2025 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Update from Shaune Kovitch, Chair

Special Areas Board
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Chair's Update

2025 Ratepayer Meetings

- 2025 Municipal Election

- Municipal Partnerships

- Regional Medical Projects & Programs

- MD of Acadia & Special Areas Irrigation Project

- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy

- Resident Satisfaction Survey
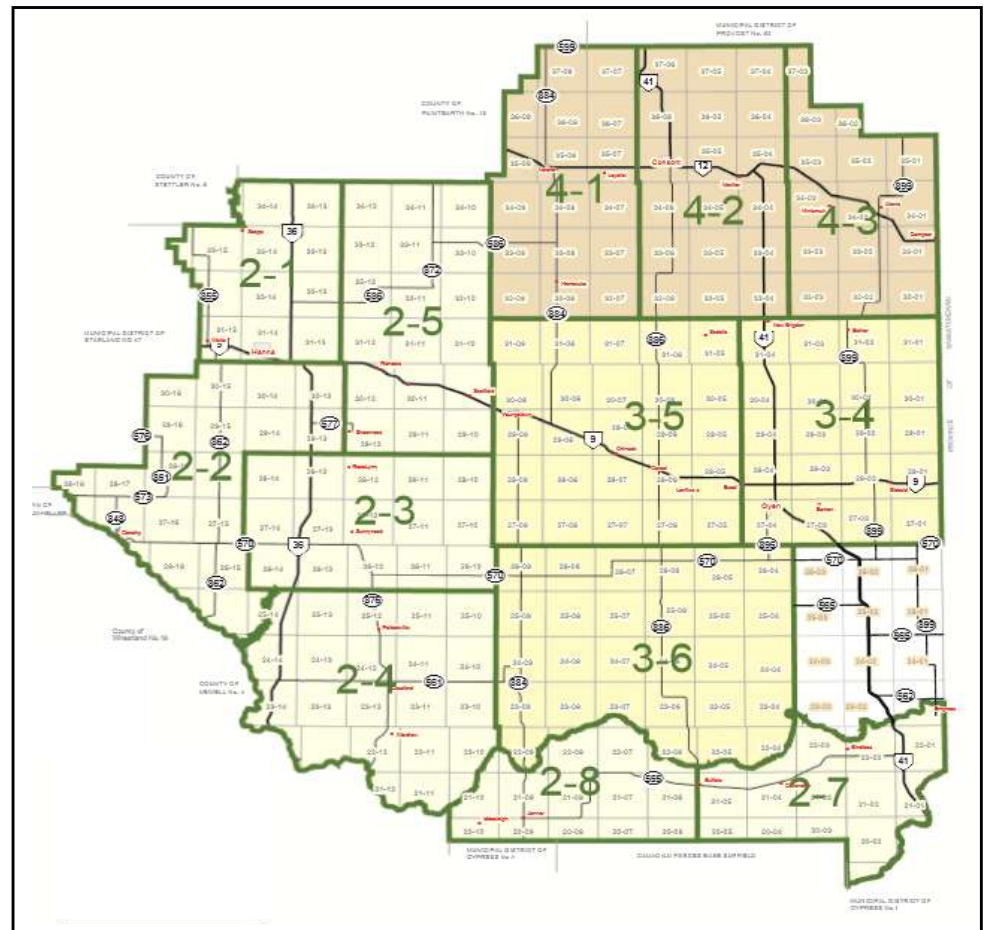
Chair's Update

Special Areas Board Governance

- Board members are appointed by Order in Council
  - Shaune Kovitch, Chair *(Expires March 20, 2028)*
  - Brad Slorstad, Board member *(Expires April 30, 2026)*
  - Kevin Wilson, Board member *(Expires April 30, 2026)*
  - Douglas Noble, Board member *(Expires April 30, 2026)*

- Jordon Christianson appointment to the Board ended March 2025
  - He is focusing on providing support during the transition period and representing the Board on several regional initiatives

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Chair's Update

2025 Municipal Election

- **Municipal election is Monday, October 20, 2025**

- 13 Advisory Councillors are elected (or acclaimed if there is only one nominee)
- Nomination period ends NOON on September 22, 2025
- Nomination packages available at District Offices and online at www.specialareas.ab.ca/elections/

Chair's Update

Municipal Partnerships

- Special Areas continues to enjoy strong partnerships with regional neighbors
  - These relationships include both rural and urban municipalities

- Focus on continuing to support these collaborative relationships, including:
  - Potential partnership projects
  - Industrial Tax Transfer funding (increased in 2024)
  - Regional approach to emergency management
  - Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

Chair's Update

Nurse Practitioner Pilot Project - Consort

- Consort & District Medical Centre Board (CDMCB) continues Nurse Practitioner pilot program to support local medical services being available in the community
  - Pilot program is a community-led initiative

- Special Areas is funding the pilot program for two years
  - Special Areas continues to engage with the Province to secure sustainable long-term funding

- Program status:
  - 1 full time Rural Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner (*recruited June 2024)*
  - 1 temporary / part-time Nurse Practitioner

Chair's Update

Acadia Foundation - Oyen Lodge Expansion

- Construction started on the Assisted Living/Dementia Care facility in Oyen
  - Is a 14-unit single story facility connected directly to the Oyen Lodge
  - DSL4/4D spaces support assisted living & dementia care
  - Project was approved for provincial funding in 2020; expected to be operational by late 2025

- The Government of Alberta is funding the project through a capital grant to the Acadia Foundation
  - Estimated cost - $11.7M
  - Acadia Foundation is leading project
  - Special Areas is partnering in project funding; majority of SAB funds were advanced in 2024

Chair's Update

MD of Acadia & Special Areas Irrigation Project

- Joint project with Government of Alberta, Canada Infrastructure Bank, MD of Acadia and Special Areas

- Phase 1 work – finished with report in 2022 (pre-feasibility)
  - Concluded 'green-field' (new) development of irrigation for 108,000 acres is feasible

- Phase 2 work completed spring 2025
  - Phase 2 work includes preliminary engineering design, environmental and regulatory considerations and potential financing options
  - Report on Phase 2 work expected fall 2025

Chair's Update

Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy

- In 2021, Advisory Council and the Special Areas Board developed a draft Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) policy based on prior TRLS in the Special Areas

- Advisory Council and the Board recommended the 2023 TRLS policy to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 to seek a *Ministerial Order* for approval

- Minister approved the 2023 TRLS policy in July 2023

- **Policy expires on July 16, 2026**

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Chair's Update

Resident Satisfaction Survey

- New initiative to gather feedback from residents in Special Areas including:

  - Existing service levels and the quality of service provided

  - What priorities should be focused on moving forward

  - How we share information and provide help

- Survey will be open until September 2, 2025

- Findings will be shared with Board / Advisory Council late fall

  - Summary report will be posted on Special Areas website & provided at local District Offices *(December 2025)*

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Questions

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