.55	\$ 15,006.87	\$ 59,901.46
Current Outstanding	\$ 1,140.87	\$ 1,152.58	\$ 783.65	\$ 3,077.10
Number of Accounts	2	6	6	14
1 Year in Arrears	\$ -	\$ 428.95	\$ 0.11	\$ 429.06
No. of Accounts	0	2	1	3
2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total C.L. Taxes	1,140.87	1,581.53	\$ 783.65	\$ 60,330.52
Total Outstanding	\$ 97,765.26	\$90,951.58	\$ 14,097.08	

Regrassing, Grazing, Feed, Cultivation, and Hay Permits

2021 ACTUAL			TO Dec 31, 2022	
REGRASSING PERMITS	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)
Hanna			3	634
Oyen	7	825	5	985
Consort	7	1,194	5	570
TOTAL				2189
GRAZING PERMITS				AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	29*	7839.31	29*	7,583.25
Oyen	5	330.82	5	330.82
Consort	34	11,637.32	33	11,437.32
TOTAL				19351.39
FEED PERMITS	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	4	154.5	4	154.5
Oyen	13	607	13	607
Consort	3	105	2	58
TOTAL				819.5
CULTIVATION PERMITS				AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	4*	297.56	4*	297.56
Oyen	0	0	0	0
Consort	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	297.56	0	297.56
**1 Permit under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 137 acres			**1 Permit under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000 for 137 acres	
HAY PERMITS (TONS)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AMOUNT (TONS)
Hanna	4	3.5	3	6.3
Oyen	0	0	0	0
Consort	5	195	6	405.5
TOTAL	9			411.8

Range Management Report

The 2021 growing season was widely affected throughout the Special Areas by below average precipitation and heat waves that caused extreme evapotranspiration losses through plants that subsequently droughted out any subsoil moisture. Forage grasses on pastures entered dormancy early in the season with many of the native rangeland grasses not completing a full growth cycle by senescing to seed heads. By the fall, permanent wetlands on the landscape started to dry up completely, showing the lack of groundwater available and leaving livestock watering sources in scarce supply.

Of the twenty-one Alberta Agriculture weather stations in Special Areas, the majority have received less than 70% of the long-term average of annual precipitation in the last 12 months as of October 31st.

The range management department was busy in 2021 with grazing lease inspections; range survey of Richdale Community Pasture and the Empress sand dunes; community pasture monitoring and drought management planning; disposition approvals for well sites & pipelines; disposition cancellations; and well site reclamation inspections.

Approximately 70,000 acres of grazing lease was inspected throughout the summer months and identified approximately 60% of the range in *Healthy* condition, 30% in *Healthy with Problems* range condition and 10% in *Unhealthy* range condition. Drought conditions that have extended over the past thirty months in some areas has led to a decrease in carryover and subsequent declining range condition.

The range condition of the Richdale Community Pasture was surveyed during July as part of the community pasture monitoring program. The Richdale pasture is the smallest of the five community pastures and is situated on Contracosta Lake- a large wetland complex influenced by a Duck's Unlimited project built there. Due to the lack of spring runoff and summer drought, the seasonally flooded wetland remained dry and produced ample forage in 2021. The upland pasture in the south field was not utilized this year because of the forage production in the north field, which leaves the pasture in overall excellent range condition and stockpiled forage for next year.

The other four Special Areas community pastures were assessed in October to determine residual carryover following the grazing season. Concern of running out of grass started to emerge in late summer and plans were developed to keep cattle allotments to the end of the grazing season in worry that producers might not have grazing forage at home operations if the cattle exited the pastures early. Using the collected data from across the pastures, plans to actively adjust grazing plans and adapt to the conditions for the 2022 season have been developed in conjunction with the Community Pasture Administrator and Pasture Supervisors. It is anticipated that reductions in allotments will be necessary going into the January meetings. A severe lack of water available to stock the cattle that the grass condition can support could be more of a concern. Winter snowpack and timely spring rains will be critical to having a successful 2022 grazing season.

Industrial activity in the Special Areas increased slightly compared to 2020 because of rebounding oil & natural gas commodity prices as well as the effects from provincial government policies to reduce linear tax & assessments, tax breaks on new infrastructure, and no oil well drilling tax to companies. An increased investment into pipeline and processing infrastructure to conserve natural gas from oil wells is showing signs that gas production may be profitable again in the area. The Site Rehabilitation Program has provided funding to oil & gas producers since May 2020 to reduce liabilities associated with suspended and decommissioned well sites, enabling companies previously affected by an inadequate liability rating, determined by the AER, to now invest in new production opportunities. All of this could be viewed as a good sign

that government policy is helping to revive the oil & gas sector while energy prices stabilize from higher demand.

Reclamation still maintains a focus around the gas fields in the southern part of Special Areas. The Orphan Well Association completed surface reclamation on the defunct Area 2 Energy properties in the Cavendish/Buffalo area. CNRL still maintains a large inventory of reclamation sites throughout much of the area too. As of October 31st, the Special Areas has received 143 reclamation certificates on public land dispositions. It is expected to receive another 50-100 applications through the end of year and into early 2022. Reclamation is anticipated to remain steady throughout the area next year as SRP funding continues to the end of 2022 and free cashflow from new production boosts reclamation budgets.

Submitted By:

Nolan Ball, Rangeland Agrologist

2.4 LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Current Status

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

Outcome Statement

Manage the development of property through the Special Areas Board Land Use Order with an added 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">permits,subdivisions,land use order amendments. <i>(redistricting Agricultural land)</i>	Timelines for decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">40 days60 days90 days
Receive value-adding professional assistance for both the municipality and the developers with subdivisions, area concept plans, area structure plans, etc.	Palliser Regional Municipal Services partnership in place.	Quality of advice and service is comparable to industry standards.
Receive value-adding professional services from economic development partners which stimulates targeted growth.	Work with stakeholders and other agencies to promote growth through strategic economic development.	Operative economic development alliances in each Special Area. Strategic Operational Plans in place for each economic development alliance, approved annually. Annual Results/Projects Report presented at Advisory Council Conference.

2.5 ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
Current Status

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

Outcome Statement

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

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

Assessment Report
Key Points

- Benchmark Assessment Consultants Inc. have been working with our assessment department and have been reviewing residential and commercial aspects of the roll.
- The annual 2023 Designated Industrial Property Assessment will be mailed to the assessed persons (owners/operators of designated industrial property) on February 28, 2023, with a copy to the affected municipalities. A complaint about an assessment for designated industrial property must be filed by May 5, 2023, and Linear properties are April 7, 2023, as pursuant to s. 309(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*.
- In 2022 Farm residences were re-inspected in Special Area #2 and #3 south of Oyen in the following hamlets and villages: Buffalo, Bindloss, Empress, Cavendish, Big Stone, and Jenner as part of our five-year cycle to re-inspect all residences within Special Areas. Farm residences will be re-inspected in Special Area #2 in the area surrounding Hanna the 2022 General Re-Assessment with Scapa, Spondin, Watts, Richdale, Stanmore, Sheerness and Scotfield being the main areas with farm residences in the area looked at as well.

During the 2022 assessment year we had one appeal go to the hearing part of the appeal process while two other appeals were dropped before the hearings took place. Special areas lost the appeal to South Country CO-OP out of Medicine hat and thus reduced the assessment to the asking price asked for.

Staffing is still with one Assessor and who is working alongside Benchmark Consultants to finalize the roll. The goal of the department is to maintain the 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. Complete annual inspections and document all findings for SAB licensed dams and repair as needed Work with AEP to ensure all AEP licensed reservoirs are managed.	Inspect and repair as needed all 28 SAB Licensed small and 5 AEP Licensed large dams. Completion of all inspections
Maximize opportunities for irrigation on the Sheerness Deadfish System.	Work with AEP to provide opportunities for irrigators along the Sheerness Deadfish System. Work with AEP and Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee (CSIAC) to move expansion plans forward. Promote use of more efficient irrigation systems. Manage distribution system as effectively as possible.	20,000 acres of irrigation on the Sheerness Deadfish System.
Special Areas participates in provincial and special interest groups in planning activities.	Ensure SAB representatives are at table discussions and meetings for RDRWA & RDRMUG & Water SMART, etc. Review plans which work for the long-term	Monitor plans and proposals from Water SMART, SSRB, RDRMUG etc.

	sustainability of the land, resources, and farm and ranch units and provide feedback.	
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

2021	Hanna	Oyen	Consort	TOTAL
Number of Leases	8	14	0	22
2021 Applied Credits	\$5,822.34	\$9,432.22		\$15,254.56
2021 Carry Forward	\$1,908.70	\$2,294.98		\$4,203.68
2022	Hanna	Oyen	Consort	TOTAL
Number of Leases	0	4	3	7
2022 Applied Credits		\$3,857.72	\$1,262.41	\$5,120.13
2022 Carry Forward		\$1,143.72	\$1,131.34	\$2,275.06

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Bietelspacher
Lease Supervisor

Pumping Units Report as of December 31, 2022

	2021	2022
Applications For Use	40	42
Customers Pumped	30	37
Usage of Pump (Hours)	4 to 30	3 to 88
Total Hours Pumped	348	322
Customers Cancelled	9	5
Customers to Do	0	
Charges For Usage	\$28,865.00	\$10,040.00
Total Revenue	\$28,865.00	\$10,040.00

	2021	2022
Labour Cost to Move Pumps/Pipe	\$5,475.60	\$4,056.90
Equipment Cost to Move Pumps/Pipe	\$6,737.20	\$5,361.11
Pump Repairs	\$7935.74	\$24,971.61
Trailer Repairs	\$3717.19	\$2,258.87
Pipe Parts/Labour	\$1,981.74	
Total Expenses	\$25,847.47	\$36,648.49

No changes to rental information reported 31 Oct 2022.
Eight rentals were for pipe or discharge hose only.
There were two courtesy (no charge) usages - suction hose to the Oyen Golf Course and the Spondin Community Hall.
Pump apparatus was purchased for two and replaced in only one of the PTO pumps, due to labour shortages. Pipe has not been sorted and organized, also due to labour shortage.
Revenue without the rental adjustment would have been \$34,890.00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paulette Gillespie

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. 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. Include SAB articles in CARA quarterly newsletter.	Education efforts for producers are resulting in greater awareness.

Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 2

February 28, 2023 marked the final submission of the 2020-22 CAP Surveillance Grant funding of \$510,429.50 matching dollars into the Special Area No.2 ASB budget. This grant was intended to make up the shortfall of the ASB annual grant from Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation that saw a 27% reduction in 2020. All proposed activities of the grant application were completed. There have been no updates as to whether another grant will be available in 2023.

The 2022 annual inspections totaled 272 (117 confirmed noxious), including all hamlets (twice) and all SA2 gravel pits. All 41 bridges received two herbicide applications for total vegetation control on behalf of Roads & Streets. The Clean Farm pesticide

container recycling program received two visits at each of the 10 transfer sites in 2022. As part of a province-wide shift to retailer responsibility of pesticide containers, Special Areas will no longer be accepting containers at these transfer sites as of December 31, 2024 with the proposed exception of a few strategic locations, ensuring all producers have access and prevent misuse in environment.

Burdock and leafy spurge continue to be the focus along the Red Deer River. In 2022, 289.5 hours were spent inspecting & controlling leafy spurge within the Jenner Special Project, while 190.75 hours were spent on burdock at the Majestic Special Project. In the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture (BACP) 214 hours were spent battling both leafy spurge and burdock, adjacent to the above-mentioned special projects.

Our only known locations of prohibited noxious species continue to be the Majestic Project with spotted knapweed, and an isolated spot of Russian knapweed in the Bullpound Community Pasture (BPCP). While these infestations are visited regularly, a single plant of spotted knapweed can produce up to 140,000 seeds/year with a survival of 5-10 years and can mutate extremely quickly to adapt to differing environmental conditions due to its tetraploidy. This population has been receiving treatment for at least 20 years due to these invasive characteristics, but no spread has occurred. The Ag Fieldman recommends trying to establish a population of *Centaurea maculosa* biocontrol agents in addition to chemical control in 2023 at the Majestic location.

Efforts to control downy brome at BACP and Prairie Oasis Park (POP) continued. This is the only known noxious grass species in SA2 and is an aggressive contaminant of feed coming from the US. Early spring herbicide application and handpicking were used for the fifth year with excellent control at BACP. Due to water proximity a combination of torching with fire and hand picking were used for the second year at POP with some success. A third year of burning is planned to diminish the seedbank as quickly as possible, as seed is only viable a few years.

Five annual pest surveys were conducted this year including bertha armyworm (low numbers), grasshopper (rising numbers), fusarium, blackleg and clubroot (results TBD). SA2 continues to be a clubroot free municipality, however we are surrounded by positive municipalities and prevention is key to keeping cruciferous crops available to our producers' crop rotations. Changes to the ASB Clubroot Policy are being investigated. Flea beetles on canola were also a major concern for our producers in 2022 and likely again in 2023 with the loss of lambda-cyhalothrin insecticide Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) registration on any crops used for feed uses.

ASB2 rental equipment utilized this year included a large increase in pipe plow use with the ongoing drought. The 2" pipe plow (7) and 3" pipe plow (4) were used to place approx. 20 miles of water lines. Higher plow rental volumes are expected in 2023 with OFCAF and S-CAP water funding grant opportunities. Other rentals included the fabric roller (1), cattle crossing signs (1) and skunk traps (2). There were nine poison tablets dispensed for livestock predation by coyotes, to date. Coyote predation inquiries are rising with low fur prices. Several bounty related inquiries have been received this winter. Shelterbelt health enquiries are expected to increase after 2021/22 droughts. A subdivisional tree/shrub inventory of known species is being proposed.

2% Liquid Strychnine sales were halted to landowners after March 4th, 2022 due to PMRA registration discontinuation. Richardson's ground squirrel populations are likely to increase without this tool in our toolbox. Agricultural fieldmen are already experiencing increased call volumes on alternative methods for control, which include other registered toxicants, predator encouragement and shooting. A series of extension webinars and outreach are being planned for April 2023 to aid producers in controlling this nuisance pest.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Jesse Williams, Agricultural Fieldman
Special Area No. 2

Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 3

Summer Staff

The 2022 summer work season began with training of new and retuning staff attending the required Special Areas Orientations and ASB orientation. New staff travelled to Vulcan where they received training to become authorized assistants. ATV training, TDG and First Aid courses were also provided to the new staff.

Spray season started with bridges and gravel pits. During windy or rainy days, staff cleaned pesticide container transfer sites. These sites were visited multiple times throughout the season. Next season, these containment sites will begin disappearing. In 2023, signs will be posted explaining the changes and the new responsibilities of the ratepayers and producers. Containment sites will be closed in 2024. At this point, the retailer will provide producers with bags which will hold between 45 and 50 chemical jugs. Producers will then be responsible to return the bags to the retailer where Clean Farms will pick up the bags and deliver them to a recycling facility.

Pest Control

Richardson Ground Squirrels were a nuisance, devouring acres of crop and hay land again this year. As of March 4, 2022, Special Areas was no longer able to sell 2% liquid strychnine. PMRA has de-registered this product for Richardson Ground Squirrel control. Producers have until March 4, 2023, to use up any liquid strychnine they have. Any remaining product should be disposed of on March 5, 2023. An alternative for Richardson Ground Squirrel control is Rozol, however, this product requires multiple dosages to be effective.

The MD of Acadia No. 34 manages the RAT program from the South Saskatchewan River through Special Areas 2, 3 and 4 to the MD of Provost. Baiting occurs spring and fall in Range 1, once annually in Range 2 and at 50 sites in Range 3.

Burdock Project

Mature Burdock plants were pulled, and seed heads picked at the Bar Diamond Project. Due to a robust seed bed, first year plants will require continued chemical treatment. Burdock is now being found South of Bar Diamond at Howe's ranch in the flood plains along the Red Deer River. This noxious weed is hard to stop as animals big and small transport it easily. 12 days of the 2022 season were spent at this Project. ASB 3 will continue their efforts to control Burdock.

Leafy Spurge Project

The Leafy Spurge Project, located East of Highway 41 off Highway 555, was deemed a Special Project in January of 2015. There are many, many acres in this project, so many in fact the spray crew could spend the whole summer on this project alone. New infestations of Leafy Spurge require ongoing control efforts at this project.

Baby's Breath Project

The ASB crew continue to pick and spray this noxious weed. Baby's Breath is a huge concern and spreading vigorously throughout Special Areas. With the infestation of this weed there could be a couple of summer staff hired just for spraying and controlling Baby's Breath. ASB3 is using a couple of different chemicals on Baby's Breath. The results are positive with the control. The crew spent time at Empress, Cavendish, Sibbald, Esther, spraying and picking this noxious weed. Ten days were spent finding and controlling smaller infestations.

Sedalia Scentless Chamomile Project

Staff used truck sprayers for two days to treat the Scentless Chamomile infestation at Sedalia. This infestation has been kept from spreading; ASB 3 will continue these efforts.

Russian Knapweed V - V Project

Starting in mid-August, staff worked at the V – V Project for eight days, using both quad and truck sprayers against the abundant Russian Knapweed. There was no change for this project in the last seven years. The Russian Knapweed on this project grows vigorously from the same root system, which makes it hard to control. Leafy Spurge is now appearing along the riverbanks and in inaccessible areas. The Larson family rebuilt the dam across Blood Indian Creek to hold back more water, allowing them to add four new irrigation pivots. Previously inaccessible areas of the Creek were inspected and sprayed for the first time. The additional irrigation acres reduce the acres to be inspected and sprayed, shortening the time usually dedicated to this project for future years.

Surveys in Special Area No. 3

- Canola and wheat samples were taken to the research center in Brooks.
- CARA completed pest monitoring.
- Alberta Agriculture surveyed for Bertha Armyworm and Diamond Back Moths.
- 2 fields were sampled for the annual Club Root Survey.
- 37 sites were swept for the annual Grasshopper Survey.
- 14 fields were sampled for the annual Fusarium Survey.

Roadside Spraying

Roadside spraying is handled by ASB 3 in Special Area No. 3. Kochia and other weed issues on trails and graveled roads are difficult to keep up with. Glyphosate resistant Kochia is becoming more prevalent in Special Area No. 3.

The roadside sprayer, T-804, has been modified to make the truck easier to spray with and safer to operate. This season 1,641 kilometers of SA3 roads were sprayed, with multiple roads being sprayed twice. New construction and shoulder pull roads were sprayed and mowed to keep the weeds controlled. Octtain XL tank mixed with Glyphosate was used on 70% of the roads and trails. Next season, a different chemical will need to be considered as problem weeds develop resistance to the chemical currently being used.

Red Deer River Report

The Red Deer River Project for 2022 had a late start because of high water in late June. After training was completed, the RDR staff assisted the ASB crew on multiple projects before starting on the Red Deer River.

As this project did not operate in 2020, it is noticeable that the weeds did not take a year off. It was very noticeable that not being able to inspect and spray on the river in 2020 was a major setback on the productivity that was gained in years past. The river crew when inspecting on the river are looking for Russian Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Common Tansy, Scentless Chamomile, and Toad Flax. The RDR crew started at the Jenner Bridge and worked toward Empress. When Empress was reached in early August the crew moved to McNiven Cattle Company allowed us to use their river access for the rest of the summer. The river getting low late August made it challenging to navigate the Red Deer River. The RDR crew also inspected the South Saskatchewan River from the Suffield base to Sandy Point Bridge.

I would like to thank the ASB / RDR crews for the challenging work and dedication to make the 2022 spray season a success.

Don Hogan, Agricultural Fieldman, ASB #3

Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 4

The season began with training of new and returning summer staff; Mitchel Gramlich (returning), as well as 2 new members of the team, Osten Hagens, and Joseph Vanlagen rounded out the 2022 crew. Mitchel Gramlich successfully passed his pesticide applicator exam while Osten and Joe worked through the season as authorized assistants.

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, and to previously mapped problematic sites that needed to be re-inspected. With drought conditions so prevalent in 2021 and moisture arriving in the early summer there was great growing conditions for historical sites that might not have much for competitive vegetation to check populations. However, this moisture was then followed up by a very hot and dry spell that significantly shortened our window for control efforts. Going through old weed files led to the discovery of a few sites that needed to be chemically controlled due to noxious weeds emerging. A total of 113 sites confirmed to have noxious weeds requiring control from previous years where sites were mapped, and additional inactive sites were inspected and marked as clean. 87 sites were mapped as controlled by our efforts and the remaining were left to the landowner or were too late in the season to provide effective control and will be followed up with next season. All 5 hamlets were inspected at various times throughout the season with Monitor being of the most concern with the Baby's Breath infestation there. Baby's Breath, Leafy Spurge, and the not regulated Absinthe Wormwood were also of concern in Altario and the surrounding area. All 7 active and 5 inactive SA Gravel pits were inspected for noxious weeds this year with very little found. Another 5 private gravel pits (some inactive) were also voluntarily inspected with no infestations to note. All current SA road construction projects were also inspected to ensure the reclamation remains free of noxious weeds. Staff also covered the inactive railway bed from Veteran to Pemukan this year and the Yellow Toadflax and Common Mullein found was controlled. We also assisted ASB 2 with inspections in the NE of their region to help prevent the movement of White Cockle and Baby's Breath from that particular area.

The most challenging weed issues posed this year were Baby's Breath, Leafy Spurge and Black Henbane. Baby's Breath remains a problem in Monitor, S of Altario, and N of Loyalist with strong populations of this drought loving plant noted in 2021. Leafy Spurge populations S of Altario took advantage of receiving any kind of moisture early in the year to kickstart its populations ahead of emerging native species. A few new sites around the borders of the Forrester project and along 899 were marked and this population will remain closely monitored as oil and gas traffic in the area is heavy. There was extensive road construction on 899 and in the area this year by our own crews as well so this area will be a priority to watch next season. Canada Thistle moving off the Highway ROWs continues to be an issue we are addressing with Alberta Transportation as we work to keep our ROWs clean as well. We continue to have positive results on our primary and secondary weed control efforts thanks to the cooperation and collaboration with Alberta Transportation.

Special projects began with Scentless Chamomile at the Tanaschyk Project and only required a day of our time. The staff then headed down to Special Area No. 2 to help with the Majestic, and Jenner Colony projects. The Forrester project is our biggest project, with leafy spurge located south of Altario. ASB 4 staff were at this project for a total of 5 days including pre and post inspections after our main control efforts while reinforcements from ASB 2 joined us for a day to complete the larger area of the infestation. 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.

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 participated in Bertha Armyworm, Grasshopper, Clubroot, and Fusarium surveys, the blackleg survey was completed with the help of Alberta Agriculture in the fall. The staff also cleaned the pesticide container sites twice this year. The 2-inch pipe plow was rented three times this year. Skunk traps continued to be popular this year, however magpie 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 as well as cleaning up weeds around the water stations at Monitor and Loyalist.

Clean Farms announced late last year that there were changes coming to its >23L pesticide container recycling program after concluding a test study in Saskatchewan. In phases, depending on location, the program will become the responsibility of the pesticide retailers. In Special Area No. 4 our collection sites will be closed as of January 1, 2025, and the retailers will be expected to take full responsibility for the program here at that time.

Strychnine sales for 2022 concluded with all remaining 2382 bottles sold in 2 days. On March 4, 2020 Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency publicized their final decision on the registration of 2% Strychnine for control of Richardson's Grounds Squirrels has been cancelled. Municipalities had until March 4th 2022 to sell all remaining product and producers have until March 4th 2023 to USE ALL REMAINING PRODUCT. Appeals have been filed by both the Saskatchewan and Alberta Provincial Governments to Health Canada regarding this cancellation. RMA and ASB conferences have both put forward resolutions and continue to engage with each other and the AAAF to sustain the pressure for reregistration of this product and/or a suitably effective alternative. In similar fashion, the registration for Compound 1080 (monofluoroacetate) tablets, used for coyote predation control is also under re-evaluation and being watched closely by the ASBs and Alberta Agriculture's Pest Program Specialist.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Justine Comeau CLGM
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. Stocked as per Special Areas Rangeland Agrologist recommendations.	Unless in drought conditions etc., the range health (as measured by AEP “Rangeland Health Assessment” framework should be approximately: 100% healthy 0% healthy w/problems 0% unhealthy.
Stable membership group which are not prone to cyclical nature of the cattle industry.	Maintain modest turnover in each pasture.	98% of allotment.
Sustainable community pasture for the future with the ability to attract and retain quality staff.	Maintain quality facilities such as; fences, water development, homes, equipment, corrals, etc.	Long term capital plan is in place.

Community Pasture Report

Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture

The summer heat and lack of precipitation has stressed range condition in 2022. Carryover is reduced on portions of the pasture where water is available. Grazing distribution is highly variable with a lack of water in seasonal wetlands and dried up dugouts.

Total AUM = 10,608 Total Planned Allotment = 9,063 (85%) % Utilized in 2022 = 66%

Allotted in the spring at 85% of total AUM, exited cattle approximately one month early resulting in 66% utilization of the total AUM. Four aeration systems were added to water systems, a 400-barrel tank was replaced, and extensive repairs and maintenance were made to the water systems. Five new dugouts were developed in November 2022. Six miles of fence were replaced.

Future plans:

- Possible 50% reduction to allotted AUM in 2023;
- Yard well replacement, additional dugouts, and water development; and
- Continue interior fence replacement.

Bullpound Community Pasture

Rotational grazing opportunities along with additional grazing at the Racetrack and reclaimed Mine lands has kept the range in good condition overall. Dry water sources from the large waterbody area becoming a concern of water availability in 2023, some dugout sources can be filled off the ATCO waterline pumped from the river to fill the Prairie Oasis cooling pond.

Total AUM = 4,658 Total Allotment = 4,658 % Allotted in 2022 = 100%

No new patrons were admitted. One dugout was developed this year. A 25% drought reduction to allotment for 2023 is anticipated.

Remount Community Pasture

Range condition is highly variable due to water availability and grazing impacts. Water development is critical to sustain grazing on the pasture and new development projects are being investigated to distribute grazing across the pasture.

Total AUM = 8,136 Total Allotment = 6,981 % Utilized in 2022 = 81%

Allotment for 2022 was 93% in Cavendish and 84% in Remount Breeding, exited all cattle approximately two weeks early resulting in utilization of 6,630 total AUM. No new patrons were admitted in 2022. Retirement of Lester Frank who was replaced by Lee Trach as Pasture Supervisor.

Future plans:

- Possible 50% reduction of allotted AUM in 2023; and
- Replace failed well and additional water development.

Richdale Community Pasture

The lack of runoff into the Contracosta wetland provided ample grazing area for the cattle. Range condition is estimated to be in good to excellent condition.

Total AUM = 700 Total Allotment = 720 % Allotted in 2022 = 103%

One new patron was admitted in 2022. Future plans are to investigate options to recruit additional patrons; investigate different patterns of grazing to better utilize the pasture; and investigate future use and or structure of the pasture.

Sounding Creek Community Pasture

This was one of the driest areas in 2022. The full grazing season was completed, however range condition has suffered on many areas of the pasture. Runoff and spring moisture will be needed to keep stocking rates close to normal for future years.

Total AUM = 7,920 Total Allotment = 7,794 % Allotted in 2022 = 98%

Two new patrons admitted in 2022.

Future plans:

- Possible 25% reduction of allotted AUM in 2023;
- Water development;
- Interior fence replacement; and
- Demolition of old bunkhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brett Richards & Nolan Ball

ACTUALS TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

REVENUE:

2022 Spring Pasture Fees Invoiced	\$ 904,329.70	
2022 Fall Pasture Fees Invoiced	\$ 64,322.46	
2022 Refunds or Credit (Dead Cow/Early Exit)	\$ (87,111.74)	
Pasture House Utilities/Rent	\$ 15,840.00	
		\$ 897,380.42

Operating Expenditures:

Salaries	\$ 256,929.78	
Wages for Assistants	\$ 157,862.68	
Employer Contributions	\$ 68,179.34	
Worker's Compensation Board	\$ 3,866.41	
Travel & Sub	\$ 2,704.10	
Mileage	\$ 6,868.65	
Membership and Conference fees	\$ -	
Telephone	\$ 11,763.96	
Advertising	\$ -	
Training & Education	\$ 600.00	
Building Repairs	\$ 49,883.39	
Mach Repair	\$ 36,366.22	
Contract Repairs	\$ 750.00	
General Supplies	\$ 18,736.52	
Water Development & Repair	\$ 95,856.46	
Fuel/Oil	\$ 97,063.31	
Fencing Supplies	\$ 12,576.16	
Attractive Items	\$ 8,597.00	
Chemicals & Salt	\$ 8,839.75	
Natural Gas	\$ 9,660.98	
Electric Power	\$ 27,969.77	
		\$ 875,074.48

Depreciation of Capital Assets:

2022 SCCP Utility Vehicle	5 yrs	1	\$ 4,399.00
2022 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	1	\$ 9,944.00
2021 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	2	\$ 12,000.00
2020 Buffalo Atlee Dugouts	10 yrs	3	\$ 950.00
2020 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	3	\$ 5,684.00
2020 Sounding Creek Barn	20 yrs	3	\$ 5,000.00
2019 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	4	\$ 16,800.00
2019 Sounding Creek Corrals	40 yrs	4	\$ 2,646.00
2019 Generator	5 yrs	4	\$ 410.00
2018 Generator	5 yrs	5	\$ 410.00
2017 Buffalo Atlee House	40 yrs	6	\$ 10,000.00
2017 Buffalo Atlee Jeep	10 yrs	6	\$ 2,730.00
2017 Remount & Bullpound Gators	5 yrs	6	\$ 9,200.00
2016 Three Shipping Containers	10 yrs	7	\$ 840.00
2015 Buffalo Atlee Spratt Camp	10 yrs	8	\$ 1,000.00
2013 Post Pounder (Bullpound)	10 yrs	9	\$ 1,300.00
2013 Bullpound Water (Cystern & Bldg)	10 yrs	9	\$ 769.70
2013 Bullpound Corrals	40 yrs	9	\$ 1,074.46
2013 Cereal West Corrals	40 yrs	9	\$ 769.88
2012 Water Development	20 yrs	10	\$ 1,776.70
2012 SCCP Natural Gas	40 yrs	10	\$ 562.50
2012 Buffalo Atlee Corrals	40 yrs	10	\$ 1,875.00
2011 Trucks	10 yrs	11	\$ 11,731.00
2011 Buffalo Atlee Barn	20 yrs	11	\$ 2,063.00
2011 Water Development	20 yrs	11	\$ 197.00
2010 Bullpound Assistant Quarters	40 yrs	12	\$ 1,890.23
2008 Water Development	20 yrs	14	\$ 1,941.00
2007 Remount Barn	20 yrs	15	\$ 1,250.00
2007 Water Development	20 yrs	15	\$ 280.00
2006 Water Development	20 yrs	16	\$ 1,650.00
2005 Water Development	20 yrs	17	\$ 1,000.00
2005 Buffalo Atlee Assistant Quarters	20 yrs	17	\$ 2,660.00
2004 Fire Skids	20 yrs	18	\$ 500.00
2004 Water Development	20 yrs	18	\$ 2,250.00

5. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

5.1 RURAL STABILIZATION – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Current Status

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

Outcome Statement

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

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

Special Area No. 2 Recreation Report For 2022

COMMUNITY CLUB	10 YEAR ADVANCE ADJUSTMENT	GRANT \$	INSURANCE DEDUCTION	CHEQUE ISSUED
Berry Creek Ag Society				\$ 19,693.46
Berry Creek (Cessford) Library				\$ 1,855.49
Big Country Riding & Roping Club			\$ 2,015.00	\$ 304.36
Bindloss Community Hall Board	\$ 19,693.46			
	\$ (2,500.00)		\$ 3,249.41	\$ 13,944.05
Buffalo Agricultural Society				\$ 22,708.63
Cessford Home & School Association				\$ 1,391.62
Diamond Jubilee Rec & Cult Centre			\$ 12,532.41	\$ 12,769.69
Dorothy Community Club			\$ 977.00	\$ 4,589.46
Empress, Village of				\$ 37,489.27
Empress & Dist Friendship Centre				\$ 4,638.72
Empress Library				\$ 1,265.10
HandHills Lake Club				\$ 11,596.79
Hanna, Town of				\$ 163,704.56
Hanna Municipal Library				\$ 7,590.63
Hanna Motorcross Association	Struck Association			
Homestead Coulee Community Assoc			\$ 2,651.41	\$ 5,951.30
Iddesleigh Community Centre				\$ 4,638.72
Jenner Hall Committee				\$ 4,638.72
Pollockville Curling Club				\$ 19,229.59
Richdale Community Club			\$ 2,140.41	\$ 2,498.31
Sandhills Roping Club				\$ 1,855.49
Scapa Athletic Association				\$ 4,638.72
Social Plains Community Club				\$ 2,108.51
Spondin Community Club				\$ 8,349.69
Table Rock Riding & Roping Club				\$ 1,855.49
Supplemental Library Funding				\$ 22,500.00
TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUM DEDUCTIONS			\$23,565.64	
TOTAL HOLDBACKS			Total of Chq	\$ 381,806.34
TOTAL ALLOCATION LEVY				

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

Matt Clarke	Cody Mashon
Mark Sturm	Jane 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 2022

The 2022 Recreation Mill Rate Levy was designated as follows:

	Grant Withheld for		Total	
	10 yr Advance	Insurance	Amount	
Big Country Agricultural Society			\$ 10,858.87	
Big Stone Community Building Fund Assoc.		(\$3,088.42)	\$ 8,596.61	
Cappon Community Club		(\$1,771.41)	\$ 1,508.18	
Cereal Athletic Association			\$ 4,222.90	note 2
Cereal Golden Center			\$ 1,508.18	
CJ Peacock Center			\$	
Cereal Board of Trade			\$ 1,508.18	note 2
Chinook & District Community Club		(\$2,334.41)	\$ 3,317.99	
Esther Community Hall New Building Society		(\$1,865.41)	\$ 3,317.99	
Lanfine Hall Community Association		(\$1,383.41)	\$ 1,508.18	
New Brigden Central Curling Club			\$ 9,049.06	
New Brigden Community Association			\$ 8,596.61	note 2
Oyen Municipal Library Board			\$	
Sedalia Hall Club			\$	note 3
Sibbald Community Club			\$ 8,415.63	note 3
Town of Oyen	(\$10,000.00)			note 4
Village of Youngstown			\$33,632.35	
Youngstown & District Library Board			\$5,007.15	

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

- Erin Logan - Member - Resident, Chair
- Quinn Wagstaff - Member - Resident
- Kerry Molzan - 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 (2022 is year 7 of 10 year rec advance - ball concession/training facility)

Special Area No. 4 Recreation Report For 2022

The 2022 Recreation Mill Rate Levy of \$217,002 was designated as follows:

	Advance	Jubilee Insurance	Total Grant
Village of Consort	(\$32,500.00)		\$108,893.29
Consort Municipal Library Board			\$15,000.00
Village of Veteran			\$37,173.92
Veteran Municipal Library			\$2,500.00
Altario Community Association		(\$2,647.42)	\$7,134.39
Compeer Community Centre	(\$4,500.00)	(\$2,647.82)	\$22,529.65
Hemaruka Hall Association	(\$350.00)		\$4,000.00
Kirriemuir Community Association		(\$1,404.41)	\$6,383.40
Monitor Community Club			\$4,000.00
Consort Lakeview Golf Club			\$9,387.35
			\$217,002.00

The 2022 Special Areas No. 4 Recreation Board consists of the following members:

- Paulette Long
- Dan Beier
- Carley Day
- Darcy Ferguson
- Taryl Abt

Taryl Abt, Secretary
Special Area No. 4 Recreation Board

Economic Development

Business Investment & Attraction: There has been an increase in the Site Select Requests for the region, and the province. Proposals are individually crafted for each request. A few of the projects have been agriculturally based with astronomical utility requirements. Investors are looking at Co-Gen or Power Purchase Agreements to meet their needs. Discussions have been facilitated with some of the renewable projects in the region to accommodate the utility demands.

Site Select visits were coordinated for foreign investors, as well as provincial and federal government representatives. One thing that is always noticed by visitors is the collaboration of our communities on projects as well as how vast the region is.

The development of the hydrogen sector is ongoing. In July 2022 the report [Towards Hydrogen: A Hydrogen HUB Feasibility Study for SouthEast Alberta](#) was released. Discussions regarding opportunities to pursue are ongoing.

Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E): Supporting local business retention and expansion is a top priority for Special Areas Regional Economic Development.

One of the challenges impacting employers in Special Areas is the shortage of workers. While this is not a unique situation for the Special Areas, it has made it difficult for some local businesses to stay in operation.

- Workforce Development Project: We are halfway through the project and have completed the Employee Survey and are now conducting Employer Interviews.
 - The Employee Survey received over 600 responses from a broad spectrum of workers, including workers on local wind and solar projects.
- Labour Attraction Initiatives:
 - Rural Entrepreneur Stream – Enrolled Village of Consort and the Town of Oyen
 - Rural Renewal Stream – Finalizing supporting documents for Community Designation for the Town of Oyen and Village of Consort.
- Business Support – information, marketing support, mentorship
- Alberta's Special Areas Housing Project – a collaboration between Harvest Region Economic Development, Special Areas Regional Economic Development, and the Rural Development Network. A community meeting was held in October.
- [Return to Rural](#) – the project is being overhauled to focus on resident attraction.

Community Development:

- Veteran School of Excellence Program Update: The school has incorporated ideas from the initial consultation held in the spring of 2021 and is now working with a professional landscape firm to see its vision executed.
- Physician Recruitment Update: Recruitment efforts from fall 2021 paid off! Dr. Lynder Alole accepted an offer to practice in the Town of Oyen. Dr. Lynder Alole and Promise Alole were provided with support to settle into the community.
- Village of Consort: Business License Bylaw – defeated, Mainstreet Revitalization Project, Lagoon Waste Project

Tourism:

Covid Funding

- Travel Special Areas received Covid funding for one more year. The funds were used to hire one full-time summer student for the Visitor Information Booth in Consort and contract social media agency support.

[Travel Special Areas](#)

- New marketing has been developed and includes an updated logo, website, brochures, driving tours, and photo library.

- Registered as a destination with [Alberta on the Plate](#) Tourism Consort
- Hired and managed three full-time summer students for the Visitor Information Booth. Created an entrepreneurial learning environment for the students that netted \$7500 in sales for July and August.

Signage – final gateway sign ordered and installed

Carolside Mosasaur Project - RFP was awarded to Dinosaur Valley Studios

Travel Alberta – Travel Alberta is creating six new select destinations within the province. The Scenic Driving Route along highways #570 and #876 will be included in the Drumheller Destination.

Special Areas Regional Economic Development participates in...

Consort Chamber of Commerce: executive board member, provides information on programs for businesses

East Central Housing Society: board member, assist the society with marketing, and project development

Neutral Hills Adult Learning Council Society (NHALCS): executive board member, policy writing, strategic planning, HR assistance (Interviewing/Hiring)

Neutral Hills Child Care Society: Resigned from the board after 12 years. Taryl Abt now sits on the board representing Special Areas' financial investment.

Palliser Economic Partnership (PEP): alternate representative for the Village of Consort

Regional EDO Meetings North: engage with EDOs from Wainwright, Vermilion, Lloydminster, Flagstaff County, Paintearth Economic Partnership

Regional EDO Meetings South: engage with EDOs from Brooks, Verge Economic Development, Medicine Hat, Harvest Sky Economic Development

Round Table Meetings: Travel Alberta, Rural Economic Development

For more information contact, Wanda Diakow, Economic Development Officer at 403-575-9533 or wanda.diakow@specialareas.ab.ca



Brand Story

A prairie lifestyle that lets you slow down and breathe. Wide-open spaces where you can inhale the scent of freshly cut hay, dotted with beautiful lakes surrounded by towering poplars. Here, the vast sky signals endless possibilities in a place where you reap your unique harvest while living a life you love.

Welcome to the Harvest Sky Region, where the simplicity of a prairie lifestyle combines with easy access to local urban conveniences and strong connectivity to nearby communities. With ample land and affordable living, there are limitless opportunities to transform your dreams into reality, while still leaving plenty of time to relax with friends and family or explore the great outdoors.

This is a community waiting for people excited to build a family or retirement lifestyle filled with camping, fishing, or hiking. Your neighbours are warm and welcoming, the kind of people who know your name and look out for each other. While offering

excellent healthcare, education, and recreational amenities, the Harvest Sky Region has everything urban life delivers – but with the freedom you only experience when all you hear is the wheat field rustling in the breeze.

Strategic Plan



Our Purpose

Creating endless possibilities in the Harvest Sky Region.

Our Vision

We will be the destination of choice for investors, visitors and residents.

Our Values

Commitment – we value and rely on dedication from ourselves for the success of our region.

Authentic – we value openness, honesty and integrity in ourselves, our relationships and our work.

Passionate – we value determination and conviction in our people and the work we do for the communities we live in.

Leaders – we support, trust and respect people in our communities and have high expectations of everything we do.

Our Priorities and Objectives

Economic Development – We will work to support existing business and attract new investors, visitors and residents.

Economic Development Readiness – We will be at the forefront of regional development information.

Community Development – We will facilitate community development to support economic growth.

Strategic Plan Actions

Updated: November 1, 2021

Objective: Economic Development	
Action	Notes & Updates
Lead Generation and Business Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with outside consultants and contacts if needed
Regional Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Incite Solutions Inc• Update branding of regional partners• Community engagement event: postponed due to covid• Advertising to investors, residents and visitors
Seniors as an Industry (Retire to Hanna Strategy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In conjunction with marketing, work with consultant on plans aimed at active retirees & snowbirds• Find gaps in local capacity and actively search to fill gaps
Youngstown Affordable Living Marketing Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In conjunction with marketing, work with consultant on plans aimed at active retirees & snowbirds• Review snowbird land development project
Energy Industry Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to investigate energy opportunities to pursue including: coal options; oil; gas; renewables; bio; waste; hydrogen
Harvest Sky - facilitate business (be in the business of generating business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ From 13 Ways plan - HS should shift from a governing entity to a 'for profit business' - be ready to make deals and take on risk• Examples - buy vacant store fronts and fix and flip (mixed commercial downtown); invest in retire to Hanna; buy derelict houses and upgrade; fund projects; partner with private sector• Demolition and Development project: in process
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism association and coordinator position• Need to promote tourism initiatives including: Hanna roundhouse; farm tourism; local attractions and parks; birding; Hanna Museum; golf course; back in time museum

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fox lake expansion and permanent RV sites (work with potential developer?)
Special Areas Engineering & Infrastructure Assessment of the Carolside-Deadfish Irrigation System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Klohn Crippen Berger✓ Moving onto phase 2 (SA's, AB Ag, CIB)
Special Areas Assessment & Evaluation of further Irrigation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Wood✓ Moving onto phase 2 (SA's, AB Ag, CIB)
Agricultural Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Summit 72• Opportunities: Livestock Hub; Riding & Event Center; Food Production; Other (education / research)
Educational Resource Project (3 Parts including an Education Center; Adult Education & Worker Transition; Skills Mapping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Stantec• Potential ideas: research center; youth resiliency strategy; academies – satellite schools; PLSD - international students; HLC; other school partnerships; adult education; retooling workforce• Potentially pivoting to dorms and other options

Objective: Economic Development Readiness	
Action	Notes & Updates
Economic Development Readiness: Water, Power, Logistics Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: MPE✓ Include all information on accessible, online layered maps on Cactus website
Economic Development Readiness: Land Inventory, Commercial Building and Businesses for Sale Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Randall Strategy• Include land availability with land use and zoning
Economic Development Readiness: Labour Force Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Applications Management
Economic Development Readiness: Choke point analysis and red tape reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Vicinia Planning• Objective is to streamline processes & procedures in development (Hanna, Y-town, SA's and Palliser)
Economic Development Readiness: Development Incentive Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Work with municipal partners to implement standard incentive policy across all municipalities• Hanna & Youngstown passed; SA's in progress
Economic Development Readiness: Business Attraction Info and Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare a package with information including opportunities and flat-sheets for Harvest Sky website and distribution
Town of Hanna Business License Review and Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed current pricing and structure of Hanna business licenses• Idea to combine Chamber, Town and Hub business functions

Objective: Community Development	
Action	Notes & Updates
Hanna Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: 818 Studio• Includes community vision; downtown revitalization; community-based transport (golf carts?); entrances and signage; highway development area – south side of highway 9• Mixed use downtown (13 ways sec 9 page 15)• Coordinate with town infrastructure plan
Hanna Community Development Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: 818 Studio
Hanna Recreational Living Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: 818 Studio• 13 ways ideas: winter carnival; fox lake skate path; x-country skiing; skate park expansion; nature walk and map; birding; upgrade soccer and ball fields; tournaments such as pickleball; golf course upgrades
Hanna Healthy Living Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: Lombard North
Youngstown Solar Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore options for solar on Village owned facilities
Youngstown Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consultant: 818 Studio• Includes community vision; downtown revitalization; entrances and signage; upgrades to park & campground; hall & rec center upgrades; ice plant in rec center• Mixed use downtown (13 ways sec 9 page 15)• Coordinate with Village infrastructure plan• Signage: village office, rink, shop, water plant, sewer station
Demolition Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have engaged with a demolition company to provide abatement, demolition and remediation services for 5 buildings in Hanna

For more information contact
Mark Nikota, Economic Development Manager at 403-854-0589 or mark.nikota@cactuscorridor.com

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

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

Outcome Statement

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

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



A few new projects were added to CARA’s program during the past year, including an evaluation of several winter cereals and cocktail mixes for both forage and grain; seeding perennial legumes into a pasture stand to rejuvenate as well as add quality to the forage produced; comparison of corn, sorghum and millet varieties grown with the application of different foliar nutrient products; yield and protein response to nitrogen applications on durum; establishment of perennial wheat and rye for grain production as well as an introduction of ultrasound evaluations to the Hanna District 4-H carcass project participants and families. A number of in-person extension events were added back into the program and CARA staff have also been busy sharing information and assisting producers with federal and provincial funding opportunities.

Beyond the production related trials and events, CARA staff addressed farm safety with presentations to several school classes during the year. Gould Ranching hosted a full day of safety stations for the Consort School students. With support from the Big Country and Neutral Hills Ag Societies, emergency kits were handed out to approximately 230 students.

Like many organizations, CARA’s summer field crew was short on bodies, but thankfully strong on enthusiasm. Compounding staff issues was the resignation of Senior Field Technician Karen Raynard. Karen’s organizational skills and strong work ethic are a huge loss to our program. Lab Research Assistant Technician Dilumi Liyanage also resigned this fall. Her presence in the CARA Soil Health Lab will also be missed.

Interest in improving soil health is evident as the CARA Soil Health Lab continues to receive samples from producers and research projects across western Canada.

I have been working with our partner associations and funders RDAR and Alberta Agriculture to try to secure long term base funding or our groups. The base, or core funding, is a key to establishing project partnerships and enables us to take on long term trials and solid knowledge transfer activities with confidence.

Weather again impacted some of our projects, with rainfall severely limiting productivity at some trial sites. Challenging conditions are part of the production environment of our area, however, and one of the reasons evaluation of agronomics, varieties and other technologies is important for the Special Areas and MD of Acadia.

CARA 2022 Board of Directors

Richard Bailey, Veteran	Jory Hoffmann, <i>MD of Acadia</i>
Curtis Benedict, Hanna	Don Hogan, <i>Oyen ASB 3 Rep</i>
Nathan Berg, Cessford <i>ASB Rep</i>	John Kimber, Youngstown
Terry Berry, Hanna	Kirby Laughlin, Youngstown
Kyle Christianson, Sedalia	Kevin Letniak, Consort
David Eaton, Sibbald, <i>Past President</i>	Gordon Long, Veteran, <i>ASB 4 Rep</i>
Matthew Gould, Consort	Gloria Nelson, Veteran, <i>President</i>
Dan Grudecki, Acadia Valley	Landon Olsen, Cereal, <i>Financial Supervisor</i>
Scott Heeg, Acadia Valley, <i>MD Council Rep</i>	Barry Redel, Consort <i>ASB Rep</i>

CARA 2022 Staff

Dianne Westerlund, <i>Manager & Forage Agronomist</i>
Yamily Zavala, <i>Soil & Crop Nutrient Management Specialist; Soil Health Lab Manager</i>
Braeden Peers, <i>Crop Agronomist</i>
Karin Roen, <i>Program Agronomist</i>
Karly Willis, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician</i>
Lizanne Booker, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician (maternity leave)</i>
Lacey Gould, <i>Livestock Nutritionist and Conservation Agronomist (part-time)</i>
Shirley Burns and Rae Jorgenson, <i>Bookkeepers (part-time)</i>
Karen Raynard, Jerry Pratt and Dan Rude <i>Field Technicians</i>
Matraca Clark, Melanie DeAbreu, Sarah Golby, <i>Summer and Part-time Technicians</i>
Nicole Bodnaruk, Jordyn Duffield, Renae Pratt, Navneet Kaur, Blake Laughlin, Luke Caskey, Rhett Rude, Emma Westerlund, Gabe Logan, Keifer Anderson
Dilumi Liyanage, <i>Lab Research Assistant</i>

CARA 2022 PROJECT SUMMARY

Annual Crops

Site	Funder/Program	Description
Dan Grudecki, MD of Acadia	Alberta RVT	Wheat, Durum, Triticale
	Mustard 21	Crop Rotation Study
	RA West	Fertility Treatments on Wheat, Barley, Canola and Peas
	Bayer	Proprietary chemical research
	RDAR	Durum Fertility Trial
Madge Farms, SA 2	Alberta RVT	Wheat, Durum, Triticale, Barley
	RST (CAP)	RST Pulse Mixes
	Westmoreland Mine	Humalite Trial
	Dr.Gorim, U of A, (RDAR)	Gorim Humalite Trial
	PCBFA, RDAR	Perennial Cereal Grain Trial Barley Fertility Demo
Dwayne Smigelski, SA 3	CAP, AB Pulse Growers	Crop Diversity
	Humaterra	Biological Treatments on Peas and Canola
	CAP Regional Silage BRRG/CAP	RST Alternative Forages
	FBN	Soil Amendment (biochar, lime, wood ash, beet root sludge)
	Alberta RVT	Corn, Sorghum and Millet Trial Flax
Barry Redel, SA 4	Alberta RVT	Green & Yellow Peas, Lentils, Fababeans
Jarrod Kuhn, SA 3	Alpine	Nutritional Products
	Humaterra	Biological Treatments on Peas
	Alberta RVT	Peas, lentils
	Sask Pulse Growers	Lentils
Ray Rude, SA 3	RST	Barley, Oats, Triticale, Winter/Spring Cereal Mixes
	Alberta RVT	Wheat, Durum, Triticale
		Nutrien Durum
Tyrel Kuhn, SA 3	Sask RVT	Wheat, Durum
	CAP	Soil Amendment
		Cocktail Crop Demo
Westmoreland Mine, SA 2		Humalite Trial
Tim Peers, SA 3	RDAR	Winter Cereal Drought Management Project
	Alberta RVT	Winter Wheat RVT
Multiple Sites	CAP	Pest & Disease Surveys: Bertha army worm, diamond back moth, cabbage seedpod weevil, wheat stem sawfly, wheat midge, Swede midge, wheat midge soil, pea leaf weevil

Perennial Crops

Site	Funder/Program	Description
Rude, SA 3	CAP	Perennial Forage Longevity Trial
Diamond T, SA 3	RDAR	Pasture Rejuvenation (direct seeding legumes and various nutritional treatments)

Conservation Projects

Site	Funder/Program	Description
Niwa Ranching, MD	ASB	Biological Control of Canada Thistle Demo
Bar X Ranch, SA 4	Environmental	
Osadczuk, SA 2	Stream	
Strutt, SA 3	ASB	Shelterbelt Demo, Mulch Demo
	Environmental	
	Stream	
Gould Ranching	AWES	Shelterbelt and EcoBuffer Demos
Berry, Big Stone and Sounding Creeks, SA 3 & 4	ASB Partnership	Riparian Health Assessments
Soil Health Benchmark Project MD, SA 2, SA 3, SA 4	CAP	Coordination and analysis of soil samples locally and from across Alberta
Hadwin, SA 4	CFGA, Consort 4-H	Grazing Management/Riparian Health/Fencing Demo September 2022 - 2023
Sounding Creek	Land Stewardship Center of Canada	Maintaining riparian health
	ASB	
	Environmental	
	Stream	

Crop Extension

Crop Strategy Meeting	Market Outlook – Neil Blue, AB Ag; Pest Outlook – Shelley Barkley, AB Ag; Managing Herbicide Residue – Braeden Peers, CARA; Soil Health – Dr, Zavala, CARA; Efficient Herbicide Application – Amy Grindheim, G-Macs)	February 23, Oyen
Cereal and Flax RVT Protocol	Review of RVT protocols	March 8, On-line
Pulse RVT Virtual Meeting	Review of pulse RVT protocols	April 3, On-line
Early Seeded Wheat Field Day	Tour of fields seeded April 3; Graham Collier discussed his research on early seeding	July 7, Gould Ranching
Soil Health/Crop Field Day	Visits to Grudecki, Smigelski and J Kuhn sites as well as composting discussion by Yamily; Neil Whatley, lentil management	July 26, Oyen and MD
Humalite and RVT Field Day	Cereal RVT's; Barley Fertilizer Demo, Humalite Trials; speaker from Westmoreland Mines	August 9, Madge Farms
Field Diagnostic Calls	Crop disease, pests and fertility issues	On-going
One-on-one producer consultations	On-going; follow-up from extension events	CARA Center or On-farm/phone
Facilitation of Seed, Soil & Disease Analysis	Submit samples to labs; provide info for producers	On-going
Periodic Newsletters	Research information, coming events	Mass mailed
Specialist Consultation	Connection to Neil Whatley (crop topics) and Ted Nibourg (economics)	On-going
Crop Contact List	Research information, coming events	89 producers
Young Farmer Forums	Under development – periodic meetings on various topics	TBD

Forage/Livestock Extension

Cattlemen Clinic	VBP – Melissa Downy; The First 48 Hours: Getting Calves Off to a Good Start – Dr. Cec Ruschkowski; Winter Feeding 2022 – Lacey Gould; Watering Systems – Dexter Dedora; Hybrid Vigor/DNA – Andrea Hansen; Research Update – Dr. Brenda Ralston; Spring Grazing Plans – Andrea Hanson	March 10, Oyen
AFIN Conference	Lacey joined virtually	March 10, On-line
4-H Clinic	Hybrid Vigor/DNA – Andrea Hansen	March 12, Oyen
Rancher/Researcher Expansion Project	Use of new technologies Belly Acres Ranch and Brennon & Heather Mundt	On-going
Southern Alberta Women’s Grazing School	Grazing Principles – Ross Adams, Public Lands; Grazing in the Special Areas – Nolan Ball, SA; Riparian and Rangeland Assessments – Lacey Gould, CARA and Norine Ambrose, Cows & Fish; Plant ID – several presenters; Herd Health – Dr. Cec Ruschkowski, Oyen Vet Services; Ranching Women – Abby Gattey, Consort and Nicole Viste, Hanna	July 13, 14 – Oyen and Sounding Creek Community Pasture
Cattlemen Clinic	Market Outlook – Brian Perillat, More Than Just Feed; Grazing Yearlings, Art McElroy, Day Spring Ranch, Frontier, Sask; Winter Mineral Considerations – Lacey Gould, CARA; OFCAF and CFGA Funding Programs – Karin Roen, CARA	November 16 - Oyen
Fencing Demo	Razor Grazer Rangeward Power Fencer	November 21, Consort and Oyen
Developing Grazing Plans	Grazing Plan Tips from Forage/Grazing Consultant Grant Lastiwka	November 25 – Oyen
Grazing Club	Periodic meetings funded by CFGA	TBD
Assistance with Ration Development	Assistance for producers	On-going
Facilitation of Feed and Water Analysis	Hay probe; various labs Connection with industry specialists	CARA Center
Beef/Forage Email Contacts	Event, information updates	189 members
One-on-one producer inquiries	Various Topics	On-going
Specialist Consultation	Connection to Barry Yaremicio (feed, nutrition) and Grant Lastiwka (forages)	On-going

Conservation Related Extension

Environmental Farm Plan Workshops & Individual Help	On-going assistance from Lacey and Karin	
Brownfield School Ag Day	Karin delivered soil demonstration	March 24 – Brownfield
Soil Health Seminar for Blaine Staples Group	Soil Health Presentation (Yamily)	April 18
South Central High School Ag Options Class	Weekly Presentations by Karin	September – November
Grazing Demo/Riparian Restoration Demo	4-H Club planting trees and shrubs	October 2 – Hadwin Ranches, Consort
Grassland Restoration Forum	Building Topsoil – Yamily	November 17, Claresholm
Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing	Soil & Grazing: Biology Not Geology; Soil Health Benchmark Project Update – Yamily CARA doing conference administration	December 13-15, Edmonton
Altario Ag School of Excellence	Periodic Presentations by Lacey and Karin	On-going

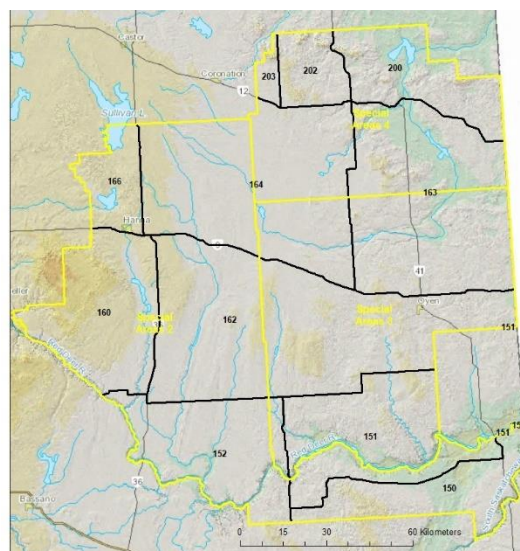
Economic Development and General Awareness Component

Meals on Wheels	Staff delivers meals	Mid January
Farm Safety	School Presentations & Delivery of Emergency Kits (New Brigden, Oyen OPS & Assumption, Warren Peers, Altario, Veteran, Youngstown Partnership with Ag Societies	March – May
Special Area Advisory Council	General Program and Budget Update	April 1 – Hanna
Ultra Sound Demo	Hanna District 4-H Carcass Project Achievement Day; Jamie Rieger ultrasounded all fed yearlings	May 16 – Oyen
Farm Safety Camp	Several safety stations including ATCO, large animal, grain, large equipment, chemical (ASB 4 summer staff), Consort Fire Department	June 10 – Gould Farms
RDAR Working Group & Advisory Council	Dianne leads the Working Group (FarmRite and ARECA Reps) and represents CARA on the Advisory Council	On-going
OFCAF and CFGA Programs	General presentations on programs by Lacey and Karin	October 18 – Consort October 20 – Acadia Valley October 24 - Hanna
Food for Thought Trailer	Ag for Life’s showcase, interactive trailer and presentations for students	October 21 – Oyen (AV) and Consort Schools
OFCAF and CFGA Programs	Consort Steer Club	October 18 - Monitor
OFCAF and CFGA Programs	Individual Consultations (Lacey & Karin)	On-going
Soil Health Seminars	Presentations by Yamily and Dr. Reyes Partnership with RA West International	October 26 – Vulcan October 29 – Fort Vermilion November 3 – Oyen (Cancelled)
Social Media & Agriculture	Sharing good news stories, new perspectives and ideas	
Serecon Economic Impact Study	On-line survey	Spring
4-H Weigh-in & Achievement Days	Use of CARA’s scale	May 16 – Carcass Project, Oyen June 6 – Rumsey June 11 – Hanna November 9, Oyen
CARA AGM	CARA Business and Program Update	December 19 – Oyen
Age Verification	On-line registration and birth certificates	On-going CARA Center
General Inquiries	Weed ID, custom rates, business contacts, etc.	CARA Center
Newsletters	Periodic publications containing research and coming event information	Mass mailed

Wildlife Management Update for Special Areas

Scott Stevens, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Alberta Environment and Parks



Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in Special Areas

Important changes to wildlife regulations

- Changes to mandatory deer head submission WMUs for CWD (in Special Areas, only WMU 200 is currently mandatory for white-tailed and mule deer-2022). Implementation of voluntary CWD mule deer surveillance area in western and northern WMUs at leading edge of the disease.
- Supplemental white-tailed deer licence(s) available in most 200 and 300 series WMUs (2021,2022).
- Two tags/licence for antlerless elk in superzones 162,163,164,166 and 200,202,203,232,234 (2021,2022).
- Two tags/licence for antlerless mule deer in Special Areas (2021,2022).
- Cougar (boot) season in non-Cougar Management Areas extended to March 31 (2022).

Aerial Ungulate Surveys (AUS)

- Since 2014, winter AUS have been conducted by EPA in all Special Areas Wildlife Management units (WMUs). Select wildlife survey results can be viewed online at <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-management.aspx>.
- WMU 162 (Berry Creek), last flown in 2014, was assessed 10-14 January 2022 using transect survey methodology. Results indicate that moose and mule deer populations are similar to the last survey (25 moose observed in 2022 vs 32 in 2014; estimated mule deer population 2,528 vs 2,722 in 2014). White-tailed deer have declined in abundance (estimate of 951 compared to 1,805 in 2014), but remain common in parts of the northern and north-western portions of the unit. No elk were observed during the survey.
- WMU 151 (Alkali Creek) and WMU 152 (Royal) are listed as regional priorities for 2023.

Elk

- All Special Areas WMUs 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.
- A minimum total count survey for elk was conducted at CFB Suffield (WMU 732) February 16-18 2022. A total of 2,472 elk were observed during the survey among 26 groups (range 2 to 1,073), representing a 9% reduction from results in 2019.
- The total harvest of elk at CFB Suffield for the 2021-22 season was 727. Midway through the 2022-23 season, 381 elk have been harvested (Joel Nicholson pers. comm., 22 November 2022). Since hunting seasons began in 2012/13, 6,634 animals were harvested on the base as of January 2022. An additional estimated 1,060 animals were harvested in adjacent units over the same period.
- EPA is continuing to aggressively manage the elk herd to prevent herd growth and reduce numbers in an effort to minimize conflict with agricultural producers.

Elk Harvest at CFB Suffield and Surrounding Area

Year	CFB Suffield	WMU's (124, 144, 148, 150)		Total
		Antlered	Antlerless	
2012/13	137	50	65	252
2013	169	68	30	267
2014	1332	76	74	1482
2015	1600	87	174	1861
2016	1258	95	241	1594
2017	333	68	70	471
2018	408	91	64	563
2019	195	9	84	288
2020	475	49	80	604
2021	727	47	178	952
Total	6634	640	1060	8334

Classification: Protected A

- In the 2021 WMU 166 AUS, 244 elk were observed in 13 groups in and around Rumsey Natural Area and Ecological Reserve (County of Stettler). That is roughly double the number observed during the last survey in 2014, and resulted in licence increases and allocation of double-tags on antlerless elk in that superzone (WMU 162,163,164,166).

Moose

- There are antlered and antlerless moose seasons in all WMUs in the Special Areas.
- Moose populations have increased in many Special Areas WMUs, and allocations have been adjusted to increase harvest.

Mule deer

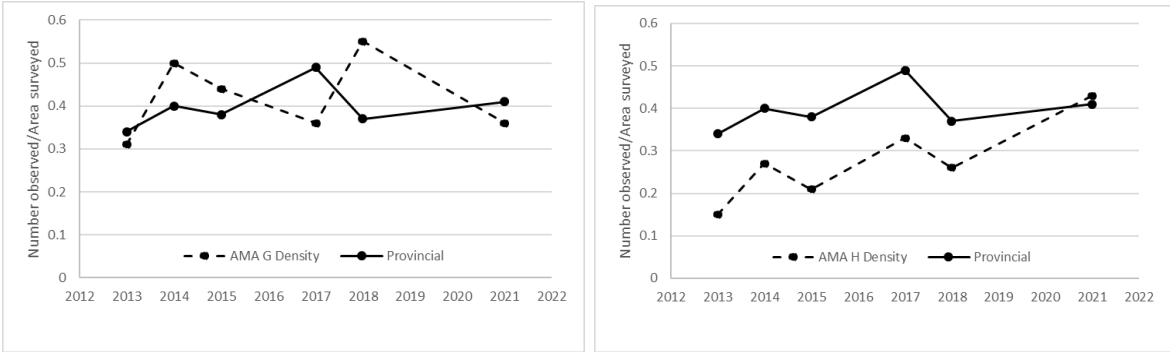
- Mule deer populations appear to be increasing or stable in Special Areas WMUs. Antlerless mule deer were double-tagged in 2021 and 2022.

White-tailed deer

- White-tailed deer populations have declined in several Special Areas WMUs.

Pronghorn

- Provincial pronghorn survey was conducted in July 2021 . Similar to provincial density estimates, density within individual Antelope Management Areas (AMAs) is variable and indicates fluid geographic distribution of animals among AMAs and years. For example, while there was a slight provincial decline in abundance between 2017 and 2018, AMA G (WMUs 150,151,152) increased substantially. Similarly, AMA G experienced a marked decline in abundance between 2018 and 2021, while AMA H (WMUs 160,162,163,164,166) had a corresponding increase.
- While most AMAs tend to oscillate around the provincial density estimate, AMA H has been steadily increasing since 2013.



Chronic Wasting Disease Update

- In 2021 EPA tested 10,909 heads
- CWD was detected in 1,156 wild deer and elk (10.4% overall: 984 mule deer (594 males, 390 females), 164 white-tails (134 males, 30 females) and 8 elk (1 male, 7 females)).
- Patterns in the data in 2021:
 - CWD continues to spread westward, particularly along the Oldman and Bow river corridors.
 - CWD was detected for the first time in 10 WMUs in the western and northern perimeter of the CWD Area: (104,216,224,302,314,502,506,510,514, and 936).

Species at Risk

- Environment and Protected Areas conducted a 2022 Ferruginous Hawk Provincial Inventory to determine species distribution and abundance within the province. The population estimate was 1,417 ± 276 ferruginous hawk pairs—the highest estimate since 2000 and a statistically significant increase from the 2015 survey. This is encouraging news for the recovery of the species and will help inform the recovery plan update.
- Piping plover abundance decreased in 2021 at Dowling Lake and Chain 4, which make up a substantial portion of the provincial population. Both lakes were dry in 2022. Breeding habitat (gravel beaches) at Handhills and Little Fish Lake has been submerged for several years, but will likely be important habitat as water levels recede.
- Ord’s kangaroo rat translocations were done at CFB Suffield in 2022. Numbers of krats were down in the Empress dunes during the last two years of surveys.
- Two plant Species at Risk recovery plans have final drafts prepared, and are currently being reviewed by Special Areas staff.

Renewable Energy Development

- EPA continues to provide renewable energy referral reports that document and assess the risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat for proponents of renewable energy project applications to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).
- EPA has provided wildlife referral reports for 7 proposed wind developments and 11 proposed solar developments in Special Areas.

Final Thought

- Special Areas continues to be a stronghold for native grasslands, intact wetlands and riparian areas in the province, and the diversity and abundance of game and occurrence of rare species is evidence of that.
- During the 2021 hunting season, harvest estimates for WMUs that are encompassed by, or partially overlap, Special Areas were estimated to be: 1,760 white-tailed deer, 3,258 mule deer, 670 moose, and 454 elk. That summarizes the importance of Special Areas to big game hunting in Alberta.

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 from Ratepayer Meetings 2022

Motions:

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Special Areas Board investigate and engineer a water line to facilitate stockwatering down the Bullpound Creek. Moved by Regan Curry. Seconded by Carson Slorstad. **Carried.**

Motions:

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Trevor Kingcott moved that Special Areas work to further the security of water for Carolside Irrigators. Seconded by David Kingcott. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2: Tracy Pierson moved that Special Areas continue to develop and advance the tax recovery land sale. Seconded by Brad Rooke. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Brent Horner moved that Special Areas Board reduce the rental cost of the water pumps from \$750/day to \$200/day. Seconded by David Kingcott. **Carried.**

MOTIONS from SA3 Sub4,5,6:

Moved by Kirby Laughlin that due to changing farming practices, to increase regrassing permit terms from 6 years to 10 years. Seconded by Mike Hart. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Dave McKinstry that due to the increasing size and scope of wind towers and projects, to increase setbacks for WECS to 800m from adjacent parcels and 1,600m from residences; with the changes brought to the Special Areas Board and ratepayers for discussion during the Land Use Order review. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Shane Hertz to stop nighttime traffic past farmyards and acreages from midnight to 6:00 am for those projects requiring Road Use Agreements in Special Areas. Seconded by Dave McKinstry. **CARRIED.**

Resolutions and Actions Taken Fall Advisory Council

Resolution #1: Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks

Whereas Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks are currently being operated by the SAB under a 10-year operational agreement with Alberta Parks.

Whereas, the agreement is functional but operationally cumbersome. These parks are not representative of the type of recreational experience that residents would get at other SAB managed campgrounds. Local support remains for Special Areas to acquire these assets and operate them under the SAB brand.

Therefore Be It Resolved that we recommend that the SAB lobby the minister's office to fully transfer these assets to the SAB.

Moved by John Kimber and seconded by Kevin Wilson.

CARRIED.

Action Taken:

Talks have begun and Alberta Forestry, Parks and Tourism has received a list of concerns to be considered in the agreement for Special Areas to manage the parks.

Resolution 2: Fuel Costs

Whereas the increase cost of fuel and expense required to do SAB Business has increased since 2009.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that SAB mileage be in line with the CRA recommended amounts of 61¢ per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven and 55¢ per kilometre driven after that.

Moved by Brad Slorstad and seconded by John Kimber.

CARRIED.

Action Taken:

The Board tabled the motion as it is part of a larger conversation. The fuel rate is tied in with a number of other rates and expenses outlined by the Government of Alberta. Steps are being taken to update the rates.

SPECIAL AREAS SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 1, 2022
Hanna Community Centre

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
Justin Griffith	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
Mark Blair	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
Erika Tessier	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4
John Kimber	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6
Graham Schetzsl	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1
Laurie Ference	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
Taryl Abt	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
Brent Fecho	Shop Superintendent
Kelsey Martin	Aggregate Manager
Ryley Girletz	Facilities Manager
Darren Jones	Coordinator of Financial Services
Maeghan Chostner	Communications
Deana Link	DO2 Office Manager
Tori Munroe	DO3 Office Manager
Evelyn Manion	Youngstown Office Manager
Jeff Fortna	Coordinator of Computer Services
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER 9:05 A.M.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for rearranging scheduled to attend this one-day meeting. The agenda was reviewed for the day with no additions.

MOTION AC01-01-22: MEETING CHAIRMAN

NEAL ROES NOMINATED JORDON CHRISTIANSON TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. BRAD OSADCZUK MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-02-22: MEETING VICE-CHAIRMAN

BRAD SLORSTAD NOMINATED TRENT CASKEY TO ACT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. NEAL ROES MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-03-22: ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR

DARYL SWENSON NOMINATED BRAD SLORSTAD TO ACT AS ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. BRAD OSADCZUK MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-04-22: RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

BRAD SLORSTAD NOMINATES KEVIN WILSON;

BRAD OSADCZUK NOMINATES JOHN KIMBER;

GRAHAM SCHETZSLE NOMINATES ERIKA TESSIER FOR THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. DARYL SWENSON MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the minutes from 2021 Fall Advisory Council held December 1-3, 2021.

MOTION AC01-05-22: 2021 FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE MINUTES OF 2021 FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the joint irrigation project. The Board and MD of Acadia representatives had the opportunity to meet with Premier Kenney March 31st and discussed the benefits of irrigation to this region. A letter has been advanced to MLA Horner to move forward with requesting a crown reservation for the project. The request is made to the Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks as it will be taking water out of the Red Deer River. WaterSMART will be in attendance later this afternoon with further details. It was noted RDRMUG supports the request in principle.

The draft TRLS policy Council approved in Fall 2021 was shared with the Assistant Deputy Ministers Office and a meeting was arranged with Minister McIver. There were two concerns: price and the closed nature of the sale. Historical information was provided and the rationale for the policy was explained. It was also asked where the proceeds from the sale go, background on previous sale proceeds was provided. The Board is in the process of developing the procedures in anticipation of an approved sale.

There was discussion on not breaking lands for irrigation, there is policy to allow for crown lands to be broke for irrigation, however that should not be the intent for this proposed sale. Historically, the Board has looked at irrigation as a strong way to stabilize farm units. It was noted irrigation is specifically mentioned in the *Special Areas Act*.

Mr. Roes informed the Council of a motor bike/dirt bike event in Steeveville area and questioned if sponsorship was an option. Historically, Special Areas has provided in-kind contributions for events like this.

Mr. Noble questioned the outcome of Special Areas asking Alberta Transportation (AT) to adjust paving on Hwy 899. The tender package has been released and adjustments could not be made. AT is aware SAB is willing to partner if an option exists to extend the project.

Mr. Slorstad asked about water pumping and the status of the pipes and pumps. Mr. Fecho noted the pumps and pipe are first come first serve, one pump requires rebuilding but it's a challenge getting parts.

Mr. Christianson noted the Board is currently discussing the options around a breaking restriction on a quarter sold under a TRLS that has been broke. The quarter in question has been transferred multiple times and the current owners claim they were not aware of the caveat on title. Taking the quarter back as outlined in the policy used to originally purchase the land is one option and another is charging a penalty. Minister McIver did ask how SAB enforces caveats on TRLS. This needs to be a principle-based decision. Legal consultation will be sought.

BREAK

Mr. Jones came forward to discuss the 2021 Financial Statements and noted the 2022 Special Areas Board budget has been signed.

The statements will be published after approved by the Office of the Auditor General.

The revenue and expenses along with variances were reviewed.

Cash on hand at the end of December is approximately \$60M – this is partially due to challenges in supply chain issues resulting in equipment not being purchased. The funds provide options for future work such as financing the expansion of the Oyen lodge for example. The funds will also allow for SAB to partner on paving Hwy 899 if the opportunity arises. There are approximately \$10M from the second TRLS sitting in reserve to support long term options. Special Areas does need to operate from January to November prior to collecting taxes from ratepayers. A minimum cash balance of approximately \$15M is needed for the third quarter requisition payments due in September.

Special Areas sets the mill rates in April of a given year and a number of assumptions are based on previous years expenses and requisitions.

Total financial assets are \$100M, the four-year agreement with AT has been pre-paid and SAB has recognized the revenue which contributed to increased cash on hand. The long-term debt from Acadia Foundation is now paid off, resulting in lower requisition.

Net financial assets equate to \$85.9M and total physical assets are \$249.7M which includes road infrastructure, capital assets and inventories.

Revenues and expenditures were reviewed. The bad-debt levy was budgeted to bring in \$2M and brought in \$984K. A specific mill rate hasn't been implemented for policing, funds from municipal rates are used to pay that provincial requisition. With the price of oil increasing there may be opportunity to have some of the back taxes repaid.

Cereal capital infrastructure and financial assets had a net liability of negative \$34K but there are \$3M worth of assets for Special Areas to manage.

Mr. Jones will finish the discussion on revenues and expenses after lunch.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Ms. Dianne Westerlund from CARA to present to Council. Ms. Westerlund thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide an update.

There are six primary sources of revenue for CARA: provincial (40%), municipal (25%), self-generated (16%), industry (13%), federal (4%), and commissions (3%). Funding is very results driven as Alberta Agriculture has moved from extension work and research funding. Support from Special Areas and the MD of Acadia makes up ¼ of the yearly budget, most accessible grants require matching funds and the municipal support makes those possible. Self-generated funds from work done by the Soil Health Lab equate to 16% of revenue and only 9% of expenses. Expenses are mostly for manpower (69%), administration (7%), and trails, vehicles, extension work and equipment. The budget for 2021 was \$1M.

CARA investigated testing for classification of land for irrigation in Alberta – there is more to testing than originally thought. The detailed sampling required for one quarter would equate to a minimum of ½ day of work and requires a PAg in water or soil.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Westerlund for providing an update to Council on the good work CARA does in the region.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda noting the 2021 Financial Statement discussion is to be continued.

Mr. Caskey introduced Mr. Christopher Snelgrove from Benchmark Assessment Consultants. Mr. Snelgrove noted assessment is a very regulated process. Assessment places a dollar value on property for taxation purposes and taxation is the process of applying a tax rate (mill rate) to a property's assessed value. Special Areas sets the mill rate to meet annual budget requirements. The standards of assessment were reviewed noting properties are assessed by mass appraisal as opposed to a single appraisal. Approaches to valuation are based on one of three options: sales comparison approach, cost approach or income approach. There were questions on assessment for land with improvements such as wind turbines and how they are assessed and how they are depreciated. The Province manages the assessment for designated industrial properties (DIP) and linear property. Much of SAB assessment is on DIP and linear properties.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Snelgrove for making the trip to Hanna to present to Council.

Ms. Kim Sturgess and Mr. Rain Saulnier from WaterSMART came forward to provide an update on the joint irrigation project with Special Areas and the MD of Acadia. Mr. Christianson noted WaterSMART has been assisting with project management for the irrigation projects. Mr. Jason Wallsmith and Mr. Ron Hoyt from the MD of Acadia joined the meeting.

Mr. Saulnier noted this is an update from the presentation provided December 1, 2021 and outlined the milestones completed and those remaining. A review of the feasibility study objectives was provided. There are three main irrigation blocks: MD of Acadia, Bindloss and Cavendish/Buffalo equate to 108,000 acres. Next steps are to finalize the recommendation report and present to the Steering Committee. The map with two proposed reservoirs was reviewed along with the conceptual design of the blocks. Canals make sense when gravitational flow is an option, pipe could be an improvement in future. There is no intention to irrigate native prairie, only on existing farmland or lands previously cultivated. The capital asset charge is estimated to be \$2,500 - \$5,000/acre for this project. Estimated operating costs are \$180-\$300/acre annually which includes fixed, variable and maintenance costs along with life cycle, major rehabilitation and shared energy costs.

Ms. Sturgess reviewed the governance model options noting a municipally controlled corporation (MCC) or an irrigation district (ID) are two options. An MCC is preferred as it is more flexible and can accept investments into the project. This is a green field project and flexibility is needed to develop the project.

Ms. Chostner came forward to review the producer engagement sessions held in mid-February in person with good attendance. Generally, there is strong support for this project and producers are aware of the contributions they will need to make to the project to participate.

The province is looking to diversify the economy and irrigation and agriculture can significantly contribute to the GDP of the province.

There is a recommendation to move the phase 2 of the project which will be the preliminary engineering work which is estimated to cost \$7M. The height of the dam in the reservoir will require federal review. Regulatory reviews are expected to take upwards of eight years.

This project is moving ahead because of the great partnership between the MD of Acadia and the Special Areas Board. Thanks for the great work on this project.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Sturgess and Mr. Saulnier for providing an update on this important project, and Mr. Wallsmith and Mr. Hoyt for attending.

BREAK

Mr. Jones came forward to finish the financial discussion. Expenditures budgeted versus actuals were reviewed. A deficit of \$163K was budgeted and actuals came in with \$10M surplus resulting from assets in Cereal and not disposing of capital assets. The accumulated excess of revenue over expenditure at year end was \$30.9M.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Jones for the 2021 Financial Statement summary.

Moving into 2022, there is a planned deficit of \$5M to reduce the \$30M accumulated surplus. It was noted fuel costs in 2022 could increase up to \$1M which will impact the approved budget. There may be better success with collecting on bad debts with the current price of oil.

Mr. Bossert departed at 3:55pm.

There was a question on the Richdale Community Pasture; administration has not had an opportunity to investigate options for this pasture. It is allotted for the 2022 season.

Mr. Ferguson noted Netago has been approached for a corporate takeover. There is a question of allowing the new owners to use the infrastructure in place – a partnership was made with Netago to bring and maintain high speed wireless access to the rural areas. Telus intends to continue operating the Netago brand for the next 3-5 years and Special Areas will assist with the transition.

Mr. Christianson noted the Oyen Rail Yard has sold. The deal is finalized and financed for five-years with 50% down. With wind towers coming in and wanting to use rail it's a great opportunity.

Mr. Francis noted the proposed 2022 Road Program for construction and surfacing remains the same after meeting with local road committees.

MOTION AC01-06-22: 2022 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2022 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-07-22: 2022 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2022 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

There was a question on the bridge at Berry Creek on Hwy570 – the Alberta Transportation plan is not clear, and a low-level crossing has been built. There's also concern on the Watts Coulee Bridge south of Consort on Hwy 886 – there are cracks up to 4" wide – it's very dangerous. Mr. Francis will connect with AT on this issue.

The Council discussed irrigation and irrigation on native prairie. If there is opportunity, why deny – soil was turned up for a coal mine but is denied for a corn field. The proposed project does not put pivots on native prairie, but some native prairie will be turned to develop the reservoirs and canals. The Board has made exceptions for irrigation on native prairie and exchanged lands on a case-by-case basis as it's outlined in the *Special Areas Act*.

The Council was asked thoughts on the breaking restriction violation. There was a caveat on title for a breaking restriction on a quarter. The quarter in question was broke pin to pin. The onus is on the buyer to be aware of what they are buying and requirements that go along with that purchase. This is a direct breach of the contract. Mr. Christianson thanked Council for the discussion noting the principle needs to be picked to make the decision and then communicated.

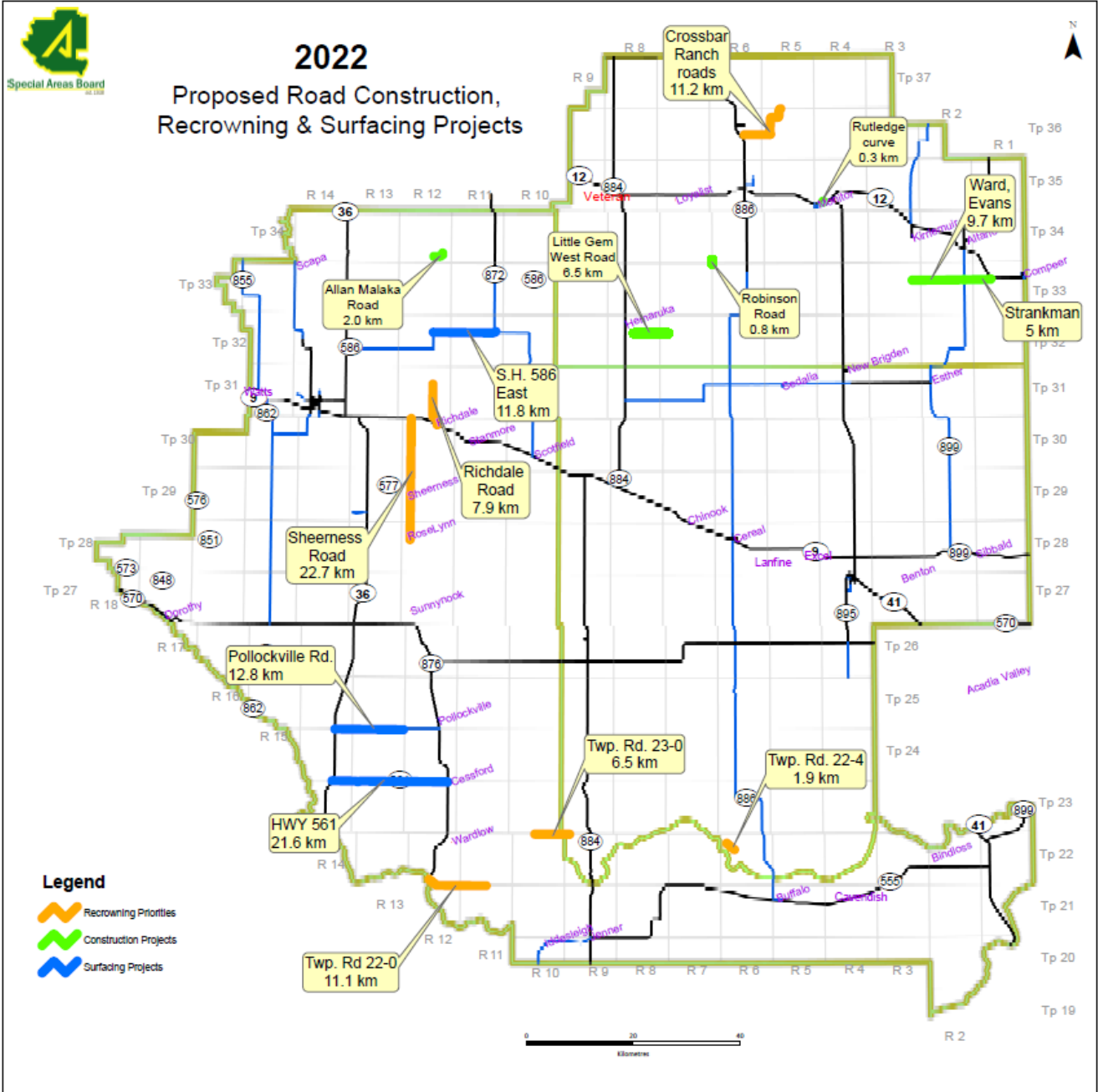
The Committee Roundtable discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Christianson thanked Council for rearranging to accommodate a one-day meeting, Ms. Link for arranging hospitality, and Ms. Jones for organizing the meeting and meal.

Congratulations to Ms. Taryl Abt on becoming the Administrator in Special Area 4.

ADJOURNMENT AT 4:46 PM.

APPENDIX A:



SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 28, 2022
Hanna Community Centre

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
Justin Griffith	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
Mark Blair	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
Erika Tessier	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4
John Kimber	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6 – Regrets
Graham Schetzslle	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1 – via Teams
Laurie Ference	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 – via Teams
Trent Caskey	Director, Property Administration
Taryl Abt	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
Brent Fecho	Shop Superintendent
Kelsey Martin	Aggregate Manager
Ryley Girletz	Facilities Manager
Darren Jones	Coordinator of Financial Services
Maeghan Chostner	Communications
Tori Munroe	DO3 Office Manager
Evelyn Manion	Youngstown Office Manager
Jeff Fortna	Coordinator of Computer Services
Tejender Sarai	Junior Analyst
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

INVITED GUESTS

Brandy Cox	Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Shannon Wheeler	Chief of Staff, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

CALL TO ORDER 10:01 A.M.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and started a round of introductions. The agenda was reviewed for the day with no additions.

Mr. Christianson summarized the minutes of the Spring Council meeting.

MOTION AC03-01-22: 2022 SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR THAT THE MINUTES OF 2022 SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

There was a question on the breaking restriction; a counteroffer was received and has been declined. A grazing disposition may be offered if the title is signed back. The quarter is not being farmed. There was discussion on process if the title is not voluntarily turned back.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the Joint Irrigation Project with the MD of Acadia and Special Areas. A few progressions have been made since the last update. The amount of water required has been refined to 170,000,000m³ down from 195,000,000m³ but that will

still enable enough water for 108,000 acres of irrigation. Application for a water licence is the preferred direction as opposed to the previously discussed crown reservation route. The recommendation at the end of Phase 1 is to proceed with more advanced engineering and design for the project. Phase 2 will include pre-construction engineering and investigation of regulatory pieces required. The draft MOU for Phase 2 is near completion. There is estimated to be \$4M worth of engineering to be covered by project partners: MDA at \$150,000, and the balance to be split by the three partners: SAB, AB Ag and CIB.

Mr. Christianson informed the Council that Minister McIver responded in writing regarding the proposed tax recovery land sale. After careful consideration, he is willing to look at it in early 2024 as the policy needs some refining. Deputy Minister Cox echoed the answer was not a no – just a not right now. Lack of consultation with Albertans is a concern. There are many sensitivities related to this policy, the structure of the policy needs to be as fair as possible to everyone.

Mr. Jones provided a 2022 Budget snapshot and the current overview of where numbers are expected to land by the end of the year.

Revenue is projected to be up due to an increase in taxation, bad-debt continues to be an issue however there has been moderate success with collections. Overall, revenue is expected to be \$485,000 above budget.

Expenditures are projected to have savings due to not all crews being fully staffed and not being able to procure large equipment due to supply chain issues. Some projects were not able to be finished because of lack of staff and resources. Overall, expenditures are expected to come in \$3.9M ahead of budget. This results in a budget deficit closer to \$732,000 as opposed to the budgeted \$1.5M deficit.

There was discussion on the warranty for scrapers: the company pays downtime if there is no scraper available for use.

Construction crews are expected to continue into mid/late October with the savings.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Ms. Alison Regan and Mr. Rob Hough from WaterSMART to discuss the South Saskatchewan River Operational Model (SSROM). This is a three-phase project based in the South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB). The intent is to provide an opportunity for water users in SSRB to collaboratively assess development opportunities. The modeling process was reviewed noting it is very collaborative and grounded in science. WaterSMART is looking for strategic partners who have an interest and wish to contribute to the collaborative process. The goal of the project is to provide a roadmap to water users who can make policy changes.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Regan and Mr. Hough for attending and the presentation.

Mr. Caskey reviewed a presentation for assessment on renewable energy projects beginning with a snapshot of where each of the projects are in Special Areas. The values of each project were reviewed, and an estimate of tax revenue was provided. Discussion moved to road use and concerns with projects in development and related road use by projects and their hired contractors. There is regulatory confusion on who is responsible for regulating the projects. Special Areas Land Use Order is in place however is overruled by the Alberta Utilities Commission. It was suggested the MLA be informed of the issues and reach out to the Minister of Energy to ensure they are aware of the issues happening in this region; K Division and provincial sheriffs should also be made aware of the issues.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda.

Municipal services have seen and will continue to see staffing changes in the Fire Department, Mechanics, and Youngstown Service Centre – this will be Ms. Evelyn Manion's

last Advisory Council meeting before she retires. Crews were not fully staffed this season making it difficult to complete planned projects. A comparison between SAB and industry will be reviewed at Fall Advisory Council.

Mr. Kovitch provided an update on the road crews and work completed this season. There were 11 vacancies in wage positions across the crews and a challenge with equipment downtime as there is a world-wide parts shortage for ejectors or emission control parts. The GBC crew was stopped September 16th and interested crew members were re-assigned to other crews to extend their season.

Mr. Kovitch thanked those involved in developing the turn around spot on Hwy 555 near Buffalo.

There was discussion on the staged surfacing approach and timing for each stage, noting its five-seven years for each stage prior to pavement. A question was asked on the bridge on Hwy 886 – AT has it in the engineering phase but does not appear to be in the construction plan for the next three years.

The Council moved to discuss emergent issues.

Mr. Osadczuk brought forward Community Pastures noting the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture has a local group interested in taking it on under a grazing coop. This could be a pilot for other pastures if it works out. There was a suggestion to sell dispositions rather than develop a coop.

Mr. Christianson noted this has been discussed and a presentation is being prepared for Fall Advisory Council to discuss scenarios and models for potential options.

MOTION AC03-02-22: BUFFALO ATLEE COMMUNITY PASTURE

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXPLORE AND CONSIDER THE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO TAKE ON BUFFALO ATLEE COMMUNITY PASTURE AS A GRAZING COOP FOR THE 2023 SEASON. CARRIED.

1 OPPOSED.

It was put forward that community pastures are an administrative burden for SAB to manage. Local communities may be better suited to make decisions on the pastures and manage in a way to ensure the patrons are well informed. The logistics of managing the pastures will need to be determined.

Mr. Noble brought forward a concern with the location of paving on Hwy 899. AT is paving Hwy 12 but when folks turn onto Hwy 899, they are back on oil. SAB is doing work on Hwy 899, so the work completed is not lost. Discussion continued on loads and seasonal weights. Truckers want a ban free surface. Special Areas does have a staged approach that is planned out years in advance. It was noted with traffic patterns changing, this is the time to request another partnership with AT on paving Hwy 899.

MOTION AC03-03-22: PAVING HWY 899

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXPLORE FINANCING WITH ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION TO FURTHER PAVING SECTIONS OF HWY 899. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson noted WaterSMART did not make a specific request for support, but this is a good project to invest in as the projects involves the Red Deer River, Oldman River, Bow River and South Saskatchewan River. The project cost is approximately \$800,000.

MOTION AC03-04-22: SUPPORT FOR SSROM

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD SUPPORT THE SSROM PROJECT FROM WATERSMART WITH \$25,000. CARRIED.

Mr. Griffith brought forward a motion to continue work on the proposed TRLS.

MOTION AC03-05-22: TAX RECOVERY LAND SALE

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE PROPOSED TAX RECOVERY LAND SALE IN PRINCIPLE. CARRIED.

Mr. Schetzle departed the meeting at 2:12pm.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Mr. Devon Diano from PRMS and consultant Ian Gray to discuss the Palliser Regional Municipal Services requisition model.

The purpose of the presentation is to inform Council of the costs involved in running a regional municipal planning commission. PRMS has a number of smaller members – 60% of members pay less than \$5,000/year. PRMS assists with subdivision applications, amendments, municipal planning commission meetings, and regulatory documents like the Municipal Development Plans, Intermunicipal Development Plans, Land Use Order, and Area Structure Plans. There are values attached to each of those activities. Special Areas contributes to the regional initiative and other smaller members are subsidized as they don't have the ability to pay. The formula was frozen since 2014 and the scope of work has crept as experienced CAO's retire and new CAO's come in without planning backgrounds.

The services and associated costs were reviewed. It was noted staffing changes are on the horizon as two seasoned staff will be retiring in the next five years and to make the transition workable more staff should be hired now.

The recommended requisition is based 50% on population and 50% equalized assessment. It will be phased in over three years with year 1 equating to 33%, year 2 having 66% and year 3 100%. There is real value in shared service delivery.

Next steps are to bring this presentation to the funding committee and submit a proposal to CAO's to make a final recommendation at the PRMS AGM.

Special Areas has 17 ICF's and IMDP's and PRMS takes the lead on the LUO revisions. PRMS provides a great service to Special Areas.

Mr. Caskey commended Mr. Diano and his staff for the great work, two ASP's have recently been approved and there is a lot of work to update the LUO.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Diano and Mr. Gray for the presentation.

Mr. Christianson thanked those who helped set up the room: Jeff Fortna, Kyle Olsen, Tejender Sarai, Darlene Herzog, Maeghan Chostner and Ryley Girletz. He thanked Ms. Jones for organizing the meeting and arranging the lunch.

Mr. Christianson also thanked Ms. Manion for her 17 years of service – she will be greatly missed in the organization and the Youngstown Service Centre.

Thanks for taking the time to attend today, a number of good discussions took place.

Adjournment 3:10pm.

Appendix A: Policy 05-17: Issuing Cultivation Leases

1. Authority

- 1.1 The Special Areas Disposition Regulation, Division 2, Cultivation Leases (44), identifies the Minister's authority to issue Cultivation Leases in the Special Areas.
- 1.2 The Special Areas Policy on issuing cultivation leases shall be in effect for five (5) years, commencing _____.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The Special Areas Board recognizes the dynamic nature of agriculture in this region, and continues to support the efforts of the farm and ranch units. This policy is designed to offer flexibility for a farm or ranching unit in making management decisions and, to enhance and stabilize the farm or ranching unit.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 In this policy;
 - (a) "Agricultural Disposition" means an interest or privilege in respect of land granted or conveyed by the Crown under the authority of the Special Areas Act and issued for a term of longer than one year including, but not limited to, those dispositions of land commonly known as Special Areas Cultivation leases or Special Areas Grazing leases;
 - (b) "Agricultural Disposition Holder" means a unit holding an agricultural disposition issued for a term longer than one year.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1 An agricultural disposition holder which holds a grazing lease agricultural disposition may apply to convert a maximum of 640 acres up to five (5) quarters into a cultivation lease, during the duration of this policy. The quarters must fit the criteria outlined in this policy.

5. Conversion Added Value

- 5.1 As the Special Areas Board recognizes an increase in market value of the quarter through the conversion from a grazing lease to a cultivation lease, the Special Areas Board will charge a value to the disposition holder reflecting this increase in value.
- 5.2 The conversion value is a one-time charge of ten (10) times the current cash rental rate for cultivation on the proposed cultivation lease acres only. This would require re-assessment of the quarter as a cultivation lease.
- 5.3 The conversion value is due and payable at the time of the approval.

6. Right to Withhold

- 6.1 The Minister has the discretion to withhold any lands from potential conversion for: municipal, environmental, or public interest.

7. Criteria

- 7.1 An agricultural disposition holder of a grazing lease may apply to convert lands;
 - (a) Previously regrassed to tame perennial forage, or
 - (b) Presently cultivated under a regrassing permit, or
 - (c) Which are eligible to be cultivated under the regrassing permit policy.
- 7.2 The following parcels may be withheld from conversion, at the discretion of the Special Areas Board:
 - (a) Parcels with unique environmental or topographical features including, but not limited to, those coulee complexes or river breaks, or
 - (b) Parcels with erosive or marginal soils.
- 7.3 The following parcels will not be considered for cultivation:
 - (a) Undisturbed, native prairie, or
 - (b) Sand or loamy sand soils, unless it can otherwise be demonstrated that current farming practices will be compatible with soil conservation objectives.
- 7.4 Development for irrigation will be dealt with at the Special Areas Board's discretion.

SPECIAL AREAS FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL
November 30 – December 2, 2022
Lynks Community Boardroom

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
Justin Griffith	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4
Mark Blair	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 5
Daryl Swenson	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 7 – Regrets Nov 30
Brad Osadcuk	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 8 – Regrets
Erika Tessier	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 4
John Kimber	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 5
Kevin Wilson	Special Area No. 3, Subdivision No. 6 – Regrets
Graham Schetzle	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 1 – via Teams
Laurie Ference	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 2 – Regrets Nov 30
Doug Noble	Special Area No. 4, Subdivision No. 3

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

Jordon Christianson	Chair, Special Areas Board
Owen Francis	Director, Municipal Services
Shaune Kovitch	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration – via Teams
Trent Caskey	Director, Property Administration
Taryl Abt	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
Brett Richards	Administrator, Special Area No. 2
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Perry Yake	Acting Superintendent of Roads and Equipment
Brent Fecho	Shop Superintendent
Kelsey Martin	Aggregate Manager
Ryley Girtetz	Facilities Manager
Darren Jones	Coordinator of Financial Services
Maeghan Chostner	Communications
Tenille Stevens	DO2 Office Manager
Tori Munroe	DO3 Office Manager
Erin VanKoughnett	DO4 Office Manager
Dawn Lyon	Youngstown Office Manager
Jeff Fortna	Coordinator of Computer Services
Kyle Olsen	System Analyst
Tejender Sarai	Junior Analyst
Rob Palmer	Fire Chief
Kyle Rohl	Deputy Fire Chief
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER 10:01 A.M.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and started a round of introductions. The agenda was reviewed for the next three days with no additions.

MOTION AC04-01-22: ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR
KEVIN WILSON NOMINATES BRAD SLORSTAD AS THE ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR. NEAL ROES MOVES NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-02-22: RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

JUSTIN GRIFFITH NOMINATES JOHN KIMBER; BRAD SLORSTAD NOMINATES KEVIN WILSON; AND NEAL ROES NOMINATES JUSTIN GRIFFITH; BRAD SLORSTAD MOVES NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY NEAL ROES. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-03-22: MEETING CHAIRMAN

NEAL ROES NOMINATES JORDON CHRISTIANSON AS THE MEETING CHAIRMAN. KEVIN WILSON MOVES NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-04-22: MEETING VICE-CHAIRMAN

GRAHAM SCHETZSLE NOMINATES TRENT CASKEY AS MEETING VICE-CHAIRMAN. NEAL ROES MOVES NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson summarized the minutes of the September Council meeting.

MOTION AC04-05-22: September 28, 2022 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 ADVISORY COUNCIL BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

The Board did meet with representatives from the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture to discuss options for alternate management and requested the group submit a proposal.

The Alberta Transportation Regional Director will be attending Thursday's meeting and can discuss paving on Hwy 899. There is \$9M in the SAB Budget for paving.

ADM Sandberg will connect into the meeting Thursday to provide Council with provincial updates and may have an update on the proposed TRLS. The Board had the opportunity to meet with Minister Schulz at Fall RMA and there was discussion on the proposed sale. She is keen to learn more about the policy, implications and how to move forward with the policy. The policy has been drafted and can be reviewed again to ensure details are up to date.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the motions from Ratepayer Meetings.

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Special Areas Board investigate and engineer a water line to facilitate stock watering down the Bullpound Creek. Moved by Regan Curry. Seconded by Carson Slorstad. **Carried.**

MOTION AC04-06-22: SA2SUB2 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT SA2SUB2 MOTION 1 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Mr. Caskey has been working on this and there is still funding available through PrairiesCan. Work continues on the Sheerness Industrial Park (SIP) and finding options for water for industrial users. A reservoir on the north side of SIP could be filled from Bullpound Creek to give SIP users access and there is also potential for a waterline. The reservoir would provide year-round water access. The Board can make application to PrairiesCan for grant funding. The reservoir is estimated to cost \$1.62M.

MOTION AC04-07-22: OPTIONS TO FACILITATE WATERING

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PURSUE INVESTIGATING OPTIONS TO FACILITATE WATER ON THE SHEERNESS INDUSTRIAL PARK. CARRIED.

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Trevor Kingcott moved that Special Areas work to further the security of water for Carolside Irrigators. Seconded by David Kingcott. **Carried.**

MOTION AC04-08-22: SA2SUB3&4 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT SA2SUB3&4 MOTION 1 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Mr. Caskey noted this motion was likely due to the low water levels for the Sheerness Deadfish Irrigation system and restrictions were imposed to delay the start of irrigation and the length of time pumps could operate. Alberta Environment committed to pumping more water and paying for the additional pumping. A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss plans for 2023. There has been discussion to increase full supply level at Carolside or installing check structures in different spots in the creeks. It is imperative to find water security for this system. The irrigation system is based on run-off, if Mother Nature does not provide – it is very expensive to pump water for irrigation.

MOTION AC04-09-22: RETAINING WATER IN CAROLSIDE

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD FURTHER INVESTIGATE RETAINING WATER IN THE CAROLSIDE RESERVOIR. CARRIED.

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Brent Horner moved that Special Areas Board reduce the rental cost of the water pumps from \$750/day to \$200/day. Seconded by David Kingcott. **Carried.**

In recognition of the drought conditions, the Board did discuss and reduced the water pump rate for 2022. There was discussion on the condition of the pumps and hose – the rate was raised as the condition of equipment upon return was not optimal. Investigation continues on how to best roll up the flat pipe and how to transport.

SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 1: Moved by Kirby Laughlin that due to changing farming practices, to increase regrassing permit terms from 6 years to 10 years. Seconded by Mike Hart. **CARRIED.**

MOTION AC04-10-22: SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 1 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Mr. Caskey indicated if farmers want there is an option for lease conversion – six years is a fair amount of time to get grass established.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Mr. Monty Solberg in person and Mr. Keith McLaughlin, Ms. Sarah Painchaud and Ms. Christine Myatt virtually from New West Public Affairs.

The political climate is changing and the Special Areas along with the MD of Acadia decided to engage with a professional firm to assist with navigating the joint irrigation project through government.

Mr. Solberg briefly introduced the team and noted Mr. McLaughlin will lead the discussion. The political conditions are in flux – ministries in Alberta have been restructured taking pieces of irrigation relevant to agriculture out of the environment portfolio. The Ministry is now Agriculture and Irrigation. The decision-making process has also shifted to larger committees with many MLAs and not just ministers. The Throne Speech highlighted irrigation so the joint project with Special Areas and the MD of Acadia is well positioned to move forward. One of the keys will be socializing the project with administration and informing other municipalities so any opposition can be recognized early in the process. The

volume of water for this project may be a concern for some upstream users; however, what is still available in the river is more than enough to accommodate future growth opportunities upstream. A slow strategic roll out is the way to inform everyone of the facts so exaggeration and speculation do not overtake the project.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Solberg for making the trip out and Mr. McLaughlin for the information.

Ms. Doray Veno and representatives from Harvest Sky Region Agricultural Centre Project joined the meeting. This project was developed based on the coal transition funds – the presentation today is about bringing awareness, sharing the progress, and opening the dialogue for next steps. Research has been completed and the business case has been proven. Focus for the next six months will be governance structure, site planning and funding along with marketing. Support will be needed from the community and municipality.

It would be helpful for the project to know municipal support by early March 2023. Funding is expected to come from private sponsorship, corporate sponsorship and government grants. Shovel in the ground is expected in 2025.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for the presentation – this is not an easy project to tackle, and the group is commended for the hard work to get it to this point. It's nice to see the project getting traction.

The Advisory Council returned to discuss motions from Ratepayer Meetings.

SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 2: Moved by Dave McKinstry that due to the increasing size and scope of wind towers and projects, to increase setbacks for WECS to 800m from adjacent parcels and 1,600m from residences; with the changes brought to the Special Areas Board and ratepayers for discussion during the Land Use Order review. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

MOTION AC04-11-22: SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 2 TO FLOOR
MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH THAT
SA3SUB4,5,6 MOTION 2 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Mr. Caskey noted the issue of setbacks did arise during the LUO revision discussions. Generally most proponents meet the SA LUO set back requirements, however AUC has their own setbacks and if a case goes to the Land and Property Right Tribunal (LPRT) their decision is final. Public consultation on the SA LUO will be sought and that will be the opportunity for ratepayers to provide input.

SA3SUB4,5,6 – Motion 3: Moved by Shane Hertz to stop nighttime traffic past farmyards and acreages from midnight to 6:00 am for those projects requiring Road Use Agreements in Special Areas. Seconded by Dave McKinstry. **CARRIED.**

This motion is very situational – the specific project was in the process of pouring concrete and due to the hot summer, the mix could only be poured at night. There are Road Use Agreements which assist with mitigating concerns. It was noted there were no projects as of April 1, 2022 and now there are six projects under construction.

That covers the motions from Ratepayer Meetings in 2022.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson noted an opportunity was missed to congratulate Ms. Dawn Lyon, Ms. Erin VanKoughnett and Ms. Tenille Stevens on their first Advisory Council meeting – as well as Mr. Shaune Kovitch as the Director of Municipal Services.

Ms. Ference connected into the meeting at 1:05pm.

Mr. Christianson noted there is an ask on the horizon from the Harvest Sky Regional Ag Centre – once they determine the level of project they want to build.

The Issues Binder table of contents was reviewed noting the surfacing strategy will be reviewed on Thursday.

Council moved on to discuss the Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Park noting a 10-year agreement was signed last year for Special Areas to operate the parks. The arrangement is cumbersome from an administrative perspective and there is interest to pursue acquiring both parks. There is local support for the change.

Discussion moved to funding for potable water lines. In 2020, there were federal and provincial grant dollars for potable water lines – and projects were completed. Engineering has been completed for the extension to Pemukan, however moving forward with the project is contingent on grant funding. It was suggested SAB consider investing in the extension. This decision can be made at a later date.

The number of elk coming off the Suffield Base seems to have been reduced with the annual hunts on the base.

There is a community pasture report in the Minute Book which shows the increased costs for water this year. A couple of pastures has early exits: Buffalo Atlee was about a month early and Remount was approximately two weeks early. Letters have been sent to patrons noting reductions for 2023 if conditions do not improve. Grass is not abundant and there is no water in some places.

There was a question on the Dorothy Elevator – an RFP was advertised in 2021 to repair the roof but bids were out of budget as the building is not structurally sound enough to put on a roof. Maintenance has been completed. The community has set aside funds to assist but the structure may be beyond repair.

Mr. Caskey noted there have been five Land Use Order (LUO) meetings to update the SA LUO. It is hoped the public consultation phase can be set prior to Spring Advisory Council. Palliser Regional Municipal Services is assisting and would like to wrap this project up.

The Westmoreland Reclamation work continues with four hectares disturbed. SAB has requested there are holes for water before the lands are reclaimed back to their original state.

The Sheerness Industrial Park (SIP) received fully funding for phase 1. There is a plan to provide water for industrial use on the site (a \$1.62M project); funding is being applied for through PrairiesCan as there is \$1.5M remaining in the coal transition funding pool. The Area Structure Plan and redistricting has been completed with a subdivision planned for early 2023. Harvest Sky Economic Development Corp. has produced a video highlighting the SIP. Special Areas has not funded the project to date – it has been covered by grant funding.

Conversation turned to financial targets and reserves updated to after 2021 year end.

Mill rates were reviewed noting some rate may be light. Regionally, Special Areas is low – however, it may be time to review rates of urban neighbours within borders. Urban neighbours do appreciate the support SAB provides; Special Areas does recognize the strong assessment base compared to neighbours.

The Medical Mill Rate has funds set aside for projects like the Oyen doctors' clinic and the Acadia Foundation lodge expansion in Oyen. The Hanna and Consort clinics are in good shape. In Oyen, the Big Country Medical Dental Board has discussed changing the percentage of funding required by the Town of Oyen, MD of Acadia and Special Areas – moving to a 10%-10%-80%. It may be time to look at the capital funding formula with the clinic build in Oyen.

Ms. Ference disconnected from the meeting at 1:52pm.

MOTION AC04-12-22: FUNDING FOR DOCTORS CLINIC BUILD IN OYEN
MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD ADJUST FUNDING FOR THE CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECT FOR A DOCTOR CLINIC IN OYEN TO BE 80% SAB, 10% TOWN OF OYEN AND 10% MD OF ACADIA. CARRIED.

It was noted the Acadia Foundation lodge expansion did receive a provincial grant for \$4M. Special Areas will likely need to step in to fund the balance of the project. Costs continue to escalate as time goes on, this project may need to be revisited.

Discussion moved to grants and annual grants noting the Local Government Fiscal Framework is closer to being implemented. A portion of the Education Tax may stay in the municipality it's collected in – so if the province steps back – Special Areas may need to step into that funding.

Capital purchases are still in catch-up mode with delivery times heavily extended.

The Oyen Logistics Park has sold and work continues to finalize the sale, consolidating parcels and other legal paperwork. There is a lot of activity with sand cars and wind tower components.

The Hamlet of Cereal transition went relatively well; only two residences showed for the ratepayer meeting. Facility rentals are in progress. The curling rink has been demolished and tidy up continues outside. Minor repairs have been done to the water building. Transition grant funding has \$527k remaining which can be used on projects up to June 2023. There is potentially a group to take over operations and management of the CJ Peacock Centre. Part of the smooth transition was the transition of an employee who continues to work in the hamlet.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the Joint Irrigation Project noting the Phase 2 MOU has been approved and just needs to be executed. Once that is complete, the RFP for project management can be advertised. Phase 2 will focus on engineering and regulatory requirements. The project scope is still 108,000 acres and flow has been trimmed from 190m³ to 170m³. There is commitment for \$7.0M for Phase 2.

BREAK

Ms. Abt, on behalf of the Administrators, presented a recommendation on a change to the Crop Loss Compensation model. The current model is 3x assessment with a minimum of \$250/acre. Options were reviewed.

MOTION AC04-13-22: CROP LOSS COMPENSATION

MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD AMEND POLICY 04-04: CROP LOSS COMPENSATION TO 4.5 X ASSESSMENT WITH A MINIMUM OF \$250/ACRE. CARRIED.

1 ABSTAINED.

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD MAKE THE POLICY 04-04: CROP LOSS COMPENSATION RATE CHANGE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022. OPPOSED

1 ABSTAINED.

It was noted ratepayers signed off on the rate for 2022.

Ms. Abt moved on to present an amendment to the Right-of-Way Purchase Compensation for Construction. This is usually for an acre or two and there is a standard rate across all Special Areas.

MOTION AC04-14-22: RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE COMPENSATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD AMEND POLICY 04-04: RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE COMPENSATION FOR CONSTRUCTION INCREASE TO 14 TIMES ASSESSMENT PER ACRE WITH A \$1,500 PER ACRE MINIMUM. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Abt and the Administrators for preparing these policy updates.

Mr. Morgan Stromsmoe from Ducks Unlimited Canada joined the meeting. Mr. Morgan wanted to discuss large wetland impoundments and dam safety with Council. It was noted the shop in Hanna is up for sale as it's been tough to recruit staff to small communities and the overhead does not make sense for a one-person office. New programs are being managed out of the Duchess office.

The 2022 programs were reviewed noting there was 360 acres of wetland restoration through five landowners; DUC pays market value on restorations. Properties are purchased and typically resold with an easement. In Special Areas there are 236 projects covering 64,432 acres and 10 conservation easements equaling 6,000 acres.

DUC is included in Dam Safety directives and requirements. To be included into the dam safety program, dams need to be a minimum of 2.5m tall and have a capacity of 30 dams³. There are 124 low consequence dams and 25 significant dams.

In the 1980's the DUC priority was to 'drought proof the prairies' and now the focus has shifted to restoration. Large impoundments that serve as staging and molting areas have become a low priority.

There was a question on if there was compensation paid to landowners when projects were installed or if annual rent was paid. Some of the projects provide benefits to the landowners and decommissioning them could be detrimental. If the municipality takes over there are liability issues and the cost of dam safety reviews required. DUC is interested in starting talks with the municipality to transfer ownership or decommission. It was noted low

consequence dams do not require dam safety reviews. There was discussion on the transfer of water licences and management required as downstream users may have priority on water – depending on when licences were allocated. Further discussion and investigation will be required.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Stromsmoe for attending – it was nice to have a presentation. Conversations on transfers will continue.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for their time today and the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT 4:06PM.

DECEMBER 1, 2022 CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM

Welcome to staff attending this morning: Lisa Colby, Carla Johnson, Heather Pedersen, Shelagh Olmstead, Melissa Lee and Tej Sarai.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the agenda for the day adding a discussion on Tax Recovery Land Sale.

Mr. Griffith noted he will need a replacement on the Resolutions Committee.

MOTION AC04-15-22: CHANGE TO RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
DARYL SWENSON NOMINATES ERIKA TESSIER TO REPLACE JUSTIN GRIFFITH ON THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL. SECONDED BY NEAL ROES. CARRIED.

Mr. Swenson requested to add power generation on crown lands to the agenda.

Mr. Jones reviewed the interim financial statements.

The planned deficit of \$5.1M for 2022 has been revised to a surplus of \$1.64M, after crews have wrapped up, bringing the accumulated operational surplus to \$32M.

Taxes came in at budgeted amounts and interest income did increase as the Government of Canada increased interest rates bringing the revenue up \$800k from budget.

On the expenditure side, the deferral of capital and supply chain issues have moved purchases into next year. The total savings/deferrals equate to \$5.5M on the expenditure side.

Funds were budgeted for the Oyen doctor's clinic and will be carried forward into 2023.

In summary, 2022 will see a surplus of \$1.6M bringing the accumulated operational surplus to \$32M – which puts Special Areas in a good financial position.

Mr. Jones moved on to review the proposed 2023 Budget. Starting with revenue, taxes equate to approximately 60% of revenue. Intent is to keep the split between industry and residential the same. The bad-debt levy will continue as industry recovers as there is \$5.8M that has been written-off.

Interest revenue was conservatively budgeted and has seen an increase from the 2022 budget. Revenue from other sources was reviewed. Oil well drilling tax has not come back and there's no indication from the province it will return.

In agriculture, Strychnine sales have ended which will result in \$80k less coming in. Agriculture rentals for grazing and cultivation as well as other rentals and leases were reviewed.

It is anticipated Alberta Transportation will partner with \$4.5M for a paving project and the annual agreement continues with \$2.1M for maintenance.

Grant revenue was reviewed noting MSI is being replaced with the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF).

The joint irrigation project Phase 2 is projected to cost \$7M and Special Areas is a 1/3 partner; MDA is putting in \$150,000 into this Phase.

In summary, the 2023 deficit is \$13M which will bring the accumulated operational surplus down to \$16M.

The Council questioned taxation on windmills and Mr. Caskey noted the province assesses the projects and the municipality gets the taxes. Projects need to be producing in 2023 to pay taxes in 2024. Projects are not assessed until they are built and producing.

Revenues are budgeted at \$59.07M for 2023.

Mr. Jones moved on to review expenditures. General government services are projected to be \$5.9M for 2023 with a full staff compliment. Protective Services includes a carry forward of the Youngstown tanker, a Deputy Fire Chief truck and a drone, as well as another bay for the Consort Fire Hall. It was noted most water trucks and CPO trucks see a lot of windshield time and the vehicles mile out quickly.

Discussion moved onto Transportation Services with a budget of \$44M - \$16M of that being in maintenance which is detailed on Expenditure Working Paper in the budget package.

Mr. Nolan Ball joined the meeting at 9:47am.

Mr. Jones noted there is \$11.23M in capital purchases planned – 2022 had a budget of \$7M with a capital carry forward of \$2.4M due to delivery and supply chain issues.

Discussion moved to water supply which is budgeted at \$7.2M. It was noted underground cisterns are being upgraded to above ground systems due to integrity issues. There is also a need for relief support on the irrigation system, Mr. Hutton requires back-up.

It was noted Family and Community Social Services (FCSS) is 80% government funded with Special Areas putting in 20%.

Trucks for Ag Service Boards have increased \$20k from just over a year ago.

In Community Pastures there is budget for water development and fencing has been removed to keep the budget figure close to \$1M. Grazing at \$1/day equates to \$1M for close to break-even.

Mr. Jones reviewed economic development and planning noting there is a change on the horizon for the Palliser Regional Municipal Services requisition.

Recreation is budgeted at \$2.8M and Parks at \$671K. Parks includes Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park and Little Fish Lake Provincial Park management – a 10-year agreement was signed in 2021 but there are challenges with the structure of that agreement. The Blood

Indian Store will need to change as Mr. Armstrong is retiring and the store is his building on his property.

Requisitions for seniors, school, and designated industrial properties were reviewed.

Bad debt expense is budgeted at \$750k – but that number won't be confirmed until November 2023.

There is a projected \$13.5M deficit budget which includes a few one-time large capital purchases to get back on the capital equipment plan and a paving project. Once those items are taken care of, the planned deficit of \$4-\$6M will return.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Jones and Mrs. Olmstead for their work on the budget – this is an ambitious budget, Council can make a motion if they are comfortable with the direction.

Mr. Jones moved on to review the Budget In/Out list.

There are no plans for a mill rate increase, but a small increase in residential to narrow the gap between residential and industrial as there is a legislated requirement to be less than 5:1. Small changes on residential will allow for bigger changes on industrial as the renewable energy projects come online. The depreciation on those projects is expected to be quick.

The millings from Hwy 9 saw two piles – one in Hanna and one in Youngstown. The product was tested in Sedalia and worked well so may be pushed to other hamlets.

Honoraria has been on the books for years – it maybe be time to update the rates.

There was discussion on the irrigation hose reel, the 6" lay flat kind – logistically need to find a way to transport and an ease-of-use process when it's rented so it's not damaged.

A number of water projects are awaiting grant funding and resident buy-in.

Ag Services has drought mitigation in the community pastures which is proposed in at \$225,000.

Recreation has some funds allocated for relocating the Blood Indian store and upgrades in the parks.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Jones for the summary – a motion from Council will be required by the end of the meeting to bring the budget to the Minister for approval.

BREAK

Mr. Dustin Abley from the Buffalo Atlee Grazing Association joined the meeting in person and Mr. Brad Osadczuk connected online at 10:55am.

Mr. Nolan Ball and Ms. Brett Richards provided some background on the community pastures Special Areas manages. There are five community pastures and Richdale was used as a backup after the Buffalo Atlee fire in 2017. The stats on each of the pastures were reviewed. Richdale was established in the early days of Special Areas, it was a hay meadow in 1964 and moved under the range rider for Bullpound pasture in 1987. It has been suggested Richdale be transitioned out of a community pasture.

There are options such a provincial grazing reserve or a hybrid grazing model could be used. Mr. Ball provided differences between the two options. Range development and improvements along with stewardship and pasture management were reviewed.

Ms. Richards noted the Richdale community pasture could be turned to a grazing lease or a grazing permit. Grazing permits could be established on Contracosta Lake with an open bid process. Another option would be to return the lands to the original grazing lease owners – this option would require research. Or a grazing lease and grazing permit could be offered to a cooperative of patrons.

This issue has been discussed but public engagement has not been sought up to this point. Special Areas has a public participation policy and needs to consider the larger stakeholder group when deciding on public land issues.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Ball and Ms. Richards for the presentation.

Mr. Dustin Abley came forward to discuss options for management of the Buffalo Atlee community pasture. The grazing association for Buffalo Atlee community pasture held an open meeting to discuss the issues and management of this pasture. There is interest in pursuing an alternate management solution based on the Special Areas Community Pasture Policy requirements and allotment numbers etc. There was a unanimous vote to form a cooperative and move forward with the association taking over the pasture. The association is looking to have control and provide incentive for patrons to look after their own interests.

This was a tough year for water development – which is not cheap, costing for water development would need to be solved. It's thought more smaller developments would be beneficial compared to large dugouts as there are a number of springs in the Buffalo Atlee pasture.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Abley for the presentation.

There is appetite to look at options, but the decision should not be rushed. It was suggested a draft model including governance options and how to fund operations and staffing would need to be submitted. Public consultation is another piece that needs to be completed. This was a good conversation and information will flow back to the Buffalo Atlee grazing association and Board.

Mr. Christianson acknowledged the work Mr. Ball and Ms. Richards have done on the pastures – it's a great starting point.

The work Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Jones and Ms. Olmstead have done on the budget is also to be commended.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda and welcomed Mr. Darrin Balanik from the Alberta Police Service Secretariate. Mr. Balanik thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide background and context of policing in Alberta. There was an Alberta Provincial Police force from 1917-1932 and then moved to RCMP contract policing. British Columbia recently switched to a Provincial Police Service. It was noted all RCMP contracts expire in 2032. Alberta has started a study to investigate options. An overview of Alberta policing landscapes was reviewed highlighting various police efforts.

The current governance model for RCMP was reviewed noting the Police Commission hires the Police Chief and that's their one employee. The Police Chief goes on to hire deputy's,

inspectors, and other required staff. The Alberta Police Service (APS) model focuses on community policing or front-line policing. With this model, each detachment would have a minimum of ten members and more specialist resources would become embedded in rural detachments. A change would take a minimum of two years after a letter is sent to the federal minister requesting a change.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Balanik for his time and the information.

Mr. Gary Sandberg, ADM Municipal Services Division connected to the meeting. The intent was to attend in person, but roads were not conducive to drive. Mr. Sandberg appreciated the opportunity to join the Council virtually. He noted Minister Schulz is looking forward to meeting with Council, she did connect with a few at Fall RMA and the Drumheller-Stettler MLA, Nate Horner, ensures she's aware of happenings in Special Areas.

Mr. Sandberg provided an update on the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) which will take over from MSI. A formula is still being perfected. The Premier has commented the province is moving out of property tax on education and the trade off will be reducing provincial grants. Regarding unpaid O&G taxes – work has been done with RMA to find solutions. The amended *MGA* re-instated a special need to enforce tax collection. It is recognised unpaid taxes are an issue that needs to be addressed shortly.

There was discussion on the three-year tax holiday as incentives for O&G as well as the reduction of 35% on shallow gas wells. This is having a major impact on rural municipalities. A committee has been formed to bring a review process of the assessment model – recommendations are expected early in 2023. The committee is comprised of representatives from rural municipalities, rural administrators, industry, assessors, municipalities, Telus, Rogers, CN and CP Rails. This process will differ from the last and be more open and transparent from the beginning.

The question on a proposed TRLS was brought forward. It was noted the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs wanted to defer decision making on this issue until further information on price was obtained. MLA Horner has done a great job informing Minister Schulz on the process and importance of this policy. Minister Schulz is interested in hearing more about this policy.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Sandberg for connecting in with Council and for the good updates.

Mr. Griffith departed at 2:35pm.

BREAK

Mr. Kovitch reviewed the 2022 completed Road Program and the 2023 Proposed Road Program. Manpower was a struggle this year, there were 12 vacant seats across the crews. Down equipment also impacted operations; part of the challenge was a delay in receiving parts for repairs. Weather also played a part with crews missing 20 days due to rain which equates to 15-16kms of work.

Special Areas did assist with work on the Delia Seed Plant, Consort Ball Diamonds and Suntjens access.

Mr. Kovitch reviewed the proposed 2023 Road Program. There is a reduction in proposed work based on capacity available in the previous year – if there are more resources available, more work can be completed. The concern is there will not be staff or equipment to complete the work.

Discussion turned to the Girletz Road and the safety issues along certain stretches. It was suggested further testing needs to be done.

MOTION AC04-16-22: 2023 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD THE 2023 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PLAN AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-17-22: 2022 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD THE 2023 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

Mr. Kovitch provided a review of the staged surfacing approach including a history of roads in Special Areas. Back in the late 1990's, Alberta Transportation took back control of the secondary highways and if the roads didn't meet a predetermined standard (200 vehicles per day) the roads would be turned back to gravel. Special Areas ratepayers wanted dust free surfaces, so this was the starting point for staged surfacing. The staged surfacing consists of cement stabilized grade, 75mm of granular base course, then 75mm of ACP (pavement). Each step expected to last approximately eight years. After twenty years most surfaces are between stage 2-3. Since the start of the program, approximately \$125M has been spent on the road network.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Kovitch for the presentation.

Mr. Mike Damberger and Mr. Derrick Wilson from Alberta Transportation joined the meeting. Mr. Damberger thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide an update.

Alberta Transportation is very appreciative of the unique partnership with Special Areas on three-digit highways – the road network in this area would not be in its current state without the partnership. It has been very successful and it's the only agreement of its kind in the province.

Concerns on the bridge south of Consort on Hwy 886 were brought forward. Mr. Damberger noted the area is on the radar and will likely see repairs in the next three-five years. It was noted there is a real safety issue – it is inspected yearly and could be monthly.

It was asked if there were recommendations for placement of stoppage on a highway for large loads – there doesn't seem to be much common sense. Mr. Damberger can bring this forward.

Discussion moved to paving on Hwy 12 – it's not completed, was the last paved in Alberta 46 years ago and still not completed. Hwy 899 north of Hwy 12 has no access to the provincial park.

It was asked why the province quit doing crack filling and the response was it hasn't quit but operating budgets have been reduced. Operating funds are difficult to come by for Alberta Transportation, if there is a paving project in an area, additional projects in the area could be completed.

The concern on Hwy 570 along the Red Deer River near Drumheller was discussed. Mr. D. Wilson can investigate.

Further concerns were brought forward on paint and it not sticking on roads.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Damberger and Mr. D Wilson for coming and answering questions. Special Areas appreciates the good relationship with Alberta Transportation.

BREAK

Mr. Yake provided some history on the Girletz Road – he was a foreman on the crew in 2003 when the road was constructed and there have been issues from the start.

Mr. Caskey brought forward the proposed Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) policy and reviewed in detail.

MOTION AC04-18-22: TRLS POLICY ELIGIBILITY DATE

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO AMEND THE PROPOSED TAX RECOVERY LAND SALE POLICY TO AMEND SECTION 3.2 TO REFLECT A DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2023. CARRIED.

There was discussion on the trades, the pool of tax recovery lands is now smaller and there is no longer a buffer with Community Pastures. Those who have more than 16 quarters would be on the trade list and could get 1:1 instead of 3:1 in the previously drafted policy.

There was discussion on price – 13 times for pasture and five times for cultivated lands.

Interest rates were the next piece to discuss – rates will need to be updated. Special Areas should be lender of last resort.

In the last sale, there were issues with MSLs in that once the land was paid for the MSL transferred and if a new deal wasn't negotiated, the landowner might not allow access.

Mr. Christianson noted the discussion was good on the TRLS Policy – further discussion to be had.

Adjournment 4:54 pm

December 2, 2022 Call to Order 9:01am

Mr. Christianson reviewed the agenda for the day noting the Council should provide a motion on the proposed budget.

There was discussion at Fall RMA when the Minister of Energy suggested there could be renewables on crown land in the future. The Minister of Municipal Affairs asked Special Areas position on the issue. Discussion points to be covered in the letter included: who's going to clean up the land after the infrastructure is obsolete; roads and maintenance of roads install for development of projects.

MOTION AC04-19-22: RENEWABLE PROJECTS ON PUBLIC LAND

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD A LETTER BE SENT TO THE MINISTERS OF ENERGY, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, AND ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS AS WELL AS MLA HORNER AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA STATING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED ON CROWN OR LEASED LANDS. CARRIED.

There was discussion on the \$50/acre charged on MSLs on crown land – every time there's discussion to increase, SAB is told to not go to industry. It was noted there are ecological goods in native prairie that should not be discounted. Special Areas manages a huge swath of uncultivated native prairie in the province.

Mr. Roes joined the meeting at 9:19am.

It was noted there are a number of regulating bodies in place for oil and gas however nothing appears to be in place for renewable energy projects.

The Council revisited the discussion on Community Pastures and questioned if there was a way for patrons to provide advice on water development in the pastures. It was noted there could be a number of different opinions and difficult to include all suggestions.

More details are required before Council can make a decision – there are a number of people looking to get into the pastures so if folks are not happy in the pastures they could elect to go out and the spaces would likely be filled. The principle is the patrons are taking more of an interest and want to manage the land their animals are on.

The BA Grazing Association has been requested to put forward a model, they wanted to know if SAB was interested in hearing before going through the work of developing a model. It's not clear that all patrons are interested in this route, some are calling voicing concerns about having a new model when they are comfortable with the current structure. There is a lot of work to be done, it's not likely to happen for the 2023 season as the September motion from Advisory Council stated. Allotment meetings are scheduled in January so patrons can plan their year. It was also noted a public participation plan will need to be put in place – so the grazing plan would need to be developed before public engagement occurs.

Mr. Noble joined the meeting at 9:38am.

Buffalo Atlee is the largest pasture and only has one patron group. Other pastures have more than one patron group.

MOTION AC04-20-22: BUFFALO ATLEE COMMUNITY PASTURE

MOVED BY GRAHAM SCHETZSLE AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO FURTHER EXPLORATION OF BUFFALO ATLEE COMMUNITY PASTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS INTO 2024. CARRIED.

The Council discussed paving projects and the road program with the staged surfacing approach. There has been a detailed plan in place for years that is typically followed unless a piece starts to fail. It was noted Hwy 876 was bumped up ahead of schedule. Girletz Road is failing and requires a professional look.

Discussion moved to regional development and the need for access to the USA. It is understood the provincial government and the Wild Horse Border Committee have been lobbying the federal government to make Wild Horse crossing a 24-hour commercial crossing. It may be time to speak with Minister Dreeshen about expanding Hwy 899.

Mr. Kovitch noted Hwy 899 has been worked on in sections and is at four years, Hwy 899 is sitting at eight to nine years and is next on the list for pavement. There were issues on the north end of 899, it was cosmetic, and crews were able to rechip and seal so the infrastructure was not lost.

The road program plan has been working – would be nice to continue. Mr. Kovitch agreed an investigation needs to be done on Girletz Road.

MOTION AC04-21-22: ROAD SURFACING

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO FOLLOW THE ROAD SURFACING PLAN REGARDING PAVING. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-22-22: ENGINEERING FOR GIRLETZ ROAD

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO HIRE AN ENGINEERING FIRM TO INVESTIGATE ISSUES ON GIRLETZ ROAD. CARRIED.

There was further discussion on the challenges with Girletz Road – the challenge section is approximately three miles in front of residents, there's not need to bust up the good portions on that road.

BREAK

Mr. Nolan Ball came forward to provide an update on Rangeland Management. Satellite imagery for the area was reviewed showing the moisture index and vegetation index as of July 2022. An overview of the grazing dispositions was provided along with rules for grazing dispositions. The range management principles are: to balance the stocking rate with carrying capacity of the land; distribute livestock evenly; avoid grazing during vulnerable periods; and to provide effective rest after grazing. The range health assessment indicators were reviewed. Balancing the stocking rate with current conditions, the recommendation is for a 50% reduction in annual stocking for Remount Pasture. There is a lot of snow, and images can be picked up every two weeks provided there's no cloud cover. With a lot of snow cover, the springs in Buffalo Atlee may re-generate – there are multiple springs that supplement natural water.

The distance cattle will travel was reviewed noting cattle will move if water availability is adjusted. There was discussion on noxious weeds in Buffalo Atlee and Remount.

It was asked what the process is when pastures are found to be abused. The first step is education and then would move to enforcement. With subletting letters, added an ecological context providing a score and suggestions for management. That is highly valuable and provides an opportunity for a good relationship between the land user and the agrologist.

There was a comment all pastures are hurting due to drought.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Ball for the information.

Mr. Cam McKeage and Ms. Holli Smith from Prairie Land School Division joined the meeting and Ms. Reegan Weeks from Prairie Rose School Division connected into the meeting.

Ms. Smith thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide an update. The new funding formula was good for rural schools – there are still concerns with declines, but innovation has increased enrollments. PLSD is home to nine Hutterite schools and eight public schools. In September 2020 a virtual school was developed along with a home education system. The Al Amal Muslim school in Calgary is also doing well – it started with less than 100 students and now has over 200. Prairie Land online academy hosts 120 students and there are plans to bring another online academy for high school-based faith students in Calgary. There are 80 waiting to get in with another 500-600 potentially being enrolled. Online

schools see credit funds but do not have brick and mortar infrastructure to maintain. With the addition of the schools, student enrollment is over 3,000 students and staff has increased to 350. The thought is to grow instead of looking for ways to cut – this has been successful. There is a lack of teachers across the province, innovative approaches to retaining teachers will be sought.

An overview of the innovative programs being offered in rural schools was provided: Fieldhouse in Veteran, Baseball Academy in Consort, Farm at Altario School that has a grocer and is producing food weekly; Youngstown and Berry Creek have greenhouses.

The biggest struggle is staff and retention of staff, another concern is transportation – this is a remote area and busses need to reach kids. There was discussion on feeder busses – efficiency and cost need to be considered. The aim is for routes to be 90mins or less, it is understood there are a couple of routes above that benchmark. It was suggested the funding model be kilometer based for transportation.

There was a question on the teacher contracts and Superintendent McKeage noted the temporary contracts are intended to move into permanent if there is a good fit. The focus is on what is in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. McKeage and Ms. Smith for attending and all the good information – PLSD's efforts to evolve and keep moving forward are applauded.

Mr. Christianson greeted Ms. Reegan Weeks, Superintendent of Prairie Rose School Division and apologized for the delay in the presentation schedule. Ms. Weeks thanked the Council for the opportunity noting some of what the Council heard from PLSD will be echoed in this presentation. PRSD is also looking to secure enrollment numbers and has invested in an online school and partnering with global sports. There have been updates in South Central High School and Oyen Public School as well as work at Warren Peers School in Acadia Valley. A rodeo academy was launched at Foremost School which has brought in a number of students. A fire fighter academy has also been developed where students can earn Level 1 and Level 2 certifications. Dual credit options are being brought back for health care aids. Prairie Rose has also partnered with Olds College, Lakeland College, Lethbridge College and Medicine Hat College.

In Acadia Valley, students participated in the Kids Guide to Canada which is available online and is sponsored by National Geographic. There are geo codes and teachers/students can input information about different communities.

Transportation is also a challenge in Prairie Rose – feeder busses may work but drivers are required. Finding drivers is very difficult. Once drivers are close to meeting Class 1 requirements, they move to O&G where their salary increases approximately five times. The requirements for bus drivers have been brought forward to the Premier. It was noted Southland does not offer good contracts for locals to drive bus – the new requirements with added increases in training and insurance make it so small contractors cannot manage.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Weeks for the information and for taking time to connect – schools are a big part of our community, and the partnerships make both sides stronger.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda.

Mr. Jones discussed the Mill Rates in the Issues Binder (31a.) providing an overview of the 21-year history. The SA mill rates include bad debt, medical, and recreational rates – some

neighbours do not have all those rates. Non-residential rates are comparative with neighbours, the residential rates are on the high side. Special Areas current ratio for residential to non-residential is 2:1 – legislatively the ratio needs to be less than 5:1 so there is room to move.

Special Areas assessment base is still around \$4B, and the non-residential mill rates are considered low. In consideration of the renewable energy projects coming and being built with a possibly quick depreciation, it may be time to move rates. Some of the villages and towns within Special Areas have higher mill rates and it may be time to assist them in becoming more competitive as they are housing and providing services for these renewable energy projects. It was noted the urban partners are not coming to ask for assistance. There was a suggestion the assistance could be in the form of infrastructure improvement or debt reduction. Meetings will be arranged with urban partners to determine a path forward with a focus on the Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework agreement.

MOTION AC04-23-22: FINANCIAL MODELS FOR URBANS

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO LOOK AT FINANCIAL MODELS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH URBAN MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN BORDERS. CARRIED.

The Council moved to a Committee Roundtable discussion providing a high-level update on each of the committees.

Alfred Brown Handibus: Mrs. Ference – nothing to report.

Acadia Foundation: Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Swenson and Mr. Schetzle – occupancy is at 65% between the three facilities. Ms. Sandy Kelts is retiring and Ms. Shelaine Woods is the new CAO. It was noted if there were not COVID payments, the AF would be losing money.

Ag. Service Board SA2: Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Roes – no comments.

Ag. Service Board SA3: Mr. Kimber, Mr. Wilson – nothing out of the ordinary.

Ag. Service Board SA4: Mrs. Ference and Mr. Schetzle – a request has been made for a drone to save a truck. It is hoped rat poisoning will come back on the table.

Battle River Watershed Alliance: Mr. Noble – nothing to report.

Big Country Medical Dental Centre: Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Tessier – updates have already been covered in this meeting.

Big Country Waste Management Commission: Mr. Blair, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schetzle – Mr. Blair is the Chair. Work continues on repair of Cell D where the fire occurred; details are still being ironed out. Updates for transfer stations are planned.

Carolside South Irrigation Advisory Committee: Mr. Griffith, Mr. Roes – a group text was started so irrigators are aware of who is pumping and when. Environment is hoping to pump additional water again.

CARA: Mr. Kimber – Research associations dole out funds – CARA is very appreciative of the confirmed funding as it assists with budgeting and planning. The Soils Lab is going well, there are regular projects and equipment is in good order.

Consort and District Medical Centre Board: Mr. Schetzle, Mrs. Ference – one doctor resigned so there are two now and short nursing staff. Emergency is not operational, even when doctor is in. There are plans to recruit.

East Central Ambulance: Mr. Schetzle: nothing to report.

East Central Housing Society: Mrs. Kelts, Mrs. Ference – Gem Centre is being rented out a lot. There have been a few successful fundraisers.

Hanna Medial Society: Mr. Bossert – new doctor started.

Harvest Sky: Mr. Blair, Mr. Griffith – work is being done on the Ag Centre. There appears to be a lot of overlap between Ms. Diakow and Mr. Nikota.

Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission: Mrs. Tessier – Mr. Povaschuk is the new Chair. Empress and Oyen lacking water techs and general procurement issues.

Marigold Library Board: Ms. Veno, Ms. Michaels, Ms. Kurek – nothing to report.

Municipal Planning Commission: Mr. Osadczuk, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Ference – Working on LUO amendments with an eye on renewable energy projects.

Palliser Economic Partnership: Mrs. Tessier – Mr. Slemp stepped down as PEP Chairman. Mr. Doug Jones is now Chairman. Mr. Walter Valentini is back as Executive Director. Support for twinning of Hwy 3 from Medicine Hat to Taber. There is a lot of potential to partner with hydrogen plants. Mayor Jones also wanted to thank Special Areas for the generator during the recent power outage.

Palliser Regional Municipal Services: Mr. Blair, Mr. Kimber and Mr. Noble – there have been a lot of meetings, an assessment has been completed and there is good value in the work done. Funding formula is changing, Special Areas will pay more – however it is still cheaper than doing the work in house.

Prairie Conservation Forum: Mrs. Tessier – not contacted yet.

Provincial Endangered Species: Mr. Noble – there has been work on a few recovery plans but none that affect Special Areas. It's assumed there will be opposition to the joint irrigation project.

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance: Mr. Swenson – Mr. Swenson would like to step down. This group is in favor of the joint irrigation project.

Red Deer River Municipal Users Group: Mr. Slemp – Mr. Christianson and Mr. Caskey have attended meetings – a strategy will need to be developed for the water ask from the Red Deer River.

Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission: Mrs. Ference – not much to report.

South East Alberta Watershed Alliance: Mr. Swenson – no meetings.

Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Alliance: Mr. Greg Sheppard attends. There is an update in the Issues Binder.

Special Areas and Oyen Development Corporation: Mr. Caskey, Mr. Swenson – work on the sale continues. There are water issues waiting on engineering on the storm water side.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council and administration for the updates on all the Boards, Commissions, Committees and Foundation.

Resolution #1: Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks

Whereas Gooseberry Lake and Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks are currently being operated by the SAB under a 10-year operational agreement with Alberta Parks.

Whereas, the agreement is functional but operationally cumbersome. These parks are not representative of the type of recreational experience that residents would get at other SAB

managed campgrounds. Local support remains for Special Areas to acquire these assets and operate them under the SAB brand.

Therefore Be It Resolved that we recommend that the SAB lobby the minister's office to fully transfer these assets to the SAB.

Moved by John Kimber and seconded by Kevin Wilson.

CARRIED.

Resolution 2: Fuel Costs

Whereas the increase cost of fuel and expense required to do SAB Business has increased since 2009.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that SAB mileage be in line with the CRA recommended amounts of 61¢ per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven and 55¢ per kilometre driven after that.

Moved by Brad Slorstad and seconded by John Kimber.

CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-24-22: HWY 570 REPAIR (DRUMHELLER VALLEY)

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO APPROACH ALBERTA FORESTRY, PARKS AND TOURISM AND ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS TO REPAIR HWY 570 IN THE RIVER VALLEY NEAR DRUMHELLER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC04-25-22: COST OF FUEL

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO EXPLORE WHAT OTHER MUNICIPALITIES PAY FOR A BUSINESS KILOMETRE RATE. CARRIED.

The Budget In/Out sheet was reviewed – it was noted outlying communities need to be considered when it comes to millings.

MOTION AC04-26-22: MILLINGS TO HAMLETS

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TO HAVE ADMINISTRATION PUT TOGETHER A PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MILLINGS TO GO INTO HAMLETS FOR SPRING 2023 ADVISORY COUNCIL WITH HIGH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTARIO, COMPEER, AND JENNER. CARRIED.

Administrators and Municipal Services staff can determine the high priority areas and bring back to Spring Advisory Council.

MOTION AC04-27-22: 2023 – 2025 SPECIAL AREAS BOARD BUDGET

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD THE 2023 – 2025 SPECIAL AREAS BUDGET AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson noted the Minute Book is available online for those interested in more detailed information on operations.

It was suggested some of the resistance on a TRLS is from those with large crown holdings – what about requesting 100-year leases instead of 20-year leases. That may be something to consider.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for their time, their experience, professionalism and knowledge is appreciated. Thanks to Ms. Herzog for organizing hospitality and staff who assisted with keeping the hospitality room stocked. Thanks to Ms. Jones for organizing the meeting.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ADJOURNMENT 2:41PM