

**CRMA District 2 Fall General Meeting
Virtual - Zoom
Hosted by the Special Areas
Friday, October 15, 2021**

Virtual: <https://rmbalberta.zoom.us/j/89006881555?pwd=ZmZyTE4wajl0c1ITQXE5cVZYUUpQ09>
By Phone: 1-855-703-8985 (Canada Toll-free)
ID: 890 0688 1555
Passcode: 873292

AGENDA

10:00 am

Call to Order

- Bruce Beattie, CRMA District 2 Chair

Welcome

- Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas

Adoption of Agenda - *Motion Required to Adopt Agenda*

Resolutions Committee

Jim Duncan, Clearwater County (Resolutions Committee Chair)
Jim Wood, Red Deer County (CRMA District 2 Vice Chair)
Larry Clarke, Stettler County
Dene Cooper, MD Bighorn
Greg Harris, Mountain View County
Amber Link, Wheatland County, RMA, Central District Representative
(District 2 Director, non-voting)

Resolution Session - *Motion Required to Pass Each Resolution*

1. EMS Capacity and Service Delivery in Rural Alberta
Wheatland County, Endorsed by Clearwater County
2. Seniors' Foundation Requisitions
Wheatland County, Endorsed by Starland County
3. Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
Starland County, Endorsed by Wheatland County
4. Increasing Knowledge Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis
Production Facilities
Kneehill County, Endorsed by Wheatland County

- 11:00 am **Legal Session**
Daina Young, RMRF LLP / Margaretha Bloem, Director of Planning and Development Mountain View County
- Topic: Municipal Tools to control Illegal Cannabis Production
- 12:00 pm **LUNCH BREAK**
- 12:30 pm **RMA Update**
Paul McLaughlin, President, RMA and Amber Link, RMA Director, District 2
- 1:00 pm **Education Session**
Vanessa White, Director of Renewable and Alternative Energy, Alberta Innovates
- Topic: Small Modular Reactors
- 2:00 pm **Adoption of Minutes - *Motion Required to Adopt***
- District 2 General Meeting – February 5, 2021
 - District 2 Directors’ Meeting – August 13, 2021
 - District 2 Resolutions Committee Meeting – September 21, 2021
- Financial Report - *Motion Required to Receive for Information***
- No change: Balance of \$1,656.39 remaining
- Next Meetings**
- December 10, 2021, District 2 Board of Directors – Three Hills
 - February 4, 2022 – Hosted by Red Deer County (Resolution Deadline January 11, 2022)
 - 2019-2025 CRMA Meeting Schedule
- 2:30 pm **Adjournment - *Motion Required to Adjourn***

**Thank you to Special Areas
for hosting the
CRMA District 2 Fall General Meeting.**

Resolution 1-21F

EMS Capacity and Service Delivery in Rural Alberta

Wheatland County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required
Endorsed by Clearwater County

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta took responsibility for the delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as it was a provincial health responsibility;

AND WHEREAS at the time EMS transitioned from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility there was a commitment that there would be no degradation of service;

AND WHEREAS even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the capacity of the provincial EMS system had not increased adequately to meet escalating needs;

AND WHEREAS this capacity issue has been exacerbated, both directly and indirectly, by the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the number of “Code Reds”, where no ambulances are available in a community or in larger geographical areas of the Province, is increasing;

AND WHEREAS the health and safety of citizens continues to be a priority for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities continue to frequently support the provincial health care system by providing medical first response through the operation of our fire departments;

AND WHEREAS there has been an upward trend for several years in fire service wait times due to the increased length of time it takes for EMS to arrive on scene in municipalities that provide medical first response;

AND WHEREAS Albertans’, particularly rural Albertans’, timely access to emergency health care is being compromised due to a lack of EMS capacity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request the Province of Alberta, immediately consult with municipalities, to develop a plan to make urgently needed improvements to the capacity, delivery, and performance of the EMS system.

Member Background:

When the province transitioned EMS service from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility there was a commitment that there would be no degradation of service. However, as populations have grown, and demand for EMS has increased, a historical lag in corresponding capacity has created intense pressure on the emergency care system.

Provision of emergency health care in rural communities has significant, unique challenges, including low population densities and large geographic areas. Large geographic areas inherently result in longer EMS transport times, making EMS response times even more critical where timely care is critical, and delays may result in compromising patient care and safety.

The borderless provincial delivery model utilizes system status management, where resources are shared across jurisdictions, and deployed where statistical probabilities project they will be required. Therefore, when resources are exhausted in major urban centres resources are drawn from surrounding communities. While attempts are made to provide cross coverage, lack of capacity is frequently resulting in large areas without EMS resources and longer response times.

Specifically in rural areas the repositioning of resources to more densely populated urban areas amplify response time issues where large geographic areas already create challenges. Full benefit of a provincial model can only be realized when resources are adequate to provide timely response and where efficiency is balanced with EMS service delivery and performance for all Albertans.

Since the transition to a provincial EMS system the impacts on municipalities, who support emergency medical care by providing medical first response, includes increasing need for municipal fire services to provide medical first response, which can result in increased stress on firefighters responding to medical incidents and increased costs.

Though a provincial EMS Dashboard was established, up to date information is challenging to access. Transparent reporting regarding performance indicators, where municipalities do not have to FOIP data for their communities, is key to trust in the emergency care system. Analysis of this data will assist in determining impacts of decisions to patient safety and quality of care.

EMS service levels have become an urgent, even critical issue with potential life and death consequences. Every citizen experiencing a medical crisis across Alberta is impacted, as the time of EMS response increases, and the survival rate of patients decreases. Service delivery improvements will require an innovative multidimensional strategy. Timely access to emergency care has both direct health benefits and broader community benefits. These include attracting new residents, stimulating economic growth, and ultimately support viability and contribute to sustainability of rural communities.

WHEREAS the *Housing Act* (hereafter referred to as “the Act”) provides that a management body may annually requisition municipalities for which the management body provides lodge accommodation for the amount of the management body’s annual deficit for the previous fiscal year, and any amounts necessary to establish or continue a reserve fund for the management body; and

WHEREAS the Act provides that the management body shall supply a copy of its calculation of the requisitioned amount for the municipality; and

WHEREAS the Act provides that if a municipality agrees to contribute to the operating costs of any housing accommodation, other than lodge accommodation, provided by a management body, it shall make the contribution agreed to within 90 days after the mailing of the invoice by the management body; and

WHEREAS the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation (hereafter referred to as “the Regulation”) provides that each year, a management body must prepare and submit to the Minister a business plan that includes the operating budget for the upcoming three-fiscal-year period, a capital plan for the upcoming five-fiscal-year period, and any other information required by the Minister; and

WHEREAS the Regulation places limits on reserve funds, including a requirement for ministerial approval to establish reserves and limits on the amount of reserves in relation to the management body’s estimated capital and operational costs; and

WHEREAS the current Act and Regulation lacks clarity regarding the scope of housing management body requisitions, specifically relating to capital project costs;

WHEREAS this lack of clarity has resulted in situations in which housing management bodies have attempted to requisition municipalities for capital costs, expenses based on the current year’s budget, and to contribute to reserve funds not approved by members, all of which do not align with the intent of the Act and Regulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities in a review of the Alberta Housing Act and provide clarity on requisitioning for capital assets, associated interest costs and debenture payment obligations for member municipalities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request the Government of Alberta review the oversight of the Ministry of Seniors and Housing over housing management bodies (HMBs) to ensure that all HMBs are correctly and consistently requisitioning municipalities under the requirements of the *Housing Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request that the Government of Alberta provide enhanced training and education, including a training guide to Municipal Councils and HMBs on the *Housing Act* and the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation to ensure they have a clear understanding of their financial powers, limitations and responsibilities, including related to requisitioning and reserve creation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request the Government of Alberta to amend the *Housing Act* to clearly state the ability of municipalities to approve or deny requests for capital projects.

Member Background:

The *Housing Act* provides parameters for how housing management bodies may requisition member municipalities for operating deficits and reserve funds. It is the general understanding that housing management bodies may requisition funds for the operating deficit of the previous year as well as any reserve funds, both capital and operating, as agreed upon between the management body and the member municipalities. There are some housing management bodies across the province that have been requisitioning municipalities for capital funds outside of any agreement that creates an operating or capital reserve between member municipalities and the housing management body.

The discrepancies between housing management bodies' understanding of their requisitioning abilities may be due to a lack of oversight and clarity in the Act and Regulation from Alberta Seniors and Housing. While many housing management bodies appear to be following the correct process in working with their municipal partners to raise capital funds through official agreements for reserve contributions and operating deficits, there are other housing bodies that are not following the proper process and approaching capital projects as a requisition, to which the municipality has no ability to deny.

Further, some housing management bodies have been requisitioning municipalities based on the current year's operational budget. The Act states that the operating requisition must be based on the previous year's operating deficit. This discrepancy should also be rectified under the oversight of Alberta Seniors and Housing or clarified in the Act and Regulation.

RMA Background: RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Provincial Ministries: Seniors

Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Starland County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required
Endorsed by Wheatland County

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has now joined forces with the provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan as a signatory to the *Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Memorandum of Understanding*;

AND WHEREAS these provinces have collectively agreed to collaborate on the advancement of SMRs as a clean energy option to address climate change and regional energy demands, while supporting economic growth and innovation;

AND WHEREAS the SMR Feasibility Study, concludes that the development of SMRs would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions and position Canada as a global leader in this emerging technology;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for the public to be provided with more information and education on SMRs which is essential in helping them to understand, comprehend and support this emerging and innovative technology;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Association (RMA) strongly encourage and work together with the Province of Alberta to create an awareness campaign to engage with the public on the safety and benefits of nuclear technology and SMRs specifically.

Member Background:

Small Modular Reactors are nuclear fission reactors, small in size and power output, portable and function as a power source. SMRs produce more energy while using a smaller footprint without emitting greenhouse gases during generation. Given Canada's commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2030, SMRs may provide one feasible solution to meeting this ambitious goal.

In August of 2020, Alberta signed on to a *Memorandum of Understanding* with Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, supporting the advancement and deployment of SMRs. Premier Jason Kenney noted the potential to power remote communities, the opportunity for economic diversification and the potential for job creation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

With both the Federal and Provincial governments supporting SMRs, it will be essential that a strong partnership between government, industry and stakeholders be forged. Public acceptance will also be crucial and there is a strong need to educate Albertans about the merits and benefits of this form of energy.

If nuclear technology is to advance within Canada, the need to educate the public is of the utmost importance starting now.

Resolution 4-21F

Increasing Knowledge-Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis Production Facilities

Kneehill Wheatland County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required
Endorsed by Wheatland County

WHEREAS governing, managing, and enforcing cannabis legislation is a joint responsibility shared by the federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments; and

AND WHEREAS under the Cannabis Act, cannabis may be grown in various quantities depending on the specified purpose, as permitted by Health Canada, creating significant variance in the size of cannabis operations that may be deemed “legal”; and

AND WHEREAS all individuals wishing to obtain any of the available federal licences to grow, process, or sell cannabis are expected to comply with all applicable provincial or territorial laws, as well as municipal bylaws (e.g., zoning and building permits); and

AND WHEREAS individuals seeking licences, or having obtained licences, to cultivate, process, or sell cannabis from Health Canada are expected to notify the municipality of planned growing activities, however, are not required to obtain confirmation that municipal requirements have been met; and

AND WHEREAS instances of non-compliance or contravention of existing land use regulations have been difficult for municipalities to observe and/or take action against, due to a lack of knowledge of legal sites of cannabis production currently operating within the municipality’s borders; and

AND WHEREAS municipalities lack of knowledge on sites of cannabis production has allowed the opportunity for individuals who have been licensed to grow small quantities of medical cannabis to abuse this license to grow excessive quantities; and

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for land-use zoning and permitting of activities within their borders, which includes where cannabis can be grown, processed, sold, and consumed; and

AND WHEREAS municipalities often struggle to manage land-use activities and conduct compliance monitoring on facilities producing cannabis because consistent information on the nature of such facilities is not available to municipalities; and

AND WHEREAS the risks to individuals or property related to the production of cannabis cannot be addressed or mitigated by municipalities without the municipality being aware of such activities taking place within its borders; and

AND WHEREAS there is currently no system available for municipalities to acquire information on planned or existing sites of cannabis production from other levels of government that currently possess that information; and

AND WHEREAS absent of any permitted sources to provide information on legal sites of cannabis production, the only means by which municipalities may learn of sites of cannabis production come in the form of voluntary disclosure from the cannabis producer to the municipality, or if an individual lodges an official complaint to the municipality; and

AND WHEREAS existing gaps in cannabis legislation prevents municipalities from accurately distinguishing between legal and illegal growing operations; and

AND WHEREAS municipalities recognize that individuals have a right to privacy, particularly as it relates to medicating for medical conditions or ailments, and that the enforcement of local legislation must respect these rights to privacy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Rural Municipalities of Alberta collaborate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate to Health Canada that municipalities be given open and continuous access to information on all licensed sites of cannabis production within their boundaries.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that The Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to Health Canada that municipalities be given open and continuous information for the purposes of compliance monitoring and enforcement, including the results of any investigation conducted by an “inspector,” as described within the Cannabis Act.

Member Background:

At present, regulations surrounding cannabis cultivation are problematic, with each level of government responsible for various capacities in regulating the cannabis industry, from growing and cultivation down the supply chain to consumers of cannabis products. Within the current cannabis regime, there is nuance and complexity within each facet of the industry. From the number of licences available for producers to grow, cultivate, and distribute cannabis products to the rules governing processors and retailers, there is a need to provide accurate and dependable information to all involved in this industry. However, there are currently significant gaps in legislation that prevent this reliable information from being accessed by municipalities.

This resolution aims to uncover the significant challenges currently experienced by municipalities to regulate land use applications and permit issues related to sites of cannabis production. Specifically, this resolution aims to discuss:

- a) The limited ability municipalities have to determine the existing scope of cannabis producers within a municipality's borders, and
- b) The challenges municipalities face to enforce land-use bylaws due to lack of information necessary to enforce zoning and permitting regulations, where applicable.

Under the *Cannabis Act*, the federal government is responsible for setting industry-wide standards for the cannabis industry, such as the legality of the substance, health and safety requirements, and rules surrounding medical cannabis, and others, which Health Canada fulfills. Licences for cannabis cultivation from Health Canada often include an

expectation from applicants to notify local authorities. However, this requirement is problematic because only some, but not all, licences for sites of cannabis production require notification to be provided to municipalities. In addition, the nature of the “requirement” itself would better be described as an “expectation,” as no communication is conveyed to the municipality that Health Canada has received an application, or provided approval, for sites of cannabis production to operate within the municipality. Within the Cannabis Licensing Application Guide, “notice to local authorities” is a requirement of only a fraction of prospective cannabis growers. Furthermore, there is currently no way for the “local authorities” to ascertain who has been granted a license by Health Canada who has not, leaving uncertainty as to who may be growing cannabis legally, and who may be growing cannabis illegally.

Specific to Kneehill County, anecdotal accounts have indicated that individuals within the County are growing cannabis in greater amounts than what is permitted under “recreational use,” as identified by the Cannabis Act. By consequence of the County not being effectively included in the approval process nor having reliable access to up-to-date information of what standards one is expected to abide by as a condition of one's federal license, the County is left struggling to manage these sensitive activities that require effective government oversight. Specific issues that have arisen included suspected cannabis growing through inaccurate or disingenuous development applications, suspected alterations made to buildings that would not satisfy current building codes, and concern of criminal activity operating within the municipality's borders. Without having information on who is permitted to grow cannabis and details pertaining to the quantities and other logistical information, the municipality can only attempt to manage from what is disclosed to them by cannabis growers voluntarily providing this information. Voluntary disclosure, however, is not the norm, which prompts Kneehill County to raise these concerns with other RMA members and with Health Canada.

In discussing the issues experienced within Kneehill County, specific details have been identified by the County as worthy of consideration for what specific site information would likely benefit all municipalities. These details include:

- The name of the individual permitted to grow cannabis plants.
- The date an individual was granted a license to grow cannabis for medicinal purposes.
- The expiry date of said license.
- The location of the site.
- The number of plants permitted to be grown on the premises.
- Any alterations made to previously held agreements between an individual and Health Canada, that would affect the application of local legislation.

In conjunction with this resolution, two other resolutions pertaining to cannabis legislation have been identified as relevant to the issues proposed and remedies discussed. First,

Personal Cannabis Production for Medical Use has been put forward by Wheatland County as a RMA resolution. This resolution seeks to include municipal governments in the approval process of growing cannabis for medicinal purposes by proposing that all municipalities "sign off" on the proposed Cannabis Production Facility as a prerequisite to receiving approval from Health Canada.

Second, *Improving the Medical Cannabis Regime* was a FCM resolution put forward by The Town of East Gwillimbury, Ontario, which sought to "propose amendments to the Cannabis Act that will remedy the problems experienced by municipalities." These issues are wide-ranging but largely stem from the system of licensing and regulation put in place by the federal government to oversee the cannabis industry. Included in these issues is a lack of communication between Health Canada and municipalities, where advance notice to municipalities need not be required for planned growing activities, nor evidence provided that cannabis growers are compliant with local regulations, which has led to issues of non-compliance with zoning bylaws and failing to meet building codes within municipalities.

The resolution proposed here within aims to supplement each of these previous resolutions by: expanding on the access to information made available to municipalities by Health Canada to a permanent form of access to information, and expand on the existing compliance monitoring taking place for currently-approved sites of cannabis production.

As a result of the issues identified, there is a profound need for Health Canada and the municipalities across Canada to create a more effective manner in which municipalities can access information on sites of cannabis production. Recognizing that individuals have a right to privacy, this resolution puts forward that only the information necessary to enforcing land-use regulations would be made available to municipalities to mitigate any concerns over personal, sensitive information. Furthermore, if all sites of cannabis production within a municipality were made available to the municipality, sites of illegal activity could be easily identified, and proper courses of action could be taken. As Canada contends with the effects of changes in federal drug policy, this resolution advocates for recognizing cannabis as a legalized substance, not deregulated. With this distinction comes the need for greater coordination among various branches of government to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals.

Call to Order Bruce Beattie, Mountain View County, called the District 2 – Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta (CRMA) meeting to order at 10:00 am on Friday, February 5, 2021, via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Welcome Bruce Beattie, Mountain View County, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. He introduced Mountain View County Councillors in attendance. Reeve Beattie provided a brief overview on Mountain View County’s history.

Reeve Beattie confirmed quorum and the attendance of all member municipalities by way of the zoom raised hand process.

Agenda Bruce Beattie, called for additions to the agenda.

Amber Link, Wheatland County, requested that FCM Advocacy be added to the agenda.

Moved by Greg Harris, Mountain View County, that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Resolution Session Bruce Beattie turned the floor over to the Resolution Committee Chair, Jim Duncan, Clearwater County.

Jim Duncan, Clearwater County, advised that there was only one resolution for consideration.

Jim Duncan reminded members that the resolutions required 3/5 majority required for all resolutions, voting to be done by a show of hands. Amendments to be voted on by show of hands, with a 50 + 1 requirement for adoption.

Cindy Carstairs, RMA, provided the text voting information and performed a test with members.

Support for
Personal Cannabis Production
For Medical Use Resolution

The resolution was read by Jim Duncan, Chair, CRMA Resolutions Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta collaborate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate to Health Canada that confirmation of municipal compliance for personal medical cannabis production facilities required for existing license holders, and prior to approval for all future license applicants, in order to mitigate and reduce health, environmental, and nuisance risks associated with personal medical cannabis production.

Moved by Amber Link, Wheatland County, that the resolution be passed as presented. Seconded by Al Kemmere, Mountain View County.

Amber Link provided an overview and rationale for the proposed resolution and stated that the current Federal Policies regarding cannabis production are geared toward commercial production and not the personal use of cannabis. She also stated that applicants are only required to meet local municipal regulations and can cultivate up to 485 plants for personal medical use. The application process does not require the applicant to confirm that the local regulations have been met. Development Permits, electrical permits, building permits, and safety codes may be required by local municipalities.

The Secunder stated that he concurred with the motion and that the role of local government is to ensure that local regulations are being met.

Jim Duncan called three times for amendments to the resolution. No amendments were put forward.

There was no discussion from the floor.

The Mover and Secunder waived their right to provide closing remarks.

Jim Duncan called for a vote on the resolution by way of the Swift Voting Software and confirmed that the vote results were 96% in favour and 4% opposed.

CARRIED.

New Business

Chair and Vice Chair Appointment Policy

Bruce Beattie discussed the “Chair and Vice Chair Appointment Policy” Chair Duties and Responsibilities and stated that a proposed amendment to the Policy is being brought forward to align the Policy with the RMA Convention dates and Directors meetings to meet the current resolutions deadlines. Board of Directors Meetings are now held in August and December.

He asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed amendment. No one came forward.

Moved by Jackie Watts, of Starland County, that the amended “Chair and Vice Chair Appointment Policy” Chair Duties and Responsibilities be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

RMA Board of Governance

Review Committee

Bruce Beattie provided a presentation regarding the RMA Board of Governance Review (BGR) Committee including the following information:

- Board Structure and Scope
- Board of Governance Roles is to review functions of the RMA Board

- Ensure accountability to members
- RMA membership, structure, election processes, member input, and RMA Board compensation
- Review of policies and bylaws
- Member survey
- Report will be distributed prior to the 2021 Spring RMA Convention

Moved by Jerry Wittstock, Kneehill County, that the RMA Board of Governance Review Committee Presentation be received as information.

CARRIED.

RMA Report

Paul McLauchlin, RMA President, and Amber Link, RMA District 2 Director provided the following information and updates on RMA activities and initiatives.

The RMA representatives discussed the following:

- Municipal impacts survey
- Assessment Model Review Process
- Oil and Gas unpaid taxes
- Interim Alberta Police Advisory Board
- Local Authorities Election Amendment Act
- FCM Advocacy
- Oil Exports
- Effects of COVID to the Alberta economy
- Importance of Agriculture
- Carbon sequestration
- Internet Speed Testing
- RMA Subsidiary Programs

Recess and Reconvene

Reeve Beattie recessed the meeting at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Legal Session Bill 48

Bruce Beattie introduced and welcomed Jeneane Grundberg, Brownlee LLP, to the meeting. Bruce Beattie advised that Jeneane Grundberg would be providing a presentation regarding Bill 48.

Jeneane Grundberg provided the following discussion and information:

- Bill 48 – Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act effective December 9, 2020
- Provisions regarding Off-site levies, growth plans, and growth managements boards take effect date of June 1, 2021
- Several changes that will impact municipalities include amendments to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Historical Resources Act (HRA)

- The Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) will be established as of June 2, 2021
- The LPRT will assume the Municipal Government Board’s (MGB) responsibilities
- Significant changes will affect Subdivision and Development – LUB; Discretionary Matters; Appeals; Off-site Levies and Land near Airports
- Designated/alternative property use appeals

The RMA representatives discussed the following:

- The LPRT can over-ride municipal decisions regarding LUB
- Alternative land uses within farming operations (ie Dairy Operations/Retail cheese store) appeals would be taken away from the SDAB and directed to the LPRT
- Wet Pit Aggregate approvals

Bruce Beattie thanked Jeneane Grundberg for the presentation.

**Recess and
Reconvene**

Bruce Beattie recessed the meeting for lunch 12:04 pm.

Bruce Beattie called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Presentation

Bruce Beattie provided a brief biography about Gwen Day, Chair of the Paint the Barn Red Project. Bruce Beattie advised that traditionally, the member hosting the general meeting provides those attending with a gift unique to the area, however, due to Provincial health requirements, and the meeting being held as a so-called ‘virtual’ meeting Mountain View County has sent out a book to each Member Municipality. He welcomed Gwen Day to the meeting.

Gwen Day, Chair of the Book Committee provided a video presentation and a PowerPoint presentation about the book.

She advised that a group of Mountain View County residents came together to create the “Paint the Barn Red” project. Paint the Barn Red is the story of rural life and agriculture in Mountain View County from the time of the first settlers in this community to the present.

Gwen Day discussed the collection of historical images and the tale that is told through paintings of 49 iconic barns, representative of different eras, and painted by 37 local artists. She stated that the outcome is a celebration of our rural heritage. She advised that funds raised from the sale of the books is being donated to local museums.

Bruce Beattie thanked Gwen Day for her presentation and her commitment to the community.

**RMA Report
(cont'd)**

Paul McLaughlin addressed a previous question regarding Policing that was brought forward by James Nibourg, Stettler County.

The RMA representatives discussed the following:

- Policing – RMA Backgrounder Survey
- AUMA Policing Summit – February 17, 2021
- RMA Trade
- Mental Health Awareness
- Land Titles Registry
- Coal Policy changes

Moved by Dann Henn, Rocky View County, to receive the RMA Reports as information.

Carried.

**Adoption of
Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Jim Duncan, Clearwater County, that the minutes of the District 2 – CRMA General Meeting held on October 2, 2020; the minutes of the District 2 – CRMA Directors Meeting held on December 4, 2020; and the minutes of the District 2 – Resolutions Committee Meeting held on January 8, 2021, be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

Financial Report

As of December 31,
2020

Reeve Beattie reviewed the December 31, 2020 financial report.

**2021/2022 District 2
Meeting Schedule**

Bruce Beattie noted the next scheduled District 2- CRMA general meetings and resolution deadline dates as follows:

- August 13, 2021, District 2 Board of Directors – Three Hills
- October 15, 2021 – Hosted by Special Areas
Resolution Deadline – September 15, 2021
- December 10, 2021, District 2 Board of Directors – Three Hills
- February 4, 2022 – Hosted by Red Deer County
Resolution Deadline – January 11, 2022
- 2019-2025 CRMA Meeting Schedule

Reeve Beattie thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment

Bruce Beattie, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

District 2 CRMA Directors' Meeting

Friday, August 13, 2021

Page 1 of 5

1. Call to Order

Bruce Beattie, CRMA District 2 Chair, called the meeting of the CRMA District 2 Board of Directors to order at 10:00 am on Friday, August 13, 2021, at the Kneehill County Office and via Go To Meeting.

In attendance:

Cammie Laird and John Vandermeer, Clearwater County
Jerry Wittstock and Faye McGhee, Kneehill County
Paula Law, Lacombe County
Dene Cooper and Paul Clark, M.D. Bighorn
Bruce Beattie and Greg Harris, Mountain View County
Stan Schulmeister and Doreen Blumhagen, County of Paintearth
Bryce Liddle, Ponoka County
Jim Wood, Red Deer County
Greg Boehlke, Rocky View County
Steve Wannstrom, Starland County
Larry Clarke, Stettler County
Amber Link, Wheatland County

Michael Minchin, Corporate Services Director, Lacombe County
Margaretha Bloem, Planning and Development Director, Mountain View County
Jordon Christianson, Chair, Special Areas
Yvette Cassidy, CAO, Stettler County
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services, Stettler County
Carolyn Van der Kuil, Recording Secretary, Kneehill County

2. Agenda

Moved by Greg Harris, Mountain View County, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried.

3. October 15, 2021 District 2 Fall General Meeting - Agenda Items

Discussion took place on proposed resolutions, education sessions, and legal updates for the October 15, 2021 District 2 meeting.

3.1 Proposed Resolutions

1. Wheatland County: Seniors Housing

3.2 Education Session Topics

Topics that were suggested for presentation by Municipal Affairs as follows:

1. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

3.3 Legal Update Topics

Legal update topics were suggested as follows:

1. Medical Marijuana and municipal enforcement tools for "illegal grow ops"

Moved by Greg Boehlke, Rocky View County, to adopt the above agenda items for the upcoming CRMA Fall General Meeting.

Carried.

4. Verbal Reports

6.1 CRMA District 2 Municipal Updates

a) Clearwater County, discussed:

- Working on 6 phase Broadband Project.
- Nordegg lots have been sold out.
- Dealing with increased visits to the West Country. Can see up to 45,000 people per week during summer.
- Government of Alberta now implementing camping fee for West Country and would like to capitalize on the trail system in this area.
- Will be attending a meeting with the province regarding the Alberta Coal Policy.
- Completing the Condor and Leslieville infrastructure projects that assist in the modernization of the schools in those communities.
- Working together with First Nation to advocate the province for funding on a high risk road.
- MDP review is currently being done. It is anticipated that work on this document will cross over to new Council.
- Working on Nordegg's Development Plan.
- Continue to support CAEP Initiatives.

b) Kneehill County discussed:

- Completed a paving project that replaced 12.5 km of chip seal with ACP pavement.
- Proposing a water project East of Three Hills.
- Currently conducting a Paid Parking Project at Horseshoe Canyon. Parking fee is \$2.00 per car and the County anticipates to see around 200,000 people this season. County hopes to use these funds to upgrade washrooms at this facility.
- The campground next to Horseshoe Canyon is expanding.
- There is a Solar Development that will be developing north of Three Hills.
- The County will declare an Agriculture Disaster next week.

c) Lacombe County discussed:

- The staff working from home are heading back to work
- Regional Wastewater Line coming to Summer Villages
- A 7-acre greenhouse that grows peppers in County are expanding.
- Received a Blue Sky Award.
- Soil conditions are very dry in County. The Eastern part of the County is very dry while the west received hail.

- There are three Councillors who will not be seeking re-election.
- d) M.D. of Bighorn discussed:
- The drought conditions in the M.D. are not only affecting grazing but also trees and forests
 - Reviewing evacuation procedures in the M.D. Evacuation procedure to include evacuating the many visitors that frequent the M.D.
 - Pandemic numbers increasing rapidly. Staff will be acting in precaution and will do so until the numbers drop.
 - Discussed the proposed train going from Calgary to Banff and how it will never be cost effective.
 - Working on long term emergency plan.
 - Was asked by Municipal Affairs to conduct the Stony First Nation Senate and Referendum election for them and declined as they are more than able to conduct their own election.
 - Discussed the Hamlet of Exshaw and their low carbon fuel alternative fuel project.
- e) Mountain View County discussed:
- Some ag producers are seeing average production while others are seeing low production. We will not know the full assessment until harvest is over.
 - A number of towns and villages are asking to renegotiate their seven-year Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework document and Council has declined these attempts.
 - They have completed all their IDPs.
 - Dealing with campgrounds on private land in the West Country. No way to investigate unless there is a complaint.
 - Having a difficult time filling the equipment operator vacancies.
 - Have a potential solar development on an existing expiring gravel pit site.
- f) Paintearth County discussed:
- Declared an Ag Disaster on July 28th.
 - The Trans Alta Wind Farm has been approved and construction will begin in fall.
 - Working towards value added projects.
 - AB Transportation is working on straightening the curves at Helkirk.
 - Working on fibre optic project.
 - The Helkirk grader shed is near completion.
- g) Ponoka County discussed:
- The moisture levels are favourable in the west and poor in the east
 - Province turned down road project that was proposed in conjunction with the First Nations

- An Air Tour was conducted at the regional airport and there were 400 to 500 people in attendance. Would recommend to anyone to promote this in their community.
 - On the September long weekend Ponoka will be having a Chuck Wagon and Bull Riding event.
- h) Red Deer County discussed:
- There is a variance in dryness in the County. The east is worse than the west.
 - Working on Broadband project.
 - Junction 42 now having traffic problems as there are too many visitors.
 - Completed ICF with City of Red Deer.
 - Working on MDP review .
- l) Rocky View County discussed:
- Declared an Ag Disaster on August 3rd.
 - Discussed the problems arising from the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, and the Balzac development Area Structure Plan. Disappointed that there is no appeal mechanism in place.
 - Working on Broadband Project for Bearspaw area.
 - Development in the County continues to do well.
- J) Special Areas discussed:
- In the design stage of a Dementia Care Facility in Oyen
 - A wind and solar project are being constructed in the municipality
 - Reclamation has begun on the XL Pipeline.
 - Declared an Ag Disaster on July 23, 2021
 - Special Areas will be hosting the next District 2 Fall General Meeting in Hanna.
- k) Starland County discussed:
- Will be declaring an Ag Disaster next week.
 - Had office grand opening
 - The Justice Minister held a meeting in Munson to discuss policing. Starland County had a chance to meet with him before the meeting and discussed oil and gas companies not paying their taxes and impact it has on municipalities.
 - They have had wind and solar companies ask for refunds on their taxes as the oil and gas company get them.
 - Continue to operate Tolman East and West campgrounds.
- L) Stetter County discussed:
- Buffalo Lake Area Structure Plan has been approved
 - The County is currently working on purchasing a new gravel pit that will give them 100 years of gravel.
 - Stettler declared an agriculture disaster on August 11th.
- M) Wheatland County discussed:
- Declared an Agriculture Disaster on July 27th
 - Harvest is currently going on with low production.

- Water Hemlock has been spotted in Wheatland with two producers affected.
- Council is currently on summer recess.
- Building a firehall in Caresland. Wheatland took the plan from the Munson firehall.
- County shifting to more contract work rather than completing projects in-house in the Transportation Department.
- Tender is open for their Broadband project.
- Economic Development working on attraction strategies and just completed corporate logo.
- Updated their Strategic Plan.
- Awarded Community Grants.
- Discussed IDP/ICF with urbans inside a Municipal Growth Management Board.

4.2 CRMA District 2 Director's Report

- Amber Link advised that:

- Amber sent a full update to members yesterday
- RMA has been told nothing around policing. RMA still has no position because there has been no information and no direction from members.
- The RMA Fall Conference will be in person.
- RMA has expanded its business side. This will in turn will be a benefit to its member as they will be able to procure cheaper products for its members.

5. Next Meeting Dates

- CRMA District 2 Fall General Meeting – October 15, 2021 (Host Special Areas)
- CRMA District 2 Directors' Meeting – January 7, 2022
- CRMA District 2 Spring General Meeting – February 4, 2022 (Host Red Deer County)

6. Resolution Deadlines

- September 15, 2021 is the deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the October 15, 2021 general meeting.
- January 11, 2022 is the deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the February 4, 2022, general meeting.

8. Adjournment

Reeve Beattie adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

District Two – RMA Resolutions Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021

- Participants Jim Duncan, Clearwater County (Chair)
Amber Link, Wheatland County (District 2 Director, non-voting)
Dene Cooper, MD Bighorn
Greg Harris, Mountain View County
Larry Clarke, Stettler County
Jeff Holmes, CAO, Mountain View County
Laura McMillan, Recording Secretary, Mountain View County
- Absent Jim Wood, Red Deer County (Vice Chair)
- Call to Order Jim Duncan, Chair, called the September 21, 2021, Resolutions Committee Zoom Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- Agenda Moved by Greg Harris
That the agenda of the RMA Resolution Committee Meeting of September 21, 2021, is adopted.
Carried.
- Resolution Review
- 3.1 EMS Capacity and Service Delivery in Rural Alberta
Wheatland County, Endorsed by Clearwater County
- Moved by Dene Cooper that the Resolutions Committee amend two sentences as follows:
- a) “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request the Province of Alberta, immediately consult with municipalities, to develop a plan to make urgently needed improvements to the capacity, delivery, and performance of the EMS system.”
 - b) “EMS service levels have become an urgent, even critical issue with potential life and death consequences.”
- Carried.
- 3.2 Seniors’ Foundation Requisitions
Wheatland County, Endorsed by Starland County
- Moved by Greg Harris that the Resolutions Committee requests two further be it resolved statements be combined, resulting in one amended paragraph as follows:
- “FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request that the Government of Alberta provide enhanced training and education, including a training guide to Municipal Councils and HMBs on the Housing Act and the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation to ensure they have a clear understanding of their financial powers, limitations and responsibilities, including related to requisitioning and reserve creation;”
- Carried.

District Two – RMA Resolutions Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021

Amber Link left the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

- 3.3 Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
Starland County, Endorsed by Wheatland County

Moved by Larry Clarke to approve the Resolution as presented.

Carried.

- 3.4 Increasing Knowledge-Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis
Production Facilities
Kneehill County, Endorsed by Wheatland County

The Resolutions Committee approved the Resolution as amended:

“AND WHEREAS instances of non-compliance or contravention of existing land use regulations have been difficult for municipalities to observe and/or take action against, due to a lack of knowledge of legal sites of cannabis production currently operating within the municipality’s borders; and”

The Resolutions Committee requests clarification from Kneehill county regarding the “commercially grown” sentence. The Resolutions Committee request that the statement be amended as follows:

“AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for land-use zoning and permitting of activities within their borders, which includes where cannabis can be commercially and medically grown, processed, sold, and consumed; and”

Moved by Greg Harris to approve the Resolution, as amended, with clarification to be reviewed with Kneehill County.

Carried.

Jim Duncan advised that the amended resolutions would be circulated to the Resolution Committee Members for information.

Order of Resolutions

Moved by Dene Cooper that the Order of Resolutions for the Zone Meeting be the same as the Order in the Resolution Committee’s agenda.

Carried.

Post Municipal Election Transition for Resolutions Committee

As per the terms of reference the Resolution Committee members will be confirmed at the December Zone Directors meeting.

Adjournment

District Two – RMA Resolutions Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021

Jim Duncan adjourned the meeting 9:35 am.