



2023 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Update from Jordon Christianson, Chair
Special Areas Board

Chair's Update

2023 Ratepayer Meetings

- Special Areas Board Governance
- Municipal Partnerships
- Acadia Foundation-Oyen Lodge Expansion
- Big Country Hospital Update
- MD Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Update

Chair's Update

Special Areas Board Governance

- Board members are appointed by Order in Council for two- or four-year terms
 - Jordon Christianson, Chair (Expires September 14, 2025)
 - Brad Slorstad, Board member (Expires April 22, 2024)
 - Daryl Swenson, Board member (Expires April 22, 2024)
 - Douglas Noble, Board member (Expires April 22, 2024)

Chair's Update

Municipal Partnerships

- Special Areas continues to enjoy strong partnerships with regional neighbors
 - These relationships include rural and urban municipalities
- We have formalized these partnerships in Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreements (ICF)
- A key initiative in 2023 is to work with urban neighbors to look at opportunities to strengthen these relationships
 - Includes looking at potential partnership projects, regional priorities, and industrial tax transfer funding

Chair's Update

Acadia Foundation - Oyen Lodge Expansion

- Concept of developing an Assisted Living/Dementia Care facility in Oyen has been in development for many years
- The Government of Alberta is funding the project through a capital grant to the Acadia Foundation
 - Acadia Foundation will be the lead project proponent through development and construction
 - Special Areas will assist with financing and funding the project
- The current concept involves a 14-unit single story facility connected directly to the Oyen Lodge
- Anticipated to begin construction in Fall 2023, with substantial completion early 2025

Chair's Update

Big Country Hospital (Oyen) - Update

- The problem?
 - On Jan 10, 2023, AHS temporarily closed 10 acute care beds and limited emergency department (closed from 7pm to 7 am)
- How has Special Areas helped resolve this issue?
 - Worked with Town of Oyen and MD Acadia to advocate with AHS and the Province to restore services
 - Meetings with Minister of Health, AHS Senior Leadership, and local medical & support staff
 - Investigating/funding solutions to secure medivac services into the Oyen Municipal Airport
 - Partnering with stakeholders in region to provide housing and residences to contract nursing staff.
- Current status?
 - April 7, 2023 - Emergency department service resumes and 50% of acute care beds reopen (5 out of 10)

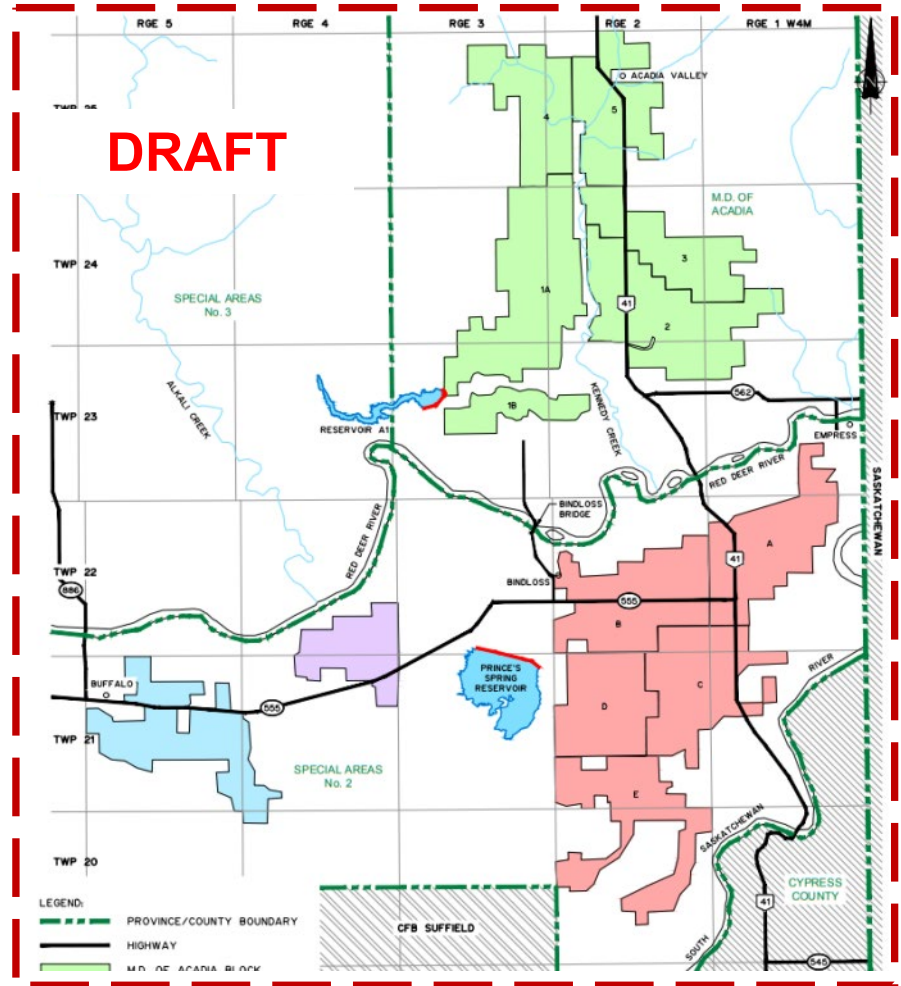
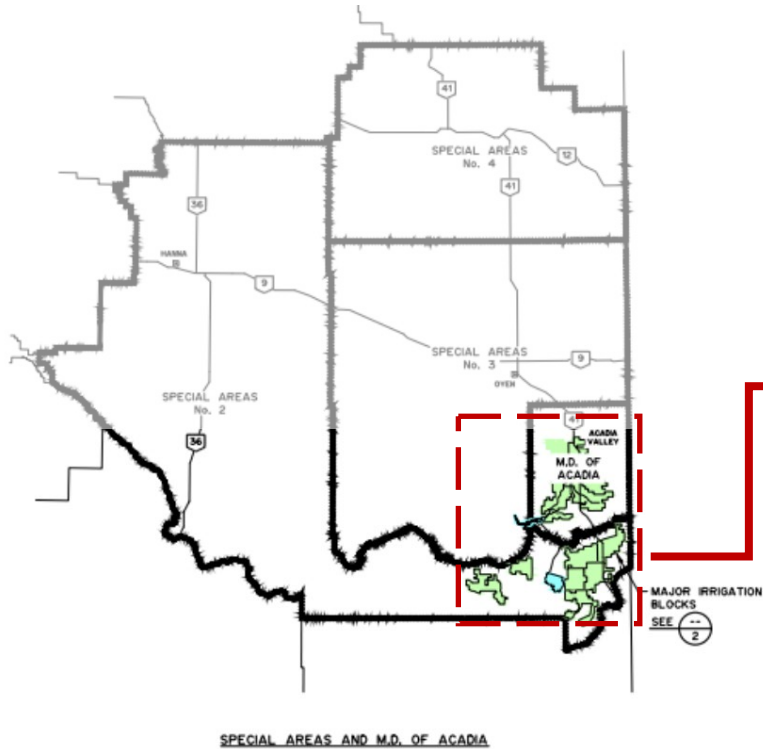
Chair's Update

MD Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project

- Joint project with Government of Alberta, Canada Infrastructure Bank, MD of Acadia and Special Areas:
 - Phase 1 work – finished with report in 2022 (pre-feasibility)
 - Concluded 'green-field' (new) development of irrigation for 108,000 acres is feasible in the MD Acadia and Special Areas
 - Report available on www.specialareas.ab.ca
- Fall 2022, project partners announced \$7M funding for Phase 2 work for regional irrigation project:
 - Phase 2 work includes preliminary engineering design, environmental and regulatory considerations and potential financing options
 - Spring 2023 – project management procured and selection of engineering firm for Phase 2 work
- Goal of Phase 2 work is to identify if the project is feasible for development and construction

Chair's Update

MD Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project



Chair's Update

Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy Update

- In 2021, Advisory Council and the Special Areas Board developed a **DRAFT** Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) policy based on prior TRLS in the Special Areas
- Advisory Council and the Board recommended the **DRAFT** TRLS policy be shared with the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 to seek a *Ministerial Order* for approval
- Special Areas is waiting for a response from the Minister's Office



Questions

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