

Rate Payer Meeting
Spring 2024

A G E N D A

- 1:30 pm
1.

Call for nominations for Chairman.
2.

Adoption of previous year’s minutes
3.

Advisory Council Member Report
4.

Special Areas Board Reports
 - Jordon Christianson, Chair
 - Darcy Ferguson, Director, Finance and Administration
 - Shaune Kovitch, Director Municipal Services
 - Trent Caskey, Director, Property Administration
5.

Other Speakers
6.

New Business
7.

Adjournment

SPRING 2024 Report 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.

Road Work Summary of Expenditures

Report Dates: 01/01/2023 to 10/31/2023

		2022		2023	
		Prior Year Kms	Prior Year Expenditures	Current Year Kms	Current Year Expenditures
ROAD MAINTENANCE:					
	Grading		\$3,219,394.99		\$3,387,083.47
	Snow Removal		\$560,816.00		\$1,098,843.87
	Gravelling	788	\$2,243,701.75	590	\$1,921,534.19
	Other **		\$3,018,297.80		\$2,093,044.96
	Total		\$9,042,210.54		\$8,500,506.49
BRIDGES & CULVERTS:			\$25,861.78	\$148,939.65	
CONSTRUCTION: Local Roads		20	\$5,089,635.64	32	\$5,290,389.11
	BCWMC Cell E Cst.		\$ -		\$1,349,473.01
	Delia Seed Plant		\$107,931.86		\$0.00
	Consort Ball Diamonds		\$109,762.87		\$0.00
	Total		\$5,307,330.37		\$6,639,862.12
BACK TRAIL REPAIRS		30	\$477,556.15	31	\$208,354.23
RE-CROWN			\$1,351,600.36		\$1,776,304.08
CALCIUM/LIGNO DUST ABATEMENT			\$481,916.10	\$224,195.58	
OILING:					
	Hamlet				
	Oil Repair:		\$360,800.76		\$508,250.98
	New Oil:				
	Dust Control:				
	Total		\$360,800.76		\$508,250.98
STAGED SURFACING PROGRAM:					
GBC & DSC		586, 561 & 899	\$4,037,235.53	561, 886 South	\$2,026,798.23
		22 DSC		11 DSC	
		22 DSC		1.3 DSC	
GBC (Granular Base Course) Local Rds		0	\$0.00	22	\$2,100,134.97
DSC (Double Seal Coat) Local Rds		0.3	\$82,457.70	22	\$1,700,037.03
SSC (Single Seal Coat) Local Rds		2.4	\$47,595.48	0	\$0.00
	Total		\$130,053.18		\$1,700,037.03
REPORT TOTAL			\$21,214,564.77	\$25,385,491.86	

**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 2023

Special Area No. 2	2022	2023
	Kilometers	Kilometers
<u>Subdivision No.1</u>		
Gravel	82	82
Construction	0.6	
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		9
Granular Base Course		9
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1.1	2.45
Back Trail Repairs	2.9	
Advisory Council Member, Kevin Bossert, Hanna		

<u>Subdivision No. 2</u>		
Gravel	31	31
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	0.4	
Back Trail Repairs	0.7	
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	1.1	
Dust Abatement - Calcium	24.7	22.85
Dust Abatement - Lignosulfonate	3	6
Advisory Council Member, Neal Roes, Homestead Coulee		

<u>Subdivision No. 3</u>		
Gravel	63	63
Re-Crown		8.2
Dust Abatement - Calcium	1.1	1.1
Advisory Council Member, Brad Slorstad, Sunnynook		

<u>Subdivision No. 4</u>		
Gravel	48	48
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	10.3	23.7
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	2.3	
Granular Base Course		23.7
Re-Crown	16.6	
Advisory Council Member, Justin Griffith, Cessford		

<u>Subdivision No. 5</u>		
Gravel	70	65
Construction	2.2	3.2
Re-Crown	19	7.2
DSC (Double Seal Coat)	12	
Granular Base Course	11.8	
Dust Abatement - Calcium		0.9
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	1.2	
Advisory Council Member, Mark Blair, Youngstown		

<u>Subdivision No. 7</u>		
Gravel		0
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.6	0.6
Advisory Council Member, Daryl Swenson, Bindloss		

<u>Subdivision No. 8</u>		
Gravel	16.1	0
Advisory Council Member, Brad Osadczuk, Iddesleigh		

Special Area No. 3

2022 **2023**
(Kilometers) (Kilometers)

Subdivision No. 4

Gravel	0.1	68
Construction		6.9
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	5.5	
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.3	0.3

Advisory Council Member, Erika Tessier, Esther

Subdivision No. 5

Gravel	83	83
Construction		11.2
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.5	1.3

Advisory Council Member, John Kimber, Youngstown

Subdivision No. 6

Gravel	103	83
GBC (Granular Base Course)		1.3
DSC (Double Seal Coat)		1.3
Dust Abatement - Ligno Sulphanate	3.1	12
Dust Abatement - Calcium		0.3

Advisory Council Member, Kevin Wilson, Oyen

Special Area No. 4

Subdivision No. 1

Gravel	116	45
Construction	4.3	6.7
Back Trail Repair	0.7	6.4
Dust Abatement - Calcium	0.3	0.3

Advisory Council Member, Gordon Long, Veteran

Subdivision No. 2

Gravel	145	0
Construction	3.2	
Re-Crown		15.4
Back Trail Repair	0.1	
Dust Abatement - Calcium	3.1	1.8

Advisory Council Member, Laurie Ference, Monitor

Subdivision No. 3

Gravel	31	22
Construction	10.8	3.8
SSC (Single Seal Coat)	6.6	
Dust Abatement - Calcium)	1.4	2.95

Advisory Council Member, Doug Noble, Altario

Aggregate Resources Report

1. Exploration:

- a. Exploration for the Fall of 2023 and Winter of 2024 have focused on gravel exploration for the Tax Recovery Land Sale. As of March 15th, 2024, there have been 100 quarters tested for gravel with 258 quarters in the queue to be tested throughout the Winter, this includes 27 lease land quarters exploration as well.
- b. The Board purchased a 2014 Alltec auger drill for gravel testing in the Fall of 2023 for \$220,000. This will expedite the gravel testing process. We have been using backhoes for the winter and will be using the drill truck for the spring and summer when the backhoes are unavailable.

2. Pit Operations:

- a. Pit operations for 2023 were minimal as no reclamation was done in the previous year due to resources being directed to winter road maintenance.
- b. A crushing contract is planned for solicitation in Q1 2024.
- c. The Moench pit has been stripped and is ready to crush, the Rutledge pit is currently being stripped and exploration south of the Red Deer River for the Iddesleigh GBC project has started.

3. Reclamation:

- a. Reclamation did not take place in the previous year primarily due to resources being assigned to winter road maintenance.

4. Focus for 2024:

- a. Continue exploration for the Tax Recovery Land Sale, Exploration and the Iddesleigh GBC project.
- b. Continue stripping in preparation for crushing starting in the spring of 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelsey Martin.

SPECIAL AREAS FACILITIES MANAGER – SPRING 2024 REPORT

2023 was a challenging year for the facilities department, due to the resignation of one member of our carpentry staff. This resignation came just as the Spring season of projects was about to kick off. Some PM work was delayed due to the departure, as budget projects and corrective work took priority. Both the Facilities Maintenance Worker and Facilities Manager were required to aid the carpentry department to meet project demands for 2023. In August 2024, we welcomed Spencer Reed as our new carpenter. His skills, ability and focus on safety are proving to be a valuable addition to our team.

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. This project 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 3,000 road segments have been uploaded with data. From this data we achieved our 2023 goal to eliminate road segments of no value (town and village streets, primary highways) to SAB's decision making. Additional training was undertaken by the Facilities Manager in November of 2023, with hopes of focusing on proving the value of the software. The time commitment required by SAB staff is significant, and certain future organizational recommended changes will support the commitment required. It has been recommended that Modules 2, 3 & 4 be put on pause to allow us to focus on the road network. This will allow us to save \$4,000 annually while learning and refining skills related to data analysis and scenarios within the road network. For now, using excel based data, SAB continues to be in a strong position to make educated decisions and respond to repairs with accurate information.

Work associated to grant funding provided by FCM Canada through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) is complete and reporting closed. In December 2021, we completed the energy efficiency study at the Youngstown Service Centre and in 2023 completed some of the recommendations from the report - including upgrading warehouse lighting to LED. I was able to 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 a Corporate Asset Management Plan for the Special Areas and completed the final task associated with the grant in August of 2023. As an organization, we have not yet adopted this plan, as we believe there may still be some work to do with refining it, we do, however, have a template to build around. In total \$33,116 were claimed, of which \$26,492.80 will be reimbursed through grant funding.

Unexpected additions to our area of responsibility included supporting the Parks Department with various carpentry tasks and managing the Dam Safety for Special Areas owned dams. The time required to focus on these new areas of influence was challenging, however the areas are now managed and we have a plan moving forward. In-house general maintenance and carpentry staff were utilized to conduct several different projects, corrective work, and preventative maintenance tasks throughout 2023. The major projects include the Remount Range Rider House Renovation & Barn Upgrade, Youngstown Fire Hall Mezzanine, SCCP Bunkhouse & Utility Install, Bindloss Overhead Door Upgrades, Consort AG Services Seacan Upgrade & Relocation, Hanna East H2O Shed, Prairie Oasis Store Renovation, Overhead Door PM's, Cereal Rink Exterior Finishing and Youngstown Warehouse Firewall Installation.

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 has presented and is planning for the following projects in 2024, while continuing with the Preventative Maintenance Program as well as managing corrective tasks and activities:

2024 Internal Major Projects & Preventative Maintenance Summary

- 63 Facility Annual Roof Inspections
- 106 Annual Overhead Door Maintenance & Inspections
- 61 Annual HVAC Maintenance & Checks (smaller systems)
- 18 Monthly Generator Maintenance and Checks

- Blood Indian Shop New Roof - \$10,000.00
- Consort Office Ceiling Tile Replacement - \$10,000.00
- Hanna Shop Shed Maintenance - \$5000.00
- Oyen Office Renovations - \$40,000.00
- Prairie Oasis Marina Boardwalk - \$50,000.00
- Prairie Oasis Shop Addition - \$35,000.00
- Remount Exterior Siding - \$20,000.00
- Scotfield H2O Building Construction - \$50,000.00
- Sounding Creek Deck/Stairs - \$3000.00
- Sounding Creek Garage Modifications for H2O System - \$15,000.00
- Stanmore H2O Building Addition - \$15,000.00
- Veteran Shop OH Door Upgrade (Already Purchased)
- Youngstown Old Shop Repairs After Abatement - \$50,000.00
- Youngstown Barn Tin Install on Roof and Exterior - \$25,000.00

2024 Major Contractor Projects Summary

- All Areas Hazardous Material Support – ASE Services
- All Community Pastures Duct Cleaning - \$2800.00
- All Offices Duct Cleaning - \$9000.00
- All Towers Inspections - \$48,000
- Bartman Dam Safety - \$50,000.00
- Blood Indian Dam Engineering Inspection - \$50,000.00
- Blood Indian Park Store Engineering - \$35,000.00
- Blood Indian Camp Kitchen Engineering - \$10,000.00
- Burnat H2O Truck Fill Mouse Clean Up - \$5000.00
- Cessford Shop/Firehall Construction - \$600,000.00
- Consort Firehall Modify Heating System - \$25,000.00
- Consort Office Generator Install - \$20,000.00
- Consort Office Handicap Accessible Doors - \$20,000.00
- Consort Shop Generator Install - \$15,000.00
- Hanna Office AHU Turnaround - \$15,000.00
- Hanna Boiler Noise Troubleshoot and Repair - \$25,000.00
- Hanna Shop Generator Install - \$15,000.00
- Homestead Coulee Old Firehall Demo - \$20,000.00
- Homestead Coulee Tower Chain Link Fence - \$5000.00
- Jenner Firehall Install Larger Septic - \$20,000.00
- Jenner Shop Geotech & Dirt Work - \$25,000.00
- Prairie Oasis Shower Engineering - \$50,000.00
- Prairie Oasis Concession Upgrades - \$50,000.00
- Prairie Oasis Comfort Camping Engineering & Planning - \$20,000.00
- Sedalia H2O Plant Generator Install - \$15,000.00 (Pending Approval)
- Sibbald H2O Plant Upgrade Lighting - \$2000.00
- Sounding Creek Old Bunkhouse Abatement & Demo - \$60,000.00
- Veteran Shop Chain Link Fence - \$25,000.00
- Youngtown Old Shop Abatement Continuation - \$50,000.00
- Youngstown Service Centre HVAC Maintenance - \$40,000.00
- Youngstown Service Centre Fire Panel Engineering - \$30,000.00
- Youngstown Service Centre Fall Protection Railing Stage 1 - \$30,000.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryley Girletz,
Facilities Manager

Fire Chief’s Report

2023 Call Numbers (Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023)

Type	Number	% Of total
Grassfires	48	63 %
Equipment fires	12	7 %
Vehicle fires	9	12 %
Powerline Fires	3	4 %
Structure Fires	6	8 %
Feed Fires	7	6 %
All Fires (Total)	85	100 %
MVC	56	49 %
Medical	28	23 %
False Alarm	4	7 %
Misc. (C0. Fire Investing...)	12	11 %
Out of Area	10	10 %
Total Other calls	110	100 %
TOTAL CALLS	195	

Total Incidents to December 31st,2023 is 195. (Primary calls.)
Total Responses to December 31st, 2023 is 258. (More than 1 Fire Department responds to a primary call)

The 2023 fire season was on par with our 10-year average.

With the extremely dry condition in all the Special Areas this year, our departments responded to only a few large incidents. A combination of SA rate payers being extra cautious and the very low fuel load in most areas lead to a relatively slow year for grass fires.

- Grass fire SW of Veteran burned approx. 1,712 acres. Three Special Areas departments and three departments from the County of Paintearth responded.
- Fire north of Cessford. 750 acres. Four departments responded.
- There is a marked increase in traffic due to the wind tower and solar 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.

2023 Capital projects:

- Youngstown Tender refurbish was completed in June of 2023.
- Hanna Rescue project. In service date is late fall of 2023. (Costed Shared)
- Oyen Rapid Response should be delivered in late 2023.
- A drone with thermal imaging capabilities was purchased in May of 2023 and was utilized multiple times this year on many types of calls. The drone has become an invaluable tool in fire response in the Special Areas.

2023 Donations - Revenue:

- Jenner received funding for a PPV fan (positive pressure vent fan) 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 Jan 1st to Oct 31st, 2023, is \$83,437.50.
- Fire Department revenue from Fort Smith deployment August 23rd to September 9th, 2023, \$104,615.00

Training:

- The East Central Emergency Training Partnership (ECETP) completed the training of 30 students, for the NFPA 1001 Level 1 program 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 have our fire fighters from other departments training together which fosters team building within SA & Acadia Valley Fire Departments.
- In March of 2023 Jenner Fire in conjunction with the County of Cypress hosted a 1051 wildland fire fighting course with 23 members from Special Areas attending.
- On October 13th-15th Acadia Valley Fire Department hosted a 1051 wildland fire fighting course with 23 members from Special Areas and Acadia attending.
- August 13th, 11 members attended a grain bin rescue course hosted by Coronation Fire Department in conjunction with CASA (Canadian Agriculture Safety Association).
- 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.
- Air Endorsement & Class 3 Training opportunities are ongoing.
- Medical First responder training is ongoing with a course scheduled for early 2024 for Cereal and Bigstone Departments.

Miscellaneous

- On April 1st, 2023, Deputy Chief Kyle Rohl became full time in his role. Deputy Chief Rohl has been working on training requirements for this position.
- The 2023 wildfire season in Alberta was extremely busy and on August 19th, 2023, the Special Areas Fire Chief was contacted by the Wildland Urban Interface team from Calgary requesting a type 3 engine and crew for deployment to Fort Smith NWT.

A crew was arranged and consisted of the following fire fighters:

Rob Palmer	Special Areas Fire Chief
Glen Durand	Hanna Captain
Justin Hill	Hanna Fire Fighter
Shane Oleson	Hanna Fire Fighter

The Crew Departed Hanna on August 23rd and arrived in Fort Smith in the afternoon of August 24th. 1640 km from Hanna to Fort Smith.

The deployment lasted for 14 days on site and 2 days travel each way with the crew returning home on Sept 9th-2023.

- The annual Fire Chiefs meeting was held on November 30, 2023.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Palmer
Special Areas Fire Chief.



Enforcement Services Report

- Public Safety and Infrastructure protection continue to be the primary focus of Enforcement Services for the Special Areas.
- Special Areas currently has a department of one Community Peace Officers, Sr. CPO (Sgt) Jamie Erickson. With the departure of CPO John Armstrong, Peace Officer Erickson continues to focus enforcement activities within the Special Areas Parks during peak season as well as enforcement for Infrastructure Protection and Traffic Safety on all roadways within the Special Areas.
- The second Peace Officer position has been vacant since mid-summer and a new Officer has accepted this position and will join our team in February 2024.
- Enforcement Services transitioned fully to Electronic Ticketing in October of 2023, allowing for a streamlined process between issuance of charges, uploading of disclosure information for court packages and trial notifications.
- To date there have been 36 Occurrence Reports and 313 Daily Events recorded, including 37 Campground Patrols and 174 patrols of Special Areas roadways, Hamlets, and Villages.
- Of the 313 Daily events 153 (49%) were in Special Areas #2, 98 (31%) were in Special Areas #3 and 62 (20%) were in Special Areas #4.

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 continued to be significant activity within the Special Areas due to the large number of industrial projects (wind/solar). Numerous ratepayer concerns and complaints were received, and heavy hauls occurred within all three Special Areas. The north-east portion of Special Area #4 continued to see well servicing, service rig and drilling activity with year-to-date numbers near 2022 totals. Enforcement activities focused on these areas and continued to emphasize education when practicable.
- As of December 31st, 2023, 132 Citations (43%) and 175 Warnings (57%) were issued for a variety of offences. Speed continues to be a serious concern on roadways within Special Areas with 28 (15%) of the speeding violations being speeds of over 50+ km/h over the posted speed limit with a high of 196 km/h.
- Commercial vehicle enforcement accounted for 28 % of all recorded violations with the main issues being logbook violations and equipment violations. A total of 30 Commercial Vehicle inspections completed with 17 (57%) of vehicles placed Out of Service, 9 (30%) required maintenance and 4 (13%) 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 administrative time in 2023 has been continued work on revising, updating, and developing new Standard Operating Procedures and Policies for the department.
- Roadata continued to manage road permits and Peace Officer Erickson is the primary point of contact for Roadata, approving permits and routing for overweight and over-dimensional movement within the Special Areas.
- Roadata also has started to manage our Road Use Agreements in July 2023 for Special Areas at no additional cost. In 2023 they issued 90 RUA's, with 89 for Industry and 1 for Agriculture.

Parks Enforcement

- Officer presence and education continue to be the main enforcement tool for protection of park property and public safety. Enforcement Services has increased

the number of patrols made especially on busy weekends and late evening patrols which require adjustment to schedules. Park patrols accounted for 21% of all patrols conducted.

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. There were 16 and / or special events Joint Force Operations in 2023 but work on a regular basis is conducted alongside RCMP, Fish and Wildlife and the Sheriffs.

ROADATA PERMITS ISSUED

PERMIT TYPE	2022 (Full Year)	2023 (to Oct 31)	2023
Service Rig	1285	807	963
Well Service	1	22	30
Drilling Rig	172	104	116
Heavy Haul	2199	2213	2349
Total Permits	3560	3146	3458
Total Single Trip Loads	3694	3098	3400
Total Multi Loads		3813 (July-Oct)	3907
Total Loads	3694	6911	7307

Respectfully Submitted,
Shaune Kovitch, Director
Municipal Services

Parks Report

The Parks Department saw several changes from January 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023. In early February William Hoover was successfully hired as the Park Department Foreman. William's past work experience in the Parks Department, his education and previous farm experience has made him an excellent addition to the Parks Department. In June we said farewell to John Armstrong as he entered retirement.

The hot and dry summer months attracted many visitors to Prairie Oasis Park, where people found reprieve on the beach and in the water. Camping at Little Fish Lake, Carolside Campground, Gooseberry Lake and the River Campground seemed unchanged from previous years. We continued to see a decline in camping and overall park users at Blood Indian Park, with small upswings throughout the summer with renewable energy workers utilizing the powered campsites. The decline in park users parallels the decline in fisheries in the reservoir.

Outlined below you will find key initiatives for 2023.

Blood Indian Park

- The NASIN netting conducted by Senior Fisheries Biologist Jason Cooper with Environment and Protected Areas revealed a continued decline in trout catches. Cooper attributes this to the 2/3rds reduction of trout stocking of this summer. The reservoir was stocked with 42,363 Rainbow Trout, 2500 Brown Trout and 4000 Tiger Trout, at lengths of 16cm to 20cm. This was a 55% reduction of stocking from the 131,474 trout that were released in the reservoir in 2022.
- The NASIN netting revealed unchanged Prussian Carp numbers, even after the extensive removal work done from 2020-2022. This spring the culvert gate was installed when the Prussian Carp were visibly moving north, out of the reservoir to spawn. This proved to be effective and thousands of Carp were removed.
- Seedling Caragana, White Spruce and Willow were planted in various places around Blood Indian Park.
- In late August Park Staff work diligently to ensure all trees around the park were watered.
- Met with fisheries specialists and aquatic invasive species specialist with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to discuss fisheries at Blood Indian Reservoir. It was reported that a continuation of trout stocking will occur in 2024 and it was recommended that public consultation occur for any changes to the Fisheries Management Objective.
- Rock was placed along the shoreline on the north end of the reservoir to reduce erosion. Shoreline stabilization work was also conducted on the south end of the reservoir.

Prairie Oasis Park

- Throughout the winter and early spring SAB Carpenters work to convert the old park registration office in the concession to more store floor room. This was well received by contractor Trina Hernden and park visitors.
- Excavation work was done to level the area known as the Dog Beach. Sand was hauled in, and the surrounding area was replanted with grass. This area has become a very attractive alternative beach for campers.
- Corrine Taylor and Melanie Parent successfully filled the Campground Host role and assisted in the campground information, compliance, maintenance, and infrastructure protection.
- A contract was awarded to First Class Roofing to replace the roof on the concession.
- A sand screw was brought in to wash the clay material out of the sand on the main beach.
- Successfully contracted Corinne Taylor and Melanie Parent again as the campground attendants at Prairie Oasis Park.

Carolside Campground

- In early June we celebrated the unveiling of the Mosasaur at Carolside with attendance from the Berry Creek Community School, community members and local representatives. The Mosasaur is proving to be a unique local attraction with many visitors.
- Seedling Trembling Aspen, Caragana and White Spruce were planted in various locations around the campground.
- Installation of irrigation around the playground and drip lines along tree lines allowed for periodic irrigating throughout the summer.
- The Carolside reservoir proved to be a very popular fishing spot through the winter months, with many fishermen reporting productive fishing expeditions.

Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park and Little Fish Lake Provincial Park

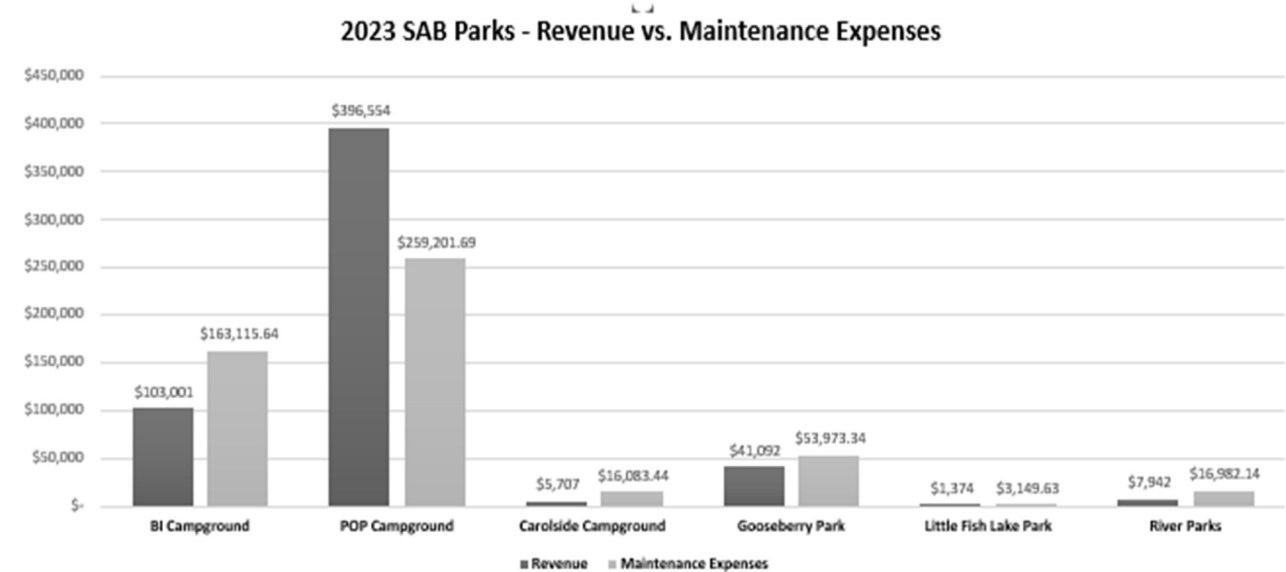
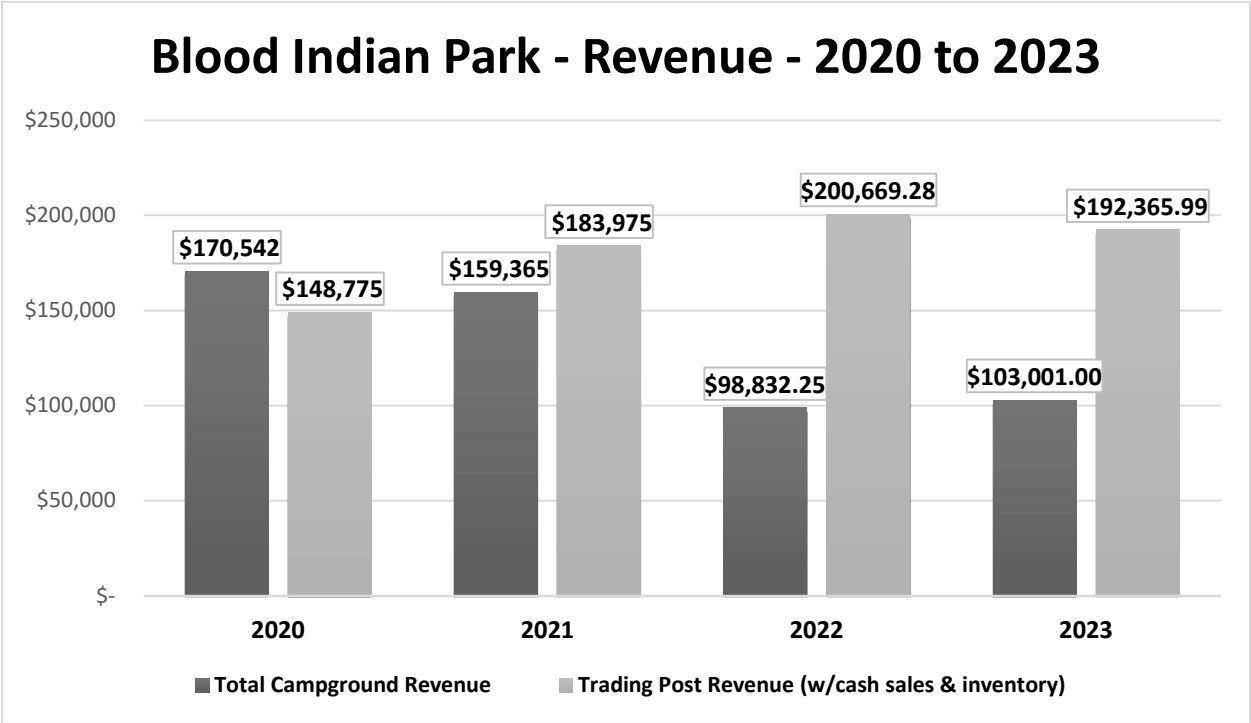
- New Campground contractors, John and Gail Weist successfully served the campers at Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park. We hope to have them return for the 2024 season.
- Alberta Parks funded the upgrades to the main distribution panel at Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park resulting in no further power issues.
- Successfully contracted John and Gail Weist on a 3-year maintenance contract at Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park. This consistency will allow for efficient and effective park management.

Parks General

- The River Campgrounds continue to see sporadic use throughout the summer with canoeist and recreationalist during the summer and fall.
- A new tin roof was installed on the Buffalo camp kitchen.
- Gravel was delivered to Jenner and Buffalo campgrounds to be spread in the spring around fire pits and to improve gravel pads.
- Successfully secured service agreements with Gangster Ltd. to provide septic services and Woodchuckers to provide wood in SA Parks. Both contractors have successfully served SA Parks in the past.

Respectfully submitted by:
Melissa Lee, 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
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
2022	\$ 239,523.79	\$ 229,415.10	\$ 144,449.55	\$ 184,174.26
2023	\$ 252,923.59	\$ 248,643.77	\$ 130,811.31	\$ 117,569.87



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.

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 Blair	Special Areas 2 Representative
Kevin Wilson	Special Areas 3 Representative
Vacant	Special Areas 4 Representative
Robert Blagen	Youngstown Representative
Fred Crowle	Hanna Representative
James Walker	Oyen Representative
Arlen Johnston	Empress Representative
Jerry Wipf	Veteran Representative
Michael Beier	Consort Representative
Scott Heeg	MD of Acadia Representative
- **Executive of Big Country Waste Management Commission:**

Chairman – Mark Blair	Vice-Chairman - Robert Blagen
Secretary/Treasurer – Kevin Wilson	Member-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.

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 amounts of cardboard, metals, white goods, fridges, air conditioners, tires, electronics, paint and clean untreated burnable wood, C&D waste.

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 and Cell E.

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. Upon AEPA approval, restoration work began immediately and continued throughout 2023. Full use/operation of Cell D is slated for first quarter 2024.

Approval Amendment Application 2023: The Director of Operations, along with Tetra Tech Canada Inc. (providing support and assistance for landfill development) submitted information with AEPA regarding restoration plan of Cell D and Approval Amendment Application requesting permission to construct Cell E; approval to construct Cell E was received July 17, 2023. With assistance from Special Areas workforce and equipment, construction of Cell E was completed with a target date for approval to use slated for early 2024.

- Employees at the Youngstown Regional Landfill:**
- One Director of Operations – Salary employee
 - One Foreman – Salary employee
 - Three Equipment Operators – Salary employees
 - One Scale Attendant – Full time 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: Fifteen attendants.

Administrative support: Supplied by Special Areas

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sean Olmstead, Director of Operations

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 seven certified operators including: Wyatt Girletz, Dale Rolheiser, Ken Lenfesty, Janice Berg, Mike Kern, Levi Westerlund and Billy Rude. Levi plans to write his Level 2 exam in 2024. The department is rounded out with plumber Ian Hernden. We also brought back Shayna Fecho this summer as our departments summer student and it was a success, and her energy was enjoyed by all. This year Shayna began a valve exercising program and database, continued mowing and painting, continued hauling water and cleaning tanks, completed the well data usage entry as some of her main tasks. Dale Rolheiser went on medical leave in November, and we have been shorthanded and will continue to be for the remaining 2023 season.

Certified operators continue to fulfill AEP's continuing education requirements, allowing them to respond quickly and safely to water/wastewater issues. 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.

Some major highlights in 2023 were completing the new building at SDS truck fill and getting a new building on the north Hanna East hydrant built. Installing a treatment system in Iddesleigh, Sibbald and Bindloss after testing was completed during an inspection by Alberta Health Services. AHS have new trace metal regulations and guidelines, and some analysis testing was found to be above the maximum allowable concentration in the sites they wanted us to test. Also, in June Henry Kroeger had a major water break on their raw water line and they were not able to make up water and were losing storage levels in their clear well and towers. Special areas worked with HKRWC and shut down all truck fill sites and the influent lines in all our water plants for them to keep up with water demand. Once the repair was completed, we began to gradually turn our sites back to normal operations. We held our June emergency response meeting on this event, and we went over the scenario again and made recommendations for similar events like this in the future. We also got our new trailer that will be used to house our pipe and fittings and as an enclosure my staff can work in when doing repairs to get out of the cold.

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 responding to first calls for the regional water line that runs from highway 9 to Wardlow. Also continued calibrating truck fills, cleaning up dig sites and cleaning tanks.

Finally, I would like to thank the water department for their dependability and knowledge of our water systems. Throughout my time here we have been thrown many curve balls with other systems and our own systems but each time we take on the challenge head on and have created a great team to work with.

Respectfully submitted,
Wyatt Girletz,
Technical Services Supervisor

Special Areas 2:

Scapa: Cleaned tanks this summer. Extended fill line so the influent water fills into all the tanks, so chlorine stabilizes. Replumb circulation line with a new smaller RV pump to pressurize this line rather than run through the 5hp pumps and cause wear and tear on them. Bacteriological samples are taken weekly and have been satisfactory.

Hanna East: Manually inspected all meter vaults for leaks and other infrastructure along the line. Add pressure reducing valves to three-meter vaults to try and reduce the pressure on the homeowner's water systems and floats. Chamco came out to site and inspected distribution pumps and did a vibration test which is done annually. Installed a new UPS backup battery in the booster station due to the old battery failing. Repair sample hydrant at the north sample site due to leak. Had to remove the building and a new building was built

and put in place. Replaced numerous water meters due to cracking and/or reading incorrectly due to age of the meter. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Stanmore: Repair a curb stop in the hamlet that wasn't working. Exercised all curb stops and recorded in data base. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Scotfield: Only truck fill is operational. Repair the standpipe after someone pulled away with the hose in their tank. The solenoid valve on the influent fill line failed to shut off the water completely and it overfilled the cistern past the collar of the tank. This caused a potential for contamination, so the truck fill was shut down, tanks were cleaned and sampled.

Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Big Country Waste Management: Bacteriological samples taken monthly have been satisfactory.

Richdale: Exercised all curb stops and recorded in data base. Repaired curb stop on the hall and straightened it out and got it working. Also repaired a curb stop on a home and got it working correctly. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Dorothy: Replaced storage tank that was stained and too hard to clean because of the height of it with a new 2000-gallon storage tank. We now have more storage, and the tank cleans will be easier. Inspected well pit and installed a new heater to avoid freezing.

Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Sunnynook: All tanks cleaned as we were getting rust deposits in the tanks. Issue resolved after tanks cleaned. The Solenoid valve replaced on bypass line as it failed, and truck fill was calibrated. Install new water meter vault for Trevor Kingcott water service and water turned on November 23rd. 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. Found a leak on the raw water system that supplies water for fire protection on a yard hydrant. Hydrant was removed from service and fittings were repaired. A leak was repaired on Hansons service line into an empty lot on treated water distribution line. A new float and pump installed for deep sump pump. Replaced pressure level transducer in lift station as levels began to give inaccurate readings and pumps weren't working correctly. Lift station was cleaned by Hydrodig. This will be a bi-annual cleaning to keep grease and fat from accumulating on the walls of the piping and pit causing backups and pump issues. Drove regional line from highway 9 to Wardlow and inspected for leaks. Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in July. Replaced distribution pressure tank. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Pollockville: Tanks dropped down to 30% full in January and a leak was found under Griffith trailer. The leak was repaired and the system back up to normal operations. Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in July. Install new distribution pressure tank. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Wardlow: Chlorine analyzers calibrated and cleaned by TLC instrumentation in July. Switched a seasonal water service to a permanent water service. Exercise all valves and found a leak on Cyr line. Replaced plastic fittings throughout this line and leak slowed down. This line will be replaced as soon as spring of 2024 as it is still leaking but we've been unable to locate the other leak. Very hard ground to dig and lots of big rocks which then fall causing other breaks on the water line when exposed. Had to get an electrician to fix issues with pumps. The issue was with the PLC and the pumps not working together. Also changed out a ground fault outlet and replaced distribution pump 1. 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 last year. 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. We are using five-micron filters for both filters. 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 roughly 3-4 weeks. At present time we are stripping up to 85% of manganese on a consistent basis and the water we are providing is noticeably improved. RO systems were installed at residence homes after water was found to have

traces of uranium that was higher than the MAC set by Alberta Health Services. These RO systems have stripped the uranium and manganese in the home at the point of use where they were installed giving the residence access to potable water and water that does not have elevated levels of uranium and manganese. RO systems were what AHS and AEPA recommended due to the fact we have nowhere for waste storage, and it is too far to run regional water. AHS inspection and trace metal testing completed. **Fixed leak fittings in water plant, had to use water truck to keep system pressurized. Install new pressure switches as pressure switches failed causing hamlet to have no water.** 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 are 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. Wells were air lifted by McAllisters well drilling as the wells were not producing as much as they have in the past. It was found one well collapsed so now we are running off one well until a new budget plan can be settled on. Turbidity was found to be higher at the water plant, so we used our water truck to pressurize the water line that feeds the water plant, and we scoured the line and cleaned it out. Turbidity has decreased to good levels. Install new water service for Brad Simpson shop. Installed new backup UPS battery as old one failed and shut whole plant down. **Repair UPS issues and fix issues on turbidity #4 analyzer. Backwash biofilter #3 and installed a new chlorine injector as old one was plugging off and fittings were leaking. TLC instrumentation was on site and performed annual calibrations. They completed all analyzers, all handheld meters and also handheld meters from Oyen and Hanna to split travel costs. Collect annual THM and HAA samples and take them to lab.** Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Social Plains Truck Fill: Usage continues to be steady. Cleaned storage tanks.

Bindloss: Replaced storage tank that was stained and too hard to clean because of the height of it with a new 2000-gallon storage tank. We now have more storage, and the tank cleans will be easier. AHS inspection and trace metal testing completed. Testing found levels of arsenic above the MAC so AHS required us to haul drinking water. We have been hauling bottled water to the hamlet, so they have access to drinking and cooking water. **We have started installing an iron/manganese filter and an arsenic filter. This will be completed in January. A septic tank was installed as we have nowhere to pump the wastewater from the back wash.** 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. AHS inspection in the fall.

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

Burnatt Truck Fill: No operational issues.

SDS (Watts) Truck Fill: New building completed in February and old system decommissioned. The new building now has 12'000 gallons storage all above ground tanks. This building used to only have 7500 gallons of storage and the tank was underground, so it wasn't easy to clean and monitor for leaks. Also installed a bigger fill hose with a new standpipe and a bigger external truck fill pump so users can now fill quicker. We also now fill our storage tanks at a fill rate of 15 gallons per minute, an increase from the 5 gallons per minute we used to fill at. **Groundwork completed as water from truckfill and run off was not draining and causing slippery conditions.** Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Prairie Oasis Park: Cleaned tanks before season. No operational issues. Located water line for large project mine was doing. This was to prevent hitting the main water line.

Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

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. Looked after this water line with Jesse Williams all summer as Harley quit.

Special Areas 3:

Cereal:

Wastewater: No discharge taken place in 2023. 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 two damaged manholes that were hit by graders in the winter. Used a camera on a problem septic line from the lodge to the street. Also used camera at school and made drawings of how we think the sewer lines run under the school and the length of each branch.

Water: Start up water in parks and campgrounds and operate through the summer. Shut down and blow out the lines in the fall in the camp site, rec grounds and water fountain. 15 water shut off or turn on requests. Install seasonal meters at five residences and remove them all in the fall. CHAMCO out to complete annual maintenance and vibration tests on the distribution pumps. 6 curb stops repaired and/or installed within the hamlet. These were completed at Braden Grover shop, Carlton residence, Carr residence, Montgomery residence, Country cottages and the united church. Calibrate truck fill back flow preventer. MPE has begun the process of getting a chlorine analyzer installed on the distribution line to reduce our required site visits. Installed a new cooling tower on the generator after it was found the old one was leaking. Tested all fire hydrants and flushed. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

New Brigden: Tank clean performed. Blow out truck fill line in the fall. Installed new curb stop at community hall after it burnt down. AHS inspection and trace metal testing completed in the fall. **Fluoride was slightly high, but we were directed by Alberta Health services that the water would be fine and no treatment would be needed as water was deemed potable by AHS.** Installed new 2000-gallon tank replacing 1200-gallon tank. Now have more storage if needed. Exercised valves and entered in our database. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

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. Supply water to the residents due to an extended power outage. Power was out for 4 days so we hauled water to the hamlets and ran the system on our pump off truck to allow them to run household items and fills sinks with water. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Chinook: Changed one distribution pump as it was not running correctly. Installed a new distribution meter due to the other one not working correctly. Had an electrician fix some of the wiring that was causing faults on the distribution pumps. Exercised all curb stops and recorded in data base. Shut off two tanks in the winter to keep chlorine up to regulation standards and pump them out. Going to try running only four tanks this winter since truck fill isn't used as highly in the winter. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Excel: Redid the plumbing in the building to make things more accessible when cleaning tanks and doing repairs. Installed a new pressure tank, new PRV and a bypass valve. Fixed the standpipe as it began leaking. The influent line also burst this year and overflowed the tank, so it was drained, cleaned and sampled before putting it back online to users. A boil water advisory was issued to the hamlet residents and truck fill users. Once the results came back satisfactory the boil water was lifted. Exercised all curb stops and recorded in data base. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Lanfine: No operational issues. Exercised all curb stops and recorded in data base. 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.

Oyen West Distribution: Bacteriological samples taken monthly have been satisfactory. No operational issues.

Sibbald: Tank clean completed twice this year. AHS inspection and trace metal testing completed. Testing found levels of manganese and arsenic above the MAC so AHS required us to haul drinking water. We have been hauling bottled water to the hamlet, so they have access to drinking and cooking water. **We have installed two iron/manganese filter, a retention tank to pre chlorinate, a carbon filter to eliminate chlorine before the filters and an arsenic filter.** Currently the arsenic and iron are at good levels, but we have been having issues stripping the manganese. We have recently installed a retention tank and a chlorine pump to try and oxidize the manganese before it gets to the manganese filter hoping this will strip it out at an increased rate therefore getting us under the MAC. **We began running the new pretreatment system end of November.** A septic tank was installed as the filters back wash every 2 days and waste is present. **Repair in RV park to remove old culvert that had water lines housed in it and were leaking. Installed new fittings and curb stop.** Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Sibbald Truck Fill: Well line kept filling the tanks after floats failed to shut off. Had to go there and clean the building and pump water and test truck fill. The issue was found with floats.

Big Stone: Tank clean. Move outside seasonal tanks indoors at water plant. Now have more storage for truck fill in the winter if needed. Bacteriological samples taken weekly during park seasons have been satisfactory. Bacteriological samples taken bi-weekly during the off season have been satisfactory.

Sounding Creek Community Pasture: Replace UV bulb on treatment system. 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. Install new truck fill hose. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Special Areas 4:

Altario: Continued sewer flushing program to prevent sewer issues. Sewer line on Gramlich's branch froze this year and a manhole was found we never knew existed in Gramlich's yard. Manhole was plugged and thawed and flushed. All our distribution tests and plant test were satisfactory throughout the year. Install new fill float at Altario raw truck fill.

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. Clean storage tank. There are signs we may be getting this pipeline extension in 2024 from Pemukhan to Compeer so this would be a welcomed event. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Consort South: Fix leak in water meter vault as we found issue when meter balancing.

Repaired a meter vault in November that was leaking. Vault had a cracked PRV (pressure relief valve). Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Monitor Non-potable and potable water truck fill are used regularly. Tanks were cleaned. Annual lead and THM sample. Exercised the distribution valves and entered into our database. Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory.

Loyalist: Bacteriological samples taken weekly have been satisfactory. Continues to be highly used truck fill. So much so that users are requesting more storage.

Gooseberry Lake: Clean tanks in both buildings. Two bacteriological samples were taken weekly and were all satisfactory. The new park crew had issues setting the spray park settings correctly, so tanks were emptied a few times due to no fault of the water department. We responded in a timely manner and let the parks crew know each time this happened. Once it was figured out the park ran good.

Special Areas Tax Recovery Land Sale

	As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Dec 31, 2023
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
Parcels Paid Out & Transferred to Date	1,431	1,456

Agreements For Sale in Arrears: <i>**All Arrears Includes Penalty Interest</i>		As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Dec 31, 2023
	Area	Number	Number
	SA #2	0	2
	SA #3	2	2
	SA #4	1	1
	TOTALS	3	5
		As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Dec 31, 2023
	Time	Amount	Amount
	< 1 Year	3,285.53	10,182.34
	1 Year	0.00	3,069.26
	2 Years	0.00	0.00
	> 2 Years	0.00	0.00
	TOTALS	\$3,285.53	\$5,127.52

NOTE:

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

Respectfully Submitted: Brenda Schnurer

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, 2023

Active Oil & Gas Leases:		
Easements		1523
License of Occupation		74
Mineral Surface Lease		9468
Right of Entry		344
Pending:		
Mineral Surface Lease		1
	Total	11,410
Inactive Oil & Gas Leases:		
Easements		40
License of Occupation		18
Mineral Surface Lease		6,474
Right of Entry		397
	Total	6,929
Pipeline Agreements/Applications:		
Pipeline Agreement		8,990
Pipeline Applications		524
	Total	9,514
Pipeline Agreements		
- Inactive	-	988
- Active	-	7,686
- Abandonment	-	314
Pipeline Applications		
- Inactive	-	499
- Pending	-	25

**MSL, PLA, ROE, LOC and EASEMENT REVENUE
January 01, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

	Dec 31 st , 2022	Dec 31 st , 2023
Mineral Surface Lease Applications Received	13	8
Mineral Surface Lease Revenue	\$ 3,043,076.40	\$ 2,995,482.88
Pipeline Application Revenue	\$ 20,190.00	\$ 41,826.70
Rights of Entry Revenue	\$ 92,124.25	\$ 91,695.50
License of Occupation Revenue	\$ 66,552.50	\$ 66,552.50
Easement Revenue	\$ 147,164.63	\$ 105,510.45
	\$ 3,369,107.78	\$ 3,301,068.03

Development Control Reports

2022 -----December 31, 2023-----

<u>APPLICATIONS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>HANNA</u>	<u>OYEN</u>	<u>CONSORT</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Received	65	26*	12	12	50
Approved	57	24	12	12	48
Appealed	4	0	0	0	0
Estimated Development Costs	\$545,059,458	\$391,463 ***	\$4,866,000	\$1,729,000	\$7,006,463

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

*1 Refused, 2 Not Approved; **Includes Value of 2 Not Approved



Acreage by Land Use Classification, as of December 31, 2023

		SA #2	SA #3	SA #4	TOTAL (Acres)	TOTAL (Hectares)
PRIVATE LAND						
	Private Patented	1,088,642.70	826,168.22	667,315.96	2,582,126.88	1,044,949.67

PUBLIC LAND						
	Crown	774,434.95	490,173.26	301,931.36	1,566,539.57	633,956.07
	Tax Recovery	476,516.65	319,575.18	129,215.91	925,307.74	374,458.75
	Departmental Patented	3,276.85	353.03	855.89	4,485.77	1,815.33
	TOTAL Public Land	1,254,228.45	810,101.47	432,003.16	2,496,333.08	1,010,230.15

TOTAL ALL Land	2,342,871.15	1,636,269.69	1,099,319.12	5,078,459.96	2,055,179.82
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CLASSIFICATION

Disposition	Community Pasture	129,301.54	43,156.50	0.00	172,458.04	69,791.29
	Cultivation Lease	8,930.95	41,136.73	16,406.23	66,473.91	26,901.04
	Cultivation Permit	159.17	23.56	0.00	182.73	73.95
	Grazing Lease	1,036,725.07	689,757.48	367,549.73	2,094,032.28	847,424.79
	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	23,050.59	6,942.34	12,954.08	42,947.01	17,380.04
Private	River Accrued Area	820.13	38.68	0.00	858.81	347.55
	Tax Recovery AFS	4,936.14	9,899.46	5,305.81	20,141.41	8,150.94
	Titled / AFS Paid	1,112,470.31	841,822.86	680,764.60	2,635,057.77	1,066,370.04
	Exceptions [e.g. crown vacant, road plans, railway, etc.]	15,742.57	2,701.05	4,173.78	22,617.40	9,152.94
TOTAL ALL Land		2,342,871.15	1,636,269.69	1,099,319.12	5,078,459.96	2,055,179.82

GRAZING LEASES, CULTIVATION LEASES AND PERMITS
 (January 1 to December 31, 2023)

	HANNA	OYEN	CONSORT	
G.L. Rentals				
2023 Current Levy	\$781,079.50	\$ 640,474.56	\$ 374,415.92	\$ 1,795,969.98
Current Outstanding	\$ 34,899.12	\$ 22,247.28	\$ 5,218.30	\$ 62,364.70
Number of Accounts	12	45	14	71
1 Year in Arrears	\$ 21,119.85	\$ 2,142.32	\$ -	\$ 23,262.17
No. of Accounts	4	4	0	
2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total G.L. Rentals	56,018.97	24,389.60	\$ 5,218.30	\$ 85,626.87
G.L. Taxes				
2023 Current Levy	\$581,775.08	\$ 239,464.82	\$ 153,248.57	
Current Outstanding	\$ 16,754.99	\$ 3,605.18	\$ 1,323.14	
Number of Accounts	24	19	22	65
1 Year in Arrears	\$ 3,306.41	\$ 1,130.38	\$ 33.46	\$ 4,470.25
No. of Accounts	3	5	1	9
2 Years in Arrears		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts		0	0	
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total G.L. Taxes	20,061.40	4,735.56	\$1,356.60	\$ 4,470.25
C.L. Rentals				
2023 Current Levy	\$ 49,602.75	\$ 331,708.54	\$ 128,397.99	\$ 460,106.53
Current Outstanding	\$ 310.28	\$ 45,301.28	\$ 3,002.74	\$ 48,304.02
Number of Accounts	1	18	2	
1 Year in Arrears	\$ -	\$ 7,416.09	\$ -	
No. of Accounts	0	3	0	
2 years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
>2 years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total C.L. Rentals	310.28	52,717.37	\$3,002.74	\$ 460,106.53
C.L. Taxes				
2023 Current Levy	\$ 30,027.05	\$ 39,542.90	\$ 15,326.29	\$ 84,896.24
Current Outstanding	\$ 133.35	\$ 596.13	\$ 204.93	\$ 934.41
Number of Accounts	3	6	2	11
1 Year in Arrears		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
>2 Years in Arrears	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No. of Accounts	0	0	0	-
Total C.L. Taxes	133.35	596.13	\$ 204.93	\$ 84,896.24
Total Outstanding	\$ 76,524.00	\$ 82,438.66	\$ 9,782.57	

Regrassing, Grazing, Feed, Cultivation, and Hay Permits

	2022 ACTUAL		TO Dec 31, 2023	
REGRASSING PERMITS	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	3	634	1	80
Oyen	5	985	8	1,018
Consort	5	570	4	539
TOTAL				1637
GRAZING PERMITS				AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	29*	7583.25	29*	7,583.25
Oyen	5	330.82	5	330.82
Consort	34	11,437.32	34	11,437.32
TOTAL				19351.39
			*Includes 5 Permits under Misc. Lease to Alberta Power 2000, 1,152.21 acres	
FEED PERMITS	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)	NO. OF PERMITS	AREA (ACRES)
Hanna	4	154.5	4	154.5
Oyen	13	607	12	557
Consort	2	58	2	58
TOTAL				769.5
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	3	6.3	3	6.3
Oyen	0	0	0	0
Consort	6	405.5	6	25
TOTAL	9			31.3

Range Management Report

The Special Areas continues to be dealing with severe moisture limitations throughout the 2023 growing season. On average from the twenty-two *Alberta Climate Information Service* weather stations, the deficit in moisture from the start of May to the end of September was 50% of the long-term average. The area most impacted by drought was in the Jenner area where moisture deficits reached 60-75% of the long-term average. The long-term impact from five successive years of below average moisture shows a negative downward trend on growth of rangeland plants and ability of rangelands to support normal carrying capacities.

Remote sensing of grazing lease was used during the growing season of 2023 to assess changes to the rangeland conditions. Approximately 600,000 acres have been mapped currently with the anticipation to map the entire inventory of grazing lease before the 2024 field season. The data from satellite shows that the growing season was short in the southern part of the Special Areas, with growth ending between May 30- June 10. This was due to the lack of June rains and more than the normal amount of heat and days around 30° C early in the growing season, resulting in reduced number of growing days which was observed as severely reduced growth of forage on the landscape. In the northern part of Special Areas, July rains induced some late summer growth into early August before conditions forced grasses back into dormancy for the remainder of the year. Moving forward into 2024, grazing leases that appear to have the lowest growth from satellite images in 2023 will be targeted for field inspection and follow up on the grazing management with the lessee. Satellite images will allow for a complete desktop analysis of rangeland conditions annually and follow up with repeatable, efficient inspections of changes in rangeland conditions.

Reclamation activity in the Special Areas increased significantly compared to the previous two years. There were 330 sites inspected for reclamation in 2023, which is up by 150 compared to 2022, with 170 *Reclamation Certificate Applications* (RCAs) received to date in 2023 and an estimated 250 to be received by the end of the year. This is an increase of about 100 RCAs compared to each of the previous two years. Many of the RCAs are being sent by CNRL, which has carried out large abandonment programs of shallow gas wells every summer for the last five or more years. The inspections in 2023 were concentrated in the Cessford and Youngstown areas. The Orphan Well Association is completing many RCAs too, a result of work completed from the funding provided by the government to initiate well site cleanups. There were 188 *Reclamation Certificates* received during 2023, most of which were inspected and commented on during the 2022 field season. Nine *Statements of Concern* (SoC) were submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) due to sites not meeting Special Areas Board policy requirements. AER accepted the concerns and rejected the application on seven of the sites that complaints were submitted on. The SoC process is a valuable way to have concerns heard and inspected on a site-by-site basis by an AER Reclamation Inspector.

In 2023 Special Areas Agrologists developed a *Guidance Document* to assist companies that are completing reclamation in the Special Areas and provide education on best management practices in grassland restoration and specific processes that are unique in Special Areas Board administration of public lands.

Community Pastures was a focus of rangeland health assessment work during the 2023 field season. The drought continues to have negative impacts on some areas of the pastures and management strategies are required to shift from how a summer grazing season has typically run. The satellite data that was referred to above proved invaluable to capture a snapshot of the pasture conditions across the entire 175,000 acres of community pasture and develop grazing plans. Overall, rangeland condition of

the community pastures is dictated for the better or worse by past grazing management heading into, or during this drought. It becomes obvious that changes are constantly being needed to adjust the grazing demand, timing, and duration of cattle in a specific location. Entering the 2024 grazing season it is anticipated that reductions to all the stocking rates of community pasture are needed until there is an increase in the summer moisture and the amount of forage supply is greater than the seasonal demands of the cattle, which will build the resiliency of the grassland coming out of the drought conditions.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nolan Ball, Rangeland Agrologist

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 2024 Designated Industrial Property Assessment will be mailed to the assessed persons (owners/operators of designated industrial property) on February 28, 2024, 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, 2024, as pursuant to s. 309(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*.
- In 2023 Farm residences were re-inspected in Special Area #2 North of Hanna along with the following hamlets and villages: Scapa, Spondin, Watts, Richdale, Stanmore, Scotfield, Sheerness as part of our five-year cycle to re-inspect all residences within Special Areas. Farm residences for the 2024 assessment year will be re-inspected in Special Area #4 in the area surrounding Consort with the following hamlets being re-assessed: Compeer, Altario, Kirriemuir, Monitor, Loyalist, Hemaruka and Gooseberry Provincial Park also looked at with farm residences in the area being Re-assessed as well.

During the 2023 assessment year we had no appeals go to the hearing part of the appeal process, as any appeals were dropped before the hearings took place. The Canalta hotel just outside of Oyen appealed their assessment but we worked it out as there was a reporting of the assessment for the wrong year.

Staffing is still with one Assessor and who is working alongside Benchmark Consultants to finalize the assessment roll for the Special Areas Board. 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

Water Development Credits

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
2023	Hanna	Oyen	Consort	TOTAL
Number of Leases	5	10	2	17
2023 Applied Credits	\$7,848.93	\$17,545.38	\$ 732.57	\$26,126.88
2023 Carry Forward	\$3,440.11	\$ 2,113.90	\$ 398.77	\$5,952.78

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Bietelspacher
Lease Supervisor

Pumping Units Report to
December 31, 2023

	2022	2023
Applications For Use	42	21
Customers Pumped	37	18
Usage of Pump (Hours)	3 to 88	9 to 36
Total Hours Pumped	322	223
Customers Cancelled	5	3
Customers to Do	0	
Charges For Usage	\$10,040.00	\$5,980.00
Total Revenues	\$10,040.00	\$5,980.00

	2022	2023
Labour Cost to Move Pumps/Pipe	\$4,056.90	\$3,159.69
Equipment Cost to Move Pumps/Pipe	\$5,361.11	\$1,653.72
Pump Repairs	\$24,971.61	\$19,547.89
Trailer Repairs	\$2,258.87	\$5,238.35
Pipe Parts/Labour		
Total Expenses	\$36,648.49	\$29,599.65

Four rentals were for pipe or discharge hose only.
There was one courtesy (no charge) usage - Spondin Community Hall
Revenue without the rental adjustment would have been \$20,130.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Paulette Gillespie

Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 2

Spring of 2023 saw a welcomed increase in provincial ASB grant funding returning to previous levels after the 27% reduction announced in 2020. We are pleased that the Special Area No.2 ASB received the maximum annual grant allowable at \$166,247 in 2023 (agreement ending in 2024). This annual ASB grant covers approximately 50% of the current ASB2 annual budget.

The summer growing season was staffed with five, including Ag Fieldman Jesse Williams and four returning students (Janay Hein, Sarah Palmer, Shea Fullerton, Abbegayle Brady). Staff completed 302 formal inspections (153 mapped infestations), including all hamlets (twice), road construction projects and all SA2 operated gravel pits, with an offer to inspect private pits for those interested (9). All 41 bridges received herbicide applications for total vegetation control on behalf of the roads and equipment department.

Weed control through herbicide applications was a challenge this year for both producers and the ASB. Prolonged hot, dry weather conditions signalled plants to increase waxy cuticle production, slow plant metabolism and consequently prevent herbicide uptake and movement. This led to an increase in weed pressure and decrease in herbicide efficacy. C4 plants, such as kochia and Russian thistle thrived in these hot, dry conditions and contributed to farmers weed control woes. Paired with extremely poor crop emergence and high input costs, the 2023 growing season set producers up for a challenging weed control year again in 2024. The ASB staff observed particularly healthy black henbane, common baby's breath, leafy spurge and knapweed noxious populations. Increased reports of livestock poisoning plants were received this season. ASB staff created an herbarium of poisonous plant specimens that was used at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference as an extension tool for producers.

Noxious weed control efforts focused on early detection, rapid response of newly reported infestations, increased landowner responsibility of established populations, and emphasis on Special Areas controlled lands such as community pastures, road allowances and Prairie Oasis Park. Special Project work was completed on the Jenner, Majestic (border only), Cosgrave, Pierson/Wieland, Horner and Cutter Projects. Two new surprising infestations of leafy spurge were identified near Pollockville and Roselynn that were cause for alarm. Management plans were finalized with CN Rail to accept responsibility to control their ROW from Youngstown to Watts (60 miles), which was previously completed by the ASB. The Dorothy-Finnegan (18 miles) and Iddesleigh-Buffalo (32 miles) abandoned railways were inspected and controlled by ASB staff.

As mentioned, provincially regulated common baby's breath flourished. Infestations were easy to spot as it was often the only green species in hay fields thanks to its ability to grow in dry salty conditions and enormous tap root able to access deep moisture reserves. Populations therefore proliferated. Several new infestations were identified with incredibly high populations that were destined for feed (and subsequent seed spread). Considering the feed securement challenges this year, the ASB moved to send letters prohibiting the movement of bales/forage but allowing them to feed in-place to 26 landowners for the 2023 growing season only. The ASB moved to support issuing weed notices to these individuals in the spring of 2024. This will be the first mass issuance of weed notices from our ASB. There are currently 31 baby's breath infestations known to the agricultural fieldman that will receive notices. 45 additional letters were sent to landowners in 2023 with known black henbane, scentless chamomile and toadflax infestations requesting increased control efforts.

Seven annual pest surveys were conducted this year including bertha armyworm, diamondback moth, grasshopper, fusarium, blackleg and clubroot. Grasshopper infestations were extremely variable throughout SA2, ranging from minimal to severe depending on the surveyed location. These findings were presented to the Special Areas Board when determining to declare an agricultural disaster (declared July 11, 2023). The current trend towards no-till practices, pesticide efficacy challenges and optimal egg-laying conditions will likely contribute to increased grasshopper pressure in 2024.

For the 2023 calendar year, two producers requested 1080 compound (10 tablets given total) for livestock predation by coyotes. This is similar to the long term (12 year) average of 3 farms participating in Special Area No. 2 annually. 2023 inspections confirmed one cattle producer and one lamb producer had experienced coyote predation. This represents 0.43% of the farm operations in Special Area No. 2 utilizing the program. As of March 15, 2024, no investigations or requests for 1080 compound for livestock predation by coyotes have been received in Special Area No.2 for the 2024 year.

The ASB was kept in close contact with Alberta Environment this summer through several *Disposal of Dead Animal Regulation* violations with groundwater contamination potential. These included continual dumping of carcasses into the Bullpound Creek, mass livestock loss due to unmonitored water supplies and livestock liner rollovers with deceased animals that were not removed for extended periods of time. Cyanobacteria, sulfate, nitrate and salt accumulations were also widely observed in diminishing livestock water supplies creating challenges for producers. Shrinking grazing reserves contributed to increased livestock welfare reports and fence line & neighbour disputes that funneled through our office, deploying increased extension efforts and producer one-on-ones.

The agricultural fieldman was assigned to manage the Bartman Agricultural Water Line after irrigation staffing changes mid-season. The demand from this role increased as the need for dugout and trough-fills rose, paired with low water reservoir levels and a late season start for water pumping. Policy and procedure work to improve efficiencies are planned over the winter should this remain an ASB duty. The ASB team was also asked to assist the Community Pastures with equipment movement throughout the season due to their staffing shortage.

ASB2 rental equipment utilized this year included another large increase in pipe plow usage due to the ongoing drought and the provincial producer funding opportunities available. The 2" & 3" pipe plows were used by 13 producers to place approx. 21 miles of shallow pasture water lines in SA2. There were multiple requests for rental herbicide application equipment for noxious species, which we currently do not rent. Twelve poison tablets were dispensed to two producers for livestock predation by coyotes. One anonymous wild boar tip in the Sunnynook area was reported but unsubstantiated. Area producers have been made aware to be on the lookout.

With limited resources and increasing staff demands the agricultural services department has chose to focus on increased landowner communication efforts. To facilitate landowner responsibility and an early detection, rapid response approach to noxious species, we have created a renewed online quarterly newsletter, increased landowner messaging, facilitated extension opportunities and added a new host of social media platforms called "Chewing Cud with Special Areas". The social media accounts have only 200 followers but have reached 33,000 accounts from June 1 to November 1, 2023, with an engagement rate 2.5X greater than the Special Areas Board accounts.

Since the previous report on November 1, 2023, the Special Area No. 2 agricultural fieldman has organized and hosted two popular events for ratepayers; The Ladies Cow Boss Clinic hosted in Pollockville on March 6 boasted 71 female producers learning hands-on skills through cattle simulators from the University of Calgary and local veterinarians; and three kochia-specific management webinars over the month of March in collaboration with Vulcan County and County of Newell brought 162 registrants for the series. Still to come in March is a free shelterbelt workshop for producers (40 registered to date) in Youngstown and a shelterbelt/soil conservation presentation to the students of the Youngstown School on March 28, 2024.

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

Agricultural Service Board Report – Special Area No. 3

Summer Staff

The 2023 summer work season began with training of new and returning staff attending the required Special Areas orientation and ASB orientation. ASB 3 and RDR staff travelled to High River for Stewardship training. Staff travelled to Vulcan to take the 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 were 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 for returning the bags to the retailer where Clean Farms will pick up the bags and deliver them to a recycling facility.

Hosting South Regional Conference

On October 18th, ASB 3 held the ASB South Regional Conference in Oyen at the Royal Canadian Legion. There were 17 Municipalities that travelled to the conference from Southern Alberta. With 94 people in attendance. There were speakers from industry, a new local business and an Irrigation project being investigated to sustain growth and population in Special Areas. Renewable energy is making a footprint on Special Areas land. Doug Macaulay, from Alberta Agricultural & Forestry, spoke on the government updates that are happening in the Ag programs. Lee's catering served lunch and Clay Cup served specialty coffee and snacks throughout the day.

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 were no longer able to sell 2% liquid strychnine. PMRA has de-registered this product for Richardson Ground Squirrel control. Producers must use up any liquid strychnine by March 4th. 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. A new product out, (BORROW OAT,) - (ZINC PHOSPHIDE). is having some success.

In Special Area 3 the grasshoppers were in high numbers this year, in some places the grasshoppers have devoured acres of land. Farmers have sprayed multiple times to try and save their crops, trees, and pastures with little control achieved.

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 in the 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 control as the bur like plant will stick to the animal's fur and drop seeds when the animal walks through brush or trees. 10 days of the 2023 season were spent on this Project. ASB 3 will continue their efforts to control Burdock on this project and surrounding area.

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 39 quarters, and every year, it isn't possible to inspect and spray this whole project. If possible, the ASB staff could spend all summer on this project if time permitted. The crew this year worked 23 days on this project. Lots of new infestations of Leafy Spurge are appearing and requiring attention. With some investigation it was discovered Deer and birds are moving viable seeds around and starting new patches. This project will require ongoing control efforts.

Baby's Breath Project

Baby's Breath is a huge concern and spreading vigorously throughout Special Areas. With the level of infestation of this weed there could be a couple of summer staff hired just for spraying and controlling Baby's Breath. ASB 3 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, and 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 Project

ASB 3 staff started at Dale Ross's, spraying Russian Knapweed and other various weeds that grow along the Red Deer River. Weed inspections were conducted through Curry's, MacDonald's and Buck's ending at James Larson's (V-V project). The staff found Russian Knapweed along this stretch of the river. The Red Deer River crew would not be able to see the infestation from the river. At James Larson's there was no change, the staff were on this project for 12 days. 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 in certain areas on the V-V project. This project will be ongoing for years ahead.

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 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 3. Kochia and other weed issues on back trails and graveled roads are difficult to keep up with. Glyphosate resistant Kochia is becoming more prevalent in Special Area 3.

The roadside sprayer, T-804, has been modified to make the truck easier to spray with and safer to operate. This season 955 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.

Red Deer River Report

The Red Deer River Project for 2023 started the first week of July. After training was completed the RDR staff assisted the ASB crew on multiple projects before starting on the Red Deer River.

The river crew when inspecting on the river are looking for Russian Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Common Tansy, Scentless Chamomile, and Toad Flax. The river crew is still seeing the effects of not inspecting or spraying in 2020 because of program cuts. The RDR crew started at Dorothy, working towards Empress. The Red Deer River crew had some major mechanical issues with the Airboat and made it as far as Deer River Ranching. The starter was replaced in July. The ECM was replaced the beginning of August, as it was taken to Westers garage in Tilley. When the airboat returned it was used one day on the South Saskatchewan River, the ECM failed and currently needs to be replaced again.

I would like to thank the ASB 3 / RDR crew for their hard work and dedication this 2023 spray season.

Don Hogan, Agricultural Fieldman, ASB 3

Agricultural Service Board Report- Special Area No. 4

The season began with onboarding the returning crew of Mitchel Gramlich, Osten Hagens and Joe Van Lagen. With all staff returning it made for a seamless transition into the 2023 work season.

A total of 152 weed sites were mapped in 2023. 96 sites confirmed to have noxious weeds requiring control, and an additional 45 from historical data were inspected and marked as clean. 85 sites were mapped as controlled by our efforts and the remaining 12 were being controlled by the landowner or were found too late in the season to provide effective control and will be followed up with priority next season. All 5 hamlets were inspected at least twice through various times in the season with Monitor being of the most concern with the Baby's Breath infestation there. Baby's Breath, Leafy Spurge, and the nonregulated 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. 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.

The most challenging noxious weed issues posed this year were Baby's Breath, and Leafy Spurge. 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 2023. Leafy Spurge S of Altario took advantage 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. With a similar biology to Baby's Breath, the nonregulated, but extremely invasive, Kochia also became a very big issue to our ratepayers and construction/reclamation crews alike this year. The ASB spray crew partnered with roads and streets to help with control of both the road construction sites where Kochia infestations were preventing any desirable reclamation species from establishing; as well as on roadsides when they needed an extra hand with application timing. With a lack a moisture limiting competition and its drought tolerant qualities, 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. In the beginning of each year AB Transportation is made aware of the existing infestation levels that they will need to control. They typically then come back to us with a control plan using a combination of chemical application, mowing, and hand picking when necessary. The Agricultural Fieldman will then make further recommendations or agree that their plan fulfills their obligations under the Weed Control Act. 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 some of their leafy spurge projects. The Forrester location is our largest project, with leafy spurge located south of Altario. ASB 4 staff were at this project for a total of 6 days including pre and post inspections after our main control efforts. The Blueweed project required little attention with only a couple 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 inspections and conducting required provincial surveys throughout the summer. This season we participated in Bertha Armyworm, Grasshopper, Clubroot, Blackleg, and Fusarium surveys. The staff also cleaned out the satellite pesticide container recycling sites twice. The 2-inch pipe plow was rented four times this year, and skunk traps also continued to be popular. A rental sprayer skid was asked for on multiple occasions this summer, but we do not have a rental unit at this time, as the old ones was rarely used and eventually it was needed for parts to keep our own equipment running. The ASB will meet in 2024 to discuss the viability of this being replaced in the rental program. Other tasks this summer included lending a hand to spray around the firehalls, grader shops and water stations to keep any ignitable material to a minimum.

Time was dedicated to establishing and posting to our new social media presence Chewing Cud, which is a great avenue to promote all things ASB related happening in the Special Areas. Through this increased online presence, it was decided that we would reignite our newsletter efforts with a brand-new online publication (semi-quarterly) that helps us to massively increase our reach for early detection rapid response of invasive species. Our next newsletter is set to hit the website early in the new year and you can find up to date extension events and information being posted regularly on Chewing Cud through Facebook, X, and Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Justine Comeau CLGM
Agricultural Fieldman
Special Area No. 4

Agricultural Services Special Projects 2023

Project	Labour	Materials	Equipment	Subcontract	TOTAL	
Buffalo Atlee CP	\$ 7,216.92	\$ 1,556.54	\$ 3,795.79	\$ 22.10	\$ 12,591.35	
Barkley	\$ 906.07	\$ 277.88	\$ 259.14		\$ 1,443.09	
Cosgrave	\$ 1,155.03	\$ 30.02	\$ 715.04		\$ 1,900.09	
Cutter	\$ 1,466.30	\$ 18.02	\$ 1,144.17	\$ 39.62	\$ 2,668.11	
Jenner Colony	\$ 14,874.22	\$ 4,167.90	\$ 7,132.78	\$ 4,522.10	\$ 30,697.00	*subcontract incl. \$4500.00 for biocontrol releases
Majestic Ranch	\$ 442.66	\$ 42.03			\$ 484.69	
Peirson	\$ 2,824.97	\$ 96.08	\$ 1,588.77	\$ 50.67	\$ 4,560.49	
Prairie Oasis	\$ 352.74				\$ 352.74	
Baby's Breath	\$ 5,871.43	\$ 1,475.71	\$ 1,143.78		\$ 8,490.92	
Bar Diamond Burdock	\$ 11,973.96	\$ 498.85	\$ 3,827.84		\$ 16,300.65	
555 East Leafy Spurge	\$ 24,381.45	\$ 14,433.44	\$ 12,922.40		\$ 51,737.29	
Red Deer River	\$ 22,313.28	\$ 11,982.40	\$ 16,819.70	\$ 3,193.70	\$ 54,309.08	*ACTUAL Chemical

						Costs= \$1,138.13
Ross Ranch	\$ 9,086.13	\$ 339.56	\$ 8,717.08		\$ 18,142.77	
V-V	\$ 10,847.78	\$ 2,212.46	\$ 2,809.38		\$ 15,869.62	
Forrester	\$ 2,462.29	\$ 1,453.60	\$ 2,403.77	\$ 8.76	\$ 6,328.42	
TOTAL	\$116,175.23	\$ 38,584.49	\$ 63,279.64	\$ 7,836.95	\$ 225,876.31	

Ag Services No. 2 Special Projects

Project	Labour	Materials	Equipment	Subcontract	TOTAL	
Buffalo Atlee CP	\$ 7,216.92	\$ 1,556.54	\$ 3,795.79	\$ 22.10	\$ 12,591.35	
Barkley	\$ 906.07	\$ 277.88	\$ 259.14		\$ 1,443.09	
Cosgrave	\$ 1,155.03	\$ 30.02	\$ 715.04		\$ 1,900.09	
Cutter	\$ 1,466.30	\$ 18.02	\$ 1,144.17	\$ 39.62	\$ 2,668.11	
Jenner Colony	\$ 14,874.22	\$ 4,167.90	\$ 7,132.78	\$ 4,522.10	\$ 30,697.00	*subcontract incl. \$4500.00 for biocontrol releases
Majestic Ranch	\$ 442.66	\$ 42.03			\$ 484.69	
Peirson	\$ 2,824.97	\$ 96.08	\$ 1,588.77	\$ 50.67	\$ 4,560.49	
Prairie Oasis	\$ 352.74				\$ 352.74	
TOTAL	\$ 29,238.91	\$ 6,188.47	\$ 14,635.69	\$ 4,634.49	\$ 54,697.56	

Ag Services No. 3 Special Projects

Project	Labour	Materials	Equipment	Subcontract	TOTAL	
Baby's Breath	\$ 5,871.43	\$ 1,475.71	\$ 1,143.78		\$ 8,490.92	
Bar Diamond Burdock	\$ 11,973.96	\$ 498.85	\$ 3,827.84		\$ 16,300.65	
555 East Leafy Spurge	\$ 24,381.45	\$ 14,433.44	\$ 12,922.40		\$ 51,737.29	
Red Deer River	\$ 22,313.28	\$ 11,982.40	\$ 16,819.70	\$ 3,193.70	\$ 54,309.08	*ACTUAL Chemical Costs= \$1,138.13
Ross Ranch	\$ 9,086.13	\$ 339.56	\$ 8,717.08		\$ 18,142.77	
V-V	\$ 10,847.78	\$ 2,212.46	\$ 2,809.38		\$ 15,869.62	
TOTAL	\$ 84,474.03	\$ 30,942.42	\$ 46,240.18	\$ 3,193.70	\$ 164,850.33	

Ag Services No. 4 Special Projects

Project	Labour	Materials	Equipment	Subcontract	TOTAL
Forrester	\$ 2,462.29	\$ 1,453.60	\$ 2,403.77	\$ 8.76	\$ 6,328.42
TOTAL	\$ 2,462.29	\$ 1,453.60	\$ 2,403.77	\$ 8.76	\$ 6,328.42

Community Pasture Report

Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture

Range report: recovery periods were increased in 2023 that will provide a normal start to the 2024 season with reduced stocking rates, standing forage should support grazing capacity for the season if water supplies are adequate, runoff has been disappointing to recharge stock water supplies.

Total AUM = 10,608

Total Allotment = 3,260 AUM

%Allotment in 2024 = 30%

2024 plans:

- 70% reduction of pasture capacity
- Spring clean-outs and redevelopment planned.

Bullpound Community Pasture

Range Report: pasture condition is in good shape to accommodate the grazing capacity in 2024, intention of carrying over sufficient grass to keep 50% allotment or increase in 2025, major wetlands remain dry although run has accumulated in some dugouts.

Total AUM = 4,658

Total Allotment = 2,381 AUM

%Allotment in 2024 = 50%

2024 plans:

- 50% reduction of pasture capacity
- 3 miles of interior fencing replacement
- 1 dugout construction
- Construction of surface water line to flow water from ATCO water line

Remount Community Pasture

Range Report: carryover of grass from 2023 will allow a normal start to grazing under reduced stocking rates, adjustment in timing of grazing in some fields to allow for recovery, poor runoff will require reliance on water systems to carry cattle through the summer.

Total AUM = 8,136

Total Allotment = 2,447 AUM

%Allotment in 2024 = 30%

2024 plans:

- 70% reduction of pasture capacity
- 3 ½ miles construction of interior fence
- 4 miles of water line installation
- 3- 400 bbl tanks & 1- 750 bbl tank of additional water storage

Richdale Community Pasture

Range Report: carryover forage from 2023 has left the pasture in good condition, south field was not grazed in 2023, receded water levels in Contracosta Lake from the drought should provide increased grazing area, water supplies are concerning with lack of snowpack.

Total AUM = 930

Total Allotment = 743 AUM

% Allotment in 2024 = 80%

2024 plans:

- 20% reduction of pasture capacity

Sounding Creek Community Pasture

Range Report: many areas of the pasture need growing season rest to allow recovery of grasses, planning to combine herds to have 3 fields of cattle, entry dates have been deferred to late June to allow grass to grow before cattle arrive, plan to avoid grazing the west side of the pasture to allow full season of rest.

Total AUM = 7,920

Total Allotment = 2,481 AUM

% Allotment in 2024 = 30%

2024 plans:

- 70% reduction of pasture capacity
- Abatement & demolition of old bunkhouse
- Move pressure system for water in yard to new location.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nolan Ball

SPECIAL AREAS COMMUNITY PASTURE
2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTED TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

REVENUE:

	2023 Projected	2023 Actual	2024 Projected
Spring Pasture Fees Invoiced	\$ 638,736	\$ 638,736	\$ 367,397.00
Fall Pasture Fees Invoiced	\$ 31,399	\$ 31,399	\$ 17,664.00
2023 Refunds or Credit (Dead Cow/ Sounding Creek Early Exit)	\$ -	\$ (86,647)	\$ -
Pasture House Utilities/Rent	\$ 15,840	\$ 15,840	\$ 15,840.00
	\$ 685,975	\$ 599,328	\$ 400,901

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries	\$ 236,039	\$ 244,704	\$ 248,354
Wages for Assistants	\$ 172,213	\$ 115,283	\$ 171,504
Employer Contributions	\$ 65,414	\$ 60,175	\$ 59,573
Worker's Compensation Board	\$ 4,205	\$ 5,725	\$ 6,676
Travel & Sub	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,822	\$ 3,500
Mileage	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,247	\$ 5,000
Membership and Conference fees	\$ 1,200	\$ 100	\$ 1,200
Telephone	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,307	\$ 12,000
Advertising	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,673	\$ 1,700
Training & Education	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,616	\$ 1,500
Building Repairs	\$ 70,000	\$ 44,990	\$ 92,000
Mach Repair	\$ 30,000	\$ 38,394	\$ 30,000
Contract Repairs	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 2,500
Machinery & Equipment			
Rental	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
General Supplies	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,703	\$ 10,000
Water Development & Repair	\$ 275,000	\$ 219,387	\$ 106,000
Fuel/Oil	\$ 50,000	\$ 69,367	\$ 55,000
Fencing Supplies	\$ 20,000	\$ 37,761	\$ 20,000
Attractive Items	\$ 500	\$ 2,869	\$ 4,500
Chemicals & Salt	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,290	\$ 10,000
Natural Gas	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,507	\$ 8,000
Electric Power	\$ 30,000	\$ 27,658	\$ 30,000
	\$ 1,011,771	\$ 913,703	\$ 881,507

**Depreciation of Capital
Assets:**

2023 Generator	20 yrs	1	\$ 1,839	\$ 1,839
2023 Buffalo Atlee Internal Fencing	10 yrs	1	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
2023 Sounding Creek Bunkhouse	20 yrs	1	\$ 3,463	\$ 3,463
2023 Buffalo Atlee Truck	5 yrs	1	\$ 14,535	\$ 14,535
2022 SCCP Utility Vehicle	15 yrs	2	\$ 1,466	\$ 1,466
2022 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	2	\$ 9,944	\$ 9,944
2021 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	3	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
2020 Generator	15 yrs	4	\$ 280	\$ 280
2020 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	4	\$ 5,684	\$ 5,684
2020 Sounding Creek Barn	40 yrs	4	\$ 1,954	\$ 1,954
2019 Remount Stockwater Troughs x3	15 yrs	5	\$ 1,040	\$ 1,040
2019 Buffalo-Atlee Loading Chute	40 yrs	5	\$ 115	\$ 115
2019 Sounding Creek Water Development	40 yrs	5	\$ 1,142	\$ 1,142
2019 Remount Water Development	40 yrs	5	\$ 1,565	\$ 1,565
2019 Internal Fencing	10 yrs	5	\$ 16,800	\$ 16,800
2019 Sounding Creek Corrals	40 yrs	5	\$ 2,646	\$ 2,646
2017 Buffalo Atlee House	40 yrs	7	\$ 10,555	\$ 10,555
2017 John Deere Gators x2	8 yrs	7	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600
2017 Buffalo Atlee Jeep	10 yrs	7	\$ 2,729	\$ 2,729
2016 Three Shipping Containers	10 yrs	8	\$ 840	\$ 840
2015 Buffalo Atlee Spratt Camp	10 yrs	9	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
2014 Generators x2	15 yrs	10	\$ 273	\$ 273
2013 Generators x2	15 yrs	11	\$ 273	\$ 273
2013 Bullpound Internal Fencing	40 yrs	11	\$ 965	\$ 965
2013 Bullpound Water (Cystem & Bldg)	40 yrs	11	\$ 141	\$ 141
2013 Bullpound Corrals	40 yrs	11	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,770
2013 Cereal West Corrals	40 yrs	11	\$ 2,871	\$ 2,871
2012 SCCP Natural Gas	40 yrs	12	\$ 563	\$ 563
2012 Buffalo Atlee Corrals	40 yrs	12	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,195

2011 Buffalo Atlee Barn	40 yrs	13	\$	1,164	\$	1,164
2010 Bullpound Assistant Quarters	40 yrs	14	\$	1,908	\$	1,908
2009 Bullpound Barn	40 yrs	15	\$	1,599	\$	1,599
2008 Remount Bunkhouse	40 yrs	16	\$	1,572	\$	1,572
2007 Remount Barn	40 yrs	17	\$	781	\$	781
2006 Bullpound Sea Can	40 yrs	18	\$	70	\$	70
2005 Buffalo Atlee Assistant Quarters	40 yrs	19	\$	1,329	\$	1,329
2000 Remount Salt Shed	40 yrs	24	\$	149	\$	149
1999 Sounding Creek Salt Shed	40 yrs	25	\$	167	\$	167
1998 Buffalo-Atlee Salt Shed	40 yrs	26	\$	210	\$	210
1997 Bullpound Salt Shed	40 yrs	27	\$	119	\$	119
			\$	112,917	\$	112,917

TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$	1,124,688	\$	1,026,620	\$	994,424
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$	685,975	\$	599,328	\$	400,901
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SURPLUS / LOSS	-\$	438,712.70	-\$	427,291.46	-\$	593,522.70
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Royalty and Taxes:

Royalty						
173206 acres	0.7829	(\$/acre)	\$	162,727		\$ 238,158
Taxes						
5,662,500	Assessment	9.314	(mils)	\$	52,741	\$ 52,741
				\$	215,467.53	\$ 290,899.00

SPECIAL AREA NO. 2

RECREATION REPORT FOR 2023

COMMUNITY CLUB	10 YEAR ADVANCE ADJUSTMENT	GRANT \$	INSURANCE DEDUCTION	CHEQUE ISSUED
Berry Creek Ag Society		19,931.65		\$ 19,931.65
Berry Creek (Cessford) Library*		1,877.93		\$ 1,877.93
Big Country Riding & Roping Club		2,347.41	\$ 2,088.00	\$ 259.41
Bindloss Community Hall Board	\$ 19,931.65			
*2023 Final Payment for Advance	\$ (2,500.00)	17,431.65	\$ 3,375.12	\$ 14,056.53
Buffalo Agricultural Society		22,983.29		\$ 22,983.29
Cessford Home & School Association		1,408.45		\$ 1,408.45
Diamond Jubilee Rec & Cult Centre		25,608.12	\$ 12,957.12	\$ 12,651.00
Dorothy Community Club		5,633.79	\$ 1,013.00	\$ 4,620.79
Empress, Village of		37,942.70		\$ 37,942.70
Empress & Dist Friendship Centre		4,694.82		\$ 4,694.82
Empress Library*		1,280.41		\$ 1,280.41
Empress & Dist Historical Society		2,560.81		\$ 2,560.81
HandHills Lake Club		11,737.06		\$ 11,737.06
Hanna, Town of		165,684.54		\$ 165,684.54
Hanna Municipal Library*		7,682.44		\$ 7,682.44
Homestead Coulee Community Assoc		8,706.76	\$ 2,738.12	\$ 5,968.64
Ildesleigh Community Centre		-		\$ -
Jenner Hall Committee		4,694.82		\$ 4,694.82
Pollockville Curling Club		19,462.17		\$ 19,462.17
Richdale Community Club		4,694.82	\$ 2,230.12	\$ 2,464.70
Sandhills Roping Club		1,877.93		\$ 1,877.93
Scapa Athletic Association		4,694.82		\$ 4,694.82
Social Plains Community Club		2,134.01		\$ 2,134.01
Spondin Community Club		8,450.68		\$ 8,450.68
Table Rock Riding & Roping Club		1,877.93		\$ 1,877.93
*Supplemental Library Funding		22,500.00		\$ 22,500.00
TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUM DEDUCTIONS			\$24,401.48	
TOTAL GRANT		407,899.00		
HOLDBACKS		(2,500.00)	Total of Chq Issued	\$ 383,497.53
TOTAL ALLOCATION LEVY		410,399.00		

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

Matt Clarke	Cody Mashon
Nicole Skappak	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 2023

The 2023 Recreation Mill Rate Levy was designated as follows:

	Grant Withheld for	Insurance	Total	
	10 yr Advance		Amount	note 1
Big Country Agricultural Society			\$ 11,170.68	
Big Stone Community Building Fund Assoc.		(\$3,193.12)	\$ 8,843.45	
Cappon Community Club		(\$1,824.11)	\$ 1,551.48	
Cereal Athletic Association			\$ 3,102.97	note 2
Cereal Golden Center			\$ 1,551.48	
CJ Peacock Center			\$ 12,411.86	
Cereal Board of Trade			\$ 1,551.48	note 2
Chinook & District Community Club		(\$2,407.11)	\$ 1,706.63	
Esther Community Hall New Building Society		(\$1,945.12)	\$ 1,706.63	
Lanfne Hall Community Association		(\$1,441.12)	\$ 1,551.48	
New Brigden Central Curling Club			\$ 9,308.90	
New Brigden Community Association			\$ 8,843.45	note 2
Oyen Municipal Library Board			\$ 10,003.96	
Sedalia Hall Club			\$ 8,607.63	note 3
Sibbald Community Club			\$ 8,607.63	note 3
Town of Oyen	(\$10,000.00)		\$ 120,550.23	note 4
Village of Youngstown			\$ 34,598.07	
Youngstown & District Library Board			\$ 5,001.98	
			\$ 250,670.00	

- 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 (2023 is year 8 of 10 year rec advance - ball concession/training facility)

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

Special Area No. 4 Recreation Report For 2023

The 2023 Recreation Mill Rate Levy of \$220,478 was designated as follows:

	Advance	Jubilee Insurance	Total Grant
Village of Consort	(\$32,500.00)		\$110,700.56
Consort Municipal Library Board			\$15,000.00
Village of Veteran			\$37,024.85
Veteran Municipal Library			\$2,500.00
Altario Community Association		(\$2,734.12)	\$7,105.78
Compeer Community Centre	(\$4,500.00)	(\$2,720.22)	\$22,439.30
Hemaruka Hall Association			\$5,000.00
Kirriemuir Community Association		(\$1,466.12)	\$6,357.80
Monitor Community Club			\$5,000.00
Consort Lakeview Golf Club			<u>\$9,349.71</u>
			\$220,478.00

The 2023 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

Special Areas Regional Economic Development Report

In 2023 the Special Areas Regional Economic Development was actively engaged in several strategic projects to bolster economic growth, healthcare services, community development, and regional collaboration.

Oyen Hospital Disruption In response to the service disruption at the Oyen Hospital, the department organized nurses' meetings in February and August to address and listen to concerns. These meetings have been critical in gathering feedback and working towards resolutions. AHS South Zone Leadership announced that the Oyen Big Country Hospital resumed normal operations on November 1, 2023.

Oyen Fixed Wing Air Ambulance The department successfully organized meetings with Alberta Health Services (AHS), Municipal Leaders, and Pattern Energy, which led to working on a comprehensive action plan that detailed the requirements to have air ambulance services re-instated during dark hours.

- Short-Term Achievements:
 - Coordinated with Nav Canada to integrate turbines into their Flight Planning Obstacle Database, with publication on August 10, 2023.
 - Worked with Transport Canada to amend permits for lighting enhancements on wind towers affecting the Oyen Airport and collaborated with Pattern Energy to ensure the installation and illumination of lights. Lighting was completed in July 2023.
- Mid-Term Progress:
 - Advanced Weather Observing System (AWOS):
 - Consulted with Transport Canada and released an RFP. The contract was awarded to Approach Navigation Systems. The AWOS was installed in July, and pilots who use the Oyen Airport can use the weather station for planning purposes via [Airport Weather Advisor® AWOS Live | CED3](#).
 - GPS Instrument Approach:
 - Collaborated with Transport Canada and JetPro to install GPS instrument approaches at the Oyen, Consort, and Hanna airports, with scheduled publication dates in 2024.
- Long-Term Vision:
 - Plans to lengthen and widen the Oyen Airport runway are being developed to accommodate larger AHS planes in the future.

RES Wind Project Engaged in proactive discussions with RES Wind Project to ensure the placement of turbines does not interfere with air ambulance flight paths, which is critical to maintaining uninterrupted air ambulance services. Additionally, these discussions consider the long-term development plans for the airport to safeguard future operational capacities.

Oyen Healthcare Recruitment Committee Established initiatives for nurse recruitment, including incentives and a marketing campaign. Special Areas Regional Economic Development is researching staffing needs to offset future challenges with recruitment and to explore a grow your own field of healthcare professionals.

Appointed to the Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council (PTHAC) for a three-year term starting September 1, 2023, to advocate for rural health priorities.

Investment Attraction Special Areas Regional Economic Development hosted delegations of investors, facilitating key discussions between them and local stakeholders to foster economic collaboration. Responses were provided to inquiries from Site Selectors. Additionally, an Invest Alberta workshop was conducted to educate municipal leaders on attracting investments and strengthening local economic development strategies.

Travel Special Areas Promotion

- Enhanced regional tourism through significant installations, such as the Carolside Mosasaur, and collaborated with experts for authentic interpretation.
- Increased visibility through the creation of driving routes and promotional materials, including participation in various travel guides.

Workforce Development The Special Areas Regional Economic Development successfully secured approval for a regional application under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP)'s Rural Renewal Stream in August, encompassing Special Areas 2, 3, and 4, along with MD of Acadia and all towns and villages. Harvest Sky Economic Corporation has been enlisted to oversee the application process, which involves vetting employers and issuing Endorsement Letters for qualified employees. Notably, over fifteen endorsement letters have already been issued. Additionally, the Workforce Strategy Development project was concluded at the end of 2023, and the report is now available for public review.

Marketing The department has engaged Yolo Nomads to enhance our resident recruitment efforts, aiming to bolster the local workforce effectively. In parallel, the Return to Rural initiative is undergoing a transformative makeover to reemerge as a resident attraction portal. Concurrently, we are populating Invest Special Areas with robust content designed to entice and inform potential investors. Alongside, Travel Special Areas is updated regularly to engage visitors. All these components are being streamlined under the umbrella of Special Areas Economic Development to ensure a cohesive and synergistic approach to regional growth and prosperity.

Housing Initiatives Following the completion of the Special Areas Housing Needs Assessment in 2023, a range of housing strategies have begun to be explored. These strategies include implementing tax incentive programs and initiating region-wide discussions on housing solutions. The pervasive housing shortage, impacting not only the local area but also the broader provincial and national contexts, has prompted meetings with community leaders and employers who are grappling with housing challenges for their workforce. These gatherings are focused on developing comprehensive strategies aimed at building strong and inclusive communities throughout the region.

Hydrogen The "Towards Hydrogen – A Hydrogen HUB Feasibility Study for Southeast Alberta," authored by Randy Litun, highlights the region's potential in hydrogen production and its role in the growing hydrogen economy, impacting areas from transportation to industry. An Expression of Interest for Hydrogen Fueling Stations has been submitted to the Alberta government, with educational efforts underway to maximize this potential. Additionally, a local delegation met with MLA Getson to discuss opportunities in the hydrogen sector.

The Special Areas Regional Economic Development Department has made significant strides in addressing community needs, improving healthcare access, fostering economic development, and enhancing tourism and workforce initiatives. The ongoing

projects and strategic planning efforts have laid a foundation for continued growth and development across the Special Areas.

Recommendations for the Advisory Board:

-  Continued support and monitoring of wind and solar projects that could affect the safety of pilots flying into our local airports.
-  Endorsement of initiatives to sustain rural healthcare.
-  Sustained focus on workforce development and housing strategy implementation to ensure long-term regional prosperity.
-  Support tourism initiatives, such as the Scenic Driving Route, that enhance the landscape and speak to the rich history of the Special Areas. i.e., Fossil installations – horse and camel, Stagecoach Trail, Circus Coulee, Ribstone Hill

Submitted by,
Wanda Diakow, Economic Development Officer
Special Areas Regional Economic Development

Welcome to the Harvest Sky Region!

Endless possibilities await investors, residents, and visitors.

The return of the Harvest Sky newsletter

Good day Harvest Sky residents; our apologies as it's been a while since we put out a newsletter. The last update we posted on our website was in June, however it's time we look at what the region has accomplished since then and what else is currently underway.

Resident Attraction & Housing

Does the region seem busier this past year? Back when we were experiencing the worst impacts of the coal plant transition, houses everywhere were for sale, businesses were struggling and there was a negative sense of the possibilities for the future of our community.

Fast forward a few years and although the struggles have been many, there seems to be a renewed sense of optimism in our resilient community. New businesses have opened and there are a number of new people in the region. As well, house sales are steady and **new houses are under construction**. Quite the turn around!



We continue to market to potential residents outside the region, to showcase what a great place our community is to live in. Stakeholders in the region will also be working on other types of housing, to help accommodate people that are here or new people that want to move here.

The towns in the region have also been approved under the **Alberta Advantage Immigration Program**, a Province of Alberta program geared towards attracting newcomers to live and work here. If you're a business that has been struggling to attract workers, reach out to us to find out what the program can do to help you bring immigrants to work in your business.

Tourism

Harvest Sky is working with a number of partners to boost tourism in the region.

We have partnered with Travel Alberta on the Badlands Tourism Development Zone, to help bring visitors when they're already in Drumheller. We are also anxiously awaiting word on funding to help the Hanna Roundhouse take the next step in its work on becoming a major event and tourism destination centre.

Finally, watch for an announcement coming soon about a Nickelback Tour, including new signs and other ways to enhance our community on the world stage!



Investment Attraction

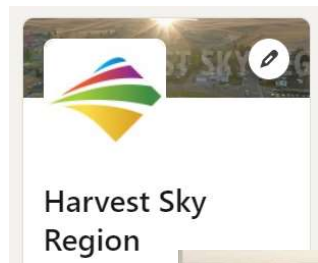
We continue to talk to a number of companies that are interested in our region for both Agriculture and Energy production. Companies continue to reach out to us about the Sheerness Industrial Park. This means word is getting out about the opportunities that exist in the Harvest Sky region. We will continue to make the case that we have the best place to do business in the province. For more information on the park, go to the Special Areas website: <https://specialareas.ab.ca/invest/sheerness-industrial/>



Agricultural Centre

Progress on the proposed Ag Centre continues and new announcements will be coming soon. This includes a new name, a website and a proposed site. Architects are currently working on the feasibility of a potential new site with a conceptual design. Keep up to date on the harvestsky.ca website, under 'Harvest Sky EDC'.

Community Development – We are also actively working with our communities on a number of projects such as Downtown development plans and Community Kitchens. More to come!



Social Media

Follow us on Linkedin & Facebook



For more information contact

Mark Nikota, Economic Development Manager
at 403-854-0589 or mark.nikota@harvestsky.ca



Weather was the biggest story from 2023 for CARA and most producers in the Special Areas and MD of Acadia. The impact on production was significant, especially in the central and southern regions, where grasshoppers robbed yields as well. We were unable to collect any data from our Madge crop trial site east of Hanna or our Grudecki site in the MD of Acadia. Although trials at the rest of our sites were harvested, yields were significantly reduced and some of the results have high variability. The provincial Regional Variety Testing program does not allow reporting of data that doesn't meet certain criteria so there will be limited information that we can share from our 2023 sites. An overall summary of other projects will be available early in the new year.

CARA, along with the other eleven applied research and forage associations in the province, received a boost in our core grant for 2023 from RDAR, Alberta's research funding arm. We are hoping to secure a long-term agreement regarding the future of these funds which, combined with the Special Area Board's grant, enables us to maintain a base capacity of staff and equipment. A strong foundation is critical in accessing grant money and/or partnerships with industry, commissions and others interested in adaptive research and knowledge sharing projects.

CARA's Strategic Plan was updated by our Board members and staff in March. Key focus areas of the plan are:

- Renowned Soil, Crop and Forage Research for Dryland Sustainability
- Locally Trusted Agriculture Knowledge Leaders
- Thriving Organization with Highly Engaged Board, Staff and Producers

The Soil Health Lab has received approximately 8000 samples of soil, compost and manure to date from projects and producers across western Canada. Grant money allowed purchase of an Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES) which will enable us to analyze a number of minerals and reduce our dependence on outside labs for chemistry assessments. We've had to do some renovations to the lab space to best utilize this equipment and also to expand our basic processing area. Once the renovations are complete and the new equipment in operation, we will be pursuing accreditation of the lab facility which will lead to even more demand on lab services.

Project highlights during the past year include establishment of a trial evaluating production of perennial wheat and rye grain, a canola agronomics trial supported by the Canola Council of Canada as well as durum fertility and barley agronomics trials (and field day) sponsored by Alberta Grains. 50 crop sites were surveyed for weed growth and species to support Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's weed monitoring data base. Forage growth on 100 sites were verified for the Canadian Forage and Grazing Association grassland inventory.

During the past year Karin and Lacey assisted over 80 producers with applications to participate in the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and Canadian Forage and Grazing Association (CFGA) programs. Approval and completion of all projects could bring over 4 million dollars into our region.

CARA 2023 Board of Directors

Richard Bailey, Veteran	John Kimber, Youngstown
Curtis Benedict, Hanna	Tyrel Kuhn, Acadia Valley
Nathan Berg, Cessford <i>ASB 2 Rep</i>	Kirby Laughlin, Youngstown
Kyle Christianson, Sedalia	Kevin Letniak, Consort
Marie Cowan, Acadia Valley	Gordon Long, Veteran, <i>ASB 4 Rep</i>
David Eaton, Sibbald, <i>Past President</i>	Gloria Nelson, Veteran, <i>President</i>
Matthew Gould, Consort	Landon Olsen, Cereal, <i>Financial Supervisor</i>
Dan Grudecki, Acadia Valley	Barry Redel, Consort <i>ASB Rep</i>
Scott Heeg, Acadia Valley, <i>MD Council Rep</i>	Olivia Sederberg, Sibbald
Jory Hoffmann, <i>MD of Acadia</i>	Chad Williams, Hanna
Don Hogan, Oyen <i>ASB 3 Rep</i>	

CARA 2023 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 and Extension Specialist</i>
Karly Willis, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician</i>
Lizanne Booker, <i>Soil Health Lab Technician</i>
Lacey Gould, <i>Livestock Nutritionist and Conservation Agronomist (part-time)</i>
Rae Jorgenson, <i>Office Manager</i>
Shirley Burns <i>Bookkeeper (part-time)</i>
Navneet Kaur, <i>Lab Research Assistant</i>
Allivia Sauer, Jerry Pratt, Dan Rude and Renae Pratt, <i>Field Technicians</i>
Matraca Clark, Nicole Bodnaruk, Autumn Julseth, Luke Caskey, Danica Woods, <i>Summer Technicians</i>

CARA 2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Annual Crops

Site	Funder/Program	Description
Dan Grudecki, MD of Acadia	Alberta RVT	Wheat, Durum, Triticale
Madge Farms, SA 2	CARA Variety Trial	Wheat, Triticale, Barley
	West Met Mine	Humalite Trial
Dwayne Smigelski, SA 3	CAP, AB Pulse Growers	Crop Diversity
	Humaterra	Biological Treatments on Barley and Canola
	Alberta RVT	Flax, Winter Wheat and Fall Rye Trials
	Alberta Grains	Durum Fertility Trial
	Alberta Grains	Barley Fertility Trial
	Canola Council	Canola Agronomics Trial
Barry Redel, SA 4	Alberta RVT	Green & Yellow Peas, Lentils, Fababeans
Jarrold Kuhn, SA 3	RDAR/PCBFA	Perennial Cereal Grain Trial
		Alternative Forages
		CCC Annual Forages
Aaron Rude, SA 3		Biological Nutrients Trial
Tyrel Kuhn, SA 3		Evaluation of Biological Products for Soil Amendment
		Cocktail Crop Demo
Westmoreland Mine		Humalite Trial
Peers, SA 3	RA West	Fertility Treatments on Barley
Peers, MD		Annual Forage Spring/Cereal Mixes
		Annual Forage Cereal/Pulse Mixes
Multiple Sites	AAFC	Weed Surveys: 50 sites in Special Areas and MD of Acadia

Perennial Crops

Site	Funder/Program	Description
Rude, SA 3		Perennial Forage Longevity Trial
Diamond T, SA 3		Multiple Treatment Pasture Rejuvenation
100 Locations	CFGA	Forage Growth Verification

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		Shelterbelt Demo, Mulch Demo
Gould Ranching, Deagle Farms	AWES	Shelterbelt and EcoBuffer Demos
Craig Gould, SA 4		
Berry, Big Stone and Sounding Creeks, SA 3 & 4	ASB Partnership	Riparian Health Assessments

Soil Management Verification Project MD, SA 2, SA 3, SA 4	RDAR	Coordination and analysis of soil samples locally and from across Alberta
Hadwin Cattle Co.	CFGA, Consort 4-H	Grazing Management/Riparian Health/Fencing Demo September 2022 - 2023
Sounding Creek	Land Stewardship Center of Canada ASB Environmental Stream	Maintaining riparian health

Crop Extension

Crop Strategy Meeting	Partnership with MD; Braeden Peers – Crop Trial Update; Yamily Soil Health	February 21, Acadia Valley
Cereal and Flax RVTs Pulse RVTs	Review of RVT protocols	March 15, Zoom April 11, Zoom
Weather and Water Seminar	Drew Lerner: What's in Store for 2023; Dr. Philip Harder: Understanding and Managing Prairie Hydrology	March 13, Consort
Soil Health/Crop Field Day	Dr. Rigas Karamanos (Alberta Grains): Fertility; Jeremy Boychyn (Alberta Grains): Seeding Date and Rate; Edward Biney (Humaterra), Monica Klaus (Ducks Unlimited): Winter Cereal Programs; Karin Roen: Infiltration Demo, Renae Pratt: Wet Agg Demo, Dianne Westerlund: CARA Program overview	July 8, Oyen
Croppers Club	Neil Blue (AB Ag) Market Outlook, Rigas Karamanos – Fertility, Karin Roen – Soil Benchmark Study	November 16, Acadia Valley CANCELLED
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	On-going
Crop Contact List	Research information, coming events	

Forage/Livestock Extension

Grazing Clubs	Periodic meetings funded by CFGA	Hanna: Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 14 Pollockville: Jan 17, Feb 28, Mar 21, Dec 5 Consort: Jan 26, Mar 28, Dec 7 Oyen: February 16 Palliser: August 24
Grazing Workshop	Partner with Provost Ag Service Board	March 9, Provost
4-H Clinic	Ultrasound of Carcass Project Calves	May 15, Oyen
AFIN Forage Mtg	Review of Forage Strategy	June 21, Olds College
Grazing Field Day	Greg Judy: Grazing Strategies; partnership with BRRG, other ARA's and FA's	June 23, Coronation
Rangeland/Riparian Field Day	Grazing Strategies, electric fencing, riparian management	Aug 10, Hadwin Cattle Co. CANCELLED

Cattlemen Clinic	Brian Perillat – Cattle Market Update; Kathy Larson, BCRD – Costs of Production and Decision Making; Susan Markus and Brenda Ralston, Lakeland College – Replacement Heifer Selection and Pain Mitigation; Desiree Gellatly, Olds College – Low Stress Cattle Handling	November 28, Oyen
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	On-going
One-on-one producer inquiries	Various Topics	On-going

Conservation Related Extension

Environmental Farm Plan Workshops & Individual Help	Assistance from Lacey and Karin	On-going
Shelterbelt Workshop	Toso Bozic – Shelterbelt establishment and maintenance	March 17, Hand Hills
Mini- Soil Health Conference and Workshop	Dr. Mir Seyedbagheri – Humic products and balancing minerals; Dr. James While – How plants use bacteria to use nitrogen; Rick Bieber – Soil health management strategies to improve productivity; Shorty Fensky – use of composting materials	March 20, Champion March 22, Oyen March 24, Stony Plain
Ground Squirrel Control	SA 2 Ag Service Board On-line Presentations	April 13, 20, 27
Classroom Ag Program	Soil presentations to several schools by Karin	May 2, Oyen May 18, Cessford June 19, Acadia Valley
SA Ag Service Board	Soil Health Lab Tour	March 23
Soil Health Presentation	Yamily presented to the BC Cattlemen's Association	May 25, Vernon, BC
Soil Health Benchmark Training	Karin trained producers near Cochrane	May 26, Early Dawn Farms June 21, Ship Wheel Feeders
Oyen Summer Camp	Soil health presentation (Karin)	July 18, Oyen
Altario Ag School of Excellence	Periodic Presentations (Lacey and Karin)	On-going
Regenerative Ag Field Day	Soil Health presentation (Yamily, Karin)	August 11, Botha
MASH Field Day	Soil health amendments Youth camp (field and lab)	Aug 15-17 CANCELLED
Soil Health Field Day	Amendment demonstrations Canadian Senator Tour	Aug 26, Thorsby

Economic Development and General Awareness Component

RDAR Research Review	Yamily presented info on the Soil Health Benchmark Study	Jan 10, Edmonton
Meals on Wheels	Staff delivers meals	January 16-31
Strategic Plan Workshop	Revision of CARA's Strategic Plan; facilitated by Scott Ackerman	March 29 & 30, Oyen
Farm Safety	Provost School Safety Program Consort School Safety Camp	May 25, Provost School June 9, Gould Bin Yard near Consort
Ultra Sound Demo	Hanna District 4-H Carcass Project Achievement Day; Jamie Rieger ultrasounded all yearlings	May 15, Oyen

OFCF Program	General presentations on programs by Lacey and Karin	January 31, Consort February 3, Oyen February 23, Hanna April 27, Spondin
OFCF	Individual Consultations (Lacey & Karin)	On-going
ARECA/RDAR	Research funding update	April 23, 24, Leduc
CARA Program Review	Karin presented to Cessford Options class	May 18, Cessford
4-H Weigh-in & Achievement Days	Use of CARA's scale	May 15, Oyen June 5 – Delia
CARA AGM	CARA Business and Program Update	November 30, Oyen
Age Verification		CARA Center
General Inquiries	Weed ID, custom rates, business contacts, etc.	CARA Center
Newsletters	Periodic summaries of CARA projects, research information, coming events, etc.	Mass mailed

Training

Cereal RVT Training	Review of cereal and flax RVT protocols	March 15, On-line
Pulse RVT Meeting	Review of pulse RVT protocols	April 11 on-line
Ag Women’s Conference	Presentations on entrepreneurship, motivation, networking, and much more (Karin)	March 13, 14, Calgary
EFP	Lacey and Karin	June 14, July 12
Range Stewardship Course	Range Mgmt Principles, Stocking Rates, Plant ID, Range Health Assessments, Riparian Mgmt, Species at Risk (Karin)	July 5 & 6, Cottonwood Ranch, Medicine Hat
ARECA and RDAR Strategic Planning Discussion	Review of strategic plans; future funding discussions (Dianne)	April 23 & 24, Leduc
RDAR Research Roundup	RDAR Info and Feedback (Dianne and Karin)	June 8, Calgary
BRRG Field Day	Various BRRG Trials and Demos (Braeden)	July 26, Forestburg
Southern Alberta Women’s Grazing School	Classroom and pasture sessions related to range mgmt., riparian health, plant ID, etc. (Karin, Nicole)	July 26 & 27, Longview
Riparian Training	Karin, Nicole and Autumn joined Special Area staff in field training	August 9
CFGA and OFCAF Programs	Lacey and Karin	On-going

MD of Acadia Rat Control Program

2023 Annual Report

Inspection Program Summary

	Minimum Number of Inspection Sites	Minimum Number of Inspections to be Completed
	# of sites inspected	# of sites inspected
Range 1	200	200 (spring & fall)
Range 2	120	120 (fall)
Range 3	50	50
Total	370	570

Please note: The total number of inspections as shown in the table above is an estimate and **does not include** the additional inspections conducted at infestations and the surrounding high-risk areas or the inspections carried out in response to producer’s concern. Sites change yearly, mostly due to the amount of feed and structure setup/cleanup.

The Agricultural Fieldman or his/her Assistant are appointed as Pest Control Officers (PCO) for the County and are responsible for seeing that rat control is conducted by any property owner finding rats on their land. The M.D. of Acadia carries out the inspections along the border between Cypress County and the M.D. of Provost.

Inspection sites in Range 1 were completed in the spring of 2023. Range 1 and 2 were inspected in the fall along with 50 sites in Range 3. No infestations were discovered this season and bait was distributed to producers in higher risk areas. Infestations are eradicated in cooperation with the landowner, the county PCO, or a commercial pest control company.

- Provoking risk includes:
- rats fleeing from a previous infestation
 - producers hauling feed & equipment within close proximities
 - shelter, green feed, garbage, spilled grain, and a water source

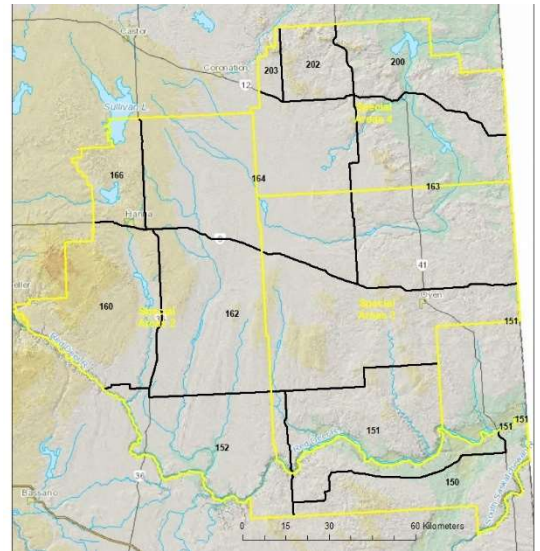
Bait is arranged for the use of rat control and often misunderstood as free mouse poison. In this rat control zone bait can be found at the Special Areas office in Consort and the M.D. of Acadia’s Municipal shop. Please notify any sign of rats or Wild Boar to your county office, local PCO, or the Provincial Rat and Pest Program Specialist.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Hoffman, MDA

Wildlife Management Update for Special Areas

Scott Stevens, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Alberta Environment and Parks



Important changes

- Changes to mandatory deer head submission Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for CWD (in Special Areas, only WMUs 150,151,200 are mandatory submission, but all heads submitted are accepted for testing regardless of kill-location). 24-hr freezers have been removed from Hanna, Cereal, Oyen, Sedalia but remain at Acadia Valley, Consort, Hilda, and Jenner and major centers in southern and central Alberta (see <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-information-for-hunters> for 24-hr CWD freezer locations). 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 200 and 300 series WMUs (2021-23).
- Two tags/licence for antlerless elk in super zones 162/163/164/166 and 200/202/203/232/234 (2021-23).
- Two tags/licence for antlerless mule deer in Special Areas (2021-23).
- Season dates in Zone 2 WMUs for migratory waterfowl (100 series) have been amended to align with recent changes in federal legislation and will run from September 8-December 23.
- EPA Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Branch was restructured with game allocation portion of mandate transferred to Hunting and Fishing Branch of Forestry and Parks. EPA remains responsible for population monitoring of big game and non-game species within the province.

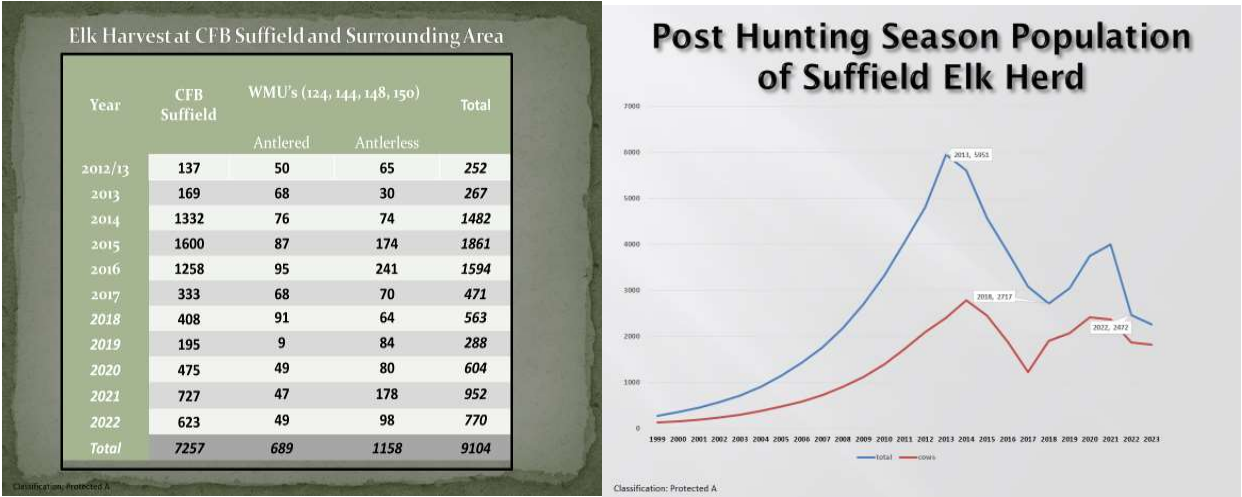
Aerial Ungulate Surveys (AUS)

- Since 2014, winter AUS have been conducted by EPA in all Special WMUs. Select wildlife survey results can be viewed online at <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-management.aspx>.
- Due to a helicopter incident in late January of 2022, in which three EPA staff and pilot were severely injured while flying AUS, no surveys were conducted in the South Region during the winter of 2023 while AUS program safety review was undertaken.
- WMU 151 (Alkali Creek) and WMU 152 (Royal) are listed as regional priorities for 2024.

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.
- No elk were observed during the 2022 WMU 162 AUS.
- 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, representing a 9% reduction from results in 2019.
- The total harvest of elk at CFB Suffield for the 2022-23 season was 623. Since hunting seasons began in 2012/13, 7,257 animals were harvested on the base as of January 2022. An additional estimated 1,847 animals were harvested by resident hunters in adjacent units over the same period.
- Forestry and Parks is continuing to aggressively manage the elk herd within the access quota restrictions of CFB Suffield to prevent herd growth and reduce numbers in an effort to minimize conflict with agricultural producers. In 2023/24 there are six three-day seasons for antlerless and antlered elk spanning October 25 through January 27 at CFB Suffield. Three hunts have occurred in Oct./Nov. within Suffield with a total of 259 elk harvested. Hunts in WMU's around the base

are ongoing. The elk population will likely be further reduced this season, and should be at the lowest level in over a decade (personal communication Joel Nicholson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Medicine Hat).



- 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 super zone (WMU 162,163,164,166) which have been continued under Forestry and Parks.

Moose

- There are antlered and antlerless moose special licence seasons in all WMUs in the Special Areas.
- Moose populations have increased in some Special Areas WMUs, and allocations have been adjusted to increase harvest. In the 2022 WMU 162 AUS the number of moose observed declined from 32 in 2014 to 25.

Mule deer

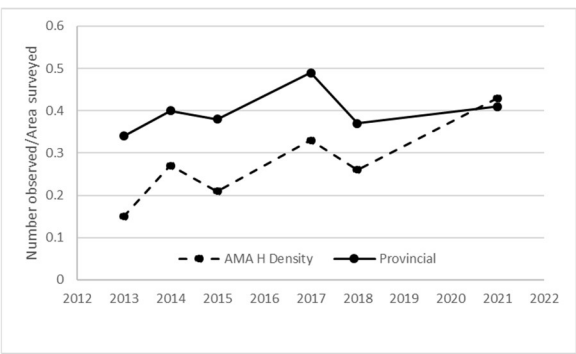
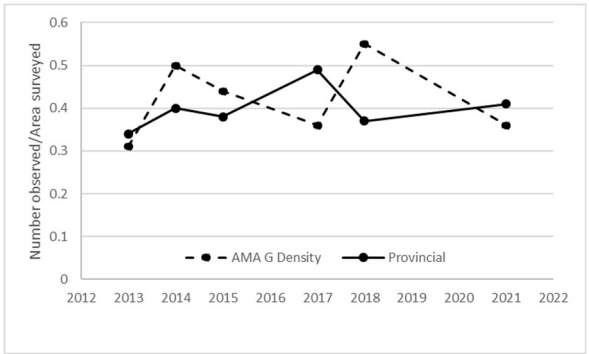
- Mule deer populations appear to be relatively stable in Special Areas WMUs; the mule deer estimate in WMU 162 reflects that at 2,722 in 2014 vs 2,528 in 2022.
- Landowner licences for mule deer appear to be declining in Special Areas. EPA urges landowners with parcels 160 acres or more to enter the mule deer draw and apply for landowner licences (antlered or antlerless) when not drawn. Contact any EPA Office for further information.

White-tailed deer

- White-tailed deer populations have declined in several Special Areas WMUs. The WMU 162 survey indicated a 50% reduction in estimated white-tailed deer abundance since the last survey in 2014 (1,805 vs 951 in 2022).

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.
- Report from adjacent pronghorn district in Montana in summer of 2023 indicated a 43% reduction over the previous year and 61% below long-term average.
- Pronghorn surveys in Alberta were not conducted in 2023 but are expected to occur in the summer of 2024.



Chronic Wasting Disease Update

- In 2022 EPA tested 4,614 wild cervids
- CWD was found in:
- 23.4% of 2,457 mule deer
 - 8.3% of 1,556 white-tailed deer
 - 1.6% of 320 elk (primarily from CFB Suffield)
 - 2.9% of 175 moose (primarily from CFB Wainwright)
- In 4,022 deer for which gender/sex was reported, CWD was detected in:
- 34.5% of 1,045 male mule deer
 - 15.2% of 1,407 female mule deer
 - 10.3% of 1,002 male whitetails
 - 4.7% of 548 female whitetails

CWD was detected in only one Wildlife Management Unit where it was not previously documented (WMU 312). However, the prevalence (% infected) of CWD continues to rise in most areas, particularly in mule deer males, and at CFB Wainwright.

Species at Risk

- Piping plover abundance was steady at Dowling Lake and Chain 4, which make up a substantial portion of the provincial population. This is remarkable given both lakes were dry in 2022 and 2023. 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. The provincial count increased modestly from 50 in 2022, to 58 in 2023.
- In 2023, a new approach for monitoring Burrowing Owl populations in Alberta was trialed. Surveys were conducted in four 50x50 km quadrats, including one site within Special Areas. Combining nocturnal, call-back road surveys and sunrise visual searches near sites of acoustic detection, one BUOW pair was confirmed near Pollockville, indicating that although increasingly rare, the species can still be found within this region of Alberta. Work planning is in progress to refine the monitoring program based on the results obtained in 2023.
- Researchers from San Diego State University have continued their work studying the predator-prey relationship between Ord’s kangaroo rat and prairie rattlesnake in the Empress Dunes area (11km south of the town of Empress). They had a successful year and discovered a previously unknown snake hibernaculum.

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 12 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 wildlife and occurrence of rare species is evidence of that.

100 YEAR FARM FAMILY AWARDS

Year:	# of Awards
1908	12
1909	36
1910	46
1911	36
1912	14
1913	6
1914	5
1915	4
1916	3
1917	1
1918	1
1919	1
TOTAL	165

*Respectfully submitted,
Shyanne Jones*

Motions from Ratepayer Meetings 2023

Motions:

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Be it resolved that railroad right of way be reinserted into title or grazing lease. Moved by Stratton Peake. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

SA2SUB2 - Motion 2: Be it resolved that the Special Areas Board discuss with the Fire Chief putting on a fire ban as soon as possible. Moved by Stratton Peake. Seconded by Laurie Gillespie. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Murray Rooke moves lease rental rate formula should reflect costs of production and not only cattle price. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 2: Randy Landis moves to cap the daily pumping rate at \$200/day due to drought conditions. Seconded by Kate Horner. **Carried.**

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Randy Landis moves to pursue a waterline from the canal east as far as practical. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **Carried.**

SA2SUB7&8 – Motion 1: Don Osadczuk moves Special Areas Board engage with Alberta Transportation regarding maintenance and surfacing concerns on Secondary Highways 555 and 884. Ken Simpson seconds. **Carried.**

MOTIONS from SA3 Sub4,5,6:

Moved by Glen Rosenau that Big Country Waste Management Commission hire additional staff and obtain additional equipment to increase clean up efforts at the Youngstown Waste Site. Seconded by Kirby Laughlin. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Tamara Shadlock that School Divisions find a way to limit a child’s time on a school bus to a maximum of one hour per one way. Seconded by Dawn Beaudoin. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Darcy Miller that School Divisions go back to hiring local private contractors to operate school buses in Special Areas. Seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Glen Rosenau that Special Areas Emergency Services look into acquiring side-by-sides and look into used self-propelled sprayers with turrets for fighting prairie fires. Seconded by Darcy Miller. **CARRIED.**

Motions from SA4 Sub 1,2,3

Jim Deleff moved that the Special Areas contact MP Damien Kurek regarding the cancellation of the Strychnine Program. Seconded by Murray Sankey. **CARRIED.**

Murray Sankey moved that the Special Areas Board takes a serious review on the priorities of brush cutting. Seconded by Jim Deleff. **CARRIED.**

Murray Sankey moved that Special Areas Board explores options for brush control to preserve native species. Pat Rutledge seconded. **CARRIED.**

Motions and Actions Taken Fall Advisory Council

MOTION AC02-06-23: ROAD USE AGREEMENT

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXEMPT ALL AGRICULTURAL USES OUT OF THE ROAD USE ORDER. CARRIED.

2 OPPOSED.

MOTION AC02-10-23: PRESERVE NATIVE SPECIES

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENGE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR A SPRAYING PROGRAM TO PRESERVE NATIVE SPECIES. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-10-23: SALE OF RAILBEDS

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PURSE THE SALE OF RAILBEDS TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-11-23: WATER LINE EAST OF BLOWDOWN CANAL

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PURSUE A STOCK WATER LINE FROM THE BLOWDOWN CANAL EAST AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-12-23: HWY 555 AND 884 MAINTENANCE/REPAIR

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD BRING FORWARD CONCERNS ON TIMING OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO HWY 555 AND HWY 884. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-14-23: SPECIAL AREAS LAND USE ORDER

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TAKE FORWARD THE LAND USE ORDER AS PROPOSED TO THE MINISTER FOR A MINISTERIAL ORDER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-18-23: SUPPORT FOR REC GRANT MILL RATE

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORT AN INCREASE TO THE RECREATION MILL RATE TO COVER INCREASED COSTS IN INSURANCE AND UTILITIES. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-19-23: 2024 SAB BUDGET

MOVED BY LAURIE FERENC AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD BRING FORWARD THE 2024 BUDGET TO THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-20-23: POLICY 04-04A: RATES CHARGED IN EFFECT

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROESE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE POLICY 04-04A: RATES CHARGED IN EFFECT AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-21-23: POLICY 04-04B: RATES PAID IN EFFECT

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENC THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE POLICY 04-04B: RATES PAID IN EFFECT, ADJUSTING THE FIREFIGHTING RATE TO \$40/HOUR. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-22-23: SURFACING ON JENNER TO IDDESLEIGH ROAD

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD COMPLETE STAGE 2 OF THE SURFACING PROGRAM (GBC) ON THE JENNER TO IDDESLEIGH ROAD. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-23-23: SUBDIVISION APPLICATION INCLUDES COUNCIL

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INVITE COUNCIL FROM THE SUBDIVISION WHEN A SUBDIVISION APPLICATION IS BEING PRESENTED. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 1: GIRLETZ ROAD

WHEREAS the Girletz Road has been an area of concern, and

WHEREAS Tetra Tech has presented information into the reasons behind the conditions and behaviors of the road structure itself, and

WHEREAS the road will continue to deteriorate and become a more of a safety issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas review the information given and plan to best address the Girletz Road at Road Committee and bring results back to Spring Advisory.

MOVED BY JOHN KIMBER
SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENC
CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2: TRLS 2 REVENUES

WHEREAS the income generated by Tax Recovery Land Sale 2 are monies earned by the sale of public land, and

WHEREAS the public lands earned a revenue stream on an annual basis a grazing lease or cultivation lease, and

WHEREAS the sales proceeds were put in the accumulated surplus as opposed to the TRLS reserve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the \$8M principle from Tax Recovery Land Sale 2 be put into the TRLS reserve and be invested in a process similar to SALTA.

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK
SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON
CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #3: BLOOD INDIAN PARK STORE

WHEREAS the Blood Indian Trading Post management Contract will expire in the next 1-2 years, and

WHEREAS the current location will not be feasible in the long term as well as the degrading of the quality of fishing, and

WHEREAS a camp store is essential to the success of a campground;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas administration explore feasibility of an alternative location for the Trading post to be discussed at Fall Advisory Council 2024.

MOVED BY Laurie Ference
SECONDED BY John Kimber
CARRIED.

SPECIAL AREAS SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 30th and 31st, 2023

**Lynks
Hanna Provincial Building**

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 – 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
Graham Schetzle	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
Shaune Kovitch	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration
Trent Caskey	Director, Property Administration
Brett Richards	Administrator, Special Area No. 2
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Taryl Abt	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
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 Van Koughnett	DO4 Office Manager
Dawn Lyon	Youngstown Office Manager – Regrets March 31
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER 10:01 A.M.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

MOTION AC01-01-23: MEETING CHAIRMAN

KEVIN WILSON NOMINATED JORDON CHRISTIANSON TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. JUSTIN GRIFFITH MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENCE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-02-23: MEETING VICE-CHAIRMAN

NEAL ROES NOMINATED TRENT CASKEY TO ACT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. JOHN KIMBER MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-03-23: ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR

NEAL ROES NOMINATED BRAD SLORSTAD TO ACT AS ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. LAURIE FERENGE MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-04-23: RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

**JOHN KIMBER NOMINATES ERIKA TESSIER;
ERIKA TESSIER NOMINATES JOHN KIMBER;
KEVIN WILSON NOMINATES JUSTIN GRIFFITH FOR THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. JOHN KIMBER MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON. CARRIED.**

Mr. Christianson reviewed the minutes from 2022 Fall Advisory Council held November 30, December 1-2, 2022.

MOTION AC01-05-23: 2022 FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE MINUTES OF 2022 FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the joint irrigation project. There is information on this in the Issues Binder.

Mr. Schetzle joined the meeting at 10:14 am.

Mr. Roes brought forward concerns with the proposed solar project near the Hanna Airport. Ms. Richards noted concerns have been brought to Special Areas, however the project is in the Town of Hanna and those concerns have been forwarded to the Town of Hanna Development Officer. The concerns are from the flight community as there may be impacts to service. The project is on titled land and those interested can apply to AUC for intervenor status.

The Oyen Airport also has a renewable energy project in close proximity – there are three wind turbines 600ft high 5.5 kms off the south end of a runway that cause issues for fixed wing services. The runway was developed for recreational users and Medivac King Air twin engine units are much larger and require more clearance.

The Big Country Hospital and Oyen Short Rail project will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Slorstad requested that Special Areas shift focus to distribution of potable water, Mr. Christianson noted this is covered in the Issues Binder.

Mr. Darcy Ferguson and Mr. Darren Jones reviewed the draft 2022 Financial Statements.

Mr. Jones noted MNP is conducting the audit on the Special Areas Trust Account. The field work is complete, and the Audit Exit is scheduled for April 18th for the auditors to give an opinion on the audit. Once the opinion is provided, the Financial Statements will be available on the Special Areas website.

The Statement of financial position is on a cash basis. Tax revenue is up, there were additional grants, and reduction in purchasing caused cash to be up \$3.7M from the previous year. Taxes receivable are up from 2021 to \$636,875 and doubtful accounts have increased. However, some O&G are making efforts to pay. It is expected most will be completely paid off in 2023.

Financial assets are up, and liabilities are down resulting in net financial assets up to \$92M in 2022 from \$85M in 2021. The accumulated operational surplus has increased to \$37.7M.

Mr. Jones reviewed revenues for taxation which was budgeted at \$30.6M and actual received was \$36.2M – there was good recovery on bad-debt with the improvement in the O & G industry. The bad-debt levy helps to keep current on this issue.

Mr. Swenson joined the meeting at 10:33 am.

The total budgeted revenue was budgeted at \$47.6M and actual came in at \$56.3M.

Mr. Jones moved on to review expenditures. Supply chain issues continued this year with capital equipment being ordered but not delivered. All road projects planned were worked on and there were savings in materials not put on the ground; however, fuel was much higher than budgeted for 2022. Total budgeted expenditures were \$52.8M and actual expenditures for the year were \$48.3M. Resulting in the planned deficit of \$5.1M being realized as a \$7.9M surplus. There is an Issues Binder to review the accumulated operational surplus and potential to restock the TRLS II funds.

The Special Areas 2023 Budget was approved by the Minister with a planned deficit of \$13.5M which included a \$9M paving project, hopefully cost-shared. The Board met with Minister Dreeshen who was receptive to the idea of cost-sharing paving Hwy 855.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Jones and Mr. Ferguson for the information.

BREAK

The Council discussed O & G and bad debt, how active some companies are and the SAB ability to collect. This is a conversation topic for RMA representatives. Recently the province announced that companies must be current with their taxes to acquire further licences through AER.

Mr. Noble joined the meeting at 11:10 am.

There are tools to enforce payments from O & G much like residential and farmland. Recognizing that gas companies receive monthly income not large one-time payments, plans have been organized to ensure payment plans are in place to allow those companies to remain current. The operators have been amiable to develop workable payment plans and investors are on board.

Mr. Christianson noted the Board had a meeting with Minister Dreeshen at Spring RMA and requested a partnership for paving Hwy 855 as well as continued support on the maintenance agreement. The bridge south of Consort on Hwy 886 was also brought forward.

There was a question on when the Emcon contract expires – in some areas there was ice on the roads for two-three weeks when its bone dry in other areas. It was noted the Board did send a letter to the Minister of Alberta Transportation detailing the lack of service in Special Areas. Both materials and staff are scarce in this area.

The Council reviewed Issues Binder content.

On Emergency Management – grant funding is being sought to hold a Regional Emergency Management exercise.

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas requesting transfer of Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park and Little Fish Lake Provincial Park. Work continues to make the transfer materialize.

The provincially mandated Lead Monitoring program did find one issue in Wardlaw, the homeowner was made aware. Special Areas does not have lead in our systems.

Special Areas is represented on the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association by Mr. Greg Sheppard. That project is getting traction and moving forward. That group will be looking for a commitment of volumes to go to the proposed facility in the near

future. There was discussion on the cost to get refuse down to the facility and revenue generated. Garbage is expensive, more work will need to be done on this.

Moving onto water and the extension to Compeer from Pemukan, a funding source is still being sought. Previous funding levels were 85/15, now looking to find 75/25. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.9M, but numbers may need to be updated. It was suggested Water for Life may be an avenue to explore.

LUNCH

The Council returned to the Issues Binder issues.

Suffield Elk – there was a successful hunt, the numbers of complaints have reduced.

Community Pastures – allotments were reviewed noting there are reductions due to drought, except in Richdale Pasture where there is a lot of grass. In other pastures, water is the issue not lack of grass. In the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture, drilling for water occurred but water was not found and RFP is out for dugouts.

The Special Areas Land Use Order has been drafted and highlights will be reviewed later today. Public consultation is scheduled for Fall 2023 with the final document ready for review in December 2023.

The Sheerness Industrial Park has an approved area structure plan and Phase 1 is complete. An anchor tenant is required before dirt will be moved. Funding from PrairiesCan is assisting with investigating water sources for the project. There has been interest but nothing solid yet. The object with the park is to bring employment opportunities to the region.

At this point there is no change to mill rates from the Fall 2022 discussion.

Linear assessments have slightly increased by 1.3% and there has been some new activity on O & G, with some old projects being turned back.

The medical mill rate was reviewed noting there are funds for projects in all three areas.

The Big Country Medical Dental Board continues to complete design work on the new clinic. Title transfer is still in progress. AHS has indicated the grant funding cannot be further extended so forward progress on this project is awaiting title transfer of lands. Meetings have been regularly scheduled considering the temporary service interruption at the Big Country Hospital. This has provided opportunity to bring other issues forward like the Consort Hospital.

The Acadia Foundation project continues to move forward, there is a provincial capital grant for \$4.4M and Special Areas has committed funds for the balance of the project. The intent is to keep costs under \$10M, however for the 20 units costs are creeping up to \$12.5M. The option is to ask for further grant funding or reduce the scope of the project to 14 units. Reducing the scope to 14 units would not require upgrades to the kitchen or elevator. A reduction has been verbally approved, and an RFP for construction being advertised shortly. It is expected construction can begin Fall 2023.

Mr. Mark Nikota from Harvest Sky Economic Development Corporation and Ms. Wanda Diakow from SA Regional Economic Development joined the meeting to present the Regional Housing Strategy report.

Housing is an important issue for the attraction and retention of staff for urban centres. Several factors are impacted if housing is not available for the workforce and families in the area. Populations in the region continue to decline and residents tend to be older and looking to downsize but there is a lack of appropriate affordable homes. As cities get more expensive to live in, folks are looking for more affordable places to live with access to resources. The SAB Council is being asked to provide future direction.

Smaller communities will need to make strategic investments to open opportunities in their communities.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Diakow and Mr. Nikota for the presentation.

The Council returned to Issues Binder and reviewed Grant Funding.

The capital summary and capital equipment plan were reviewed showing the long-range plans for fleet purchases.

The Oyen Rail Park continues to seek opportunities with the recent signing of an MOU with the SAODC, Oyen Regional Rail company and the Canada Infrastructure Bank to investigate a short-line rail to Lyalta or Camrose from Oyen.

The Oyen East Industrial Area Structure Plan (ASP) has been drafted and a public hearing was held with one ratepayer attending. This is adjacent to the Oyen Rail Yard and would allow development of eleven further lots. The rail spur is attractive and could bring further economic opportunities to the area. Having an ASP in place is a benefit to any developers as it removes one hurdle.

Discussion on Issues Binder will be paused to welcome Mr. Devin Diano from Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) in-person and Mr. Jonathan Schmidt from Blue Rock Planning connected to the meeting to review the Special Areas Board Land Use Order (SAB LUO). Mr. Diano provided an overview of his role and the role of PRMS for the LUO. Its good practice to review and update an LUO every 5-10 years, Special Areas last update was in 2015.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the hierarchy of plans noting the LUO takes direction from higher level plans like the Municipal Development Plan and Inter-Municipal Development Plans. In the proposed LUO, more developments do not require a permit to reduce red tape and regulations have been reduced for renewable energy projects where there was overlap with provincial authority.

Mr. Girletz departed at 2:27 pm.

It was noted anything federally regulated does not need to be regulated at the municipal level. The revised districts were reviewed noting the Hamlet Districts for residential, commercial, industrial and general can be combined into one succinct Hamlet District. Highway Commercial is proposed to become Rural Commercial. And Rural Small Holdings is proposed to become Rural Mixed Use. Mr. Schmidt reviewed when an ASP is required.

Ms. Chostner reviewed the public consultation plan and rationale for having public engagement.

It is important to have a transparent open process to ensure everyone receives the information on the proposed changes to the LUO. The purpose of a LUO is to direct development for those living in tight areas. There was a question on reclamation requirements being part of the LUO and that is provincially regulated.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Diano, Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Chostner for the good information.

BREAK

Mr. Kovitch reviewed the 2023 Road Construction and Surfacing program – it was taken to Road Committees and no changes were made from the plan presented in Fall 2022.

MOTION AC01-06-23: 2023 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE
SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS

BOARD APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2023 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

MOTION AC01-07-23: 2023 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2023 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

Mr. Kovitch noted construction for BCWMC Cell E is being planned for 2023, as well as removing the old units from Acadia Foundation, and planned dirt work for access into Sounding Creek Community Pasture.

Mr. Kovitch continued to review the Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Program. The program was developed to utilize the millings received from Hwy 9; there are stockpiles in Youngstown and Hanna. A test project was done at the YSC and in Sedalia. It is thought this product could be used in all hamlets with the street improvement program. The initial spray is expected to last 3-5 years. Administrators were asked to investigate work required in each of the hamlets and provide recommendations. Test projects will be analyzed after a freeze/thaw cycle to determine if the product could be used in other hamlets.

Mr. Kovitch provided an update on the Girletz Road and the work to be completed by Tetra Tech, a geotechnical organization. A subsurface analysis for design and construction work required on the Girletz Road is the intended outcome. It is believed there are groundwater issues.

There was discussion on the EMS Response for the incident at Hwy 36 and Hwy 570. That intersection is a split zone and the cut off for departments to be called. A conversation has been had with Fire Chiefs to call out to those in closest proximity to an accident. There was further discussion on remedies for that specific intersection – potentially installing lighting would help, there's already larger signs and rumble strips.

Mr. Christianson thanked everyone for attending today noting the meeting will begin at 9:00 am tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT 4:45 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023

CALL TO ORDER 9:01 AM

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the day. Mr. Wilson requested to add coyote bounties to the agenda.

Mr. Wilson brought forward a request from a ratepayer for Special Areas to offer a bounty for coyote pelts. It was noted there have been issues in SA4 with coyotes killing calves.

MOTION AC01-08-23: BOUNTY FOR COYOTE PELTS

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INVESTIGATE OFFERING A BOUNTY FOR COYOTE PELTS. CARRIED.

The Council returned to Issues Binder topics.

There has been progress in the Hamlet of Cereal, the curling rink has been demolished with a bit more work required after the snow melts. An association has been put in place for the Hall with a new group of volunteers. The group is cognizant of how much it costs to operate and maintain a facility of that size. Two leases were signed for the museum and campground and the other for the camp kitchen and ball diamonds.

The intent is to subdivide the area by the old hall and have it available for sale or demolition.

The grant funding for the transition runs out June 2023 and of the \$820,000 grant, there is \$190,000 remaining.

Mr. Ferguson connected to the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

It was noted three clubs receive funds based on the facilities they manage in the form of recreation grants.

Discussion moved to the New Brigden Hall – and plans for rebuilding. There is a strong community who is actively pursuing grants to rebuild.

Mr. Christianson provided an update on the joint irrigation project with the Special Areas and MD of Acadia. Phase 2 work has begun as the MOU has been signed and an RFP for engineering and regulatory work has been advertised and will close the end of April so proposals can be reviewed during the month of May. The intended work will assist in completing an administratively complete water licence application. WaterSMART is the project manager for this phase. The governance model is still being investigated. CIB is interested in delivery models and will provide education on the models available.

Further to the irrigation discussion, work has been done on the Sheerness Deadfish Irrigation System to investigate expansion or opportunities to pump more water for stock watering options. Mr. Martin reviewed some of the work completed by Klohn Crippen Burger. This work was funded by Coal Transition funds and Harvest Sky Economic Development Corporation.

A resident in the Cappon area approached Mr. Wilson to request investigation into a dam on Range Road 5-3 on NW 22-24-05 W4. The location would allow for 40-45 acres of water that's 40ft from crest to toe depth and could be enough for two 130-acre pivots.

MOTION AC01-09-23: EXPLORE ANDERSON DAM
MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXPLORE REQUIREMENTS TO HAVE A DAM ON NW 22-24-05 W4 ON RANGE ROAD 5-3. CARRIED.

A question was asked on the Ducks Unlimited projects and potential for irrigation out of some of those projects.

An update was provided on the Big Country Hospital. Ten acute care beds were recently closed, and the emergency room was reduced to 12hr care from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The challenge was nurse staffing and partnerships were created to find innovative ways to make positions attractive to contract nurses so the facility could be re-opened. This also brought to light the challenges at the Oyen Airport for fixed wing to land. In December, there were 17 days with no available ambulance – having an accessible airport is imperative. This is not a localized issue, there are concerns in other urban centres as well.

There was a suggestion Special Areas should focus on getting potable water to all residents. Mr. Kovitch and the water department have a number of projects for potable water on the books. A summary will be provided at a future Advisory Council meeting and opportunities for grant funding will be investigated.

An issues binder has been prepared to transfer revenue back to TRLS 2 due to the current good financial position. The revenue from that sale was used to purchase capital equipment so Special Areas did not go into deficit. The operational surplus has been utilized for pavement projects in partnership with the province for the benefit of all SAB residents. When tax recovery lands were sold, the revenue was to benefit all SAB and funds are in an account gaining interest to assist with future projects. The current accumulated operational surplus is \$33.2M. Operational cash flow was at \$29.4M last

fall and the minimum cash flow for operations is approximately \$5M. The suggestion is to put \$12M back into the TRLS Reserve.

There are a number of projects being prepared:

- BCWMC – Cell E
- Doctors Clinic in Oyen
- Joint Irrigation Project

A lot of funds could be dispersed quickly with projects like those in the near future.

Mr. Noble joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Ferguson noted the intent of discussing this issue it to get direction from Council – with interest rates at current rates now is the time to move funds.

BREAK

Mr. Christianson welcomed representatives from ATCO: Nick Peelar, Ryan Lockhart, Colleen Crowie and Tracy Volker. Mr. Peelar thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide a summary of the events in January related to power outages in the area. On January 16th, folks started to see frost and ice build on lines and transformers. On January 17th, an Incident Command Centre was opened as 700 customers across southeastern Alberta were affected with a power outage. Additional resources were requested on January 18th. Special equipment was brought in with crews working 12hr shifts. In Special Areas, there were 295 outages and the entire service area saw 458 outages affecting 19,400 customers. On January 22nd, crews moved to recovery rather than active outage restoration. There was a 412% increase in calls to ATCO resulting in long wait times - up to 2hrs 30mins. Folks can contact ATCO via phone, online and the mobile app.

It was asked what is being done to ensure future events do not have the same result. Infrastructure is being updated and devices are being added to manage the system. ATCO also has large capital maintenance programs.

Another question was posed on if ATCO has resources posted to explain what households need if they want to invest in a generator – there is groundwork required to ensure the generator is compatible with the current house system. It was noted there is a business unit that could investigate providing training or education.

Advanced metering infrastructure is being installed in rural areas to assist with faster outage detection. Allowing remote connection could help reduce costs.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for attending and providing update on the issues in January. Frost storms are an anomaly – thanks for the work to get residents back up and running.

RMA representatives Mr. Gerald Rhodes, Mr. Paul McLaughlin and Ms. Amber Link joined the meeting. Mr. Christianson thanked the group for the work on advocacy regarding unpaid taxes – this issue has been on radar since 2010. Special Areas has implemented measures to assist with the unpaid taxes, however there are still issues with the tax holiday on new assessment and oil well drilling tax.

Mr. McLaughlin thanked the Council for the opportunity to connect noting the AER is becoming more accountable for unpaid taxes – new licences are not being issued if there is a debt owed to the municipality. The Auditor General report on AER came out noting it will take 90 years and \$1B to clean up the wells on the ground. Municipalities are being eroded because of unpaid taxes. Some oil companies were given approval for a drilling program and not paying the surface rights or landowners. It was discussed O & G companies are lobbying to decrease assessment and have one mill rate across all municipalities. They are also lobbying to have a split of 3:1 instead of the current legislated 5:1.

It was suggested if ratepayers do not pay taxes, their lands can be taken back – that is not the case with O & G.

Renewable energy projects were discussed noting it was brought forward at Spring RMA there may be an appetite for renewables on public land. There's concern with fragmentation of agricultural lands and reclamation on those projects.

Special Areas consists of Class 3, 4 and 5 lands – it is not Class 1 but still valuable. RMA does champion for native prairie, there is value.

Discussion returned to renewable energy project and noted there are significant storage issues. Alberta is not energy independent – energy is pulled from British Columbia and Montana. It was suggested localized micro generation be looked at to support the grid rather than relying on large companies.

Mr. Christianson thanked the representatives for their time and invited them to join for lunch.

LUNCH

Ms. Glenda Farnden and Mr. Jon Gogan from STARS joined the meeting. Ms. Farnden thanked the Council for the opportunity noting STARS is rebranding to provide critical care anywhere and moving forward with new technology to enhance the opportunity to provide more services. STARS is fueled by the generosity of the provincial government and the public. It is hoped a long-term funding agreement for 50% can be reached with the province. Canada Revenue Agency allows for 35% administrative costs, STARS keeps those costs at 12%. The funding partnership allows STARS to provide services at no cost to the patient.

Mr. Gogan provided an overview of services provided in Special Areas over the past five years. And reviewed 10 years of data based on postal codes from 2010 – 2020. The Emergency Link Centre receives 99 emergency requests per day, and for every mission flown, there are nine others that were called in and discussed without requiring flight. STARS has become more than a helicopter and is a link to speak in real time with a doctor in rural areas. The aircraft used was reviewed along with the equipment available in each of the units.

Special Areas was thanked for the continued consistent support as mission rates are increasing and fuel costs are rising.

It was noted STARS focuses on helicopters now, not as much fixed wing as AHS has a unit. It was noted staffing is becoming an issue, only two pilots were signed off by Transport Canada last year. Another country has started an attractive helicopter program.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Farnden and Mr. Gogan for the valuable information – Special Areas appreciates the services provided by STARS and HALO.

Mr. Paul Carolan from HALO joined the meeting and provided an update. HALO started in 2007 with a single engine helicopter often with one pilot and one paramedic. Funds were raised for additional equipment and now there is a HALO-1 a dual pilot operation with twin engines that can also carry two medics and two patients. Moving to a twin-engine helicopter significantly increased costs however also increased efficiencies. It was noted equipment is not cheap – a night vision helmet costs up to \$27,000.

HALO has the ability to help with fire spotting assisting getting a faster response on the ground. In 2022, HALO was able to secure long-term provincial funding and celebrated 15 years of service.

HALO has seen an increase in calls related to inter-hospital transfers. Looking at the distribution, 19% of missions are flown in Special Areas. HALO is dedicated to the work

they do and there are many layers to get the care where it needs to be. Timing is important and the 'Golden Hour' is particularly important.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Carolan for the great information.

Discussion continued with STARS and HALO on the Oyen Airport and challenges with the approach. There is talk of upgrades and installing an instrument lead approach and a weather station to assist pilots with landing on the airstrip. Its best if there is a helipad right at the hospital – but not all hospitals have access to that. And current helipads were created for the BK117, not the larger machines that are being used today.

Mr. Christianson thanked both groups for the good discussion and all departed.

BREAK

Mr. Dustin Aebly and Ms. Tracy Pierson from the Buffalo Atlee Grazing Association joined the meeting and Mr. Brad Osadczuk connected into the meeting to discuss options for management and operations at the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture. Proposed by-laws and policy have been drafted. The policy is almost identical to the Special Areas Community Pasture policy. One difference is members must purchase one share per cow in the pasture. If infrastructure is installed, it is tied to the share price and shares are not transferrable. There were further question on shares and increasing AUMs, or how water projects would be funded. The larger membership has not been sent the documents yet – the group wanted to ensure Advisory Council is interested in investigating a different direction.

There was discussion on price and thought that efficiencies may be had to be able to reduce the price. There was a question on who holds liability when patrons are out rounding up their cattle. Mr. Ferguson noted Risk Management covers volunteer range riders out managing their own livestock, and Special Areas pays premiums.

The rate paid to SAB for grass would be the same as any other grazing permit.

It was asked if a public consultation plan has been developed or a mechanism for members to vote on the proposed by-laws and policy. It might be best to vote by secret ballot.

As a public land manager, Special Areas is keenly interested in making sure the long-term vision for this change is sustainable. There is a broader program with the remaining Community Pastures to consider – starting this conversation has caused some to reach out from other pastures to comment on the contentment with the current system of management. This could be a topic at a ratepayer meeting. If there is a change, it is important for the process to be transparent. Balancing cows, grass, patrons, and resources is the goal.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Aebly and Ms. Pierson for taking the time to attend.

MOTION AC01-10-23: FUNDING FOR STARS/HALO

MOVED BY LAURIE FERENCE AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INCREASE FUNDING TO STARS AND HALO TO \$35,000 ANNUALLY EFFECTIVE 2023. CARRIED.

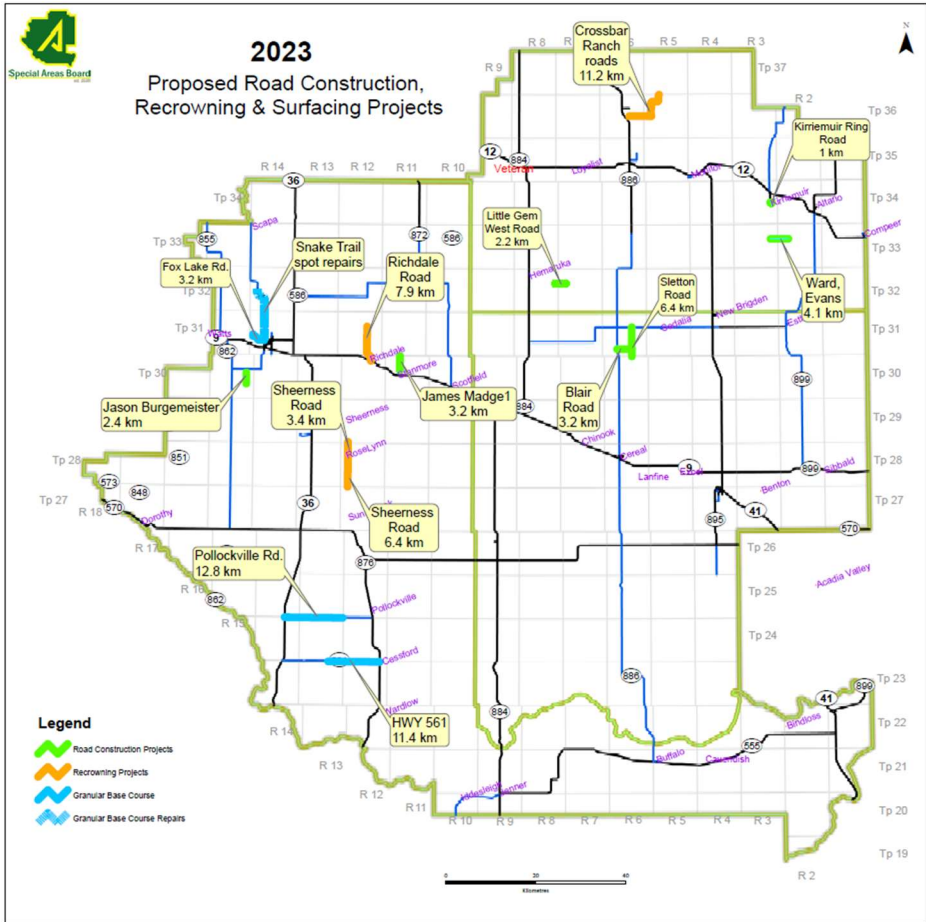
The Council resumed discussion on Community Pastures – numbers for everything but the yard has been provided to the group.

Special Areas is willing to take the discussion further, but further information is needed. It was suggested administration sit with the group to clarify gaps in the policy and answer some questions outlined here. Once that is done, broader consultation on the policy can be arranged.

Mr. Christianson thanked everyone for taking the time to attend Spring Advisory Council, thanked IT for arranging technology, Ms. Herzog for the hospitality suite and refreshments and Ms. Jones for coordinating the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AT 4:20 PM.

APPENDIX A:



SPECIAL AREAS FALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2023

Lynks

Hanna Provincial Building

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Bossert	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 1
Neal Roes	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 2
Brad Slorstad	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 3
Justin Griffith	Special Area No. 2, Subdivision No. 4 – Regrets Dec 7 th & 8 th
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
Vacant	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
Shaune Kovitch	Director, Municipal Services
Darcy Ferguson	Director, Finance & Administration
Trent Caskey	Director, Property Administration – Regrets Dec 7 th
Taryl Abt	Administrator, Special Area No. 4
Brett Richards	Administrator, Special Area No. 2 - Regrets
Darran Dick	Administrator, Special Area No. 3
Brent Fecho	Superintendent of Roads and Equipment
Kelsey Martin	Aggregate Manager – Regrets Dec 6 th
Ryley Girletz	Facilities Manager
Darren Jones	Coordinator of Financial Services
Maeghan Chostner	Communications
Tenille Stevens	DO2 Office Manager
Tori Munroe	DO3 Office Manager
Erin Van Koughnett	DO4 Office Manager
Dawn Lyon	Youngstown Office Manager
Rob Palmer	Fire Chief
Kyle Rohl	Deputy Fire Chief
Jeff Fortna	Coordinator of Computer Services
Kyle Olsen	System Analyst
Darlene Herzog	Admin Support, Municipal Services
Shyanne Jones	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER 10:02 A.M.

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Introductions were made around the room. The agenda for the next three days was reviewed, Mr. Blair inquired about grants for different water lines – there is an Issues Binder note on this. Mr. Christianson reviewed the process for electing a new Board Member to represent SA3.

MOTION AC02-01-23: MEETING CHAIRMAN

NEAL ROES NOMINATED JORDON CHRISTIANSON TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. KEVIN WILSON MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENCÉ. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-02-23: MEETING VICE-CHAIRMAN

ERIKA TESSIER NOMINATED TRENT CASKEY TO ACT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. LAURIE FERENCÉ MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-03-23: ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR

NEAL ROES NOMINATED BRAD SLORSTAD TO ACT AS ORDER OF BUSINESS CHAIR FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. JOHN KIMBER MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-04-23: RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

JOHN KIMBER NOMINATES ERIKA TESSIER;

ERIKA TESSIER NOMINATES JOHN KIMBER;

KEVIN WILSON NOMINATES LAURIE FERENCÉ FOR THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL. NEAL ROES MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE. SECONDED BY BRAD SLORSTAD. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the minutes from 2023 Spring Advisory Council held March 30 & 31, 2023.

MOTION AC02-05-23: 2023 SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

MOVED BY MARK BLAIR AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE MINUTES OF 2023 SPRING ADVISORY COUNCIL BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson noted there were plans for the Advisory Council to tour in June to the Dickson Dam as it is a small dam with big impacts for water in eastern Alberta, however there wasn't much interest when the tour information was sent out. The Tax Recovery Land Sale was approved this summer thanks to the staff in finance, property administration and the district office for the work to get the policy and process ready for the Minister's approval. The interest rate, when initially set, was high at 7.25% but at the time of signing it became competitive. There has been good initial uptake on the policy, Mr. Caskey will provide information later in the meeting.

Mr. Kovitch reviewed the process used to get Ministerial approval on the Road Use Order (RUO). There was a need for a RUO to give Special Areas some authority for prevention as renewable energy projects are being constructed in the region. During the review process, only two ratepayers asked for copies of the document. Historically, a Road Use Agreement (RUA) has been managed out of the Youngstown Service Centre, however that task has been moved to Roadata. There was concern regarding the five-loads requiring a permit for agricultural purposes, it was suggested all agricultural hauls be exempt from a RUA. The intent if the RUA is to inform road maintenance crews where the activity is planned so it can be accommodated.

The challenge is road damage as a result of heavy loads or multiple loads can result from industry or agriculture hauling. Prior to the RUO there was no process to enforce rules, the RUO gives enforcement options to hold haulers accountable.

The same process is used when Special Areas has a large equipment move. It was suggested that producers using the road allowance to move cattle should also have to follow the same process.

Education is key to ensuring everyone using the roads understands the process. The RUA is being used to get compliance and notification of activity.

MOTION AC02-06-23: ROAD USE AGREEMENT

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCZUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXEMPT ALL AGRICULTURAL USES OUT OF THE ROAD USE ORDER. CARRIED.

2 OPPOSED.

The process can be refined, with an eye for consistency in hauling for a project installation or hauling for regular operations.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the motions from Spring Advisory Council noting there will be a presentation on Coyote Pelts on Friday, December 8th. The motion regarding Anderson Dam is part of the budget In/Out list for Council to review.

Ratepayer Motions from Spring 2023 were reviewed.

MOTION AC02-07-23: RATEPAYER SA3 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE TO BRING MOTION 1 FROM RATEPAYER MEETING SA3 DIV4, 5,6 TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

If there has been an issue with garbage flying around it has been dealt with quickly once the issue was communicated. The concerns were passed onto BCWMC.

The second motion deals with school bus ride durations, this is an issue in rural remote areas. Mr. Christianson committed to connecting with Superintendents to address this issue. It was noted there are more issues than just bussing, there are teaching positions not being applied for in rural remote areas.

The third motion requested local contractors be hired for school bussing – this issue should be brought forward by ratepayers to the school divisions.

The fourth motion regarding a side-by-side for prairie fire fighting; this can be brought forward from the Fire Chief.

The motions from the Ratepayer Meeting in Special Area No. 4 were reviewed.

The motion related to Strychnine registration cancellation and lobbying MP Kurek can be brought forward.

MOTION AC02-08-23: RATEPAYER SA4 MOTION 2 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY JUSTIN GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE TO BRING MOTION 2 FROM RATEPAYER MEETING SA4 DIV123 TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Mr. Kovitch noted staffing has been a challenge, and equipment has been purchased to assist with brush cutting in SA4.

MOTION AC02-09-23: RATEPAYER SA4 MOTION 3 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENCE TO BRING MOTION 3 FROM RATEPAYER MEETING SA4 DIV 123 TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

Regarding the preservation of native species, a solution is needed to manage trees and bush.

MOTION AC02-10-23: PRESERVE NATIVE SPECIES

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENCE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR A SPRAYING PROGRAM TO PRESERVE NATIVE SPECIES. CARRIED.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson noted Mr. Graham Schetzle resigned from Advisory Council effective November 13, 2023. He was very appreciative of his time on Council and will consider coming back when he has more time to dedicate. A by-election will be scheduled for 2024 as per MGA requirements.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda and welcomed Mr. Greg Sheppard to come and present on the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste (SAEWA) project. Mr. Sheppard reviewed the project which focuses on energy recovery from non-recyclable waste materials. Society has expectations on recycling, even when it is not feasible at times. The tipping fees will likely become more reasonable as the project moves forward. It is hoped the project would be able to attract a minimum of 100,000 tonnes from municipalities. An ask is expected to come forward in 2024. Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Sheppard for making the time to come on short notice.

Mr. Caskey and Mr. Kovitch brought forward Policy 04-04 which is an internal policy driven by Board motion. Council input is requested on some of the rates outlined in Policy 04-04A: Rates Charged in Effect such as the road program rates for dust abatement which uses MG30 now instead of oil. It was asked if Council is comfortable with a 50% subsidy rate as the cost is \$5.06/linear meter so a 300m strip is \$3,040 and a 50% subsidy would equate to \$1,520 for the ratepayer. The dust abatement program is advertised in February and March to allow for planning with the product and to get on the maintenance schedules for the season.

The snowplowing rate is not reflective of current costs at \$25/30mins or \$50/hr to plow a private residence. The rate for this service is proposed at cost-recovery of \$145/hr (with a 1/2 hr minimum) + GST.

No changes are proposed in the parks camping fees.

Water services, both the HKRWSC and SMRWSC have indicated an increase in 2024 so the proposed rate is increased by 2% which also includes truck fill rates.

Mr. Caskey reviewed the Ag Service Board rates noting the fence line locating may not be available after 2024 due to retirement.

Policy 04-04B: Rates Paid in Effect was reviewed. There was discussion on the gravel pits rates, these may need to be updated.

Mr. Caskey noted Ms. Justine Comeau did a lot of work on these policies to get them updated for review at this meeting.

Mr. Griffith departed at 1:57pm.

Issues Binder items were reviewed.

Mr. Kovitch noted the provincial agreement with Alberta Transportation (AT) for maintenance is being worked on as the current agreement expires in March 2024. Talks have also started for an agreement for paving Hwy 855, the County of Stetter should be informed of plans as their end may also need work. There was a question on where the list of AT priorities for paving is kept, and a suggestion that be brought forward with AT representatives during their presentation tomorrow.

Mr. Kovitch informed the Council of a newly assigned field officer for the Alberta Emergency Management Agency and a meeting has been scheduled for January 2024. Special Areas is well positioned to respond with regional partners.

The Board had a meeting with Minister Loewen to request Little Fish Lake and Gooseberry Lake Provincial Parks be transferred to Special Areas, there is no interest to transfer at the time, but Special Areas is welcome to submit detailed plans for improvements in the parks. There is opportunity for expansion at both parks. Locally, there is support for Special Areas to completely take over the parks.

Mr. Kovitch brought forward an issue for decision regarding the Blood Indian Trading Post store. The Armstrong's have indicated they are not interested in operating or selling the store. Negotiations are on-going for operating in 2024. There are a few options for the Council to consider:

1. Build a new store kitty corner to the current.
2. Build a smaller version in Blood Indian Park.
3. Not have a store at all.

The sales along with revenue and maintenance costs at the Blood Indian Trading Post and Prairie Oasis Concession were reviewed.

There are other factors at play such as the current state of the fishery, and the marked decrease in attendance and revenue at Blood Indian.

The Council is asked to provide direction on the services to be offered in Special Areas Parks.

A waterline extension from Pemukan to Compeer is proposed by SMRWSC who the managing partner is. The line would follow Hwy 12 and be 38.5kms. That would enable the upgrading of truck fills along Hwy 12. It was asked if other communities can get on the list, specifically Iddesleigh as there is a river in close proximity.

The Blood Indian fishery current status was reported noting walleye and pike are on the table for discussion. It takes 3-5 years to establish a walleye fishery. Further work will be done.

BREAK

Ms. Doray Veno, Ms. Wanda Peterson and Mr. Harley Hutton from the Harvest Sky Ag Centre joined the meeting to provide an update on their project. Ms. Veno thanked the Board for the three-year commitment of funds to keep the project going. The current status of the project was reviewed noting the first site location is no longer available, but another option has been presented and is being investigated. The intent is to have a facility capable of hosting rodeos and events. Key functions would be a livestock hub, a rural community of practice which would include two small dorms for students or vet technicians as housing is a barrier for students.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for the presentation, there has been a lot of forward movement since the last presentation. This project would enhance the quality of life and it will be interesting to see the business plan. The vision behind this is inspiring and there is a good group working together to make it happen.

Mr. Caskey requested Ms. Chostner provide a review on the Land Use Order (LUO). Ms. Chostner reviewed the key principles of a public engagement including the opportunity for the public to give feedback on the draft LUO. There were open houses where interested ratepayers could attend and ask questions on the document and process for approval. The talk at the open houses included chickens in hamlets, adding Bed & Breakfast establishments, and that renewable energy projects should also have requirements for frequency not just decibels.

Mr. Caskey thanked Ms. Chostner for expertly organizing the public open houses and ensuring ratepayers had access to easy-to-use forms to provide feedback.

Mr. Devin Diano from Palliser Regional Municipal Services joined the meeting to review the high-level changes in the Special Areas Land Use Order. Its difficult to find a balance between what industry is requesting, what the provincial government will allow, and what local residents are willing to live with. The high-level changes were made to align with the approved Municipal Development Plan, reduce red tape, encourage more subdivision and development, make it easier to understand and read, and update with the latest legislative changes.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Diano for his work on the LUO.

A resolution to move the LUO forward in the process would be helpful for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT 4:50 PM

December 7, 2023

Call to Order 9:00 am

Mr. Christianson reviewed the agenda for the day noting the Board elections will be held tomorrow.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Ms. Shelagh Olmstead to the front table for the budget discussion.

Mr. Jones provided a review of the 2023 Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023. The Board is in a good financial position with financial assets at \$31.4M and taxes receivable is sitting at \$39M – however the tax payment deadline is November 15, 2023 so some funds are expected to be received. Some write-offs may be required at year end. Capital assets and inventories equate to \$364M.

Mr. Jones moved on to review liabilities and trust equity. A question was asked on deferred grant revenue, and noted there are still funds from the Cereal transition.

Revenue budgeted was \$46.1M and is projected to come in at \$46.4M by December 31, 2023. Recoveries on bad debt are expected to reach \$300k.

Total revenue/Carry forward was budgeted to be \$57M and is projected to reach \$50.7M by December 31, 2023 as the early exit from community pastures and work in the Youngstown Landfill Cell E impacted revenues.

On the expenditure side, transportation services were not able to receive delivery of some big equipment so the budget of \$47.5M will not be reached and is projected to be \$32.9M at year end. There was an increase in protective services as well as an advance for the Oyen Medical Centre clinic build. As well, the industrial tax transfer to urban municipalities was doubled.

Overall, the budgeted deficit of \$13.5M is now projected to be \$2.5M for 2023.

There was discussion on the industrial tax transfer and the feedback received from the towns and villages on the increase. All were very appreciative of the funds, and it was asked that a meeting be arranged to discuss priorities for each municipality.

Mr. Christianson noted the Town of Drumheller has reached out, as they are an urban municipality surrounded by four rural municipalities without an agreement for recreational funding. An initial meeting has occurred, further information on operational costs and the population using those facilities is needed. There was discussion on the formula SAB uses for recreation grants, the points allocation system provides more points for larger facilities and funds are allocated based on points. Drumheller does have facilities surrounding residents use for recreation, it is a fair discussion to have.

Mr. Jones moved on to discuss the 2024 Budget.

Taxation revenue in 2024 is projected to be to \$47.2M with mill rates remaining status quo. The bad debt collection is slowing and projected to bring in \$650k, thus far \$17.8M has been collected and recovered with \$18.5M in write-offs the last 10 years. SAB is close to collecting what has been written off to date. Generally, accounts are written off before a penalty is applied. It was noted 83% of assessment is power and pipe.

Interest on bank accounts and investments is projected to be \$3.5M and the TRLS is expected to bring in \$6.1M in the first of a three-year sale.

Community pasture stocking rates are expected to be reduced by up to 70% due to pasture conditions which will result in less revenue. Other permits and licences will remain constant.

There was discussion on bridges and possible shift in SAB focus to fund infrastructure projects failing in the area.

Grant funding is shifting from MSI to LGFF (Local Government Fiscal Framework) – funds received are expected to be the same or similar.

Total revenue is budgeted at \$70.4M for 2024.

Moving on to expenses, the Board Office and each District Office is budgeted with a full staff compliment. Total administration expenses are budgeted at \$6.1M for 2024.

Assessment will remain the same. Fire includes the 50/50 cost share agreements with the towns and villages – it was suggested the volunteer fire rate of \$30/hr is low and should be increased. Air Ambulance has been increased to \$35k for each HALO and STARS as per Council direction. Medical mill rate will be evaluated with the projects on the horizon, the fund currently has enough for the Oyen Medical Clinic project.

There was discussion on the medical needs in Oyen and Consort and the cost of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) in Consort. Funding from AHS for a NP has not been confirmed. AHS is in the process of recruiting three international nurses, and the community is expected to support housing for those recruited.

Survey department may see some changes after 2024 due to staff changes; work may need to be contracted.

The Shops details for SA2, 3, 4 and Youngstown were reviewed for a total of \$4M in expenditures. Roads & Streets includes an \$11M paving contract for Hwy855 and \$10M for capital for a total of \$49M.

It was noted local bridges are failing and Alberta Transportation has not been able to maintain – it may be time for Special Areas to step into bridge repairs. This will be brought forward with Minister McIver on Friday.

The Maintenance program is budgeted at \$19.4M and Construction at \$4.2M with two crews. It is challenging to fill all positions on the road crews.

There was discussion on cost-of-living increases for staff – the collective agreement outlines the increases for union members. Mr. Swenson asked for further information as it relates to discussions at the Acadia Foundation.

Bridge work was reviewed noting projects south of Hanna (BF8535) and the Peake (BF8555) bridge are scheduled in 2024.

Roads and Streets administration is budgeted at \$1.5M.

BREAK

There was discussion on the airports and cost sharing – noting GPS Approach and weather stations were installed to assist with medic air. Thanks to Ms. Diakow for taking the lead to get the required equipment in place.

It was noted the hamlet of Cereal still has a separate mill rate as there are additional services provided in the hamlet.

Capital expenditures were reviewed with a total of \$10.3M, which includes bring forwards for equipment ordered but not delivered in 2023.

A question arose on how much neighbouring municipalities contribute to river spraying, which has not been investigated. Using a drone for spraying may not meet legislative requirements near a river.

The Sheerness Industrial Park has been developed to this point with grant funding; further grant funding to develop a reservoir is approximately \$100k short. There is an Issues Binder note on this project.

Discussion moved to water supply noting the SMRWSC project to extend the water line from Pemukan to Compeer is \$950k. There may be opportunity to use a debenture over a number of years for the project.

Ag service boards have little capital in 2024 and are budgeted at \$365k. SA2 is slotted to hire an Assistant Ag Fieldman.

Range Management will also include a wildlife biologist for TRLS 4 and re-seeding quarters that the breaking restriction was violated.

The Council reviewed the breaking restrictions violations status - the first has had title returned to SAB, the second is still in progress.

Community Pastures are budgeted at \$1M and Economic Development at \$2.1M.

It was noted Jubilee Insurance has indicated there will be a rate increase so the mill rate for recreation boards may need to be adjusted.

Total budgeted deficit from operations is \$17.9M which will be accommodated from the accumulated operational surplus.

There was discussion on the potential for a hydrogen project in the Sheerness Industrial Park.

The assessment numbers will be received by the end of March. This budget does not include assessment for wind towers that should be online. 2025 is the end of the moratorium on oil well drilling tax, which will assist with decreasing the accumulated operational surplus.

It was suggested contracts may need to be considered if staff are already at max with current tasks. Given the quality of staff, work should be done to sustain the talent and let them know they are valued. The Collective Agreement negotiations will begin shortly as the current agreement expires March 31, 2024. Some functions are undervalued, and some are over market. GOA managers salary grids have been constant for several years.

The In/Out list was reviewed for Council to provide input on projects for 2024.

An emerging project is honoraria increase as that has not been updated since 2009.

Comfort camping seems to be increasing in popularity and it may be worth investing in those options at SAB campgrounds. Especially with the cost of fuel and hauling trailers, campers may be interested in camping without having to haul all the gear.

It has been suggested to add single phase power to the Carolside campground.

There was a request for more entrance signs on secondary highways.

Mr. Christianson noted there are funds in the budget for hamlet clean up – the Jenner Hotel was on the list for 2023 but there was not time to get the project completed.

The Council was asked to make a recommendation on the 2024 budget.

LUNCH

Mr. Christianson reviewed the afternoon agenda and thanked Ms. Olmstead, Mr. Jones and Mr. Ferguson for the good work on the budget – there is a lot of coordination with all work groups throughout the organization. The hard work is recognized and appreciated.

Mr. Kovitch presented the 2023 Road Program projects that were completed. The Little Gem project was a carry forward from 2022 which required a lot of extra work in the build. For the Madge Road, RR 11-3, the material was disbursed through the project. One construction crew moved to BCWMC for Cell E and Cell D repair. The Burgermeister Rd was pushed to 2024. There were 24 miles of recrowning completed. Surfacing occurred on Hwy561, the Pollockville Road, then onto Scapa for 6 miles as well as repair work on Snake Trail.

The projects planned for 2024 were presented.

Recrowning will start with the 3kms remaining around Gooseberry Lake before moving south to Sedalia. The Peacock Road is also planned, along with a section through Lonesome Coulee. There are 31 miles of recrowning planned for 2024.

Surfacing will focus on paving Hwy 855 and Fox Lake Road. Then finishing base course on Hwy 862 south to Hwy 570 and Hwy 886 from Hwy 9 south to Hwy 570.

Construction – one crew will be consumed with the Sheerness Industrial Park for the entire season with the reservoir project. The other crew is scheduled to work on the Burgermeister Road and five new residence roads.

There has been a discussion with Cypress County on the Jenner to Iddesleigh road, they do not have funds in 2024 but may for 2025. That road has been on the schedule and was pushed off for other priorities, however, there is a lot of traffic with the renewable energy projects in the area.

MOTION AC02-11-23: 2024 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

MOVED BY KEVIN WILSON AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE THE 2024 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-12-23: 2024 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE THE 2024 ROAD SURFACING PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson revisited the SA2 Ratepayer motions as the ones reviewed earlier were from 2022.

MOTION AC02-13-23: MOTION 1 SA2SUB2 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT SA2SUB2 MOTION 1 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

SA2SUB2 - Motion 1: Be it resolved that railroad right of way be reinserted into title or grazing lease. Moved by Stratton Peake. Seconded by Craig Horner. **Carried.**

This is a common motion at Ratepayer meetings and is a motion to table at the Board level. One landowner in the area wants to purchase as they have developed irrigation. There are concerns if expansion for irrigation or additional water lines needs a corridor to run. There was recently a situation in Esther where the railbed was cultivated and caused issues with neighbours. It was suggested the railbeds could be sold with a caveat to withhold utility corridors.

MOTION AC02-14-23: SALE OF RAILBEDS

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PURSUE THE SALE OF RAILBEDS TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS. CARRIED.

SA2SUB2 – Motion 2 was a motion of the times and was managed.

MOTION AC02-15-23: SA2SUB3&4 Motion 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT MOTION 1 SA2SUB3&4 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 1: Murray Rooke moves lease rental rate formula should reflect costs of production and not only cattle price. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **Carried.**

The intent of this motion was to reflect production costs.

SA2Sub3&4 Motion 2 was a motion of the times and was managed.

MOTION AC02-16-23: SA2SUB3&4 Motion 3 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD THAT MOTION 3 SA2SUB3&4 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

SA2SUB3&4 – Motion 3: Randy Landis moves to pursue a waterline from the canal east as far as practical. Seconded by Greg Gordon. **Carried.**

This project was initiated several years ago to bring water from the canal to Sunnynook for stock water.

MOTION AC02-17-23: WATER LINE EAST OF BLOWDOWN CANAL

MOVED BY BRAD SLORSTAD AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD PURSUE A STOCK WATER LINE FROM THE BLOWDOWN CANAL EAST AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. CARRIED.

MOTION AC02-18-23: SA2SUB7&8 MOTION 1 TO FLOOR

MOVED BY DARY SWENSON THAT MOTION 1 SA2SUB7&8 BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

SA2SUB7&8 – Motion 1: Don Osadczuk moves Special Areas Board engage with Alberta Transportation regarding maintenance and surfacing concerns on Secondary Highways 555 and 884. Ken Simpson seconds. **Carried.**

Hwy 555 and Hwy 884 are getting beat up with all the traffic from the renewable energy projects. The issue has been brought forward to AT however nothing has been done yet and the road is deteriorating quickly.

MOTION AC02-19-23: HWY 555 AND 884 MAINTENANCE/REPAIR

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY BRAD OSADCHUK THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD BRING FORWARD CONCERNS ON TIMING OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO HWY 555 AND HWY 884. CARRIED.

The Council moved on to review Issues Binder topics.

Issue 30. Min Cash Tracking. The key number is \$30M which is run down when there are deficit budgets.

Big Country Medical Dental Centre Board: There are options for the new clinic build, land has been purchased as waiting for AHS to sell the lands for the current clinic is taking a long time.

Acadia Foundation: There is a contract for demolition which will move forward in spring 2024 then site prep and construction will be initiated. The RFP is out for land work and the Geotech work will wait until the frost is out of the ground. The build is now seven assisted living beds and seven dementia care beds (down from 10 each). The final designs are nearly complete.

Big Country Hospital: last year saw the 10 active care beds closed in January, then five opened in April because staffing levels were stabilized, and the remaining five beds were opened at the end of November due to the success of hiring contract nurses – however that is an expensive way to operate. A lot of credit should be given to the locals who stepped up and worked on getting qualified staff back in the hospital. Mayor Jones and Peter Rafa set up meetings with Ministers and kept things moving. The system is still fragile; nurses have returned but there is still concern. It should be noted there are a number of nights with no ambulance available.

Welcome to Ms. Helene Nicolson and Ms. Niki Gray (via Teams) from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta. The Pattern Energy funds (\$1M over 20 years) are being managed by CFSEA.

Ms. Nicholson thanked the Council for their time and provided a brief history of the CFSEA. The three pillars CFSEA follows are: we grow; we give; and we inspire.

Each contribution is invested, and the principle is not spent – the interest is distributed as part of the fund. This supports the region and reinvests in the community.

Recently, CFSEA has included SA4 to be within the boundaries of the organization. Mr. Christianson thanked the group for including SA4.

There is a Community Foundation and Community Fund that require an advisory committee to decide on how to distribute funds. Ms. Nicholson noted the Prairie Crocus Community Funds have been distributed in Empress, Oyen Food Bank, CARA, and Hanna Food Bank. So far \$215,494 has been distributed.

It is hoped two scholarships will be created with the Pattern Energy donation – one for sports and one for trades.

Special Areas Advisory Council have good contacts in each community that may be able to assist with suggestions for distributing funds.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Nicholson for making the trip and Ms. Gray for connecting today.

Mr. Christianson welcomed Mr. Pat Newman, Mr. Ryan Mateff and Ms. Lindsay Johnston from Tetra Tech for a presentation on Girletz Road. The Girletz Road has had issues for years and the Council is interested in finding the reasons the road keeps failing.

Tetra Tech investigated the entire road from Hwy 886 to Hwy 884, reviewed the existing conditions and scope of work. 75% of the roadway is buried topsoil from .9m to 2.3m changing from .2m to .9m in thickness. There is very mixed geology throughout the length of road. The bore holes taken in 2012 were reviewed along with the 23 boreholes drilled in 2023 and eight standpipes were installed to determine groundwater elevations.

The recommendation is to revert to gravel and rebuild the road – all of the topsoil and detrimental materials need to be removed, an estimated 70,000 m³ of materials, prior to rebuilding. Based on traffic volumes the road should be a 7-9mm gravel road. This road moves a lot.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for making the trip and providing the Council with the information.

BREAK

Mr. Derrick Wilson and Mr. Paul Soffo joined the meeting in person and Mr. Mike Damberger and Mr. Don Saunders joined via Teams.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the presentation on Highways and Bridges in Special Areas. Alberta Transportation thanks the Special Areas Board for the partnership on highway maintenance and looks forward to the partnership continuing into the future.

Mr. Soffo informed Council of the 4,873 bridges AT manages noting the bridges built before 1990 were designed to last for 50 years and most have been kept in service longer. In the province there are 20 bridges on provincial highways that are restricted due to poor condition. The Berry Creek bridge on Hwy 570 was built in 1971 and the girders have deteriorated so much in 2023 weight restrictions have been placed on the structure. The Monitor Creek bridge on Hwy 86 was built in 1961 and also has weight restrictions this year.

There was a question on the amount of funding for bridges. The Local Road Bridge Program is one of the four funding streams of the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program and funding is 75% province/25% municipal.

It was asked how the bridge can deteriorate so quickly. The inspection cycle is every 39 months; the sheer stirrups holding the girders deteriorated very quickly and there is significant risk of the bridge coming down.

At the Berry Creek bridge, there are concerns as large trucks do not see the restriction and need to reverse up a hill before they can back into an approach to get turned around. There are signs miles and miles away from the bridge – there is a concern for public safety. The detour is long - it was suggested a bypass be built beside. Costs for a bypass are a barrier.

Discussion moved to sanding on Hwy 570 by Dorothy – and noted penalties have been issued for poor service.

The Council inquired on the provincial priority highways as there are concerns with the conditions of Hwy 555 and Hwy 884. The three-year plan is available online. There was discussion on rumble strips and noted maintenance is cheaper than replacement.

Mr. Christianson thanked the group for the partnership and for coming to present.

The Council returned to Issues Binder topics.

The Consort Medical Board is working with In-Powered, and the SAB has committed funding. In-Powered is assisting with clinic analysis, training and hopes of getting the emergency room re-opened.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the Grants topic noting the future of SAB/Urban partnerships will be reported in early 2024.

On the Joint Irrigation Project, the water licence is a priority. Since the project began there have been an additional 5M m³ allocated from the Red Deer River, this project needs to get in the queue. An administratively complete application will be ready at the end of this phase.

The TRLS 4 applications process was reviewed, this time interested landowners can obtain an estimate of the purchase price prior to submitting an application. At this point there are 81 applications, it is not clear how many will have breaking restrictions.

Transfer of TRLS 2 back to reserves – the funds were used for capital projects at the time such as paving. Those funds started to build the accumulated operational surplus – it may be time to take those funds and put them into an investment tool like SALTA. There was discussion the rate of return for SALTA and it's 3-4%. The intent of the TRLS 2 funds would be to go into a long term 50 years + investment. It was suggested funds need to stay ahead of inflation – that is hard to beat.

ADJOURNMENT 4:55 PM.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM

Mr. Christianson welcomed everyone to the last day of Advisory Council and reviewed the agenda for the day.

Mr. Caskey noted the Community Pasture rates have been raised five cents per day as per Council direction and the rate is now \$1/head/day with a calf rate of \$8/season. Reductions are expected in 2024 due to range conditions. In 2023, operations were \$1.172M and revenues came in at \$599k resulting in a loss of \$572,758. Work has been done on water development and interior fencing as well as perimeter fencing. The previous Council motion is to increase the rate by 5cents per day until the pastures break-even. It was noted the rate is still below private, even with recent increases.

MOTION AC02-20-23: 2024 COMMUNITY PASTURE RATES

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INCREASE THE COMMUNITY PASTURE RATES \$0.05 EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS BEGINNING IN 2024. CARRIED.

1 OPPOSED.

2024 will see a reduction of 70% in most fields.

There was discussion on the Buffalo Atlee pasture noting the growing season ended May 30 or June 1, 2023. The pastures still have the benefits of the moisture in 2022 but there has been no rain on the east side. The condition of pastures varies, and some fields are better than others.

The group interested in a grazing co-op have been sent information on the pasture however with a 30% stocking rate there is no appetite to move forward at this time.

It was noted the Richdale pasture has interested patrons using the pasture for yearlings and the motion to sell that pasture is being held for the time being.

Mr. Caskey noted the hunts for elk at the Suffield Base have been successful. There was discussion on fences and damages.

MOTION AC02-21-23: SPECIAL AREAS LAND USE ORDER

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD TAKE FORWARD THE LAND USE ORDER AS PROPOSED TO THE MINISTER FOR A MINISTERIAL ORDER. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson discussed a mid-stream storage option with the development of Ardley Dam. RDRMUG is the proponent of the project. The Red Deer Basin has one dam – the Dickson Dam, another dam would help manage water in the basin. The Ardley Dam is proposed be south of Red Deer and requires a pre-feasibility study to look at design concept, pinpoint a location and development a business case for the project. RDRMUG has been asked to request provincial funds in 2024 for the proposed project. The Special Areas Board is in support of the project.

There was a suggestion to divert water from the North Saskatchewan River Basin to the South Saskatchewan River Basin. It was suggested funding be requested to further study the prospect. The timeline to get approval is extensive so work should be done now to determine the feasibility with the increase in population expected in the next few years in the province.

Mr. Caskey reviewed the Issues Binder on the Westmoreland Mine Reclamation noting what has been done and what is forecasted for 2024. There is some titled land within the block but most of the lands are owned by SAB. The poor-quality coal is being used for humalite production; the fertilizer is being shipped to Europe. When reclamation occurs, there is consideration for water developments.

Ms. Chostner provided an update on the Sheerness Industrial Park noting there is an opportunity to construct a reservoir on the north end with grant funding. Anchor tenants are being sought.

Mr. Caskey noted the Carolside/Deadfish irrigation group has requested investigating another management system. The irrigators have discussed developing a fund for use when additional pumping is needed, or maintenance issues arise. Alberta Agriculture

and Irrigation has plans for maintenance on the Blowdown Canal and updating the electronics at the Deadfish pumphouse.

Mr. Tom Lynch-Staunton and Ms. Shira Mulloy from the Nature Conservancy of Canada were welcomed to the meeting to provide information on their organization. The intent of the organization is to keep ranchers on the landscape across the nation. Some lands are donated, and others are purchased, once NCC is involved a stewardship endowment fund is developed to support stewardship in perpetuity. The concern is the disappearing prairie grasslands. It is hoped partnerships can be developed to ensure natural grasslands and species at risk are preserved. The NCC is primarily funded by private donations but does receive some provincial funding. There was discussion on conservation easements and a sunset clause for the easements. A challenge is often donated lands are expected to remain natural habitat forever and donors do not want to see cultivation on the lands.

Mr. Christianson thanked the presenters for the good information.

BREAK

Mr. Rain Saulnier from WaterSMART joined the meeting to give an update on the Joint Irrigation Project. Phase 1 is complete, and work has begun on Phase 2. The partners remain the same with the MD of Acadia, SAB, Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. Six sub committees have been created to support Phase 2 work including a water availability and pump intake design subcommittee, a Geotech and reservoir design subcommittee, an energy subcommittee, a regulatory and environmental subcommittee, a stakeholder and indigenous engagement subcommittee and a financial and procurement subcommittee.

Water availability modeling is ongoing and a top priority as well as reviewing the season and daily demands for the project. The pump intake at the Bindloss Bridge is being investigated as the narrow river and depth is favourable at that location.

The Geotech subcommittee is focused on the Acadia Valley reservoir and will move onto Prince's Springs next.

The energy subcommittee has Boost Energy evaluating a behind-the-meter option like solar, wind or battery. The pumps would only run six months out of the year for irrigation so the other months could be used as a revenue generator selling to the grid.

Work is happening on several fronts at this time, after the Phase 2 work is completed a per acre cost should be clearer.

Mr. Christianson thanked Mr. Saulnier for taking the time to come and present to Council and for all the work on the project.

An election is required for recommendation of appointment to the Special Areas Board representing SA3.

MOTION AC02-22-23: APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT TARYL ABT AND DARRAN DICK BE APPOINTED AS RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE SA3 BOARD MEMBER ELECTION. CARRIED.

Candidates made short speeches for the appointment. The Council voted via secret ballot.

Mr. Wilson was elected. Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Tessier and Mr. Wilson for allowing their names to stand for public service. Mr. Wilson will be invited to attend

Board Meetings, however an appointment via Order in Council is required before voting can occur.

MOTION AC02-23-23: DESTROY BALLOTS

MOVED BY BRAD ODSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR THAT THE ELECTION BALLOTS BE DESTROYED. CARRIED.

LUNCH

MOTION AC02-24-23: SPECIAL AREAS NO3 BOARD MEMBER

MOVED BY NEAL ROES AND SECONDED BY DARYL SWENSON THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE MINISTER RE-APPOINT BRAD SLORSTAD TO REPRESENT SA2, APPOINT KEVIN WILSON TO REPRESENT SA3, AND RE-APPOINT DOUG NOBLE TO REPRESENT SA4. CARRIED.

Ms. Justine Comeau and Ms. Jesse Williams joined the meeting to provide information on a Coyote Bounty program. Other municipal programs for coyote control were investigated and it was learned a coyote can have litters of 5-17 pups. Coyotes are opportunistic predators and have a home range of up to 8kms². Coyotes fall under nuisances with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. Ag Service Boards have duty to control or destroy pests in the municipality. Producers have the ability to control by shooting or use of authorized toxicant. The advantages and disadvantages of a coyote control program were reviewed. One of the disadvantages is coyotes do help control the Richardson ground squirrels and grasshoppers. Disposal of carcasses could become an issue as producers are responsible, however in other municipalities the task falls to municipal staff when carcasses are dumped on municipal land. Coyotes can repopulate in approximately three months. Creating a program is within the scope of authority however the resources to run the program may be problematic.

Mr. Christianson thanked Ms. Comeau and Ms. Williams for the good information, this may be revisited next year if needed.

Mr. Caskey provided an update on the Oyen Rail Yard noting there have been 870 frac sand cars, 440 windmill components, and 100 flat cars from Keystone – the yard is full of pipe. Improvements are being made with new ballast and track building east to the seed cleaning plant. That work has been done with National Trade Corridor funding awarded to the Oyen Regional Rail company. The next project is to investigate rail west to Lyalta or Camrose. A report is expected in early 2024 on the feasibility of the two routes.

Mr. Ball provided an update on the breaking restriction violation quarters and seed mixes along with costs. One quarter was 116 acres, and the other is 160 acres.

The Council moved on to review the In/Out list for the 2024 Budget.

The accumulated operational surplus is \$36M, and with a planned deficit of \$17M the surplus will drop to \$15.5M by the end of 2024. This may be the time to take the \$8M in TRLS revenue into short term investments.

Council is being asked to provide direction on recreation mill rates, as insurance rates are going up. The Board will finalize mill rates in April 2024 after assessment numbers are received.

MOTION AC02-25-23: SUPPORT FOR REC GRANT MILL RATE

MOVED BY DARYL SWENSON AND SECONDED BY DOUG NOBLE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORT AN INCREASE TO THE RECREATION MILL RATE TO COVER INCREASED COSTS IN INSURANCE AND UTILITIES. CARRIED.

Funding for a nurse practitioner has been reflected at \$225,000 as per a Board motion.

Mr. Christianson has met with municipal leaders regarding the request from the Town of Drumheller for assistance with recreation funding. Further investigation is needed.

MOTION AC02-26-23: 2024 SAB BUDGET

MOVED BY LAURIE FERENGE AND SECONDED BY ERIKA TESSIER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD BRING FORWARD THE 2024 BUDGET TO THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS. CARRIED.

The Council was asked for direction with the Rates in Effect policy regarding dust abatement which is subsidized at 50% and water rates increasing 2% as both water commissions have indicated an increase is coming.

There was a question on the pipe rental and new reels ratepayers can rent – a process needs to be developed; administration will develop a rate structure for the pipe/reels.

MOTION AC02-27-23: POLICY 04-04A: RATES CHARGED IN EFFECT

MOVED BY ERIKA TESSIER AND SECONDED BY NEAL ROES THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE POLICY 04-04A: RATES CHARGED IN EFFECT AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

The rates paid was reviewed and a discussion on the volunteer fire fighter rates.

MOTION AC02-28-23: POLICY 04-04B: RATES PAID IN EFFECT

MOVED BY DOUG NOBLE AND SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENGE THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD APPROVE POLICY 04-04B: RATES PAID IN EFFECT, ADJUSTING THE FIREFIGHTING RATE TO \$40/HOUR. CARRIED.

Mr. Osadczuk brought forward concerns on surfacing for the Jenner to Idedesleigh road with the renewable energy projects impacting the road.

MOTION AC02-29-23: SURFACING ON JENNER TO IDDESLEIGH ROAD

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY MARK BLAIR THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD COMPLETE STAGE 2 OF THE SURFACING PROGRAM (GBC) ON THE JENNER TO IDDESLEIGH ROAD. CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson welcomed the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs and his Chief of Staff Mr. Alex Puddifant. The Board was pleased to be able to meet at Fall RMA and thanks the Minister for signing the TRLS Policy. The Board has seen improvement in the collection of bad debts and outstanding lease rentals, however there is still the issue of the oil well drilling tax holiday. Mr. Christianson noted Special Areas receives strong support from the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister – and thanked the Minister for all the support. The efforts to come and meet with Council in Hanna are appreciated.

Minister McIver thanked the Council for the patience while he educated himself on the TRLS and noted the borrowing authority Ministerial Order has been signed. The funding formula for the Local Government Fiscal Framework should be released shortly. The Minister noted he is more interested to hear questions from Council.

Mr. Noble brought forward the issue of the tax holiday for new wells for three years and questioned if the three years ends in 2025 or if the clock starts when the well is drilled. The Minister indicated that the tax holiday is coming to an end, the intent is for the tax to come back. Work is being done on assessment for machinery and equipment as that has been an issue for a number of years.

Ms. Tessier asked if there is appetite for a different funding model for education and health care for rural remote communities with populations below 50,000 as the per capita funding models do not work when the population is not present. The Minister indicated the conversation is not active, but it is a good conversation to bring forward as there are a number of smaller communities in the same situation. Mr. Christianson noted some smaller municipalities are challenged with daily operations.

Discussion moved to the Joint Irrigation project, and the Minister was questioned on the provincial drought management plans. With an influx of people coming to Alberta, water may need to be transferred between basins.

There is a project for mid-stream storage that requires funds for a feasibility study – Minister McIver noted Minister Schulz should be included in discussions.

The Minister was asked to lobby for bridge repairs across the province, it is known the STIP program is over subscribed. The bridge failures are resulting in corridors being cut off. Minister McIver suggested this issue be brought forward as well.

Minister McIver thanked the Council for the opportunity to come and discuss issues and praised the Council for the good work in partnering with urban municipalities.

Mr. Christianson thanked Minister McIver and Mr. Puddifant for making the trip to Hanna.

Mr. Osadczuk brought forward a request for Council members to be informed of subdivisions in their area. The subdivision applications do come to the Board for recommendation.

MOTION AC02-30-23: SUBDIVISION APPLICATION INCLUDES COUNCIL

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK AND SECONDED BY JOHN KIMBER THAT THE SPECIAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL AREAS BOARD INVITE COUNCIL FROM THE SUBDIVISION WHEN A SUBDIVISION APPLICATION IS BEING PRESENTED. CARRIED.

The Resolutions Committee brought forward resolutions.

RESOLUTION 1: GIRLETZ ROAD

WHEREAS the Girletz Road has been an area of concern, and

WHEREAS Tetra Tech has presented information into the reasons behind the conditions and behaviors of the road structure itself, and

WHEREAS the road will continue to deteriorate and become a more of a safety issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas review the information given and plan to best address the Girletz Road at Road Committee and bring results back to Spring Advisory.

MOVED BY JOHN KIMBER
SECONDED BY LAURIE FERENCE
CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2: TRLS 2 REVENUES

WHEREAS the income generated by Tax Recovery Land Sale 2 are monies earned by the sale of public land, and

WHEREAS the public lands earned a revenue stream on an annual basis a grazing lease or cultivation lease, and

WHEREAS the sales proceeds were put in the accumulated surplus as opposed to the TRLS reserve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the \$8M principle from Tax Recovery Land Sale 2 be put into the TRLS reserve and be invested in a process similar to SALTA.

MOVED BY BRAD OSADCZUK
SECONDED BY KEVIN WILSON
CARRIED.
3 OPPOSED.

RESOLUTION #3: BLOOD INDIAN PARK STORE

WHEREAS the Blood Indian Trading Post management Contract will expire in the next 1-2 years, and

WHEREAS the current location will not be feasible in the long term as well as the degrading of the quality of fishing, and

WHEREAS a camp store is essential to the success of a campground;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Special Areas administration explore feasibility of an alternative location for the Trading post to be discussed at Fall Advisory Council 2024.

MOVED BY Laurie Ference
SECONDED BY John Kimber
CARRIED.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Resolutions Committee of Ms. Erika Tessier, Ms. Laurie Ference and Mr. John Kimber for their work.

Unfinished business was reviewed. The sale of Plover Lake may be an opportunity for Big Country Waste Management Commission to expand – however expansion isn't expected for another 15 years. The lands have been listed under auction; however it may be wise to inquire if the rest of the quarter the landfill is on is available.

Mr. Christianson thanked the Council for their time and the staff for getting all of the information reviewed the past three days ready. Thanks to Ms. Herzog for the hospitality rooms and Ms. Jones for organizing the meeting.

It was noted there was a lot of information covered, and a lot was gone over quickly – it may be better to have more meetings in a year so as not to overload the spring and fall meetings. There was a suggestion to hire contractors if staff do not have capacity for the additional tasks.

ADJOURNMENT AT 2:55 PM.

APPENDIX A:

