



TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2016
AGENDA

Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Council Chambers
Town of Claresholm Administration Office
221 – 45 Avenue West

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 29, 2016

DELEGATION: YOUNG PARKYN McNAB – Darren Adamson, CA
RE: 2015 Financial Statements

ACTION ITEMS:

1. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Transfers to Reserves
2. REQUEST FOR DECISION: 2015 Financial Statements
3. CORRES: Hon. Danielle Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs
RE: Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program
4. CORRES: Hon. Danielle Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs
RE: Ongoing Safety Codes Exemption for Specified Residences under the
Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Program
5. CORRES: Workers' Compensation Board Alberta
RE: April 28 – National Day of Mourning
6. CORRES: Mayor Jim Ahn, Town of Fox Creek
RE: Business License Bylaw 736-2014
7. INFORMATION BRIEF: Pitch-in Canada Week
8. INFORMATION BRIEF: Council Resolution Status
9. ADOPTION OF INFORMATION ITEMS
10. IN CAMERA: Personnel; Legal; Annexation; Board Appointment

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Municipal Planning Commission Minutes – March 18, 2016
2. AUMA Small Communities Newsletter – Winter 2016
3. Willow Creek Regional Waste Management Services Commission – February 23, 2016
4. Speed is the Traffic Safety Focus in April – Alberta Transportation
5. Claresholm & District FCSS Board Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2016
6. May 31 Deadline for resolutions for the 2016 AUMA Convention
7. AUMA News – New Community Fund for Canada's 150th
8. WCCHS Navigator – April 4, 2016
9. Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin – March 29, 2016
10. Oldman Watershed Council E-Newsletter – April 2016
11. Claresholm & District Museum Board Minutes – February 17, 2016

ADJOURNMENT



TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2016

Place: Council Chambers
Town of Claresholm Administration Office
221 – 45 Avenue West

COUNCIL PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Jamie Cutler; Councillors: Chris Dixon, Betty Fieguth, Shelley Ford, Mike McAlonan, and Lyal O’Neill.

REGRETS: Mayor Rob Steel

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer: Marian Carlson; Finance Assistant: Karine Wilhauk

MEDIA PRESENT: Rob Vogt, Claresholm Local Press

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jamie Cutler.

AGENDA: Moved by Councillor Fieguth that the Agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES: **REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 14, 2016**

Moved by Councillor McAlonan that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2016 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **DELEGATION RESPONSE: Residents of Tamarack Road**
RE: Sewer Installation Problems

MOTION #16-022 Moved by Councillor Fieguth to begin the camera work on Tamarack Road and to prioritize property repairs based on need as discovered from this process.

CARRIED

2. **CORRES: John Barlow, Member of Parliament for Foothills**
RE: Physician-Assisted Dying Open House – April 5, 2016

Received for information.

3. **CORRES: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association**
RE: Local Advocacy on the Province’s Decision to Eliminate Grants in Lieu of Taxes for Social Housing

MOTION #16-023 Moved by Councillor Ford to write a letter to the Minister of Seniors and Housing expressing the Town’s concern regarding grants in lieu of taxes for social housing.

CARRIED

4. **CORRES: Mayor Henk De Vlieger, Town of Taber**
RE: Request for Support for Funding Application

MOTION #16-024 Moved by Councillor O’Neill to write a letter to the Town of Taber outlining our current recycling operations.

CARRIED

5. **CORRES: Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association**
RE: 2016 Membership Fee

MOTION #16-025 Moved by Councillor O’Neill to discontinue our membership in the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association.

CARRIED

6. **CORRES: The Station**
RE: Invitation to Fundraising Event “The Station’s Diamond Ball”

Received for information.

7. **CORRES: Frame Aviation**
RE: Fly-in Breakfast – August 20, 2016

MOTION #16-026 Moved by Councillor Ford to allow Frame Aviation to co-sponsor a Fly-in Breakfast at the Claresholm Industrial Airport on August 20, 2016.

CARRIED

8. **CORRES: Claresholm Animal Rescue Society**
RE: Amendments to Cat Bylaw

Received for information.

9. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Budget 2016

MOTION #16-027 Moved by Councillor Fieguth to approve the 2016 Operational and Capital Budgets as presented.

CARRIED

10. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Strategic Plan 2016-2019

MOTION #16-028 Moved by Councillor Ford to approve the Town of Claresholm Strategic Plan 2016-2019 as presented.

CARRIED

11. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Engineering Contract

MOTION #16-029 Moved by Councillor Dixon to amend the scope of work from the original preliminary engineering contract with Associated Engineering for project engineering and construction of Phase I of the Town of Claresholm Stormwater Management Plan.

CARRIED

12. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Claresholm Minor Lacrosse Association

MOTION #16-030 Moved by Councillor Ford to allow Claresholm Minor Lacrosse to use the Arena concrete surface for \$90 per week plus GST for practices for May to July 2016 and charge them \$57 per hour plus GST for Saturday and Sunday games as needed.

CARRIED

13. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Policy # PLDE 04-09 – Planning & Development Fees

MOTION #16-031 WHEREAS the Town of Claresholm Strategic Plan was approved by Town Council and recommended to “Review and Streamline Development Application Processes and Procedures”;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Claresholm Council has amended the Land Use Bylaw No. 1525;

Therefore be it resolved by Councillor McAlonan to amend the Planning & Development fees as presented.

CARRIED

14. REQUEST FOR DECISION: Policy #GA 03-16 – Community Organizations Insurance Reimbursement

MOTION #16-032 Moved by Councillor Fieguth to adopt Policy #GA 03-16 regarding Community Organizations Insurance Reimbursement, effective March 29, 2016.

CARRIED

15. FINANCIAL REPORT: Consolidated Statement of Operations February 2016

Moved by Councillor Dixon to accept the Consolidated Statement of Operations for the month ended February 29, 2016 as presented.

CARRIED

16. INFORMATION BRIEF: Disaster Recovery Program Funding

Received for information.

17. INFORMATION BRIEF: Broadband

Received for information.

18. INFORMATION BRIEF: CAO Report

Received for information.

19. INFORMATION BRIEF: Council Resolution Status

Received for information.

20. ADOPTION OF INFORMATION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Dixon to adopt information items as presented.

CARRIED

21. IN CAMERA: Legal; Employment; Contracts

Moved by Councillor O’Neill that the meeting go In Camera at 8:51 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor McAlonan that this meeting come out of In Camera at 10:08 p.m.

CARRIED

MOTION #16-033 Moved by Councillor Ford to enter into the proposed Development Agreement with 1428495 Alberta Ltd from Calgary, Alberta for Lots 1-16, Block 1, Plan 1014361, Lots 1-22, Block 2, Plan 1014361, Lots 1-20, Block 3, Plan 1014361.

CARRIED

MOTION #16-034 Moved by Councillor O'Neill to extend the acceptance date to April 30, 2016 in the offer as referenced in the Town's letter to Emercor Ltd. dated March 15, 2016 for the high pressure fire suppression system, to offer Emercor a five-year payment option on the purchase agreement, to inform them that the Town will not be pursuing any further insurance claims regarding the high pressure fire suppression system and that the Town will not provide a waiver of the limitation period referred to in the Alberta Limitations Act.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Councillor Dixon that the meeting adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor – Jamie Cutler

Chief Administrative Officer – Marian Carlson

DRAFT

ACTION ITEMS



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: April 11, 2016
Agenda Item: 1

Reserve Transfers – December 31, 2015

DESCRIPTION:

Administration requires a motion of Council in order to allocate unrestricted funds to restricted funds (Reserves) included in the draft 2015 Financial Statements.

BACKGROUND:

On April 7, 2016, the Audit Committee and Administration met with Darren Adamson, CPA, CA from Young Parkyn McNab LLP to go over the draft 2015 Financial Statements. At that point, a discussion was held regarding the balance of reserves at the end of 2014 and what transfers should be completed for 2015.

COSTS / SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The proposed unrestricted funds designated for future use (Reserves) in the amount of \$379,801 are as follows:

1. Add \$15,900 to General operational reserves from unspent budgeted amount in 2015 for operating costs of the school facility.
2. Add \$15,800 to the Physician recruitment fund reserve from unspent budgeted amount in 2015 to be used by the physician recruitment committee in the future.
3. Add a new Economic development reserve from unspent operational costs budgeted in 2015 in the amount of \$30,000 to assist with economic development costs in 2016.
4. Add \$157,400 to general capital reserves from operating surplus for future capital projects.
5. Add a new reserve amount of \$150,000 for the Multi-use community building to assist with future capital costs.

Reserves used for operations, which were included in the 2015 budget, in the amount of \$46,598 are as follows:

1. Reduce the Land fill closure reserve by \$38,598 to cover costs that were incurred in 2015 and included in the approved 2015 budget.
2. Reduce the Airport general reserve by \$8,000 to cover costs that were incurred in 2015 and included in the approved 2015 budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Council pass a motion to approve the transfers as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Moved by Councillor _____ to transfer unrestricted funds of \$379,801 to Reserves and to transfer from Reserves \$46,598 for operations for the year ended December 31, 2015 as follows:

General Reserves

Transfers to Reserves:

General - \$15,900

Physician recruitment fund – \$15,800

Economic development - \$30,000

Transfers from Reserves:

Land fill closure - \$38,598

Airport general - \$8,000

Capital Reserves

Transfers to Reserves:

General \$157,400

Multi-use community building \$150,000

Attachments:

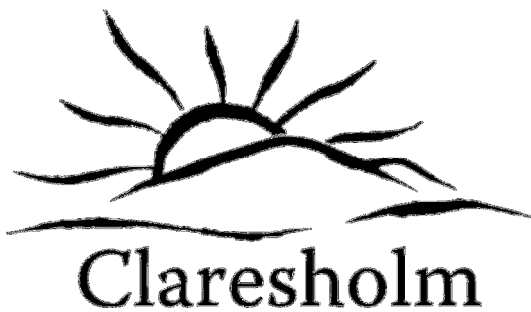
None.

Applicable Legislation: Not applicable.

Prepared By: Simon Janhunen, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services

Approved By: Marian Carlson, CAO

DATE: April 8, 2016



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: April 11, 2016

Agenda Item: 2

2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DESCRIPTION:

Council must pass a motion to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015.

BACKGROUND:

Darren Adamson, CPA, CA from Young Parkyn McNab LLP will present the draft Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 to Council with transfers to reserves included as previously noted.

COSTS / SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Council pass a motion to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Moved by Councillor _____ to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 as presented.

Attachments:

None.

Applicable Legislation: Not applicable.

Prepared By: Simon Janhunen, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services

Approved By: Marian Carlson, CAO

DATE: April 8, 2016

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2015

Draft - April 7, 2016

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
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For the year ended December 31, 2015

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Mayor and Members of Council of
the Town of Claresholm

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Town of Claresholm which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the consolidated statements of operations, change in net financial debt and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Claresholm as at December 31, 2015 and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial debt, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Lethbridge, Alberta

April 11, 2016

Chartered Accountants

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Town of Claresholm.

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared from information provided by management. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. Management has determined such amounts on a reasonable basis in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The Town maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and that the Town's assets are properly accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The elected Council of the Town of Claresholm is responsible for ensuring that management fulfils its responsibilities for financial statements. Council carries out its responsibility principally through the Finance and Administration and General Services committees.

The Council meets annually with management and the external auditors to discuss internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues, and to satisfy itself that each party is properly discharging its responsibilities. Council also considers the engagement or re-appointment of the external auditors. Council reviews the monthly financial reports.

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by Young Parkyn McNab LLP, Chartered Accountants, the external auditors, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the Council, residents and ratepayers of the Town. Young Parkyn McNab LLP has full and free access to the Council.

Chief Administrative Officer _____

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at December 31, 2015

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Financial assets | | |
| Cash and temporary investments (note 2) | \$ 3,476,744 | \$ 2,864,306 |
| Taxes and grants in place of taxes receivable (note 3) | 216,890 | 332,132 |
| Trade and other receivables (note 4) | 753,604 | 751,725 |
| Land held for resale | 150,688 | 150,688 |
| | 4,597,926 | 4,098,851 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 190,840 | 184,428 |
| Employee benefit obligations (note 6) | 203,209 | 216,072 |
| Deposits | 25,217 | 37,402 |
| Deferred revenue (note 7) | 1,051,513 | 879,202 |
| Long-term debt (note 8) | 4,987,006 | 5,341,682 |
| | 6,457,785 | 6,658,786 |
| Net financial debt | (1,859,859) | (2,559,935) |
| Non-financial assets | | |
| Prepaid expenses | 20,513 | 17,770 |
| Inventory for consumption | 215,222 | 228,337 |
| Tangible capital assets (schedule 2) | 24,904,115 | 26,454,946 |
| | 25,139,850 | 26,701,053 |
| Accumulated surplus (note 9) | \$ 23,279,991 | \$ 24,141,118 |

Commitments and contingencies (note 21)

Approved on behalf of Council:

Councillor _____

Councillor _____

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

| | Budget (Unaudited) | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Net municipal taxes (note 12) | \$ 3,073,988 | \$ 3,033,872 | \$ 3,063,513 |
| User fees and sales of goods | 1,972,810 | 2,059,875 | 2,084,282 |
| Government transfers for operating (note 13) | 423,163 | 220,592 | 220,407 |
| Investment income | 32,000 | 49,134 | 46,294 |
| Penalties and costs of taxes | 82,500 | 84,182 | 147,160 |
| Licenses and permits | 44,500 | 39,594 | 41,051 |
| Gain on disposal of capital assets | - | 4,335 | - |
| Franchise and concession contracts | 142,705 | 142,027 | 140,124 |
| Rental | 121,700 | 127,654 | 125,772 |
| Other | 78,944 | 193,436 | 102,502 |
| Family and community support services | 220,699 | 230,835 | 240,440 |
| | 6,193,009 | 6,185,536 | 6,211,545 |
| Expenses (note 14) | | | |
| Legislative | 111,500 | 104,377 | 269,401 |
| Administration | 1,140,412 | 945,874 | 866,706 |
| Fire | 197,479 | 163,773 | 193,347 |
| Bylaw enforcement | 148,232 | 142,592 | 185,033 |
| Common and equipment pool | 550,295 | 500,627 | 533,801 |
| Roads, streets, walks and lighting | 907,665 | 768,876 | 922,993 |
| Airport | 23,019 | 24,509 | 16,930 |
| Storm sewers and drainage | 311,620 | 129,948 | 210,635 |
| Water supply and distribution | 2,242,310 | 1,963,321 | 2,241,161 |
| Wastewater treatment and disposal | 624,369 | 542,536 | 466,266 |
| Solid waste management | 528,703 | 547,945 | 493,810 |
| Family and community support services | 217,214 | 223,512 | 219,861 |
| Day care | 69,777 | 62,151 | 69,126 |
| Cemeteries and crematoriums | 38,099 | 24,783 | 21,812 |
| Other public health and welfare | 30,000 | 14,104 | 12,907 |
| Planning and development | 204,524 | 202,650 | 299,932 |
| Parks and recreation | 867,612 | 859,441 | 846,473 |
| Culture - libraries, museums and halls | 341,233 | 336,872 | 356,686 |
| | 8,554,063 | 7,557,891 | 8,226,880 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses before other | (2,361,054) | (1,372,355) | (2,015,335) |
| Other | | | |
| Government transfers for capital (note 13) | 1,696,125 | 511,228 | 925,085 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | (664,929) | (861,127) | (1,090,250) |
| Accumulated surplus, beginning of year | 24,141,118 | 24,141,118 | 25,231,368 |
| Accumulated surplus, end of year | \$ 23,476,189 | \$ 23,279,991 | \$ 24,141,118 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL DEBT
For the year ended December 31, 2015

| | Budget (Unaudited) | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | \$ (664,929) | \$ (861,127) | \$ (1,090,250) |
| Acquisition of tangible capital assets | (2,297,900) | (868,763) | (1,817,384) |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 2,674,736 | 2,385,830 | 2,584,670 |
| (Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets | - | (4,336) | 17,456 |
| Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets | - | 38,100 | 36,325 |
| | 376,836 | 1,550,831 | 821,067 |
| Net change in inventory for consumption | - | 13,115 | (24,690) |
| Net change in prepaid expense | - | (2,743) | 1,091 |
| | - | 10,372 | (23,599) |
| Increase in net financial debt | (288,093) | 700,076 | (292,782) |
| Net financial debt, beginning of year | (2,559,935) | (2,559,935) | (2,267,153) |
| Net financial debt, end of year | \$ (2,848,028) | \$ (1,859,859) | \$ (2,559,935) |

Draft - April 7, 2016

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
For the year ended December 31, 2015

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Operating transactions | | |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | \$ (861,127) | \$ (1,090,250) |
| Adjustments for items which do not affect cash | | |
| (Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets | (4,336) | 17,456 |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 2,385,830 | 2,584,670 |
| | 1,520,367 | 1,511,876 |
| Net change in non-cash working capital items | | |
| Taxes and grants in place of taxes receivable | 115,242 | 82,538 |
| Trade and other receivables | (1,879) | 180,622 |
| Inventory for consumption | 13,115 | (24,690) |
| Prepaid expenses | (2,743) | 1,091 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 6,412 | (251,351) |
| Employee benefit obligations | (12,863) | 4,000 |
| Deposits | (12,185) | (16,285) |
| Deferred revenue | 172,311 | (48,810) |
| | 1,797,777 | 1,438,991 |
| Capital transactions | | |
| Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets | 38,100 | 36,325 |
| Acquisition of tangible capital assets | (868,763) | (1,817,384) |
| | (830,663) | (1,781,059) |
| Financing transactions | | |
| Proceeds of long-term debt | - | 600,000 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | (354,676) | (244,170) |
| | (354,676) | 355,830 |
| Increase in cash and temporary investments | 612,438 | 13,762 |
| Cash and temporary investments, beginning of year | 2,864,306 | 2,850,544 |
| Cash and temporary investments, end of year | \$ 3,476,744 | \$ 2,864,306 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

1. Significant accounting policies

The consolidated financial statements of the Town of Claresholm are the representations of management prepared in accordance with public sector accounting standards for local government established by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Town are as follows:

(a) Reporting entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, changes in fund balances and change in financial position of the reporting entity which comprises all of the organizations that are owned or controlled by the Town and are, therefore, accountable to the Council for the administration of their financial affairs and resources.

Taxes levied also includes requisitions for educational, health care, social and other external organizations that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

The statements exclude trust assets that are administered for the benefit of external parties. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

(b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based upon receipt of goods or services and/or the legal obligation to pay.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used for certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purchase of tangible capital assets. In addition, certain user charges and fees are collected for which the related services have yet to be performed. Revenue is recognized in the period when the related expenses are incurred, services performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

(c) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the period. Where measurement uncertainty exists, the financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(d) Investments

Investments are recorded at amortized cost. Investment premiums and discounts are amortized on the net present value basis over the term of the respective investments. When there has been a loss in value that is other than a temporary decline, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

(e) Debt charges recoverable
Debt charges recoverable consist of amounts that are recoverable from municipal agencies or other local governments with respect to outstanding debentures or other long-term debt pursuant to annexation orders or joint capital undertakings. These recoveries are recorded at a value that equals the offsetting portion of the unmatured long-term debt, less actuarial requirements for the retirement of any sinking fund debentures.

(f) Requisition over-levy and under-levy
Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual property tax levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned.

If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the over-levy is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced. Where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable and as property tax revenue.

Requisition tax rates in the subsequent year are adjusted for any over-levies or under-levies of the prior year.

(g) Inventories for resale
Land held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost includes costs for land acquisition and improvements required to prepare the land for servicing such as clearing, stripping, and leveling charges. Related development costs incurred to provide infrastructure such as water and waste water services, roads, sidewalks, and street lighting are recorded as physical assets under their respective function.

(h) Tax Revenue
Tax revenues are recognized when the tax has been authorized by bylaw and the taxable event has occurred.

Requisitions operate as a flow through are excluded from municipal revenue.

(i) Contaminated sites liability
Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when a site is not in productive use and is management's estimate of the cost of post-remediation including operation, maintenance and monitoring.

(j) Government transfers
Government transfers are the transfer of assets from senior levels of government that are not the result of an exchange transaction, are not expected to be repaid in the future, or the result of a direct financial return.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be determined.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

(k) Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the consolidated Change in Net Financial Debt for the year.

(i) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized over the estimated useful life as follows:

| | Years |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Land improvements | 10-25 straight line |
| Buildings | 25-50 straight line |
| Engineered structures | 5-75 declining balance |
| Machinery and equipment | 5-40 declining balance |
| Construction in progress | 10-25 declining balance |

One-half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

(ii) Contributions of tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

(iii) Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

(iv) Inventories

Inventories held for consumption are recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value with cost determined by the average cost method.

(v) Cultural and historical tangible capital assets

Works of art for display are not recorded as tangible capital assets but are disclosed.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

2. Cash and temporary investments

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash | \$ 283,541 | \$ 176,784 |
| Temporary investments | 3,193,203 | 2,687,522 |
| | \$ 3,476,744 | \$ 2,864,306 |

Included in cash and short-term investments is \$25,217 (2014 - \$37,402) of deposit liability funds which are not available for current purposes.

Temporary investments consists of one to eight month term deposits with varying interest rates of 0.40% to 1.90% if held to maturity.

3. Taxes and grants in place of taxes receivables

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current year | \$ 139,468 | \$ 206,101 |
| Arrears | 77,422 | 126,031 |
| | \$ 216,890 | \$ 332,132 |

4. Trade and other receivables

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trade accounts | \$ 323,952 | \$ 329,988 |
| Due from Federal government | 197,005 | - |
| Local improvement levies | 143,846 | 167,970 |
| Due from Provincial governments | - | 149,831 |
| Due from local governments | 39,955 | 56,549 |
| GST receivable | 48,846 | 47,387 |
| | \$ 753,604 | \$ 751,725 |

5. Temporary Loans

A temporary loan has been authorized by Alberta Treasury Branches to a maximum of \$450,000 which bears interest at prime.

Security pledged on this loan includes a general security agreement. As at December 31, 2015 there was no balance outstanding on the loan.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

6. Employee benefit obligations

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Vacation | \$ 123,986 | \$ 134,671 |
| Sick time | 79,223 | 81,401 |
| | \$ 203,209 | \$ 216,072 |

Vacation and sick time

The employee benefit obligations liability is comprised of the vacation and sick time that employees are deferring to future years. Employees have either earned the benefits (and they are vested) or are entitled to these benefits within the next budgetary year.

7. Deferred revenue

The deferred revenue balance represents funds received for specific purposes that have not been spent by year end. Deferred revenue consists of the following:

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| MSI/BMTG capital grants | \$ 494,508 | \$ 390,697 |
| Sundry trust | 343,404 | 344,007 |
| Federal gas tax capital grant | 96,763 | 25,397 |
| Offsite levies | 63,384 | 62,839 |
| Subdivision fund | 36,667 | 36,337 |
| FCSS | 5,697 | 8,908 |
| Taxi token prepayments | 5,403 | 5,380 |
| Parking fund | 3,684 | 3,652 |
| Walking path fund | 2,003 | 1,985 |
| | \$ 1,051,513 | \$ 879,202 |

8. Long-term debt

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Debentures supported by utility rates | \$ 3,878,549 | \$ 4,039,708 |
| Debentures supported by general tax levies | 1,108,457 | 1,301,974 |
| | \$ 4,987,006 | \$ 5,341,682 |
| | | |
| Current portion | \$ 365,692 | \$ 354,676 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

8. Long-term debt, continued

Principal and interest repayments are due as follows:

| | Principal | Interest | Total |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2016 | \$ 365,692 | \$ 218,647 | \$ 584,339 |
| 2017 | 377,246 | 207,093 | 584,339 |
| 2018 | 389,365 | 194,974 | 584,339 |
| 2019 | 402,079 | 182,260 | 584,339 |
| 2020 | 415,418 | 172,543 | 587,961 |
| Thereafter | 3,037,206 | 1,082,536 | 4,119,742 |
| | \$ 4,987,006 | \$ 2,058,053 | \$ 7,045,059 |

Debenture debt is repayable to Alberta Capital Finance Authority and bears interest at rates ranging from 2.306% to 5.875% per annum, before Provincial subsidy, and matures in periods 2021 through 2033. The average annual interest rate is 4.92% (4.88% for 2014). For qualifying debentures, the Province of Alberta rebates 60% of interest in excess of 8%, 9%, and 11% to a maximum annual rate of 12.5%, depending on the date borrowed. Debenture debt is issued on the credit and security of the Town of Claresholm at large.

The promissory note payable to Southcal Development Inc. in the amount of \$500,000 is payable at \$100,000 per year at 0% interest and is due in 2020. Upon completion of the project \$120,000 is due within 30 days.

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$228,428 (2014 - \$238,999). The Town's total cash payments for interest in 2015 were \$229,664 (2014 - \$240,170).

9. Accumulated surplus

Accumulated surplus consists of internally restricted and unrestricted amounts and equity in tangible capital assets as follows:

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Unrestricted surplus | \$ 1,651,347 | \$ 1,649,522 |
| Internally restricted surplus (reserves) (note 10) | 1,711,535 | 1,378,332 |
| Equity in tangible capital assets (note 11) | 19,917,109 | 21,113,264 |
| | \$ 23,279,991 | \$ 24,141,118 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

10. Reserves

Reserves for operating and capital activities are as follows:

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating | | |
| General | \$ 216,063 | \$ 200,163 |
| Debt reduction | 192,453 | 192,453 |
| Physician recruitment fund | 51,804 | 36,004 |
| Trust accounts | 51,358 | 51,358 |
| Sewer main replacement | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| Economic development | 30,000 | - |
| Office | 28,780 | 28,780 |
| Garbage equipment | 25,739 | 25,739 |
| Waterworks | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Fill dirt | 11,427 | 11,427 |
| Fire truck | 8,819 | 8,819 |
| Arena renovation | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Tipping fees | 5,449 | 5,449 |
| Water pumps | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Waterline replacement | 1,910 | 1,910 |
| Cemetery | 723 | 723 |
| Ball diamonds | 245 | 245 |
| Landfill closure | - | 38,598 |
| Airport general | - | 8,000 |
| | 685,770 | 670,668 |
| Capital | | |
| General | 392,988 | 235,588 |
| Arena ice slab/boards | 154,135 | 154,135 |
| Multi-use Community Building | 150,000 | - |
| Fire truck | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Water supply | 44,663 | 44,663 |
| Acreage assessment | 40,721 | 40,721 |
| Residential land sales | 26,584 | 26,584 |
| Town land | 25,163 | 25,163 |
| Tamarack subdivision | 25,149 | 25,149 |
| Airport land sales | 20,677 | 20,677 |
| Enforcement vehicle | 14,500 | 14,500 |
| Tax recovery land | 11,854 | 11,854 |
| Museum | 10,701 | - |
| Subdivision | 8,510 | 8,510 |
| Industrial land sales | 120 | 120 |
| | 1,025,765 | 707,664 |
| | \$ 1,711,535 | \$ 1,378,332 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

11. Equity in tangible capital assets

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tangible capital assets (schedule 2) | \$ 84,829,834 | \$ 83,998,588 |
| Accumulated amortization (schedule 2) | (59,925,719) | (57,543,642) |
| Long-term debt (note 8) | (4,987,006) | (5,341,682) |
| | \$ 19,917,109 | \$ 21,113,264 |

12. Net municipal property taxes

| | Budget (Unaudited) | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Taxation | | | |
| Real property taxes | \$ 4,037,208 | \$ 4,017,767 | \$ 4,076,492 |
| Linear property taxes | 112,591 | 112,591 | 113,050 |
| Government grants in place of property taxes | 48,113 | 48,113 | 83,571 |
| Special assessments and local improvements | 70,813 | 50,138 | 28,088 |
| | 4,268,725 | 4,228,609 | 4,301,201 |
| Requisitions | | | |
| Alberta School Foundation Fund | 1,086,911 | 1,086,911 | 1,128,338 |
| Porcupine Hills Lodge | 107,826 | 107,826 | 109,350 |
| | 1,194,737 | 1,194,737 | 1,237,688 |
| | \$ 3,073,988 | \$ 3,033,872 | \$ 3,063,513 |

13. Government transfers

| | Budget (Unaudited) | 2015 | 2014 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Transfers for operating: | | | |
| Government transfers for operating | \$ 423,163 | \$ 220,592 | \$ 220,407 |
| Transfers for capital: | | | |
| Shared-cost agreements and grants | 1,696,125 | 511,228 | 925,085 |
| | \$ 2,119,288 | \$ 731,820 | \$ 1,145,492 |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

14. Expenditures by object

| | Budget (Unaudited) | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries, wages and benefits | \$ 2,548,724 | \$ 2,450,073 | \$ 2,523,719 |
| Contracted and general services | 1,172,705 | 1,104,937 | 1,068,577 |
| Materials, goods, supplies and utilities | 1,445,116 | 1,008,136 | 1,243,041 |
| Bank charges and short-term interest | 1,500 | 858 | 844 |
| Interest on long-term debt | 229,664 | 228,428 | 238,999 |
| Other expenditures | 141,600 | 90,852 | 84,473 |
| Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets | - | - | 17,456 |
| Transfers to organizations and others | 27,058 | 27,058 | 26,268 |
| Purchases from other governments | 316,474 | 258,848 | 268,124 |
| Provision for allowances | (3,514) | 2,871 | 170,709 |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 2,674,736 | 2,385,830 | 2,584,670 |
| | \$ 8,554,063 | \$ 7,557,891 | \$ 8,226,880 |

15. Salary and benefits disclosure

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

| | (1) Salary | (2) Benefits & allowances | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Council | | | | |
| Mayor Steel | \$ 13,381 | \$ 549 | \$ 13,930 | \$ 13,742 |
| Councillor Cutler | 12,668 | 882 | 13,550 | 11,325 |
| Councillor Dixon | 9,661 | - | 9,661 | 10,401 |
| Councillor Fieguth | 10,177 | 185 | 10,362 | 11,531 |
| Councillor Ford | 11,771 | 530 | 12,301 | 14,720 |
| Councillor McAlonan | 12,024 | - | 12,024 | 11,703 |
| Councillor O'Neill | 12,114 | 219 | 12,333 | 12,942 |
| Chief Administrative Officer | 100,018 | 22,160 | 122,178 | 90,444 |
| Designated Officers (2015: 7 positions, 2014: 5 positions) | \$ 292,796 | \$ 70,862 | \$ 363,658 | \$ 411,457 |

(1) Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration.

(2) Benefits and allowances include the employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long- and short-term disability plans, professional memberships, and tuition.

Benefits and allowances figures also include the employer's share of the costs of additional taxable benefits including special leave with pay, financial planning services, retirement planning services, concessionary loans, travel allowances, car allowances, and club memberships.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

16. Debt limits

Section 276(2) of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/00 for the Town be disclosed as follows:

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total debt limit | \$ 9,278,304 | \$ 9,317,319 |
| Total debt | 4,987,006 | 5,341,682 |
| | <u>\$ 4,291,298</u> | <u>\$ 3,975,637</u> |
| Debt servicing limit | \$ 1,546,384 | \$ 1,552,887 |
| Debt servicing | 584,339 | 584,339 |
| | <u>\$ 962,045</u> | <u>\$ 968,548</u> |

The debt limit is calculated at 1.5 times revenue of the municipality (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities which could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the municipality. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

17. Local authorities pension plan

Employees of the Town participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is one of the plans covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pensions Plans Act. The plan serves about 237,000 people and 423 employers. The LAPP is financed by the employer and employee contributions and by investment earnings of the LAPP Fund.

Contributions for current service are recorded as expenditures in the year in which they become due.

The Town is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 11.39% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan and 15.84% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the Town are required to make current service contributions of 10.39% of pensionable salary up to the year's maximum pensionable salary and 14.84% on pensionable salary above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the Town to the LAPP in 2015 were \$186,272 (2014 - \$188,188). Total current service contributions by the employees of the Town to the LAPP in 2014 were \$170,875 (2014 - \$172,536).

At December 31, 2014, the LAPP disclosed an actuarial deficiency of \$2.45 billion.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

18. Financial instruments

The Town of Claresholm's financial instruments consist of cash and temporary investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, employee benefit obligations, deposit and long-term debt. It is management's opinion that the Town is not exposed to significant interest or currency risk arising from these financial instruments.

The Town of Claresholm is subject to credit risk with respect to taxes and grants in place of taxes receivables and trade and other receivables. Credit risk arises from the possibility that taxpayers and entities to which the Town provides services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfil their obligations. The large number and diversity of taxpayers and customers minimizes the credit risk.

Unless otherwise noted, the carrying value of the financial instrument approximates fair value.

19. Approval of financial statements

These financial statements were approved by Council and Management.

20. Budget amounts

The 2015 budget for the Town was approved by Council on April 27, 2015 and has been reported in the consolidated financial statements for information purposes only. These budget amounts have not been audited, reviewed, or otherwise verified.

The approved budget contained reserve transfers, capital additions and principal payments on debt as expenditures. Since these items are not included in the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements, they have been excluded from the budget amounts presented in these financial statements.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Budgeted deficit per financial statements | \$ (664,929) |
| Less: Capital expenditures | (2,297,900) |
| Transfers to reserves | (153,426) |
| Transfer from sundry trust | 133,594 |
| Add: Amortization | 2,674,736 |
| Transfers from reserves | 307,925 |
| <u>Equals: Balanced budget</u> | <u>\$ -</u> |

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

21. Commitments and contingencies

The Town is a member of the Alberta Municipal Insurance Exchange (MUNIX) which provides liability insurance. Under the terms of membership, the Town could become liable for its proportionate share of any claim losses in excess of the funds held by the exchange. Any liability incurred would be accounted for as a current transaction in the year the losses are determined.

The Town has made a commitment to the Municipal District of Willow Creek to pay for one half of the costs for monitoring and maintenance of the Municipal District of Willow Creek's landfill for the next 6 years.

The Town of Claresholm has entered an agreement with the Town of Granum for the conveyance and supply of potable water. This agreement is in effect until December 31, 2034.

22. Contaminated sites liability

On January 1, 2015, the Town adopted PS3260 liability for contaminated sites. The standard was applied on a retroactive basis and did not result in any adjustments to the financial liabilities, tangible capital assets or accumulated surplus of the Town.

23. Comparative figures

The prior year figures have been restated to reflect a loan payable to Southcal Development Inc. and construction in progress in the amount of \$600,000 that was not previously recorded. This change does not affect prior year accumulated surplus.

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
SCHEDULES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

Schedule of changes in accumulated surplus

Schedule 1

| | Unrestricted | Restricted | Equity in tangible capital assets | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 1,649,522 | \$ 1,378,332 | \$ 21,113,264 | \$ 24,141,118 | \$ 25,231,368 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | (861,127) | - | - | (861,127) | (1,090,250) |
| Unrestricted funds designated for future use | (379,801) | 379,801 | - | - | - |
| Restricted funds used for operations | 46,598 | (46,598) | - | - | - |
| Current year funds used for tangible capital assets | (868,762) | - | 868,762 | - | - |
| Disposal of tangible capital assets | 33,763 | - | (33,763) | - | - |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 2,385,830 | - | (2,385,830) | - | - |
| Long term debt repaid | (354,676) | - | 354,676 | - | - |
| Change in accumulated surplus | 1,825 | 333,203 | (1,196,155) | (861,127) | (1,090,250) |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 1,651,347 | \$ 1,711,535 | \$ 19,917,109 | \$ 23,279,991 | \$ 24,141,118 |

Draft - April 7, 2015

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
SCHEDULES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

Schedule of tangible capital assets

Schedule 2

| | Land | Land improvements | Buildings | Engineered structures | Machinery and equipment | Vehicles | Construction in progress | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cost: | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 990,764 | \$ 1,577,638 | \$ 11,826,798 | \$ 65,912,174 | \$ 1,407,321 | \$ 1,298,560 | \$ 985,332 | \$ 83,998,588 | \$ 83,271,778 |
| Acquisitions | - | - | 10,856 | 101,206 | 249,111 | - | 507,589 | 868,762 | 1,817,385 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | (37,516) | - | - | (37,516) | (1,090,575) |
| Balance, end of year | 990,764 | 1,577,638 | 11,837,654 | 66,013,380 | 1,618,916 | 1,298,560 | 1,492,921 | 84,829,834 | 83,998,588 |
| Accumulated amortization: | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | - | 379,797 | 5,324,090 | 50,076,082 | 865,978 | 897,695 | - | 57,543,642 | 55,995,766 |
| Annual amortization | - | 85,216 | 236,146 | 1,904,833 | 89,113 | 70,520 | - | 2,385,828 | 2,584,670 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | (3,751) | - | - | (3,751) | (1,036,794) |
| Balance, end of year | - | 465,013 | 5,560,236 | 51,980,915 | 951,340 | 968,215 | - | 59,925,719 | 57,543,642 |
| Net book value | \$ 990,764 | \$ 1,112,625 | \$ 6,277,418 | \$ 14,032,465 | \$ 667,576 | \$ 330,345 | \$ 1,492,921 | \$ 24,904,115 | \$ 26,454,946 |
| 2014 net book value | \$ 990,764 | \$ 1,197,841 | \$ 6,502,708 | \$ 15,836,092 | \$ 541,343 | \$ 400,865 | \$ 985,332 | \$ 26,454,946 | |

Draft - April 7, 2016

TOWN OF CLARESHOLM
SCHEDULE TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2015

Schedule of segmented disclosure

Schedule 3

| | General government | Protective services | Transportation services | Environmental services | Public health services | Planning and development | Recreation and culture | Total |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Revenue | | | | | | | | |
| Net municipal taxes | \$ 2,983,734 | \$ - | \$ 50,138 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,033,872 |
| User fees and sales of goods | - | 9,526 | 11,884 | 1,909,993 | 13,317 | 9,503 | 105,652 | 2,059,875 |
| Government transfers for operating | 120,277 | 6,803 | 4,625 | - | 7,500 | 31,387 | 50,000 | 220,592 |
| Investment income | 49,134 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 49,134 |
| Penalties and costs of taxes | 45,817 | 38,215 | - | - | - | 150 | - | 84,182 |
| Licenses and permits | 28,290 | - | - | - | - | 11,304 | - | 39,594 |
| Gain on disposal of capital assets | - | - | 4,335 | - | - | - | - | 4,335 |
| Franchise and concession contracts | 142,027 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 142,027 |
| Rental | 32,418 | - | 13,000 | - | - | - | 82,236 | 127,654 |
| Other | 14,711 | - | - | 111,143 | - | - | 67,582 | 193,436 |
| Family and community support services | - | - | - | - | 230,835 | - | - | 230,835 |
| | 3,416,408 | 54,544 | 83,982 | 2,021,136 | 251,652 | 52,344 | 305,470 | 6,185,536 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | 527,096 | 146,450 | 368,051 | 596,693 | 176,976 | 111,951 | 522,856 | 2,450,073 |
| Contracted and general services | 397,278 | 79,665 | 301,974 | 217,481 | 41,274 | 9,754 | 57,511 | 1,104,937 |
| Materials, goods, supplies and utilities | 63,932 | 53,892 | 344,711 | 360,275 | 44,150 | 2,205 | 138,971 | 1,008,136 |
| Bank charges and short-term interest | 858 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 858 |
| Interest on long-term debt | - | - | - | 212,871 | - | - | 15,557 | 228,428 |
| Other expenditures | 24,707 | - | - | - | - | 51,408 | 14,737 | 90,852 |
| Transfers to organizations and others | - | - | - | - | - | - | 27,058 | 27,058 |
| Purchases from other governments | 32,000 | - | - | - | 62,151 | - | 164,697 | 258,848 |
| Provision for allowances | - | - | - | 2,871 | - | - | - | 2,871 |
| Amortization of tangible capital assets | 4,377 | 26,358 | 409,224 | 1,663,611 | - | 27,333 | 254,927 | 2,385,830 |
| | 1,050,248 | 306,365 | 1,423,960 | 3,053,802 | 324,551 | 202,651 | 1,196,314 | 7,557,891 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses before other | 2,366,160 | (251,821) | (1,339,978) | (1,032,666) | (72,899) | (150,307) | (890,844) | (1,372,355) |
| Other | | | | | | | | |
| Government transfers for capital | - | 125,639 | - | 385,589 | - | - | - | 511,228 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | \$ 2,366,160 | \$ (126,182) | \$ (1,339,978) | \$ (647,077) | \$ (72,899) | \$ (150,307) | \$ (890,844) | \$ (861,127) |



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lesser Slave Lake*

RECEIVED

APR 01 2016

AR83717

March 17, 2016

His Worship Rob Steel
Mayor
Town of Claresholm
PO Box 1000
Claresholm AB T0L 0T0

Dear Mayor Steel,

The Government of Alberta encourages strong working relationships between communities and regional approaches to municipal service delivery and supports regional and capacity building priorities through the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) program.

Your partnership exemplifies this ideal and I am pleased to inform you that the Town of Claresholm has been approved for a grant of \$350,000 under the Intermunicipal Collaboration component in support of your Frog Creek Drainage project.

The conditional grant agreement will be mailed shortly to your chief administrative officer to obtain the appropriate signatures.

The provincial government looks forward to opportunities to celebrate your ACP-funded project with you and your municipal partners. I encourage you to please send invitations for these milestone events to my office. If you would like to discuss possible events and activities to recognize your ACP achievements, please contact Municipal Affairs Communications toll-free at 310-0000, then 780-427-8862, or at acp.grants@gov.ab.ca.

.../2

I congratulate the partnership on initiating this project, and I wish you every success in your efforts as we work together to strengthen Alberta communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Larivee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being particularly large and stylized.

Hon. Danielle Larivee
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Reeve Neil Wilson, Municipal District of Willow Creek
Marian Carlson, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Claresholm
Cynthia Vizzutti, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal District of Willow Creek



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lesser Slave Lake*

AR83280

Re: Ongoing Safety Codes Exemption for Specified Residences under the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Program

To whom it may concern,

Six months ago, my predecessor Minister Bilous wrote to you regarding placing a pause-period on inspections for accommodations which fall under the *Persons with Developmental Disabilities Safety Standards Regulation* (Regulation). He issued an exemption order under the *Safety Codes Act* for these accommodations in October after our colleague, Minister Irfan Sabir, extended the date for compliance with the Regulation. This meant that the inspection program under this Regulation would not proceed until after a consultation had been completed.

Human Services has been leading an extensive consultation with persons with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, municipal governments, and other stakeholders to find workable ways to ensure individual safety, while also respecting and supporting individuals in their homes and communities.

Human Services has announced that it will be repealing the existing Regulation as an interim step while the consultation team completes its work developing appropriate solutions for accommodations formerly under this Regulation. To enable the continued work of the consultation team, Municipal Affairs is extending the exemption order under the *Safety Codes Act* until December 30, 2016. This includes the August 2015 Approved Guideline (STANDATA) that applies to accommodations for individuals receiving services from the PDD program. This means that the pause-period for inspections under the *Safety Codes Act* that began last fall will continue until the consultation team and Human Services have completed their work.

While accommodations formerly covered under the Regulation will be exempt from the care or treatment requirements under the Alberta building and fire codes during this time, they will still need to meet residential safety requirements. As with the previous exemption, this pause-period does not apply to a residence in which a person is dependent on the staff of the residence as the person's only means of exit in the event of a fire or where a person may be detained as part of their service plan.

.../2

Alberta Municipal Affairs continues to encourage individuals, service providers, safety codes officers, and municipalities to work together to identify the safety needs of individuals.

In the interim, should any sensitive compliance issues arise, please contact Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Human Services and/or the relevant municipality to ensure the issue is addressed in an appropriate and timely way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Larivee', written in a cursive style.

**Hon. Danielle Larivee
Minister of Municipal Affairs**



Workers'
Compensation
Board

Alberta

Corporate Communications

9925 - 107 Street
PO Box 2415
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2S5

Tel: (780) 498-8680
Fax: (780) 498-7875
WCB website: www.wcb.ab.ca

March 21, 2016



Dear Mayors, Reeves and Councillors:

RE: April 28 - National Day of Mourning

On April 28, people across Canada stop to remember workers killed, injured or disabled at work.

In 2015, Alberta lost 125 men and women to workplace injury or illness.

To remember them, we have developed a memorial poster (enclosed) in recognition of the day. This poster will appear at workplaces, public places and in ceremonies across the province as a remembrance and a tribute to the workers killed or injured on the job.

We have also included a small vinyl sticker to provide a tangible reminder of the significance of April 28. If you are interested in distributing them to visitors, we would be happy to provide you with a supply.

We ask that you display the poster and use it in any events marking Day of Mourning.

If you have any questions, need stickers or additional posters, please contact Dina DaSilva, WCB Corporate Communications at 780-498-8616 or dina.dasilva@wcb.ab.ca.

We will be lowering our flags to half-mast on April 28; we invite you to mark this important day by doing the same.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dayna Therien'.

Dayna Therien
Director of Corporate Communications
WCB-Alberta

Encl.



March 17, 2016

From the Mayors Desk

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2016

Town of Claresholm
Box 1000
Claresholm, AB
T0L 0T0

Attention: Mayors and Council

Re: Business License Bylaw 736-2014.

Your Worship,

The Council from the Town of Fox Creek is requesting your Council to furnish a letter of support to the Town of Fox Creek to prepare for possible Court Proceedings for defending of Bylaw 736-2014.

On April 27th, 2015 Council passed Bylaw 736-2014 which enables the Town of Fox Creek to collect from various hotels and motels a percentage of their room fees. This was done through the consultation of the Town Solicitor which they at the time advised Council that this bylaw could be challenged in a Court of Law in Alberta. After we gave the Third and final reading to this Bylaw, we received a letter from Hoteliers Attorney advising us that they were not going to uphold their responsibility to this law.

Section 8(c) of the MGA allows a municipality to provide for a system of licenses, permits or approvals, including:

(I) establishing fees for licenses, permits and approvals, including fees...that may be in the nature of a reasonable tax for the activity authorized or for the purpose of raising revenue.

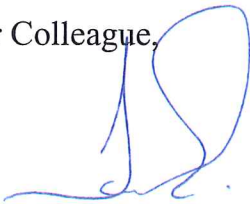
The rest of section 8(c) also described the municipality's powers further. Also note that section 8(b) of the MGA allows a municipality to divide any development, activity, industry or business into classes and deal with each class in different ways.

The group of hotels in Fox Creek have collectively applied to strike down the Business License Bylaw as being null and void because it is unconstitutional or exceeds the Town's jurisdiction to pass the bylaw. Although it is not the Hotel Association which is formally the party challenging it, we understand they are funding the challenge. We have now received a response back from their Legal with the reasons why they are not willing to participate with this Bylaw.

We are now at the stage where we may have to take the Hoteliers to Court to ensure enforcement of this Bylaw is met. This type of Bylaw has been challenged in Courts before with the outcome weighing on the side of the Municipality, however the bylaws were not exactly as per other Municipal bylaws already in effect.

The Town Council of Fox Creek is asking your Council for support, as this is a case that will allow better sustainability to Municipalities that have or are still feeling the effects of increased population growth otherwise known as "Shadow Population", where the Municipalities infrastructure is stressed but the financial burden is still held by the Municipality. By Municipalities showing support of this Business License Fee, the Courts will see the need to allow Municipalities the option to introduce this fee in an effort and a way to maintain a safe and harmonious place to live.

Your Colleague,



Jim Ahn, Mayor
Town of Fox Creek



INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: April 11, 2016

Agenda Item: 7

PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK 2016

DESCRIPTION:

Pitch-in Canada Week is April 17 – 23, 2016. The Town of Claresholm has held a town-wide clean-up every year for many years to help clean-up our community.

BACKGROUND:

For Pitch-in Canada Week, Administration has designated Saturday, April 23, 2016 as our town-wide clean-up day. Our meeting place is the downtown parking lot at 10:00 am where bags are distributed as well as t-shirts and gloves supplied by our local Tim Hortons. Roger and Darleen Reid from Tim Hortons have been supporting our clean-up efforts for several years, and this year Tim Hortons became the national sponsor for Pitch-in Canada.

Public works will be placing dumpsters in target areas for refuse, depending on participation from the community. The Town is asking community groups to come forward to clean-up specific areas of our Town. In the past, we have had different groups come forward to help out including Lacrosse, Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides. We are hoping to include Centennial Park, the Highway corridor, Museum grounds, Admundsen Park, and the area around the new administration building. The fields east of the town boundary are in need as well as along 5th Street East. This area was last targeted in 2012 with the help of ATCO Gas following a very windy winter and spring that year.

Any members of Town Council that can donate some time to participate would be much appreciated.

COSTS/ SOURCE OF FUNDING (if applicable):

Tipping fees at the landfill should be our only cost. We have some bags left-over from past years, and the gloves and t-shirts are donated by Tim Hortons. Public works will be putting out the dumpsters and picking them up during their regular hours. Staff typically donate their time during the actual clean-up, but there may be some costs associated with traffic control should volunteers come forward.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

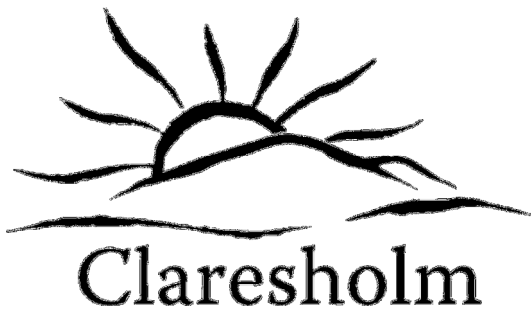
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

None

PREPARED BY: Karine Wilhauk, Finance Assistant / Communications

APPROVED BY: Marian Carlson, CLGM – CAO

DATE: April 8, 2016



INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: April 11, 2016

Agenda Item: 8

COUNCIL RESOLUTION STATUS

| Description | | Assigned | Comments | Status |
|---|--|----------|---|-------------|
| Regular Scheduled Meeting - May 25, 2015 | | | | |
| 13 | INFO BRIEF: Golf Course Bridge - Direction to proceed with temporary repairs and to identify the project in the infrastructure master list for future discussion. | Mike | Repairs to be completed upon Golf Course season closure. (waiting for DRP approval) | In progress |
| Regular Scheduled Meeting - December 14, 2015 | | | | |
| 10 | INFO BRIEF: Business License Bylaw - Council direction for administration to follow option 3. | Tara | Dale to present to EDC once sub-committee formed. Research from other municipalities gathered. | In progress |
| Regular Scheduled Meeting - January 25, 2016 | | | | |
| 12 | IN CAMERA: Moved by Councillor McAlonan to extend the Fire Chief Service Agreement with the MD of Willow Creek for six months, to expire June 30, 2016. CARRIED MOTION #16-008 | Marian | Jan 27th - Notice sent to MD Extension agreement prepared and sent to MD for signatures | In progress |
| Regular Scheduled Meeting - February 8, 2016 | | | | |
| 11 | INFO BRIEF: School Transfer Agreement - Council directed Administration to notify the Livingstone Range School Division that possession of the property would not proceed until after the playground equipment is removed by the purchasing party. | Marian | Talked to Jeff Perry Feb 9th, again on March 17th. They are still working on a timeline. | In progress |
| Regular Scheduled Meeting - February 22, 2016 | | | | |
| 5 | INFO BRIEF: Animal Control Review: Moved by Councillor Fieguth to refer to Administration to amend the Cat Bylaw to increase the fines and place a restriction of the number of pets. CARRIED MOTION #16-020. | Jason | Review was initiated, new Animal Control bylaw (Cat/Dog & All Other) has been written, needs to be reviewed/finalized | In progress |

| Regular Scheduled Meeting - March 29, 2016 | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Delegation Response: Residents of Tamarack Road - Moved by Councillor Fieguth to begin the camera work on Tamarack Road and to prioritize property repairs based on need as discovered from this process. CARRIED MOTION #16-022 | Mike | Video inspections have been booked for 5 of the 7 homes. Arrangements will be made for the remaining. A complete new service to one home has been finished due to the severe grade on private property. The owner hired a contractor for work done on private property. | In progress |
| 3 | CORRES: AUMA RE: Grants in Lieu of Taxes - Moved by Councillor Ford to write a letter to the Minister of Seniors and Housing expressing the Town's concern regarding grants in lieu of taxes for social housing. CARRIED MOTION #16-023 | Karine | Letter sent to the Minister | Complete |
| 4 | CORRES: Mayor Henk De Vlieger, Town of Taber RE: Request to Support Funding Application - Moved by Councillor O'Neill to write a letter to the Town of Taber outlining our current recycling operations. CARRIED MOTION #16-024 | Karine | Letter sent to Mayor De Vlieger | Complete |
| 5 | CORRES: Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association RE: 2016 Membership Fee - Moved by Councillor O'Neill to discontinue our membership in the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association. CARRIED MOTION #16-025 | Karine | Letter sent to SAEWA | Complete |
| 7 | CORRES: Frame Aviation RE: Fly-in Breakfast - Aug 20, 2016 - Moved by Councillor Ford to allow Frame Aviation to co-sponsor a Fly-in Breakfast at the Claresholm Industrial Airport on August 20, 2016. CARRIED MOTION #16-026 | Karine | Letter sent to Frame Aviation | Complete |
| 9 | RFD: Budget 2016 - Moved by Councillor Fieguth to approve the 2016 Operational and Capital Budgets as presented. CARRIED MOTION #16-027 | Simon | Budget posted online and plans for the year commenced. | Complete |
| | Confirm the proposed new sidewalk location to report back to Council | Mike | Info Brief prepared for FIPC | Complete |
| 10 | RFD: Strategic Plan 2016-2019 - Moved by Councillor Ford to approve the Town of Claresholm Strategic Plan 2016-2019 as presented. CARRIED MOTION #16-028 | Karine | Updated plan posted to Town's website. | Complete |
| 11 | RFD: Engineering Contract - Moved by Councillor Dixon to amend the scope of work from the original preliminary engineering contract with Associated Engineering for project engineering and construction of Phase I of the Town of Claresholm Stormwater Management Plan. CARRIED MOTION #16-029 | Marian/Mike | Will proceed with contract once the grant agreement is in place | Complete |
| 12 | RFD: Claresholm Minor Lacrosse Association - Moved by Councillor Ford to allow Claresholm Minor Lacrosse to use the Arena concrete surface for \$90 per week plus GST for practices for May to July 2015 and charge them \$57 per hour plus GST for Saturday and Sunday games as needed. CARRIED MOTION #16-030 | Karine | Email sent to Lacrosse | Complete |
| 13 | RFD: Policy #PLDE 04-09 Planning & Development Fees -Therefore be it resolved by Councillor McAlonan to amend the Planning & Development fees as presented. CARRIED MOTION #16-031 | Tara | Updated fee schedule added to Policy binders | Complete |
| 14 | RFD: Policy #GA 03-16 - Community Organizations Insurance Reimbursement - Moved by Councillor Fieguth to adopt Policy #GA 03-16 regarding Community Organizations Insurance Reimbursement, effective March 29, 2016. CARRIED MOTION #16-032 | Karine | Policy distributed to departments | Complete |

| | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| 21 | IN CAMERA: Moved by Councillor Ford to enter into the proposed Development Agreement with 1428495 Alberta Ltd from Calgary, Alberta for Lots 1-16, Block 1, Plan 1014361, Lots 1-22, Block 2, Plan 1014361, Lots 1-20, Block 3, Plan 1014361. CARRIED MOTION #16-033 | Marian/Tara | Development Agreement sent to owner March 31/16 | In progress |
| 21 | IN CAMERA: Moved by Councillor O'Neill to extend the acceptance date to April 30, 2016 in the offer as referenced in the Town's letter to Emercor Ltd. dated March 15, 2016 for the high pressure fire suppression system, to offer Emercor a five-year payment option on the purchase agreement, to inform them that the Town will not be pursuing any further insurance claims regarding the high pressure fire suppression system and that the Town will not provide a waiver of the limitation period referred to in the Alberta Limitations Act. CARRIED MOTION #16-034 | Marian | Letter sent March 30/16 | Complete |

PREPARED BY: Karine Wilhauk, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED BY: Marian Carlson, CLGM – CAO

DATE: April 8, 2016

INFORMATION ITEMS



MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

March 18th, 2016

Town of Claresholm – Council Chambers

Attendees: Lyal O'Neill - Council Member (Chairperson)
Shelley Ford - Council Member (Vice-Chairperson)
Sharon Duncan - Member-at-Large
Jeff Kerr – Member-at-Large

Regrets: Jamie Cutler- Council Member

Staff: Tara VanDellen – Development Officer

Media Present: Rob Vogt – Claresholm Local Press

Public Present: Justin Canuel, Darcy Erickson, P Elder

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| 8:35 am | Call to Order /Adoption of Agenda | Motion to adopt the Agenda by Councillor Ford CARRIED |
|----------------|--|--|

Adoption of Minutes

- February 26, 2016

**Motion to adopt the Meeting Minutes
By Councillor Ford**

Seconded by Sharon Duncan

CARRIED

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 8:47 am | Member at large - Jeff Kerr entered the MPC |
|----------------|---|

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Item 1: Action | DEVELOPMENT PERMIT | Motion to table and request further information by Jeff Kerr |
| | File: D2015.102 Applicant: Justin Canuel Owner: Patricia Canuel Address: 24 Saddle Mt Road Legal: Lot 21, Block 4, Plan 7810389 Regarding: Large Accessory Building with variance to maximum building height | Seconded by Councillor Ford |
| | | CARRIED |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Item 2: Action | Policy PLDE #04-09 Planning & Development Fees | Motion to refer to Town Council Policy PLDE #04-09 with recommendations By Councillor Ford |
| | | Seconded by Sharon Duncan |
| | | CARRIED |



MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

March 18th, 2016

Town of Claresholm – Council Chambers

Item 3: Information DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS Taken for Information

Item 4: In Camera INQUIRY Motion to go in camera
By Jeff Kerr

Seconded by Sharon Duncan

CARRIED

Item 5: In Camera INQUIRY TABLED

Motion to come out of in
camera by Councillor Ford

Seconded by Sharon Duncan

CARRIED

9:55 am Motion to Adjourn
By Jeff Kerr

This issue:

MGA update

Message from the Chair

Broadband advocacy

Inter-municipal
Cooperation

Economic development
resources

Free toolkit:
transportation for seniors

Solar program

Upcoming webinars

Small Communities Committee

The Small Communities Committee is a unified voice, advocate and resource, focusing on urban municipal governments with populations of 2,500 or less. The Committee is comprised of eight members from communities of 2,500 or less, including two AUMA Board members. The AUMA Board has given the Small Communities Committee a 2016 mandate to:

- Advocate for resolutions affecting small communities.
- Oversee the development of the Small Communities' newsletter.
- Provide input on key legislative and policy changes pertaining to the MGA review.
- Provide feedback on other key policy development such as municipal water and energy policies, long term infrastructure plan, etc.

Small Communities NEWSLETTER

Update on MGA Review

Winter 2016

AUMA's top priority over the past few years has been to identify, advocate and negotiate for required changes to the MGA. This work has involved comprehensive consultation with our members to ensure that we are effectively representing your diverse needs.

The first set of MGA amendments was approved last year through Bill 20, including changes reflecting key suggestions that AUMA had made such as enabling voluntary amalgamations, improving the annexation process, and requiring Councils to establish a code of conduct. While these changes are a good start, the majority of amendments have yet to be released.

Last year, AUMA took a number of actions to ensure that the

needs of municipalities are reflected in these upcoming changes, including:

- building consensus with AAMDC on 30 joint recommendations that were submitted to Municipal Affairs in September as a united front of all Alberta Municipalities;
- advocating key changes to additional topics including amalgamations, annexations and council codes of conduct; and
- communicating our primary goals for future amendments including an improved provincial-municipal relationship, adequate municipal revenue and modernized legislation to reflect the growing

importance of regionalization.

The timeline for the MGA review includes tabling of MGA amendments with the legislature during the spring 2016 session. Following the introduction of these amendments, the Minister will be holding a consultation process with municipalities and stakeholders on the changes over the summer. The legislation will then be re-introduced and passed in fall 2016. Regulations will be developed this year and into 2017. Municipal Affairs has committed to having all regulations introduced prior to the Fall 2017 municipal elections.

In order to gather future input, AUMA will be distributing surveys to our members regarding questions about various regulations. Stay tuned to upcoming newsletters!

Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) and Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED) joined forces in October 2015 to host the Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons (RAIL), a three-day learning event focused on rural economic

and community development.

Municipal elected officials and administrators, community development professionals and students from across the province gathered to engage in various rurally focused topics such as: community and economic

development, sustainability planning, social policy, water, continuing care, recruitment and retention, business succession, aboriginal relations and the changing agricultural landscape.

[Access presentations.](#)



Message from the Chair

Hello Small Communities! 2016 is turning out to be an interesting and a challenging year for all of us.

As in the past, small communities continue to look within and work harder to make their resources go that much further. As in the past, some will manage by themselves and others will partner up with their neighbours to make it work.

There are many new initiatives being rolled out (e.g. broadband, solar etc.), so finding the best fit for each community will be a challenge. Education and lessons learned from

other municipalities will be key to future successes.

Small communities are facing a number of issues that need attention and our voice continues to need to be heard by the provincial and federal governments. I know that ambulance dispatch needs work and we are all in need of continued funding for our municipalities.

In these tough economic times, small communities are still the best place to live and raise a family; the strength continues to come from within.



Small Communities Chair
Deputy Mayor Cliff Ayrey,
Village of Longview

AUMA advocacy on Broadband

At the 2015 Convention, members adopted a resolution calling on AUMA to dedicate time and resources towards broadband. Broadband accessibility fits within the Small Communities Committee, as the issues have a particular impact on the viability of small communities. The Committee members have recently met with provincial representatives from Service Alberta and Economic Development and Trade to highlight the importance of this issue and learn more about how the province plans to improve broadband.

AUMA Board members also met with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry regarding the rural economic development action plan. AUMA will further its advocacy work with Service Alberta and Justice and Solicitor General regarding the broadband's impact on the Alberta First Responders' Radio Communications System (AFRRCS).

Given the multifaceted nature of this topic, AUMA sent a letter to Ministry of Service Alberta offering to help plan and conduct a Symposium to bring together

the CRTC, federal, provincial and municipal leaders, service providers, economic development alliances and other interested parties to discuss solutions to the gap in broadband coverage. We would also be willing to conduct a joint survey with AAMDC on municipal needs and concerns.

Stay tuned to future issues of the newsletter for more updates on AUMA's advocacy on broadband.

"Go East!"

AUMA's Mayors Caucus provided an opportunity for our members to express their support for the Energy East Pipeline. Premier Rachel Notley and provincial leaders joined in this public display of support.

AUMA also sent a letter to municipal associations across Canada to take similar supportive action, outlining how the pipeline will enable access to markets in Europe and Asia as

well as supply eastern refineries to reduce Canada's dependence on foreign energy. The letter cited estimates made by the Conference Board of Canada that this project will support over 14,000 jobs annually during a nine-year development and construction stage, and an additional 3,300 each year in the first 20 years of operations. The pipeline will also provide \$10 billion in tax revenues to the provinces.

The pipeline has been a topic of key interest across the country. The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association have just passed resolutions in support of the pipeline. This was also an item of much discussion at the recent FCM Board of Directors meeting. [Read AUMA's letter](#)

Inter-Municipal Cooperation: ICE

In the early 2000s, the three villages of Irma, Chauvin and Edgerton decided to band together under the name ICE to accomplish mutually beneficial goals. ICE’s primary purpose is to facilitate the sharing of resources, best practices and to submit joint grant applications. To a large degree ICE is coordinated by the respective village CAOs with occasional elected official involvement.

There are quantifiable success indicators for the ICE initiative. These include shared public works projects and resources, shared property, bulk purchases and an agreed upon high degree of

satisfaction. ICE’s success extends beyond tangible benefits. It is also notable as an example of three small municipalities, largely overshadowed by the largest regional municipality of Wainwright (which lies between Irma and Edgerton, with Chauvin to the extreme east), reaching the decision to collaborate amongst themselves to achieve goals otherwise out of a single village’s scope. This collaboration has led to lower costs and combined purchasing power, shared grant applications that meet population and need requirements and overall closer communication between the respective parties.

Another success indicator of ICE is its extremely high degree of replicability: any grouping of small municipalities can band together on certain projects to address mutual interests and needs, and collaborate to achieve common goals. ICE shows that mutual interest and mutual need can drive communication and lead to greater collaboration. This localized approach to regionalization avoids complicated and large-scale agreements and, in the case of ICE, can begin with a simple desire to combine purchasing power and extend into other projects as the needs and ease of collaboration develop.

| More About ICE- Irma, Chauvin, Edgerton | |
|---|---|
| Issues and impetus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2000s, the three villages joined together to pool resources and develop best local practices. • The three hoped to optimize their purchasing power for large projects and submit joint grant submissions, with the ultimate goal of saving taxpayers’ money. |
| Challenges overcome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic distance and schedule issues restricting opportunities to meet. |
| Success factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared water operator and shared public works projects. • Information sharing and communication between public works departments. • Shared property, such as a sewer camera. • Bulk water purchase supplies. • High degree of satisfaction with shared costs and communication channels being open. |
| Replicability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICE initiative is highly replicable: any group of small, like minded and geographically close communities can join together to pursue cost saving measures and promote regional cooperation |
| Innovations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Success Factors above. The success factors can all be considered innovations. |
| Critical turning points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified. |
| Lesson learned | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective planning and open communication are crucial • Finding ways to capitalize on the respective strengths of the groups’ members |

Coming soon! New economic development resources

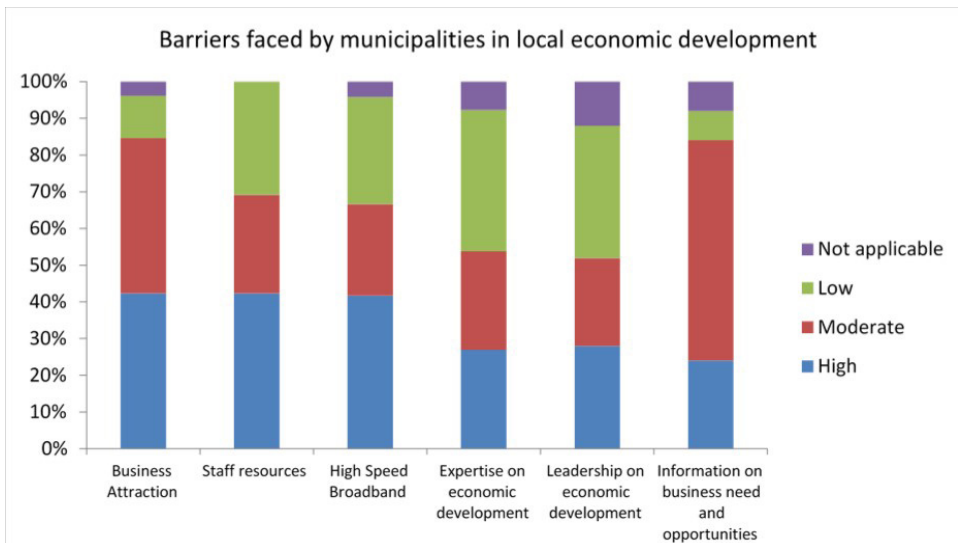
AUMA is currently developing an Economic Development Resources Hub. The push for the Hub is a result of the Fall 2015 survey distributed amongst our members. Forty percent of our small communities identified economic development as their top priority, and along with the Small Communities Committee having likewise considered this a priority, the creation of a resources Hub has become one of AUMA's 2016 strategic initiatives.

The survey highlighted our members' top local economic development activities, where the three most prominent areas were business attraction and investment (91%), entrepreneurial development (65%), and workforce development (52%). Likewise, the surveys also identified the top three barriers: business attraction, staff resources, and access to high speed broadband. The top three actions that municipalities recommended to address these

barriers were workforce solutions, better broadband access in small communities, and education for elected officials.

The needs of our municipalities and their focus on economic development means a comprehensive "one stop shop" for local economic development assistance is a priority for AUMA. The Hub will include access to resources on tourism, business

vitality, attraction strategies and toolkits. It will also provide links and contact points for the province's Regional Economic Development Alliances, Rural Alberta Business Centers, case studies and webinars. These resources will come from various sources including AUMA, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Government of Alberta, Economic Developers Alberta and various other sources.



FCM recognizes Marilyn MacArthur and the Vulcan Business Development Society

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has awarded Marilyn MacArthur an Award of Excellence for her contributions to the [Caribbean Local Economic Development Project \(CARILED\)](#). This was a six year project to develop and test models of Local Economic Development. The award recognizes Marilyn's leadership in leading the CARILED training component in Jamaica, focusing on enhancing institutional capacity to

build local economic development.

Marilyn is the Vulcan Business Development Society's (VBDS) Manager of Business Development. VBDS represents and serves the County and Town of Vulcan and five villages, providing business counselling, business retention and expansion strategies and grant writing services. MacArthur is eager to recognize the enthusiasm and foresight of the VBDS and the

municipalities it represents, who were "overwhelmingly supportive at the thought of myself working on an international level, sharing my expertise of 20 years, and raising the profile of not only our organization, VBDS, but the entire county."

AUMA would like to congratulate Marilyn MacArthur for her involvement in CARILED and for her well-deserved recognition.



Be recognized for economic development success

Nominations are now open for AUMA's 2016 Municipal Sustainability Awards. The 2016 awards focus on successful economic development initiatives in areas such as:

- business attraction and retention;
- support for entrepreneurs;
- workforce development strategies and innovation; and
- tourism and visibility initiatives.

Municipalities that have achieved

economic development goals as part of implementing their sustainability plans are encouraged to apply.

Several awards are available. The Sustainability in Action Award is provided in the following categories:

- Municipalities with populations under 2,500;
- Municipalities with populations of 2,500 to 10,000; and
- Municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more.

The Above and Beyond Award acknowledges staff, residents or organizations who have helped municipalities reach their sustainability goals related to development.

The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2016. Application and nomination forms can be found [here](#).

The Awards will be presented at the AUMA Annual Convention in October.

Free toolkit to help develop transportation options for seniors in small communities

Municipalities can use a new toolkit to help develop transportation options for seniors who do not have access to personal vehicles.

Lack of transportation options makes it difficult for some seniors to attend medical appointments, go shopping, do day-to-day errands or attend social activities. This can compromise their ability to remain healthy and active in their communities. The need for alternate transportation is growing as people are living longer.

The University of Alberta's [Medically At-Risk Driver Centre](#) developed the toolkit with funding assistance from Alberta Seniors and Housing. Along with AAMDC, AUMA provided feedback into the development of the toolkit. The toolkit is designed

to provide urban and rural communities with the resources needed to successfully develop and implement alternate transportation services for seniors.

The toolkit contains information on:

- Getting started;
- Developing and implementing a project plan;
- Conducting a community transportation needs assessment;
- Developing and launching the transportation service;
- Receiving feedback and evaluating the transportation service; and
- Building a sustainable transportation service.

You can download an [electronic copy](#) of the toolkit or request a printed copy by [email](#). AUMA will be holding a webinar on the toolkit on May 18 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – stay tuned to the Digest for registration information!

AUMA has long advocated that municipalities should have adequate funding for specialized seniors' transportation. In particular we look forward to the Government of Alberta's upcoming consultations on municipal transportation, including the rural bussing strategy. Bus services are essential for connecting seniors and other residents to central or regional service hubs and AUMA will be highlighting the importance of restoring comprehensive bus services to small communities.

AUMA Convention & AMSC Trade Show 2016

Have you booked your hotel rooms yet? Host hotels for this year's AUMA Convention & AMSC Trade Show are filling up fast.

This year's annual event is October 5-7 in Edmonton; ensure it's in your calendar.

[Our Convention website page is now live](#)—visit often for the latest updates, hotel details, and for information on our valued sponsors.



Viability Review

As part of implementing the Municipal Sustainability Strategy (MSS), the MGA was amended in 2013 to replace the dissolution process with a new viability review process (VRP). The purpose of the VRP is to enable municipalities to determine their financial viability and, if required, to develop a plan to lead to viability. Since its implementation, the VRP has also been used for governance matters.

It can be triggered by one or more of the following circumstances:

- inadequate performance on key financial measures;
- citizen petition for a viability review providing the request relates to the municipality's viability; or

- request by the council of an at-risk municipality providing there are clear financial or other viability issues.

AUMA's 2013 resolution called for a number of improvements to the process. As a result of our advocacy, several improvements were made. For example, the ministry announced grants through the Alberta Community Partnerships Program to support municipalities in viability reviews and resulting restructuring (e.g., infrastructure study to support the development of a viability plan). A consistent approach for communicating with the public has also been put in place.

Despite these improvements, the process continues to require some refinement. AUMA therefore submitted

some further suggested changes in early January 2016 including:

- requiring the completion of an infrastructure audit as a mandatory step in the process to ensure that audits are comprehensive, reliable and conducted in a timely manner;
- adopting a more positive tone in public communications to avoid creating confusion and distress for citizens; and,
- adjusting the process for viability reviews that are initiated by a public petition to ensure that there is a mechanism to move forward if citizens wish to dissolve but council does not.

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre receives \$5 million for solar program

In February 2016, the Government of Alberta announced \$5 million for the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) to provide a solar program for Alberta's municipalities. This investment is earmarked for a solar energy incentive program—the Alberta Municipal Solar Program (AMSP). This program will provide rebates of up to \$0.75 per watt, to a maximum of \$300,000 per project, to municipalities for installing solar on municipal buildings, such as offices, fire halls, community centers and more.

AMSP will help build Alberta's green energy sector, including

creating jobs in the project design and construction sectors, while supporting jobs and growth in the renewable energy supply chain.

How much funding is available?

The program provides a rebate (\$/watt) based on installed solar capacity to a maximum of 20% of capital costs or \$300,000. To receive funding, participants must install solar PV [SB1] and conduct public outreach following completion

of the installation. The rebate will be issued to municipalities after project completion is verified.

Note: Funding is available on a first come, first served basis. Municipalities are eligible to submit multiple applications.

The program is now accepting applications. [Visit MCCAC for information on this and other initiatives.](#)

| Solar Capacity | Rebate |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| <10 kilowatts | \$0.75/Watt |
| 10 kilowatts to <150 kilowatts | \$0.60/Watt |
| 150 kilowatts to 1 Megawatt | \$0.45/Watt |



Have your say in public transit and rural bussing

The Government of Alberta is seeking input from municipalities on how to best support public transportation across the province. Our input will be used to inform the development of program criteria for new municipal transit initiatives, rural bus service funding and the development of a new provincial transit strategy. The

province pledged to invest \$8 million per year in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to boost rural bus service to 50 Alberta towns and villages that lost the service three years ago.

Further details on the input process through the online survey can be found on Alberta Transportation's

[website](#). Feedback will be accepted until April 29, 2016. We encourage you to submit your feedback through the survey and to share your views with us at advocacy@auma.ca.

Debrief of Linear Tax Symposiums

This winter, AUMA hosted two Linear Property Tax Symposiums for our members on January 15 in Calgary and January 27 in Nisku. AUMA recently submitted the recommendations that were developed at the Symposiums to the provincial government. This submission can be found [here](#).

AUMA has recommended the following approaches such that effective planning, delivery and governance of infrastructure and services are provided for at an intermunicipal or regional level:

1. Linear tax revenues should be pooled at a regional level and shared with all municipalities within each defined region with the exception of Edmonton and Calgary. All other urban municipalities (i.e., mid-sized cities, towns, villages and summer villages) should be eligible to share in the linear revenue.
2. The revenue-sharing formula should be developed by each region and should use data that is easily accessible and credible.
3. Municipalities should be obligated to enter into revenue and/or cost sharing agreements to equitably share in the cost of infrastructure and services that are located in another municipality, but used by their residents and property owners.
 - Where possible, cost-sharing agreements should be based on the actual cost to provide

a service, and the method to allocate costs should be based on the estimated usage of services or the percentage of rural population that resides around each urban municipality.

- While some province-wide guidelines would be beneficial, municipalities should be enabled to determine arrangements according to their local and regional needs. In the event that municipalities are unable to come to agreement in a timely manner, a process for binding arbitration should be available.
4. Revenue and cost sharing should be a long-term obligation in order to enable and advance intermunicipal and regional service delivery.
 - The degree of sharing should not be dependent on inter-municipal relationships. Rather it should be based on an objective and transparent methodology that encompasses capital and operating costs as appropriate, and should be depend upon the infrastructure and services that are used.
 - There should be a transparent and equitable method of determining funding arrangements which could take the form of revenue

sharing, cost sharing or both.

- Revenue and cost sharing agreements should be long term and outlined in intermunicipal or regional service plans. The funding arrangements should not be vulnerable to unexpected termination or unjustified change.
5. Guidelines and templates should be available to efficiently and effectively formulate service plans without an undue administrative burden, while still accommodating customization to reflect local needs. Clear timelines for reaching agreement should be established. There should be an efficient and timely arbitration process so that disputes can be resolved and are not barriers to collaboration on intermunicipal and regional approaches.

It is assumed that the overarching principles for revenue sharing will be set out in the MGA legislation in spring 2016. AUMA intends to hold further discussions with our members later this spring and summer to further explore approaches for linear sharing and cost-sharing within the MGA regulations. This will include alignment with proposed principles for intermunicipal and regional funding arrangements, and we share these results with the province.



2016 spring webinar series—sharing best practices, facilitating collaboration

AUMA is pleased to offer its members free, interactive, web-based workshops on a variety of topics relevant to municipalities in Alberta. You can find out more about these webinars, including information on how to register, in the upcoming events section on our [website](#) and in our weekly Digest. Recordings of our past webinars can be found on YouTube.

Upcoming Webinars

April 6: Municipal Police Service Agreement

April 27: Stemming the Tide of Aquatic Invasive Species

April: The Future of Oil and Gas in Alberta

May 18: Age-Friendly Transportation Toolkit

May 25: Wetlands Why, Who, What, When, How?

May: School Site Joint Use Agreements

May: Emergency Services Dispatch

May: Records Management

June 7: Implementing Gender-Based Analysis Plus

Support for fire detection and security systems for small communities

AUMA has written a letter to the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs expressing support for the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) internet-based fire and security systems pilot.

It has been difficult for buildings in rural and small communities to have effective fire protection since alarm systems do not work in areas where there is insufficient bandwidth and fire response services may be slow in responding since they are some distance away. Security is also an issue due to a lack of a sufficient

police presence.

ASVA has found a solution whereby an internet connection can be provided through hardware that enables cellular data. With the connection issue resolved, ASVA encouraged summer villages to install internet-based fire and security systems in municipal buildings and, if desired, to lease them to buildings owned by residents so that the entire community is well protected against loss and damage.

The ASVA pilot provides an opportunity to prove the workability

of the systems and the value to homeowners.

If the pilot is successful, the Ontario Cottage Owners Association has said that they would like to work with ASVA to roll out the systems at a reduced fee for homeowners. Also, ASVA has contacted a manufacturing company in Toronto who will offer the systems at a reduced cost to municipalities.

Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates on the pilot!

Stay informed on advocacy efforts

AUMA's advocacy work spans all the municipal infrastructure and services offered in Alberta's communities, including land use, water and wastewater management, transportation and transit, emergency response, housing, crime prevention, economic development, culture and recreation, to mention just a few.

The complexity of these issues

is growing—aging infrastructure, changing demographics, legislative requirements, and increasing public expectations. As we develop solutions to these issues, we keep in mind one size does not fit all given the diversity of our member municipalities.

To keep you informed of our ongoing advocacy, we have created a [member's only](#) area on our

website where you can see our correspondence with provincial and federal governments, the business community and other organizations as well as their responses.

If you haven't already [signed up for an account](#), please visit [AUMA.ca](#) for more information.



Domestic violence—small communities’ challenges

Municipal governments have a role to play in addressing domestic violence since they set policies (e.g., alcohol bylaws) and provide programs and services (e.g., fund first responders and FCSS, and provide programs and education). The province’s Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence In Alberta (2013) outlined the following roles for municipal and community leaders:

- Improve community connections to reduce social isolation;
- Value and support non-violence;
- Help build respectful and equitable gender relations;
- Take action to address family violence within the community; and
- Inform, influence and lead community change.

The previous provincial government received criticism from groups like the [Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters](#) about a shortage of resources that has not been addressed by various

frameworks and strategies. The NDP government has been actively funding improvement, committing \$15 million dollars in Fall 2015 to develop a broader range of supports for women and children escaping violent homes, including counselling, housing and access to financial assistance for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The province also invested \$15 million to support Family and Community Safety Program grants that focus on prevention by addressing the root causes of violence, particularly for Indigenous people. Additionally, the Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act (Bill 204) was passed by the government in December 2015, and will allow abuse victims to break a lease early without penalty if the home is unsafe.

Women in small communities are just as likely as women in cities to report being the victims of domestic violence. However, there are unique challenges that women in small communities face:

- increased first responder

response times;

- women in small communities lack the resources to deal with the impact of domestic violence on them and their children as many specialized services for family violence are more centrally located i.e., social supports, counselling, shelters etc. As a result rural people must either find the resources to travel for these services or forego them. Women who leave abusive situations are often impoverished and may not be able to afford the time or the money to travel to larger urban centers;
- women in rural areas are also disadvantaged by the lack of subsidized childcare, inadequate employment opportunities and lack of access to affordable housing; and
- while smaller communities are tight knit, there are challenges around anonymity and privacy.

To find out about how your community can help your residents

Alberta Rural Physician Action Plan

AUMA was contacted by the provincial government regarding a review of the Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP). The province is seeking input from AUMA and AAMDC. This purpose of the review is to identify any possible inefficiencies or redundancies in programs offered. The program currently receives \$10 million annually from the province. Alberta’s two faculties of medicine have indicated in a letter to the province that RPAP’s role in rural medical education is both redundant and potentially jeopardizes their accreditation. Additionally, at the March Mayors’ Caucus, the Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated that AHS staff might be better suited

to offer the services that RPAP provides to rural communities.

Recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals in rural Alberta has been a continuous challenge. This shortage includes doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and specialists. When hospitals and other health facilities are unable to fully staff their operations, it creates healthcare challenges for local residents. In some cases, this can lead to the closure of health facilities, which has community impacts that are much greater than the loss of the facility itself including challenges attracting residents, businesses and investment. Some municipalities in Alberta, acting

beyond what is considered a municipal service, have resorted to directly providing incentives to attract health professionals to their communities.

As an independent arms-length organization, RPAP’s rural specific mandate ensures that the needs of rural communities are being met and addressed. Our members have expressed their concerns if these services are transitioned to AHS.

[Click here to see our feedback to the province.](#)



Sharpen your community decision-making skills with the Future Game

The Prairie Canada Future Game is a free interactive game that allows participants to address economic and community development challenges in a light-hearted, entertaining manner.

Playing in a small team format, teams make decisions that shape a hypothetical region's 25-year future. It can be played at conferences, strategic planning sessions, retreats and as a general team-building exercise. Groups that will benefit include municipal politicians and officials, community

leaders, economic development staff and organizations, REDAs and community organizations.

While the Future Game is entertaining, it also allows participants to see the long-term consequences of immediate issues. The Future Game will also:

- engage leaders and stimulate discussion and debate about the community's future;
- add extra depth and strength to regional planning efforts;

- hone leadership and decision-making skills; and
- work as a team-building and change-management tool.

The game is the product of a partnership with the Government of Alberta, the Palliser Economic Partnership and the Future IQ Partners. For more information on how to access the free game, contact Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education, by phone at 780-427-6291.

Government seeks input on municipal infrastructure support for small communities

The province is engaging with municipalities and other stakeholders about how to most effectively restore funding to the [Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program \(STIP\)](#). In November 2015, the province announced it was restoring funding to STIP— beginning in April 2017 – to municipalities and other eligible stakeholders. The program has been unfunded for new projects since 2012-2013.

STIP provides financial assistance to smaller and rural municipalities

for developing and maintaining key transportation infrastructure to promote economic growth and improve mobility, through strategic, project-specific investment in capital construction and rehabilitation of important local transportation infrastructure such as local bridges, community airports, and resource roads. The program will be funded with \$100 million over two years and will be available starting next year.

Lisa Holmes, President of AUMA said that, "Investment in transportation

infrastructure is essential to urban municipalities across the province. In particular, community airports, bridges and roads are important transportation links that have been under-resourced and are in need of capital improvements. We are pleased that Alberta Transportation is restoring funding to STIP, and AUMA members look forward to providing input on how to best use STIP funding to benefit our communities".

Stay tuned to the AUMA Digest and newsletter for updates.

The May 2016 Census is coming

Statistics Canada has announced that the next short-form census will take place in May 2016, including the Census of Population Program and the Census of Agriculture (all agricultural operators who intend to sell at least one product in 2016 must participate). Information packages will be sent out starting May 2. Approximately

35,000 people across Canada will be hired to assist in the census collection.

Information collected in the Census is vital to plan, develop and evaluate relevant programs and services, which includes schools, daycare, family services, housing, policing services, fire protection, roads, public

transportation and skills training.

While the new federal government has reinstated the long-form census, the May census will be short-form and voluntary.

For more information on the 2016 Census please visit [StatsCan](#).



Willow Creek Regional Waste Management Services Commission
Box 2820 Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0
Phone: 403-687-2603
Fax: 403-687-2606

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

In attendance: Chair Earl Hemmaway, Barry Johnson, Lyal O'Neill, Gord Wolstenholme, John Connor and Cheryl Guenther.

1. Chair Earl Hemmaway called the Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.
2. Approval of Agenda

Cheryl added item 7e.

16.12 Moved by John Connor to approve the Agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Draft Budget

Cheryl presented the members with 1st and 2nd draft operating and capital budget for the 2016 fiscal year. The members discussed the information as provided regarding landfill operations, closure and post closure, capital expenditures and amortization.

With the arrival of the delegation, James Nakashima, the members closed their budget discussion to allow James his scheduled time.

4. Delegations
 - a) YPM, James Nakashima – Presentation of 2015 Financial Statements

Chairman Hemmaway welcomed James to the meeting, the members introduced themselves and Chairman Hemmaway turned the floor over to James. James explained in detail the 2015 financial statements for the Willow Creek Regional Waste Management Services Commission. James explained that the WCRWMSC had a deficit in 2015 and that reserve monies would have to be used to fund the deficit.

16.13 Moved by Lyal O'Neill to transfer \$20 763.00 from reserves to fund the deficit.
CARRIED

James stated that it was the opinion of YPM that the financial statements fairly represent the position of the WCRWMSC.

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

4. Delegations cont'd

- a) YPM, James Nakashima

16.14 **Moved by Gord Wolstenholme** to accept the 2015 Financial Statements as presented by James Nakashima of YPM.

CARRIED

Chairman Hemmaway thanked James for his time and James left the meeting.

The members reconvened their discussion regarding the 2016 Operating and Capital Budget.

16.15 **Moved by John Connor** to accept 2nd draft as amended and pass the 2016 WCRWMSO Operating & Capital Budget.

CARRIED Unanimously

5. Approval of Minutes

- a) January 14, 2016 Special Meeting

16.16 **Moved by Barry Johnson** to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2016 Special meeting as presented.

CARRIED

- b) January 28, 2016 Regular Meeting

16.17 **Moved by Gord Wolstenholme** to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2016 Regular meeting

CARRIED

6. Financial Information

- a) Approval of Check Detail January 26, 2016 – February 23, 2016

Cheryl presented the members with the Check Detail from January 26, 2016 to February 23, 2016

16.18 **Moved by Lyal O'Neill** to approve the Check Detail as presented.

CARRIED

- b) Bank Statement January 2016 – For Information

Cheryl presented the members with the January 2016 Bank Statement for information.

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

6. Financial Information cont.

c) Bank Reconciliation January 2016 – Checking & 90 Day Notice Accts.

Cheryl presented the members with the January 2016 Bank Reconciliation report for the Checking and the 90 Day Notice Accounts

d) Bank Reconciliation November & December 2015-90 Day Notice Account.

16.19 **Moved by Gord Wolstenholme** to accept the January 2016 Bank Reconciliation reports for the Checking Account and the 90 Day Notice Account as presented.

CARRIED

7. New Business

a) Vacation and Overtime CAO

Cheryl presented the members with her accumulated overtime hours and vacation time carry over from 2015.

Cheryl explained that with the construction of the administration building, it has been difficult to get away for any length of time. Member O'Neill asked who takes over Cheryl's role when she is away. Cheryl explained that the scale operations carry on and she has delegated Dave Barnes to ensure bank deposits get done on a weekly basis. She also explained that because of the payroll schedule, it is difficult for her to take more than a week at a time. The only way to allow Cheryl to take two weeks of vacation consecutively would be to have YPM do payroll from their office.

Member Wolstenholme asked if there was a policy in place regarding the carry-over of vacation time and if the time isn't taken, is it then lost. The members stressed that Cheryl needs to take her vacation time.

Cheryl explained that occasionally she has overtime hours through the year owing to events like the audit, or scale repairs. Cheryl was asked if she will consistently have overtime hours. Cheryl explained that it is necessary for her to accumulate some overtime hours occasionally in order for her to complete her job duties. She explained that accumulation of overtime will be a constant for her. She also explained that rarely do the other employees log overtime hours, but when there is a rare case, it is usually in half hour intervals. When this is the case, Cheryl pays them at the overtime rate in the month it was accumulated. Cheryl explained that she was not interested in being paid for her overtime hours; that she would like to take time off in lieu of overtime pay when she needs a personal day.

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

Member Connor asked if the Board could be provided with her overtime and vacation accumulation information more than once per year. Cheryl will ensure the Board can review the vacation and overtime information on a semi-annual basis moving forward.

16.20 Moved by John Connor to accept the Vacation and Overtime accumulation information as presented.

CARRIED

b) JRIE and GRIE Annual General Meeting Proxy

Cheryl presented the members with the documents to appoint a proxy for the annual general meetings of the Genesis and Jubilee Reciprocal Insurance Exchange.

16.21 Moved by Barry Johnson to appoint Gerald Rhodes, GRIE and Duane Gladden, JRIE to act as proxy at the Annual General Meeting of GRIE and JRIE respectively.

CARRIED

c) Disposal of Scale Tickets

Cheryl explained that we have a large accumulation of old scale tickets on the premises. Many of them had been stored in the basement and shop and are very dusty and smelly. Cheryl has been in contact with Alberta Environment regarding the retention of these documents, however they will not provide a yes or no answer to whether we have to save these indefinitely. The alternative to keeping the hard copies is to scan and save electronic versions. Cheryl and staff have been working to scan and save electronic copies of all scale tickets to ensure we have a copy if required by Alberta Environment. Cheryl is asking the Board permission to dispose of the hard copies once she has ensured the WCRWMS has an electronic copy.

16.22 Moved by Gord Wolstenholme to allow administration to dispose of the original scale tickets, and further that electronic copies are kept indefinitely.

CARRIED

d) Bylaw 1-2016, Fees Bylaw

Cheryl explained that the WCRWMS Commission must pass an amendment to the Fees Bylaw, or pass a new bylaw due to the increase of tipping fees. The MGA states that a bylaw may not be changed by a motion of Council, or for the purpose of the Commission, the Board.

16.23 Moved by Lyal O'Neill to give first reading to Bylaw 1-2016.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

7. New Business cont'd

d) Bylaw 1-2016, Fees Bylaw cont'd

16.24 Moved by Barry Johnson to give 2nd reading to Bylaw 1-2016
CARRIED

16.25 Moved by Gord Wolstenholme to proceed to 3rd and final reading of Bylaw 1-2016
CARRIED Unanimously

16.26 Moved by John Connor to give 3rd and final reading to Bylaw 1-2016.
CARRIED

e) Policy – Days in lieu of overtime pay

James Yakashima, YPM, asked that the WCRWMSC have a policy in place as to how the Commission deals with employees that may have accumulated overtime, shall that employee leave their employment at the Willow Creek Regional Landfill. Cheryl was asked to revisit the employee policy and present an amendment to the members at the next meeting.

16.27 Moved by Barry Johnson to table the discussion regarding a time off in lieu of overtime pay.
CARRIED

8. Old Business

a) Building Update

Cheryl gave a verbal report regarding the building. Cheryl was notified this morning that our contractor had removed the builders insurance yesterday without notifying her. Cheryl has been in contact with our insurance company, however we require certain documents in order to insure the building. Cheryl has contacted Superior Safety Codes for the final permit to occupy as well as Hasegawa to prepare the documents we require. Cheryl ensured the members that we will have insurance in place before the end of the day today. Cheryl also gave a breakdown of what is still owing to the contractor including hold back amounts.

b) Building Grand Opening

The members discussed briefly whether or not to have a grand opening. It was the consensus of the members to not do anything at this time, however if the members' councils wish to come visit, they were welcome to do so.

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

8. Old Business cont'd

c) Biogas Facility Tour Dates

Cheryl provided the members with a few options for the Lethbridge Biogas Plant facility tour. The members decided April 6, 2016 would be a good day. Cheryl will correspond with Stephan at the plant to decide what time would work best for them. Cheryl will forward an invitation to each municipality once she has a time scheduled.

d) Bylaw 3-2015

As this is a fairly lengthy document, the members decided to table until the next meeting.

16.28 Moved by John Connor to table Bylaw 3-2015 until the next regular Board meeting.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

No correspondence.

10. General Landfill Information

No general landfill items

11. In Camera

16.29 Moved by Lyal O'Neill to go In Camera

CARRIED

16.30 Moved by John Connor to come out of In Camera

CARRIED

16.31 Moved by Lyal O'Neill to give wage increases of 3% to all landfill employees.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Landfill Commission held at the Landfill Facility February 23rd, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

12. Adjournment

16.32 **Moved by Gord Wolstenholme** to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 P.M.
CARRIED

Chairman Earl Hemmaway

CAO Cheryl Guenther

ADOPTED

From: Kevin Brandvold [<mailto:kevin.brandvold@gov.ab.ca>]

Sent: April-04-16 8:40 AM

Subject: Speed is the traffic safety focus in April

Dear Traffic Safety Stakeholder:

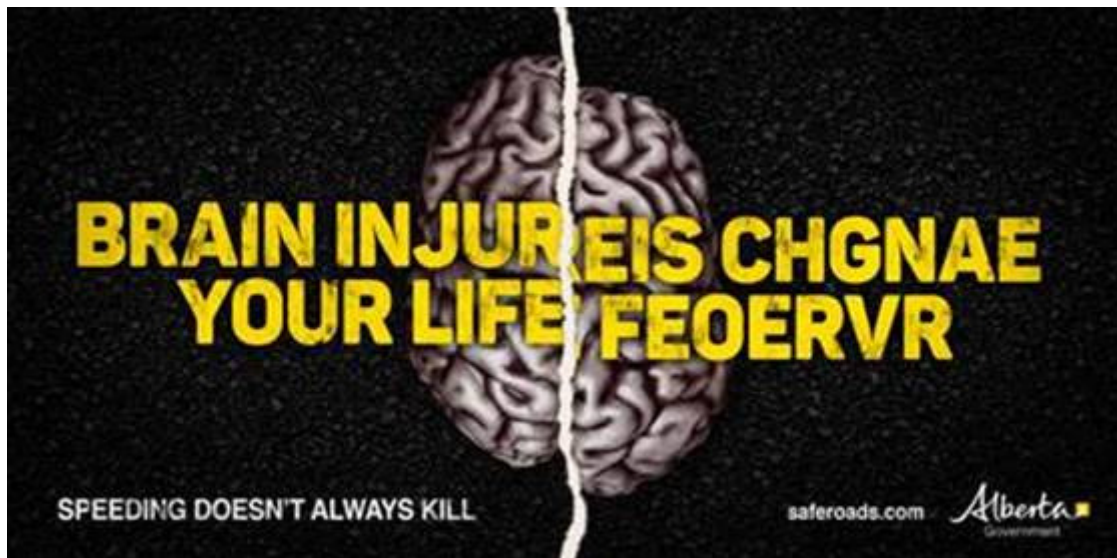
Our traffic safety focus for the month of April is **Speed**.

Now that spring has sprung and the snow has subsided (for now), drivers have a tendency to increase their speeds. The problem with speeding is it is very acceptable in our society. A lot of drivers justify the risk-reward ratio as they feel there is an acceptable tolerance for speeding. The harsh truth about speed-related collisions is, they don't always kill those involved. In fact, brain injuries are one of the most common injuries that result from speed-related collisions. One in four fatal crashes involve a driver travelling at a speed unsafe for the prevailing road conditions. This time of year road conditions can change quickly, from gravel covered sections to black ice, which adds complications to the driving environment.

Below are some stats specific to speed collisions in Alberta:

- In the last 5 years, **451 people** were killed and **11,753 were injured** in collisions involving unsafe speed. (2010-2014).
- In 2014, **25 per cent** of all **fatal collisions** involved a driver travelling at an unsafe speed.
- Demerits for speeding range from two points (exceeding the posted limit by less than 15 km/h) to six points (exceeding the posted limit by more than 50 km/h).
- In the last 5 years, **60 per cent** of all **fatal speed-related collisions** occurred in **rural areas**. (2010-2014).

This month we are educating Albertan's about the importance of safe speeds through a [radio spot](#) and billboards in both rural and urban markets.



For more information or tools, please visit the following sites:

- [Saferoads](#)
- [Alberta Transportation](#)
- [Collision Statistics](#)

Feel free to share any of our materials with your members, families and friends. Thank you in advance for your ongoing dedication and commitment to traffic safety in Alberta.

If you wish to be removed from this list, please advise. Thank you.

Regards,

Kevin Brandvold

Regional Traffic Safety Consultant – SW Alberta
Office of Traffic Safety
Under contract to Alberta Transportation
Government of Alberta

Tel 403-308-8297

kevin.brandvold@gov.ab.ca

511 Alberta - Alberta's Official Road Reports

Go to 511.alberta.ca and follow [@511Alberta](https://twitter.com/511Alberta)



Up-to-date road information, including traffic delays, is a click or a call away. Call 5-1-1 toll-free, visit 511.alberta.ca or follow us on Twitter [@511Alberta](https://twitter.com/511Alberta) to get on the road to safer travel.

<http://511.alberta.ca/ab/en.html>

<https://twitter.com/511Alberta>

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Claresholm & District FCSS board meeting March 7, 2016

At The Station

Present: Barbara Bell, , Lauren Billey, Jill Flanagan, Jamie Cutler, Shelley Ford, Brad Schlossberger, Diana Ross; Sherry Levesque - recorder

Regrets: Glen Alm.

Called to order: Diana Ross 7:07

Welcomed new board member Jill Flanagan.

Approval of agenda by Shelley Ford

Approval of minutes from February 1, 2016 by Lauren Billey.

Approval of Financials - Unapproved budget was looked over

Correspondence folder: Discussion on Item for raffle table for Claresholm Krakens and the EES course, The Station Diamond Ball.

- Staff Reports
- Outreach: Discussion on Food Bank and Let's start a Conversation
- Director: Discussion on Unstoppable conversation at Library March 24, 2016 at 7pm.
- Discussion on Syrian families
- Discussion on Good neighbor awards
- Resources: Discussion on Volunteer Taxes
- Crisis- on going case.
- No information from YPM on audit
- Baby CPR went well
- Safety Meeting with Jason once a month
-

New Business:

- Signing authority- 2 people (Shelley, Jill)
- Casino- talk to Karine or Simon suggested by Jamie

- 20 people 4 shifts 5 people per shift.
- Lauren Billey Billey76[p=- had to leave early.

Reviewing and decision on Funding Application.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| • Kidz Zone: | asking \$2000.00 | gave \$1700.00 |
| • Further Education Society: | asking \$9000.00 | gave \$8500.00 |
| • Claresholm Chaplaincy: | asking \$1000.00 | gave \$1000.00 |
| • Adult learning/Project read: | asking \$1500.00 | gave \$1500.00 |
| • SNAPS: | asking \$8000.00 | gave \$8000.00 |
| • Junior Achievement: | asking \$3000.00 | gave \$2000.00 |

TOTAL _____ \$26200.00

Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held on April 13, 2016 at the Community Centre. The grant Julia applied for was approved.

Other Business:

- Discussion on Unstoppable conversation there is an up- coming meeting at the library March 24, 2016 at 7pm.
- Discussion on the Friends with projects.
- Have John Wenlock from youth come to next meeting.

Next meeting Monday April 4, 2016 at the Station 7pm.

Meeting Adjourn at 8:57 by Jamie Cutler

Director

Barbara Bell

Chair

Diana Ross



May 31 deadline for resolutions for the 2016 AUMA Convention

April 6, 2016

Municipalities are encouraged to start thinking about potential resolutions for the 2016 Convention as they must be approved by your Council and submitted to AUMA by May 31, 2016. AUMA will be hosting a webinar in early May to explain about what resolutions are, the resolution process, and why councils should take time to submit them.

- [Guidelines for drafting resolutions](#)
- [AUMA's Resolutions Policy](#)

Ensure sufficient background information is provided so that AUMA and voting members can understand the issue and rationale for the recommended resolution. Resolutions without sufficient justification and background information may be returned to the sponsoring council for additional information. A copy of your council's motion to support the submission of the resolution must be provided. Before submitting a new resolution, municipalities are encouraged to [check the active resolutions page](#) to see if it is already addressed or partly covered by an existing resolution.

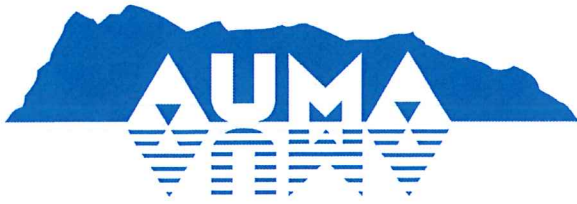
Copies of resolutions must be submitted in hard copy or electronically as follows:

- Hard copy: AUMA, 300-8616 51 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T6E 6E6
(Attention: Jennifer Jabs)
- [Email an electronic copy](#)

Late submissions will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the resolution process, please [email Jennifer Jabs](#) or call her at (780) 431-4531.

If your resolution is accepted by our members at the Convention, AUMA will advocate on it for three years before it is deemed inactive.



New Community Fund for Canada's 150th

April 6, 2016

Canada will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in the summer of 2017. The New Community Fund for Canada's 150th will help communities bring people and places together through a series of grants distributed by the Community Foundations of Canada to Community Foundations across the country.

The grants can be used on local projects that:

- encourage participation in community activities to mark the 150th
- inspire a deeper understanding of our communities
- build vibrant and healthy communities focused on broad, diverse engagement

Eligible applicants include municipalities, charities, amateur athletic associations, housing corporations, and municipal or public bodies performing a function of government. Applicants must apply to their nearest Community Foundation. Foundations are located in Grande Prairie, Camrose, Drayton Valley, Edmonton, St. Albert, Red Deer, Canmore, Banff, Airdrie, Medicine Hat, Calgary, and Lethbridge.

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Successful applicants are required to match the grant amount. Currently, there is no deadline for applications.

For more information on eligibility or how to apply, [visit the Community Foundation's website.](#)



School Cash Online is now enabled to accept credit cards. Parents can go to school cash online and there will be a credit card option for payment.

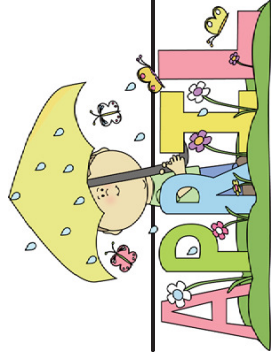
GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Buy GIFT CARDS through WCCHS (in partnership with West Meadow Elementary School) for everyday purchases, to give as gifts for birthdays or for your business needs. Up to 15% of your everyday purchases will be automatically donated back to WCCHS student activities!

Visit www.fundscrip.com/retailers for the list of participating retailers. Contact the office for further details.
NEXT ORDER IS DUE APRIL 27

IS YOUR CHILD ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?

Call the school **403-625-3387** to let us know!



Volunteer Month

HOW TO REACH US

Main Phone 403-625-3387
website: www.willowcreekhighschool.ca
email: dietzek@lrzd.ab.ca
News? carmellesteel@gmail.com

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | Students Return to School | Prom Parent Meeting 5:30 pm Foyer | AMA Drivers Ed Parent Meeting 5:30 pm VC room | Grat Parent Meeting 7 pm Learning Commons | Read & Write-In! 1:30 - 5:00 pm | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | | Scholarship Application Help Session 7 pm | School Council 7pm | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | | | Gr. 12 Student Finance Workshop 7 pm | Report Cards Handed Out Sports Society 7pm | NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Interscholastic Collaboration Day Junior Prom @ Community Center 6:30 pm Doors open | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | NO SCHOOL FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS JPP Meetings & Collaboration Day | | Fundscrip Orders Due | | | |

Willow Creek Composite High School • Grades 7-12

P.O. Box 219 • 626 - 55 AVE W., Claresholm, AB T0L 0T0 • Phone: 403-625-3387 • Fax: 403-625-3289 • www.lrzd.ab.ca/school/willowcreek



Willow Creek Composite High School

Issue 50 • Printed April 4, 2016

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day."
- Robert Frost

The Navigator is produced to provide information to parents of our students on happenings within our school, and to share information with the community.

GRAD 2016 UPDATES

There will be a grad parent meeting on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons.

At this time, parents will be given an opportunity to purchase six banquet tickets, sign up to help with decorating, and hear an update from each of the grad committees.

For the first round of banquet ticket sales, each grad is entitled to 6 guest tickets. After April 15, there will be opportunity to purchase additional tickets as they become available. The grad's ticket is complimentary (not one of the six).

The final two opportunities for earning Grad check marks are upon us. Grads will be selling Tea Roses with an anticipated arrival date of May 6, the Friday before Mother's Day. One 6" pot is selling for \$15 and the sale of 8 pots will earn the grad a check mark. All orders must be in by April 15.

Grad Bottle Drive is Saturday, April 30. There is a signup sheet in the office. Grads need to arrive at WCCHS at 9 a.m. as we will begin canvassing the town at 9:30 a.m. We are in need of approximately 30 grads to be drivers, sorters, and people to go door to door.

Graduation Ceremonies are on Saturday, June 25 at WCCHS at 2:00 p.m. Doors open for the banquet at 5:30 p.m. at the Claresholm Community Centre. There will be a Class of 2016 picture taken on June 25 at noon at the Livingstone Range School Division Central Office.

JUNIOR PROM 2016

Prom Impromptu speeches will be held on Special Events Day, April 14 at 11:05 am. All are

welcome to attend.

Prom is on Friday, April 22 at the Claresholm Community Center. Doors open at 6:30 pm. The theme is Mystery. There is a \$5 admission at the door. All student, parents, community member, families are welcome to attend.

WE TEAM

The WCCHS WE Team is busy planning our next fundraising event. Later this month we will be promoting the WE Create Change campaign to raise awareness and funds for clean and accessible water throughout the world. Keep checking the announcements for more details.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Sixteen grade 11 & 12 students departed March 24 for an adventure of a lifetime! The International Travel Study students went to Italy for a 10 day tour. We visited Venice, Pisa, Florence, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, and Rome. Students had the opportunity to visit historic sites such as the Sistine Chapel, David, the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Parthenon, and the Leaning Tower. WCCHS students were outstanding ambassadors for our school, community, and country.



Claresholm, AB

News and information for the parents of Willow Creek Composite High School students, and the communities which make our school successful!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Grad Updates
- Prom Dates
- Learning Commons
- Travel Updates
- Sports Updates
- April 2016 Calendar

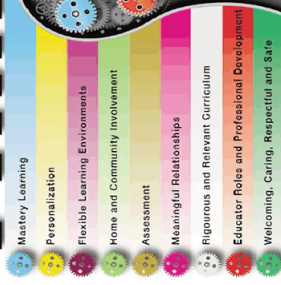
FROM THE PRINCIPAL: Kirby Dietze

Hello and welcome to Spring proper! I'm so glad the days are longer and the sun is up earlier and sets later. I hope that students and parents have enjoyed their Spring Break, and are ready to jump back in for the rest of the school year. There is much to accomplish, yet in our school year, and we all look forward to success in that.

Thank you to all parents and students who came to Parent Teacher Interviews in March. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's progress in each of their courses, and, of course, how we can help them succeed to the best of their abilities. We appreciate your participation in your son/daughter's education as a partner. We also appreciate those who took the time to complete our survey. Those results will be collated and used by staff to make decisions about the programming we provide for students at WCCHS. And, in case you weren't able to be at the school during those days, we welcome any inquiry with regards to the school and/or student progress any time during the year.

Recently we, as staff, have been discussing the possibility of engaging in Alberta Education's High School Redesign 'pilot' project. It started a number of years ago with only a few schools, and now has grown to close to 250 of 350 high schools in Alberta. This optional pilot is based on the nine principles shown in this graphic:

MORE than a matter of TIME



I have to be honest about WCCHS here, in that we are already incorporating many of these principles in our 'business as usual.' In essence this pilot really is a shift away from time being the determinant of learning and towards the learner being the determinant of learning.

A couple of other considerations are important to this discussion, specifically that the pilot removes the requirement for us to have 25 hrs of instruction per credit earned (an every-day 5 credit course like Math 10C would be 125 hrs of instruction), and allows each school to decide how that course could be offered best for students at the school site. It also removes the formula that funds us by credit and uses a three year average-credits-per-student formula to fund the school—similar to how Jr. High and Elementary schools are funded. We have discussed the principles of redesign and the practical implementation of the redesign practices at other schools at School Council, and I have taken a couple of teachers to Sterling School to view the principles in action. We are still in the discovery stage right now, but soon it will be necessary for us to make a decision for next year, either to commit or to wait. Whatever we do, know that the best interests of all students will be at the core of our decisions. And . . . that we will not be throwing the baby out with the bath water; we will continue to do best what we do best, and this will enhance what we can offer for all students' benefit. I look forward to discussions about this and other

factors influencing our school at any time. Please call me or make an appointment. Until next month . . . all the best!

~ Kirby Dietze

SPORTS UPDATES

Basketball: Jr. and Sr. High School basketball seasons have ended. The Jr High A Boys capped off an undefeated season with a league title and finished 3rd in Zones. The boys won the JV Post Season tournament hosted at WCCHS. Both Boys and Girls teams had first-round wins at Zones before succumbing to eventual Provincial bound teams. Thanks to all of our coaches for the fine work they have put in to help our teams be successful this season!

Curling: Our Boys won Gold at Zones then went to Provincials in Ponoka. They won their first match then missed the medal round. Congratulations to the coaches and players on a successful season!

Badminton: Both Junior and Senior badminton practices continue. WCCHS will host both Senior High and Junior High District tournaments; Sr. High April 20, Jr. High April 27. High School Zones will be April 29 in Lethbridge, Jr. High League Championships April 30 in Pincher Creek. Junior High will wind-up with Zones in Medicine Hat May 7 and Senior High has Provincials May 6, 7 in Edmonton. Please check the practice schedule on the gym door and monitors for practice times.

Slo-pitch: Practices started before the Easter break. The Cobras' first game will be April 27 in Cardston. The first home game will be May 4 vs Magrath.

Baseball: Practices have started! The Cobras' first game will be April 6 in Vulcan. The first home games will be back-to-back, April 12 vs Kainai and April 13 vs F.P. Walsh. The boys finish up the month home again April 26 vs Pincher Creek and April 27 vs High River (away).

Track: Both Senior and Junior High track practices will start in the next week or two. We welcome Miss Adoif who will join Mr. Bryson coaching this season! Please check the practice schedule on the gym door and monitors for practice times.

Sports Society: Sports Society will meet next, Thursday, April 26 at 7 PM in the Video Conference room. All are welcome to attend! The agenda and March minutes will be posted on the school website.

Sports Society fundraising proceeds go to help facilitate our school sports and keep player fees to a minimum. Your support is appreciated!

LEARNING COMMONS!

For the Love of Reading: This month in the Learning Commons, you can check out the display that celebrates National Poetry Month. <http://poets.ca/npm/> has more information on nationwide activities. The display will include poetry collections and novels written in verse. Two of our favourite poets are Shel Silverstein and Robert Frost. One of our book club members also loves the poem Annabelle Lee by Edgar Allan Poe. You can listen to and read the lyrics [here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=r74BCrfrOQE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r74BCrfrOQE).

Friday, April 8 is our next Read & Write-In. Students, parents, and staff are invited to join our Book and Writing Clubs as we read, write and snack from 1:30 until 5:00. It's a fun, relaxing and rather quiet (well, we're all reading and/or writing!) get together. Come for the whole time, come for part of the time. We'd love to have you join us.

You still have until April 15 to choose a Blind Date Book, read it and enter our draw to win a variety of prizes from a Chapters gift card to a family sized bag of M & M's. This has been such a huge success and so much fun we've decided to always have a Blind Date section in our Learning Commons.

Our 3-D printer is busy with student projects. And in order to get to the point of printing, the students have been learning the ins and outs of using Sketch-Up as well as exploring and reading up on other design software that can be used to create 3D designs. All students welcome to come in at lunch to check out the printers, the software and the related books we have about this technology.

At the end of the month, Mrs. Marshall is attending a conference where she will be hearing, among others, Denise Bjorkman (aka Miss Lilly Librarian) speak about how a reading revolution was created at her grade 7-12 high school. Hoping to come away with even more ideas as we continue to build our own vibrant reading community at WCCHS!

Book Club Recommended Read:

Without a doubt, one of the favorite series in our collection is by Cassandra Claire. It is also a favorite, many time recommended series by book club

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

| | |
|---|----------|
| Jr Prom Parent Meeting (5:30 pm) | April 5 |
| AMA Driver's Ed Parent Meeting (5:30 pm) | April 6 |
| Grad Parent Meeting (7 pm) | April 7 |
| Scholarship Application Help Session (7 pm) | April 13 |
| School Council Meeting (7 pm) | April 14 |
| Grade 12 Student Finance Workshop (7 pm) | April 20 |
| Report Cards Handed Out | April 21 |
| Sports Society Meeting (7 pm) | April 21 |
| No School for Students | April 22 |
| Prom | April 22 |
| No School for Junior High Students | April 25 |

members. And without fail those who have taken the recommendation and read the series...love it, too. The series? The Mortal Instruments. Check out <http://shadowhunters.com/> for more about it and other series that are part of the same world.

TRUSTEES

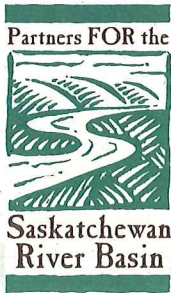
Ward 1 trustees are John McKe (mckejo@irsd.ab.ca) and Bradley Toone (tooneb@irsd.ab.ca). Please feel free to speak with them about any concerns you may have. Mr. Toone attends our school council meetings and you can always catch up with him there!

TRAVEL CLUB

The Junior High Travel Club spent nine days "Traveling through history" in Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls. We left in the wee hours of Saturday March 26 and got back close to midnight on April 3rd. It was a bit of a whirlwind but lots of memories

were created, we learned lots, and we had a lot of fun! The group consisted of 11 students, 3 parents and 2 WCCHS staff members. We experienced Old Quebec City (and pretended to be soldiers at the Plains of Abraham), Old and New Montreal - including the Grevin Wax museum which was amazing! In Ottawa we toured the Parliament buildings and walked in the Governor General's yard. In Toronto we went up the CN tower at sunset and stood on the highest glass floor in the world. Niagara Falls met us with snow but we soldiered on! We rode the Hornblower to the base of the falls in the snow, and still managed to get some good pictures! The Hockey Hall of Fame is always a highlight as well.





Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

Managing Partner: Meewasin Valley Authority
402 Third Avenue South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3G5
Telephone: (306) 665-6887 or 1-800-567-8007
Facsimile: (306) 665-6117

Email: partners@saskriverbasin.ca
Web Site: <http://www.saskriverbasin.ca>

RECEIVED
APR 07 2016

March 29, 2016

Dear Town of Claresholm,

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB) would like to request your support. **Your membership and financial support is key to realizing our mission.** The progress in building awareness and knowledge of water issues, research, and solutions in the Saskatchewan River Basin (SRB) would not be possible without public support. Help us to continue doing this crucial work.

PFSRB has been promoting watershed stewardship and sustainability of the SRB since 1993. The SRB is an international watershed that includes the three Prairie Provinces and a small portion of Montana. It contains the North Saskatchewan, Battle, Vermillion, South Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Bow, Oldman, St. Mary, Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers. PFSRB is the only non profit, non-governmental organization with a mandate to promote watershed sustainability across the entire Saskatchewan River Basin.

Membership funds have helped us complete and take on a number of projects. The first is Stan the Sturgeon Fish Habitat Program, our newest environmental program. This curriculum based package educates and enables teachers to teach students about the importance of aquatic and riparian ecosystems and fish habitat while learning about the SRB. This one of a kind program is now available to everyone across the basin. There is no charge for receiving the program, although assistance with postage is always welcome. Please contact our office to request your copy.

Our popular educational board game, Moopher's Amazing Journey to the Sea is being transformed into a tri-lingual version by incorporating Île-à-la-Crosse Michif and Cree language into the game. We have developed partnerships with both the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre to complete this work. This new edition will be available fall of 2016.

Save the dates! Our annual conference will be held October 16 to 19, 2016 at the historic Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This year's conference theme is "Every River has a Story... What's Yours?" PFSRB is please to have partnered with the Canadian Heritage River System and Saskatchewan Parks, Culture and Sport to offer this national conference.

As added benefit to memberships, we are now offering a discount to members on conference registration fees. In addition, PFSRB is currently undergoing some changes and you can expect there to be more opportunities available to members over the coming year.

Please help us continue this important work by becoming a member. Your support is invaluable. Please find a membership form enclosed.

Sincerely,

Lis Mack
Manager

Enclosure

Mission - to promote watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages and stewardship



April 2016 E-Newsletter

April 7, 2016



© Ken Orich 2015

**Welcome to Taren Hager, our new Office Manager!
and**

**Farewell to
Pauline Smith!**



I grew up smack dab in the middle of the prairies of Southern Alberta in the small farming community called Bow Island, home of Pinto McBean. Agriculture was an integral part of my life, as my dad worked for the St. Mary's River Irrigation District, and many of my friends lived on farms.

I attended the University of Lethbridge and obtained a B.Sc degree in Geography, with the focus on physical landscape, agriculture and the environment. I then worked for Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development on the water quality team as a BMP Technologist. I also worked for the City of Lethbridge, where I started a Storm Pond Water Quality Program, and learned more about the impacts that people living in urban areas have on water quality in the Oldman River.

The environment is near and dear to my heart, just as family is also very important to me - and I enjoy spending time camping, hiking and playing with my son, step-daughter, husband and dogs at various locations throughout the Oldman Watershed.

I am very excited to be apart of the OWC's team as the Office Manager and look forward to meeting all of you that are involved with us and the watershed!



Every end is a new beginning!

This month we say farewell to Pauline Smith our Admin. Assistant. Pauline will be beginning an exciting new adventure working with the University of Lethbridge on a Blackfoot Language Research Project. We wish you all the best in your new career and send many thanks for your time with the OWC!



OWC's Role in Headwaters Management - Shannon Frank



The OWC's role is complicated, and we though we often get lumped in with government or environmental groups, we are truly unique.

First and foremost, we are a voice for the watershed itself and so rely on credible, peer reviewed science to understand what the watershed needs to be healthy. [Current research](#) is telling us that linear features density (all the trails, roads, pipelines, power lines, etc.) needs to be below 0.6km/km2 in order for species like grizzly bears, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout and elk to survive. So what does this have to do with water, you ask? Well, research has also shown that fish and wildlife usually start disappearing first, before water quality problems are detected

- and so these animals and fish are our early warning signals that something is amiss.

Currently 77% of watersheds in the headwaters area are above this threshold, and our goal is to decrease that number over time, with support from all stakeholders.

What makes OWC unique is that we are stakeholder based - and that means the community decides together what our collective goals are. OWC facilitates discussion on a number of both formal and informal levels and provides credible information to guide decisions; but ultimately, it is up to the stakeholders to decide what we as a community will work towards. Oftentimes

that means making trade-offs between the many needs of our communities (environmental, economic and social). We did this through our [Headwaters Action Plan](#) process.

There has been a lot of media coverage on these issues, and on the surface it looks like groups are highly polarized, with environmentalists on one side calling for a ban of motorized use - and motorized recreationists on the other side, calling for open access. But if you talk to enough people from all perspectives, you will soon see that it is not that black and white - and in fact there are lots of motorized recreationists who are also environmentalists!

There is broad support for many management improvements from both motorized users and environmentalists, including: increased enforcement, restoration, education - as well as building proper trails and bridges, and creating a user fee system to pay for it all. These actions are what OWC is supporting because they would have a huge positive impact overall, and specifically, would go a long way towards improving the health of our headwaters.

OWC's role is to bring people together from all points of view to work on getting these solutions on the ground that have broad support. Through our [Dutch Creek Pilot Project](#) and [Engaging Recreationists Project](#), we are well on our way to demonstrating how collaborative efforts can have a big impact at ground level.



OWC does not take sides - and we work with anyone and everyone who supports the goals the community has set. The more people who support a user fee system to pay for increased enforcement, restoration, education, and trail maintenance and bridges the better - and it doesn't matter whether they are an environmentalist, a motorized user or any other label we give people. What matters is that they are willing to put in some time and effort, and even get their boots dirty once in awhile, to maintain and improve the health of our back country, a place we all love.

OWC is being criticized by some for not taking a position on motorized use in the new Castle Parks and for working closely with motorized users in general. In fact ... we would not be doing our job if we took positions and did not work with all stakeholders.

How can we be facilitators if we take positions? **We can't!**

How can we be stakeholder-based if we ignore some stakeholders? **We can't!**

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are founded on the belief that it is best to work together, at the community level, to solve our challenges. No one said it was easy, and I can assure you that it is not, but it is in fact the best way, because it builds a strong sense of community. A strong sense of community is very powerful, because people learn from and are influenced by other people - not so much by facts and figures.

We don't have enough time and money to solve all the challenges we face as it is, and so the most efficient way to solve problems is to cooperate on implementing solutions, wherever there is common ground. The common ground that we start at may not be a 100% solution, but change is incremental as we build trust and learn more about each other and our watershed.

We continue to participate in discussions being held on all sides of issues and to advertise events and programs coming from all stakeholders because it is also our role to support and share all the positive efforts occurring across the watershed. We are proud to showcase these efforts and to help gather volunteers, provide learning opportunities and build momentum.

Thank you for your steadfast support of OWC's work as we facilitate the tough discussions that are needed to really solve problems for the long term. Your voice matters - and we need you at the table helping make difficult choices about watershed management and health.

Watershed Legacy Program Update - Cody Spencer



If you're to pick the most important month of the year for the Watershed Legacy Program, March would be it. Months of planning had led up to March 10th, when we hosted our Holding the Reins event in Fort Macleod. It turned out to be a great day of sharing knowledge and promoting stewardship. We had a turnout of over 100 people, including 40 agriculture students from the Lethbridge College. Justin Thompson from the Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS) gave an excellent presentation on what SALTS is doing to conserve the natural landscapes of the headwaters using conservation easements. There was a lot of interest from the crowd when Gerald Vandervalk gave his presentation on stewardship projects and grazing systems being applied on their

ranch.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors!



The Vandervalk's efficient management of their ranch and the use of progressive riparian fencing and off-stream watering systems won them the 2016 Alberta Beef Producers Environmental Stewardship Award. The Watershed Legacy Program is proud to partner with Gerald on another riparian fencing project for 2016. The early word is that Gerald couldn't wait to get building his new fence and already has it ready for the spring grazing season.

The Watershed Legacy Program team was busy throughout February reviewing our applications, prioritizing each project for their value they will provide to the watershed. A special thanks goes out to them for their hard work and expertise. The WLP had a really successful year, helping fund 11 projects that will improve water quality, help control invasive species and provide support for our rural and urban land stewards.



Holding the Reins 2016

Here is our official list of the 2016 Watershed Legacy Program recipients, including the sub-basin they are located in:

- Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition, Castle River Basin: invasive species removal field days

- Clancy Holthe, Little Bow River Basin: off-stream watering system
- Erin McIlwraith, City of Lethbridge: invasive species removal field days
- Gerald Vandervalk, Willow Creek Basin: riparian fencing of Lyndon Creek
- Glen & Kelly Hall, Mosquito Creek Basin: spring development, wetland fencing
- John Cross, Mosquito Creek Basin: off-stream watering system
- Julia Palmer, Waterton River Basin: riparian fencing of the Waterton River
- Leta Pezderic, Lower Oldman River: creation of watershed stewardship group on Lower Oldman River to control invasive Leafy Spurge
- Reid Moynihan, Willow Creek Basin: spring development
- Reno Welsch, Upper Oldman River Basin: spring development
- Stafford Bezak, Willow Creek Basin: off-stream watering system

To build on this year's successes, we will look to communicate the stories from our recipients, showing the communities of southern Alberta the value that these land stewards and projects provide, while building more partnerships along the way. [Click here](#) for more information on the Watershed Legacy Program and how to get involved!

Our New Space, "The Hub" - Larin Guenther



So far, 2016 has been a busy year for the OWC. We moved to our new downtown location at 319 - 6th St. South in Lethbridge, and we are in the process of making it our own. With a send-off of our previous Admin, Bev Bellamy, in February, we introduced our new digs. Now, we really feel like we are here in the community, supporting everyone to come together on issues that matter to us all, and affect our watershed.

The OWC is a unique organization in that we are neutral voice that represents in ALL voices that live, work and play in the watershed. So, partnerships with a variety of groups and organizations within the Oldman Watershed are very important to our success. One such partner, Environment Lethbridge, shares the new office space with us - and I also sit on the Environment Lethbridge (EL) Board as a representative of the OWC. This relationship is lock and key in my eyes. We are here to give each other mutual support on community-related issues, making sure the community is informed as to what is going on, how they can get involved and why they should. In a way, you could say that EL focuses on municipal watershed health, while OWC looks at it from the broader perspective.

Since moving into the new space, the two organizations have been working collaboratively to introduce "The Hub" to Lethbridge. The Hub is a place where community, organizations and businesses can come together to learn and explore issues that are affecting us all. On World Water Day, March 22, we held our first event at The Hub - a mini water film festival.



World Water Day Film Festival 2016

Next up for The Hub, we will be hosting a screening of the film Just Eat It in partnership with the Chinook Food Connect (CFC) and Environment Lethbridge. This new partnership with the CFC formed last month, with the intent of highlighting the connection of water and food. Paired on Earth Day with the screening of the film, is a talk at the Lethbridge Public Library with speakers from the City of Lethbridge's Waste and Recycling team, the Town

of Taber's Planning Department and Envirocan - Alberta's leading organic nutrient recycler.

Join the OWC, Environment Lethbridge and the Chinook Food Connect on Earth Day, April 22, to see the connection between water and food, and learn more about food waste diversion. See the Events listing for details.

The Hub, although only getting its roots into the ground, will continue to foster these new relationships. In addition to hosting events such as these, we will be looking for other organizations to share our office space with. If you have a business, or know someone with a business that you think would be a great addition to The Hub, please [contact the OWC](#) to apply for office space at our new location. We are excited to have this space to share with like-minded organizations, businesses and individuals in order to help each other grow and help our community achieve greatness in all aspects of environmental knowledge, conservation and sustainability while promoting balance of those qualities in our everyday lives.

In the meantime, stop by and say hello - you are always welcome as part of the OWC Family!

Story Time - Sofie Forsstrom



Once upon a time...

In a watershed (not so) far away...

Come, gather round and listen to my tale...

Did you hear the one about...

Everyone loves a good story. Stories help us make sense of information. They are universal, and help us build a sense of community. The watershed is a community. We all have a story to tell.

One of our roles here at the OWC is to give voice to the story of the watershed, and to ensure that the diverse and unique tales of the people and various characters within the watershed are also represented. We do this through various means, such as bringing people together in a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach, and through our educational and outreach activities. One sunny Friday afternoon in March, I wandered down to the Spring Nature Fest at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre, where I shared the story of the watershed with families and other visitors through our interactive Oldman display and with the help of a friendly westslope cutthroat trout puppet [Aside: Our puppet needs a name! I was thinking "Louise," since the species name is *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*, but I'm open to suggestions!]. If you attended and have photos of that event, don't forget to tag the OWC (@OldmanWatershed on Twitter) and share them with us

so that we can add them to our digital library on Flickr.

Stories about human relationships to water featured prominently at our World Water Day Film Festival, which we hosted on March 22 in partnership with Environment Lethbridge. The films looked at global, national, and local water issues related to sustainable development; access to clean, safe drinking water; and human dimensions of flooding on the prairies. They sparked discussion about water-related challenges and solutions. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped out at that event!



Spring Nature Festival 2016

We all have a part to play in the greater narrative of our watershed.

The saga continues this summer, when we hope to continue conversations about human activities within our watershed. We are currently in the process of hiring four seasonal Outreach Assistants, who will be setting off on a quest to engage folks in dialogue about recreation and watershed health. Just as importantly, they will be tasked with gathering stories from campers and motorized recreationists who are out on the land. They will also take an active role in some hands-on restoration work. When you see them out and about this summer, be sure to say hi! Look for the Outreach Assistants' updates this summer through the [blog](#) on our website social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter, and our digital archive on Flickr.



To find out more ways that you can get involved, [click here!](#)

Through constructive collaboration
With respect, not reservation,
We can contribute to the narrative
Of the watershed in which we live.
We all want the story of our watershed to have a happy ending!

History of the Oldman - Anna Garleff



It's an ambitious project, true. And - granted - the histories of Lethbridge, the Frank Slide and those of many local communities, have been documented well. But what about the watershed? If you were going to write the history of the watershed, what would it include? What would you leave out? The watershed was formed so long ago, we can't even conceive of time that far in the past. We DO know that the Blackfoot tell a Creation story that includes: "How The Oldman River Got Its Name".

But that's just the point, isn't it? The history of the watershed isn't just about the river. It's about the impact that humans have had on the river since - well, since we started drinking water. What happens on the land affects the water, so a history of the Oldman River watershed would have to account for a variety of land uses and the socio-cultural / politico-environmental influences behind these impacts.

Luckily, there are a number of resources to draw on to find this information. From the local community history books in my auntie's basement, to the Glenbow and Galt, to online sources, to Dr. Brad Stelfox's ALCES material, there's a lot to learn and discover.

The timeline is now in its final draft and going through a proof-reading stage. **If you are a history buff and would like to contribute, please just name your epoch and I will send you that section to review and comment on! Your help is greatly appreciated!**

Roughly, the eras are:

- 13,000 years ago to 1900 (That says something, doesn't it? Thousands of years of human activity and the water was still crystal clear. We have a lot to learn.)
- 1900 - 1930 (There is a lot available about this time since it was when the City, the roads and rail, and the farms and irrigation, were founded.)
- 1930 - 1970 (Construction and business whenever the opportunity permits - between drought and wars, that is.)
- 1970 - 2000 (Heavy years for the Oldman. It is an era of politics and the consequences are irreversible.)
- 2000 - 2016 (Perhaps the most exciting years to write because "yesterday's news" hasn't quite turned the page to making history yet.)



The timeline will be featured on our website as an interactive element - you will be able to see dates and events in point-form, and also expand various points to see further detail, historical photos and further links. It is a one-of-a-kind project.

If you have photos that you would be willing to contribute to the project, please get in touch, [click here!](#) We are looking for everyday photos ... of families, pets, vehicles, camping and farm machinery ... of loves lost and loves found ... the strife and success of life on the prairie, viewed by all ethnicities, as we experienced it.

The Hub Events - OWC Partnerships

**The Hub: Screening of the Film Just Eat It - in partnership with the Chinook Food Connect and Environment Lethbridge
Oldman Watershed Council Office - Earth Day, Friday April 22, 2016 at 3:00pm**

Filmmakers and food lovers Jen and Grant dive into the issue of food waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of their own fridge. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, they pledge to quit grocery shopping and survive only on discarded food. What they find is truly shocking. [More info.](#)

**Earth Day Presentation from the Lethbridge Public Library and Chinook Food Connect
Lethbridge Public Library - Earth Day, Friday April 22, 2016 from 11:00am - 1:00pm**

This session will be on the topic of food waste, with presenters from the Waste Management Departments of Lethbridge and Taber providing information on the organic waste produced in households. Guest Speakers: Heather Gowland, Waste & Recycling Services, City of Lethbridge - Cory Armfelt, Director of Planning, Town of Taber - Don Francis, EnviroCan. [More info.](#)

**Sportfish Alberta Identification Workshop for Anglers
Oldman Watershed Council Office - Sunday April 24, 2016 from 1:00pm-4:00pm**

This 3-hour workshop offers a range of knowledge from junior to senior level anglers. In this introductory course, students will learn key identification features, provincial range, and habitat preferences of Alberta sport fish species. Cost is \$20, please email derlukewich@hotmail.com or joyce.macneil@gmail.com to sign up! [More Info.](#)

Green Drinks

Owl Acoustic Lounge - Tuesday May 3rd, 2016 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Join us for Green Drinks every first Tuesday of the month! Everyone is welcome - It's an informal chance to socialize and network with other people who are interested in water, science, backcountry, nature, education, gardening, camping, music and more! [More info.](#)

Other Events in and Around the Watershed!

The Local Conscience: Beyond Food

University of Lethbridge, First Choice Savings Centre, PE Room 261 - Monday April 11, 2016 from 4:00pm - 6:30pm

Where does our food come from? What does it mean to eat local? Can you turn your front yard into a productive garden? These questions and more will be the topic of conversation as the AGILITY program presents entrepreneur Julia Mitchell as our final Innovation Series Speaker. [More info.](#)

Get Out into the Backcountry and Help Restore Trails!

*Join the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad for two restoration events: (1) They have placed a bridge over the Castle River just behind the Westcastle Ski Hill and will be decking the bridge on **April 10th, 2016**. (2) They will also be placing bridges over the Gold and Mori Creek in the Lille Valley late May, and decking those bridges on Stewardship Day which is **June 4th, 2016**. For more info please contact the Quad Squad by email: office@quadsquad.ca or by phone: (403) 562-8686.*

*The BTFR (Backcountry Trails Flood Rehabilitation) Program with the Alberta Government has completed projects in the Castle area in 2015 that include the installation of bridges and the closing of open fords. They are heading back to these sites this spring to do some bioengineering projects, the bulk of which will be willow staking. They are looking to be working out there **Monday through Thursday starting on April 18th, 2016** and going into May as long as it takes to get the job done. Interested people can contact robert.macgarva@gov.ab.ca with the BTFR Program.*

The Milk River Watershed Council is hosting a Spring Hike Tour

Twin River Provincial Grazing Reserve - Earth Day, Friday April 22, 2016

Let us showcase the Milk River watershed's extraordinary landscape including rolling fescue and mixed grass transitional grasslands, diverse plant, and wildlife communities! Learn about First Nations and early western settlement of the Western End of our Watershed. See

Grassland recovery sites and hike to the Milk River North/South Fork confluence! [More Info.](#)

Helen Schuler Nature Centre Coulee Clean Up 2016 Earth Day Week, April 22 - May 31

Register today! Help community volunteers by getting involved with the annual coulee clean up! [More info.](#)

Employment Opportunities

Data Management Analyst - Alberta Agriculture and Forestry - Basin Water Management Section

Application Deadline: April 13 - [click here](#) for job posting.

Guest Column - Environment Lethbridge

Col·lab·o·ra·tion

noun. the action of working with someone to produce or create something.

As with so many things, collaborating with others is much more difficult than the definition implies. True collaboration is about more than going to the same meetings or occupying the same space. It takes time and effort to build relationships and negotiate partnerships that benefit everyone. Environment Lethbridge is a new organization and we are working to establish ourselves as the voice of sustainability in Lethbridge. We are a small, but growing, fish in a big pond. Our ability to grow very much depends on our collaborations with partners in the community, including the Oldman Watershed Council.



Establishing the Hub in downtown Lethbridge is an important way for Environment Lethbridge to be connected to the community and to have an easy way for people to access our programs and information. Without our collaboration with OWC, our ability to have this presence downtown would likely be far into the future.

Environment Lethbridge works to inspire and equip people in Lethbridge to create widespread community action and engagement towards sustainability. We are supported by a variety of community partners who include local environmental organizations such as the Southern Alberta Group for the Environment, the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Association of Southern Alberta. Although our partners are diverse, they share a common goal of creating a community that has a healthy environment supported by a strong economy.

Two of the upcoming projects we're excited about are Environment Week, which runs from June 5-11, where we are working with a number of partners to promote a suite of different events ranging from food security to exploring nature and learning about waste reduction. Environment Week will culminate with the Keen for Green Festival. This year, it will be held in Henderson Park, in conjunction with the Helen Schuler Nature Centre's Nature Play Day.

We are also beginning a project of benchmarking environmental health indicators in partnership with the City of Lethbridge. This project will compile data in areas such as water quality, waste diversion, ecological health and more in order to get a sense of the state of our environment within the City of Lethbridge.

Beyond the delivery of specific projects, one of our key roles will be to bring together different organizations, businesses and individuals who are interested in building a sustainable community. We welcome anyone who is interested in moving our vision forward. Visit our webpage at www.environmentlethbridge.ca or stop by the Hub to say hello!

STOP THE SPREAD!

Help raise awareness on the issue of invasive species and the impact they can have on our local ecosystem!

For more information, [click here](#).

OR

For submission guidelines and entry form, [click here](#).



Call to Artists Invasion

"One of the greatest threats to our local landscape is invasive species. We are looking for artists interested in joining the dialogue."

Project Installation Aug. 2-Oct. 3, 2016
Lethbridge Art Walk Destination
Location @ Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Community Art Gallery

Submit Proposal by May 15, 2016 or Ask a Question:
Invasive@lethbridge.ca
Open to all artistic representations including
but not limited to photography, painting, sketching,
clay, wood, glass etc.....

Photo of Invasive Knapweed. One Knapweed plant can produce up to 140 000 seeds. Help keep our river valley healthy and diverse by eradicating prohibited noxious weeds like Knapweed.

Volunteer Spotlight - featuring Rob Taylor!



Tell us little about yourself.

I have a B.Sc in Physical Geography from the University of Saskatchewan. I'm currently working as a Field Technician for an Archaeological consulting firm in Lethbridge. I have a passion for native plants, currently growing some in my backyard with plans to start a nursery in the future.

What current OWC volunteer project you are working on?

I have been volunteering with the Oldman Film Project.

What else has your OWC volunteering involved?

Helping OWC move into their new offices, doing photography at OWC events, helping with set-up/take-down for the Holding the Reins Landowners Summit.

What do you like best about volunteering with the OWC?

Being able to meet so many great people from the watershed.

What was your favorite OWC event you volunteered for - and why?

Holding the Reins, 2016. It was such a great event with fantastic speakers and so many wonderful people that showed up and helped make it happen!

Why is watershed work important to you?

I grew up near Turner Valley and spent my free time hiking and horseback riding around the Kananaskis. I care deeply about the health of these watersheds and want to do whatever I can to ensure they remain healthy long into the future.

What would you tell people who are thinking about volunteering for the OWC?

I would recommend to anyone to volunteer for the OWC. It is so easy to sign up and there are so many different projects going on, it's simple to find something you can do to help.

What's your favourite place in the watershed?

My in-law's quarter section west of highway 22, up Wildcat Creek in the shadow of the Livingstone Range.

What else would you like to tell our readers?

It is never too late to get out and help improve the health of our watershed. There are so many great organizations like OWC who need volunteers so go out and make a difference!

Thanks Rob for all your help, thus far!

Oldman Watershed Council | 403-330-1346 | info@oldmanwatershed.ca |
<http://www.oldmanwatershed.ca>
319 - 6th Street South
Lethbridge, T1J 2C7

Oldman Watershed Council, 319 - 6th Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 2C7 Canada

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Sent by taren@oldmanwatershed.ca in collaboration with

CLARESHOLM AND DISTRICT MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

February 17, 2016 Amended

Present: Mike McAlonan, Ken Favrholt, Arden Dubnewick and Betty Hoare

1. Meeting called to order at 4:35 by Mike McAlonan.
2. Adoption of the agenda as is made by Betty.
3. Minutes read by Betty. Minutes approved with changes. Mike asked that the minutes be sent to karine@townofclareholm.com once they have been approved. Arden made a motion to approve minutes as amended – motion carried.
4. Financials – Ken noted that the budget 2016 numbers shown are actually budgeted numbers from 2015 as the budget has not yet been approved. Ken told the board that the storage units for artifacts that had been previously paid by the town are now on museum books as an expense. Mike moved financials be approved – motion carried.
5. Correspondence – none.
6. **Old business** – Canada summer jobs – Ken will talk to Simon Janhunen from the town before sending out applications. Mike made a motion to approve the job description Ken had made for the Canada summer jobs program – motion carried. Visitor experience assistant – approved.
 - Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta – we have been approved for \$7,500. Funding will go towards the storage units.
 - Application to AHRF has been sent in for \$1,300 to be used for the walking tour brochure.
 - New board members needed – talked about how it seems like it is a work in progress. We have lost 4 members last year and they need to be replaced.
 - Bus tours – Ken is waiting for a list of bus tours. Once he has that list he will make contact in regards to charging for bus tours.
 - Application by board to the Clareholm Chamber of Commerce- Ken will draft a letter for Mike to take to the board. The funds if received would go towards labour to man the museum.

7. New business – ED’s report addendum – Ken presented a report that showed the hours he has put in as an unpaid volunteer. Ken will continue keeping track of the hours but in a more detailed listing. This will be forwarded to the town with the approved minutes.

Strategic planning workshop – set date for March 24th from 10 to 12 at the exhibit hall. Ken to send out emails with questions for people to give feedback prior to that meeting.

Items in this years strategic planning that need to be confirmed are: Old fashion Christmas – all agreed to proceed with a bigger presence that last years one night and hopefully work again with the Friends of the Museum.

- Farmers market – Ken to talk to Barb Uhl.
- Shed to display vehicles – Ken to look into getting a drawing for a proposal.
- Using the Seniors Centre for events – Ken would like to book the Seniors Centre for a talk about the Macleod Trail. The reason for not using the library was that he hopes it would attract a potential crowd of 100. It was discussed that we should still use the library whenever possible and they should be advised of the reasons when we are not using them.
- Grand re-opening for the museum will be the long weekend in May 2016. Any dignitaries such as MLA Pat Stier and John Barlow need to be contacted soon to secure their attendance.
- Volunteer appreciation week – FCSS is booking the community centre for April 13, 2016. They have asked us if we would partner for the event. Board agreed that it was a good idea and Ken to advise them.
- Montana Museums Conference – Ken will be attending and has asked that the registration fee only be reimbursed. Betty made a motion that Ken be reimbursed for actual gas costs. Motion carried.

Arden moved meeting be adjourned at 6:35.

Next meeting March 16, 2016 at 4:30 at the town office.

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