



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council
Agenda for Regular Council Meeting RM.11.26
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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17. CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)

- A.** Intermunicipal Relations (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26)
- B.** Legal (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, ATIA, Section 27)
- C.** Legal (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, ATIA, Section 27).
- D.** Intermunicipal Relations (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26)
- E.** Advice from Officials: (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 24, Advice from Officials*)

18. ADJOURNMENT



1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council
Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM.10.26
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, May 27th, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Council Members: Deputy Reeve Dean Wark
Councillor Shelley Rozecki
Councillor Evelyn Bzowy
Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer

Absent: Reeve Tony van Rootselaar

Administration: Shirley Hayden, CAO
Simon Amting, Agricultural Fieldman
Rebecca Fitzsimmons, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting RM 10-26 called to order by Deputy Reeve Wark at 9:02 am.

Councillor Schoorlemmer arrived at 9:03 am.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

New Business Item 13.F. Policy Leg. 18 Update

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION 260.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to adopt the agenda for the May 27th, 2026 meeting RM 10-26 with the following addition: New Business 13.F. Leg 18 Policy: Council, Committee and Board Remuneration.

Carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION 261.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy to adopt the minutes for RM 09-26 with the following amendments:

Motion 256.05.13.26: 'Woking Hall' be updated to 'Woking Multiplex' as the destination, and should read as follows: "Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council authorize Administration to offer use of the MD bus to the Central Peace Health and Wellness Coalition as per the Coalition request, for transport of attendees to the June 1st, 2026 Seniors Week event happening at Woking Multiplex".

Correction to the recorded arrival time of Councillor Rozecki to the Regular Council Meeting RM 09-26, where they arrived at 9:12 am. Minutes to be amended to read "Councillor Rozecki joined meeting at 9:12 am."

Carried unanimously.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

6. COUNCILLOR ABSENCES

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. DELEGATIONS

A. Louisa Robison, CEO Peace Library System, joined Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 at 9:05 am and left the meeting at 9:23 am.

B. Deputy Reeve Wark recessed the Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 at 9:23 am, to hold a Municipal Planning Commission meeting.

Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 resumed at 9:36 am.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

10. REPORTS

A. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

MOTION 262.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy to amend motion 205.04.22.26, whereby extending the advertising for the two MD graders, ensuring they are advertised in the MD newsletter, and further that Administration continue to keep the graders up for tender as per discussion at the May 27th, 2026 Regular Council meeting RM 10-26, and further that if no acceptable offer has been reached, the graders will be submitted to be listed in the local fall auction.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 263.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Public Works to apply calcium on Range Road 54, from Highway 49 to NW-9-78-5-W6 (old golf course).

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 264.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the Public Works Report for information.

Carried unanimously.

B. AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT

CFO Elena Valdes joined Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 at 9:55 am.

MOTION 265.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to accept Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Carried unanimously.

C. FINANCE REPORT

Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting left the Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 at 10:04 am.

MOTION 266.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy to accept the CFO Finance Report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Deputy Reeve Wark recessed the Regular Council Meeting RM 10-26 at 10:47 am, and reconvened at 11:03 am.

D. CAO REPORT

MOTION 267.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the CAO Report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

E. COUNCIL REPORTS

MOTION 268.05.27.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to accept the Council Reports: South Peace Regional Archives, and Family and Community Support Services, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

13.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. MOTION 269.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council direct Administration to send a letter to MLA for Central Peace-Notley Todd Loewen regarding the invoice received for the fire GMD-004-24, seeking clarification regarding the length of time elapsed between the deployment of the fire response and the invoicing to the MD, as well as the time elapsed between the issuance of the invoice, that being March 25th, 2026, and the receipt of invoice by the MD Finance department, that being May 14th, 2026, for clarification prior to issuing payment for the invoice.
Carried unanimously.
- B. MOTION 270.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council approve the appointment of Jaxon Stokes, Shyanne Page, Cindy Thornton and Nataiya Klassen as weed and pest inspectors under the Weed Control Act and the Agricultural Pests Act effective May 1, 2026 until termination of employment with the Municipal District.
Carried unanimously.
- C. MOTION 271.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council adopt the Agricultural Services Board Grant Reporting as presented for information.
Carried unanimously.
- D. MOTION 272.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to enrol Municipal District staff members in the MMSA ArcGIS Field Map training on June 2nd, 2026 online via Teams.
Carried unanimously.
- E. MOTION 273.05.27.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council accept the United Way Grant Application Tools for School as information.
Carried unanimously.
- F. MOTION 274.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer that Council review and approve the updated Policy Leg 18: Council, Committee and Board Remuneration, as presented, with the following updates:
 a. Amended date to be changed from December 3rd, 2025 to May 27th, 2026;
 b. December 3rd, 2025 added to 'Past review dates';
 c. Mixed compensation: Member meetings: ~~\$185.66~~ updated to \$191.23; Conference: Full day conference ~~257.50~~ updated to \$265.23 / per day; Half day conference: ~~\$185.66~~ updated to \$191.23 /per day;
 d. Salary: Reeves Allowance changed from ~~\$1227.08~~ to \$1274.19;
 e. Councillor Allowance changed from ~~\$1060.00~~ to \$1092.73;
 f. Travel Allowance: Mileage Rates changed from ~~\$0.72~~ to \$0.73 per kilometre.
Carried unanimously.

14. BYLAWS15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

MOTION 275.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to appoint Councillor Schoorlemmer to the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.
Carried unanimously.

MOTION 276.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to provide donation item to the Spirit River Municipal Library Board per their letter request dated May 20th, 2026.
Carried unanimously.

MOTION 277.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept information and Correspondence Items A through J for information.
Carried unanimously.

16. COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS17. CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)

MOTION 278.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy to enter into Closed Session as per Municipal Government Act R.S.A. 2000, Section 197 (4) at 12:11 pm, for the purpose of discussing *Intermunicipal Relations (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26)*.
Carried unanimously.

Meeting RM 10-26 entered Closed Session at 12:11 pm.

MOTION 279.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to come out of closed session at 12:41 pm.
Carried unanimously.

Regular meeting RM 10-26 resumed at 12:41 pm.

MOTION 280.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council direct Administration to send a thank you letter to Saddle Hills County, signed by the Reeve, regarding funding, and include in the response that MD Council would like to sign the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement at Saddle Hills County's earliest convenience.
Carried unanimously.

MOTION 281.05.27.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to amend the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) transition and audit acknowledgement letter for 2026, to add the signatory lines to include CAO Shirley Hayden and, further, a signatory line be added for the CAO of Town of Spirit River or Chief Elected Official of Town of Spirit River, as the Unit Authority for FCSS.

Carried unanimously.

18.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Deputy Reeve Wark at 12:42 pm.

These minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Deputy Reeve Dean Wark

CAO Shirley Hayden

The Regular Meeting of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 Municipal Planning Commission was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, May 27th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Board Members Present: | Dean Wark, Vice Chairman
Shelley Rozecki
Evelyn Bzowy
Bernie Schoorlemmer |
| Regrets: | Tony Van Rootselaar, Chairman
Monty Bremont – Development Officer |
| Staff Present: | Shirley Hayden – CAO
Rebecca Fitzsimmons – Executive Assistant |

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Dean Wark called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Municipal Planning Commission Meeting Agenda May 27th, 2026, MPC 03-26

006.05.27.26 Moved by Member Shelley Rozecki that the agenda for the May 27th, 2026, Municipal Planning Commission Meeting MPC 03-26 be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. New Business

a) Development Permit Application 07-DP-26

CAO, Shirley Hayden, presented the information package on behalf of Monty Bremont, Development Officer.

007.05.27.26 Moved by Member Bernie Schoorlemmer that the Municipal Planning Commission approves Development Permit Application 07-DP-26 for the construction of three reservoirs to store raw water for treatment, two process waste ponds for storage and treatment of processed waste from proposed water treatment plant, one water treatment plant, two access roads, and one perimeter ditch, subject to the following conditions:

1. That establishment of property boundaries is the sole responsibility of the developer/landowner.
2. That the development proceeds strictly in accordance with the submitted engineered site plans and design specifications, reflecting the proposed location, design, layout and operation of the development within the subject lands. Any design modifications, layout alterations, or expansion of the

footprint requested by other regulatory jurisdictions must be resubmitted to the MD of Spirit River Development Authority for administrative review and approval prior to implementation.

3. That the developer must submit a copy of any comprehensive geotechnical assessment prepared and stamped by a professional engineer licensed to practice in Alberta verifying soil bearing capacity, slope stability, and seepage control parameters. The developer shall adhere to any recommendations from such assessment, and the development shall be designed, executed, and maintained in a manner that ensures its safety and structural stability on the subject lands.
4. That the development shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133's *Land Use Bylaw No. 11-2019*, as amended.
5. That the development shall comply with all other applicable municipal, provincial, and federal legislation, whether or not specified here.

Scope of Approval

6. That this approval authorizes the construction and operation of the following utility infrastructure strictly in accordance with the submitted and approved engineering plans, design profiles, and site layouts:
 - (a) One (1) regional water treatment plant facility.
 - (b) Three (3) raw water storage reservoirs for treatment processing.
 - (c) Two (2) process waste ponds for the storage and treatment of facility waste.
 - (d) Two (2) designated facility access roads.
 - (e) One (1) continuous engineered perimeter drainage ditch.
7. That the approved development shall be used solely as a public utility for the operation of a water treatment facility, together with associated approved infrastructure.
8. That no additional structural modifications, development, land use, or site disturbance beyond that expressly authorized by this permit shall occur on the subject lands without prior written approval from the Development Authority.

Site Drainage and Stormwater Management

9. That the approved perimeter ditch must be engineered and profiled to effectively capture, intercept, and manage all on-site stormwater runoff.
10. That the perimeter ditching and overall site grading must be executed in accordance with municipal standards and must ensure that post-development stormwater discharge rates do not exceed pre-development levels, preventing any negative drainage impacts or flooding onto adjacent agricultural lands.
11. That sediment traps, silt fencing, or erosion control blankets must be deployed within the perimeter ditch during and immediately following construction to ensure sediment-laden runoff does not migrate off-site.

Access Roads and Traffic Management

12. That prior to hauling heavy construction equipment, structural materials, or mass earthmoving volumes, the developer must enter into a formal Road Use Agreement with the MD of Spirit River to govern specific haul routes, dust suppression, and public road remediation.
13. That the two (2) approved access roads connecting to the municipal road allowance must feature approaches constructed to the MD's current engineering standards, including appropriately sized culverts, if required, to maintain unhindered ditch drainage, and must be approved by the Director of Public Works.

Site Security, Maintenance, and Public Safety

14. That the entire facility footprint, including the water treatment plant, reservoirs, and process waste ponds, must be fully enclosed by a secure, high-visibility perimeter fence with lockable access gates to prevent unauthorized public entry or wildlife entrapment.
15. That construction and operational activities shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse noise impacts on adjacent lands.
16. That the developer/operator must keep all berm embankments, ditch margins, and cleared buffer zones free of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in strict compliance with the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.
17. That all exposed slopes, ditch lines, and soil stockpiles must be reseeded with an approved, deep-rooting native reclamation seed mix immediately following profiling to anchor the topsoil and eliminate erosion.
18. That all construction debris, surplus materials, and waste shall be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved facility in accordance with all applicable regulations.

Additional Approvals

19. That the developer/operator must obtain and maintain any additional approval(s), permit(s), authorizations, consents, or licences required by applicable federal or provincial authorities, including but not limited to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.
20. That, prior to the commencement of any ground disturbance, the developer/landowner shall contact Alberta Utility Safety Partners (Alberta One-Call) and shall ensure that all underground utilities are located and protected.
21. That all applicable Safety Codes permits, including but not limited to, building permit(s), electrical permit(s) and plumbing permit(s), shall be obtained.

Operational Safety and Decommissioning

22. That the development shall be operated in a manner that prevents contamination, sedimentation, or adverse impacts to adjacent lands, drainage courses, or groundwater.

23. That emergency vehicle access shall be maintained to the satisfaction of applicable emergency service providers.
24. That the applicant/developer shall prepare and maintain an Emergency Response Plan addressing operational incidents and accidents, including fire, spill, release, breach, overflow, or environmental incidents affecting adjacent lands, watercourses, groundwater, or municipal infrastructure. The plan shall include emergency contact procedures, notification requirements, containment protocols, and remediation measures.
25. That upon abandonment, decommissioning, or permanent cessation of operations, the developer/landowner shall reclaim the subject lands, at the owner's expense, to the satisfaction of the Development Authority, including removal of infrastructure, stabilization of disturbed areas, and revegetation.

Compliance and Enforcement

26. That, without limiting Condition 5, the development shall comply with the following provincial legislation, as amended:
 - (a) *The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*
 - (b) *The Water Act*
 - (c) *The Alberta Weed Control Act*
 - (d) *The Alberta Dam and Canal Safety Directive*
27. This Development Permit shall automatically lapse, expire, and become null and void if:
 - (a) The development authorized by this permit is not actively commenced within twelve (12) months from the date of permit issuance, unless a formal written timeline extension has been granted by the Development Authority prior to expiry.
 - (b) The development is abandoned or construction ceases for a continuous period exceeding six (6) months.
28. That no additional post-completion development or land use shall occur on the subject property without a separate approved development permit from the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, unless such development or use is specifically exempted under the Land Use Bylaw.
29. That the developer/landowner shall permit authorized representatives of the Municipality reasonable access to the property for the purpose of inspection, monitoring, and verification of compliance.

Liability and Indemnification

30. That the Municipality shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury arising from errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in information provided by or on behalf of the developer/landowner.
31. That, in consideration of the permit issued in respect to this development, the developer/landowner shall indemnify and hold harmless the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions or costs arising directly or indirectly from anything

done or omitted to be done in the construction, maintenance, alteration or operation of the works authorized.

Carried

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Dean Wark at 9:35 a.m.

These minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Vice Chairman
Dean Wark

Recording Secretary



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

DATE: June 10th, 2026

Administrative		
Grading	Graders have been prepping roads for calcium;	
Plowing		
Gravel	Gravelled Township Road 780, from Range Road 54 – Secondary Road 731;	
Culvert Installation/Repair	We will be starting to replace culverts after the calcium program is done;	
Washouts	Washouts were all temporarily fixed; additional work to be done in conjunction with culvert replacements;	
Brushing	Clean-up of deadfall throughout the MD underway;	
Signage	Continuing sign maintenance, repairing as necessary, throughout the MD;	
Bridge Files		
Nardam	Summer staff have been working at Nardam, removing dead trees and cleaning up deadfall;	
Public Works Shop		
Equipment	Looking at a Wolverine ditcher at Weaver Auction Sale;	
Training		
Ratepayer Comments		
Miscellaneous		

The Finance Department continues to focus on regulatory compliance, audit preparation, payroll administration, and financial reporting. The following updates are provided for Council's information and review.

Property Tax Update

- Administration has begun preparation of the 2026 property tax notices.
- The Finance Department will be focusing on tax notice preparation throughout this week and next week.
- At this time, the goal is to have all tax notices completed, printed, and mailed by the end of next week.
- Further updates will be provided to Council should any unforeseen delays arise during the final preparation process.

Requisitions & Payments

- The Grande Spirit Foundation requisition has been paid in full.

CRA & GST + Payroll Update

- The outstanding GST balance owing to CRA has been substantially reduced, with approximately 75% of the balance now paid.
- Based on current projections, the remaining balance is expected to be offset through the next GST filing and reporting period.
- Outstanding payroll balances have been reviewed, reconciled, and paid.
- Payroll accounts are current and up to date.

LAPP Audit Preparation


- Administration is currently working with the auditor in preparation for the upcoming LAPP audit.
- Supporting documentation and required information are being gathered to ensure compliance with the June 30 submission deadline.

Bursary Policy Review

- Attached for Council's review is the current Bursary Policy.
- No policy updates are required at this time and no decision is being requested during this meeting.
- Administration welcomes any feedback, comments, or suggestions Council may have regarding future improvements or revisions to the policy for consideration at a later date.

General Reminder to council:

- Please remember that council timesheets and expenses are due by the 25th of each month.

<p>MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL</p>  <p>Bursary Program Policy</p>	<p>Function: Policy No. Effective Date: Supercedes:</p>	<p>ADM.55a June 30, 2011 August 6, 2009</p>
	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>August 6, 2009</p>

Policy Statement:

The primary intent of the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Bursary program is to enhance the future of individuals within the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 by recognizing outstanding leadership qualities and Community involvement of students, to encourage these students to pursue further education, and to thereby enhance their ability to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Procedure:

1. The Bursary will be known as the Municipal District of Spirit River #133's Bursary Program.
2. Each bursary will have a value of \$1000.00; a maximum total of four (4) bursaries will be made available in any given year upon resolution of Council.
3. For consideration of a Bursary applicants must be dependents of residents or residents of the Municipal District of Spirit River #133.
4. Applicants must be entering full-time studies at a post-secondary institution in Canada, such as Universities or Community Colleges and recognized on-line accreditation programs.
5. Applicants which will be accepted must be either High School graduating students or Continuing Students.
6. In selecting the successful applicants for the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 bursary, Council will give preference to applicants who demonstrate their past leadership qualities and / or commitment to their communities and in helping others.
7. Applicants must also illustrate how their course of study will assist them in the future to exercise leadership, and / or to continue to demonstrate their commitment to theirs and other communities in Northern Alberta.

8. All applicants wishing to be considered for the bursary must apply on the official Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Bursary application form.
9. The students must attach the following to the application:
 - Proof of acceptance into a Canadian College or University
 - Transcript of your marks in their final year of secondary school or GED or letter of reference.
 - A brief resume outlining the leadership positions they have held, the community activities in which they have been involved, and their opportunities to help others.
 - Three letters of reference.
 - A brief essay (300 words) outlining how your post-secondary studies will help them in the future to use their leadership abilities and / or display their commitment to their community and to helping others.
10. All applications must be submitted in their entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
11. The application deadline shall be July 31st of each year.
12. All applications will be reviewed by Council. Council, at their discretion, will determine which students will be awarded a Bursary.
13. The Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Council may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
14. The Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Council may recommend that the bursary be re-advertised if there are insufficient applications of merit.
15. Bursary recipients will be advised after the Regular Council Meeting that follows the July 31st deadline.
16. The bursaries will be awarded by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 or designate.
17. Students awarded will be requested to write a letter of appreciation to the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Council and be available for a photo accepting the award.
18. The Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Council may from time to time vary these regulations.

Reporting Period: May 21st – June 3rd, 2026

Alberta Forestry Wildfire Invoice (GMD-004-24)

The Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 received a formal "Demand for reimbursement" from the Government of Alberta's Department of Forestry and Parks. The province is seeking cost-recovery for mutual aid assistance provided during Wildfire GMD-004-24 on August 24, 2024 (Location: 08-08-078-4-W6M). The Invoice Amount is \$76,867.70 and was Issued pursuant to Section 6 of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* and the 2024 Mutual Aid Fire Control Plan.

Inquiries were made regarding the extreme delay in receiving this billing (nearly two years after the event). Regional outreach confirms that Alberta Forestry is historically known to be significantly delayed with cost-recovery invoicing, with a 1-to-2-year lag being standard practice. Historical context notes; approx. 10-15 years ago that a County previously received a \$1 million mutual aid invoice two years after the fact.

Upon follow up with Theo Bailey, Director, Wildfire Prevention and Investigations at the Forestry Options Branch, Government of Alberta and Brice Daly, Manager of protective Services for Saddle Hills County it was relayed that the MD apply for the retroactive grant funding. The MD must first pay the legitimate \$76,867.70 Alberta Forestry invoice in full. Administration must then gather and document all eligible wildland firefighting expenses from the 2024 season (coordinated through Central Peace Fire and Rescue Fire Chief, Brian Kroes) to prove the MD exceeded its population-based financial threshold of approximately \$16,250 (\$25 per capita). Finally, the MD must submit the official application directly to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and confidently argue that the 2024 Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program (MWAP) guidelines should apply, rather than the newer, cost-prohibitive H.A.R.P. framework, since the province's extreme invoicing delay prevented the MD from applying for recovery assistance when the program was active. A letter has been written for Council review regarding the invoice and will be presented for Councils input and review. A big thank you to Brice Daly - We are incredibly grateful for Brice's expert guidance, he has a deep understanding of municipal disaster recovery funding and his proactive analysis of the provincial cost-sharing thresholds have given administration a clear, actionable roadmap to help us in reclaiming these wildfire expenses.

Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission

The Commission meeting was cancelled, with the next meeting rescheduled for July 2nd. Additionally, I have developed a template letter to solicit funding support for the new firehall. The letter is focused on distribution to local commercial partners, agricultural grain terminals, oil and gas companies, and major industrial operators to secure local contributions. I have forwarded a copy to Fire Chief Kroes for review at the next commission meeting.

IT and Cybersecurity Upgrade

Trevor Matkowski (InfoTech) visited the office last week and recommended enhancing our IT security framework due to a recent rise in phishing emails and related cyber threats. He provided a proposal to upgrade the MD's existing cloud backup to the comprehensive Kaseya K365 Security Bundle.

- The retail price is \$6.90/user/month. Because the MD already pays \$2.40/user/month for Datto SaaS Protection, the net increase is \$4.50 per user, per month.
- Total Cost: For the MD's 21 licensed users, the increase is \$94.50 per month (\$1,134.00 per year).

Technical Features Included

- Dark Web ID: Continuous monitoring for compromised corporate credentials.
- BullPhish ID: Ongoing security awareness training and phishing simulations for staff.
- INKY Email Security: Advanced phishing, impersonation, and language-intent analysis.
- Datto SaaS Alerts: Real-time monitoring of Microsoft 365 for suspicious user behavior.
- Datto SaaS Protection: Continued secure backup and ransomware recovery for Exchange, OneDrive, and SharePoint.
- **Budget : This item is currently unbudgeted for the current fiscal year.**
- Execution Strategy: Because it is an unanticipated item for this year, it can be formally deferred and added to next year's budget numbers.

Cenera - Policy Compliance and Governance Update

Administration is currently collaborating with access and privacy experts at Cenera to draft and customize a comprehensive municipal policy framework. The primary goal of this project is ensuring absolute compliance with Alberta's governing provincial legislation—the Access to Information Act (ATIA) and the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA).

At the last meeting, the Program Director provided further clarity regarding modern provincial legislative requirements, specifically focusing on the formal delegation of the municipal Principal Privacy Officer (PPO) and the development of our mandatory Privacy Management Program (PMP). Discussions also centered on strict protocols for transmitting confidential correspondence, and Administration is currently implementing a mandatory confidentiality disclaimer on all outgoing municipal emails.

Cenera has delivered baseline templates, and internal IT personnel have been tasked with auditing the technical clauses. The IT review is heavily focused on key statutory areas under the new acts, including:

- **Internal Roles and Responsibilities** (Section I.F)
- **Artificial Intelligence Guidelines** (Section II.C)
- **Information Security Safeguards** (Section V)
- **Legal Privacy Breach Response Protocols** (Section VI)

The final customized policy will protect municipal data assets and fully align local operations with modern provincial mandates.

Pleasant View Apartments in Spirit River

The public open house and tour for the new Pleasant View Apartments in Spirit River took place recently on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The event was a community Open House designed to showcase the newly constructed, modern 4-storey senior housing facility and served as the official public preview of the independent living extension to the regional senior care campus. The tour gave prospective residents, their families, and curious community members the chance to, walk through the brand-new building and view the layout of the available 26 self-contained seniors' apartment units, which feature modern designs, practical independent living layouts, and wide town and farmland views.

Jill Jardie, District Manager, Rural, Grande Spirit Foundation hosted our tour of the amenities and relayed information regarding the application process, housing options, community spaces, and active-aging lifestyle programs. Ms Jardie also relayed her sincere thanks to The Rycroft

Agricultural Society successfully hosted a fundraiser in support of Pleasant View Lodge, bringing the community together for a meaningful cause. The Rycroft Agricultural Society fundraiser for the Pleasant View Lodge was held to support the lodge specifically by raising money for amenities needed to outfit the newly built seniors' facility. Jill said the fundraiser was greatly appreciated, and the support was phenomenal having raised approximately \$500,000.

MD Road Tour

July dates proposed in RFD

South Peace Regional Archives - Summary of SPRA Funding Status & Follow-Up

At the most recent SPRA Board meeting, it was noted that the MD's annual funding contribution had not yet been received.

Following this, Administration contacted the MD's Finance Department for clarification. Finance confirmed that:

- The MD's contribution is already budgeted for the current year.
- Payment is typically issued in late summer or early fall, consistent with past practice.
- It appears the MD may not have received a requisition invoice from SPRA for this year's contribution.

Administration also reached out to Elyn Vanderhove at SPRA to confirm whether an invoice had been sent. As of this briefing, no reply has been received.

RMA Member Visit – MD SPIRIT RIVER NO.133 VISIT - 2026

The upcoming visit from the RMA President, District Director, and administrative team is a strategic opportunity for Council to clearly communicate local priorities, regional challenges, inter-municipal considerations, and requests for improved access to RMA legal resources.

This meeting allows Council to:

- Directly communicate priorities and initiatives to RMA leadership
- Ensure RMA understands the municipality's current needs and pressures
- Strengthen advocacy by providing firsthand, local context
- Build stronger relationships with RMA and neighbouring municipalities

Proposed items for the RMA meeting Agenda:

Local Priorities

- Local priorities — Council can outline the most pressing needs within the municipality, such as infrastructure renewal, housing pressures, emergency services capacity, agricultural impacts, or economic development goals.
- Municipal initiatives — Highlight ongoing or upcoming projects that require provincial advocacy, funding support, or policy alignment.

Regional & Municipal Challenges

- Regional challenges — Provide RMA leadership with a clear picture of issues affecting the area, such as:
 - Rural healthcare access
 - Transportation and road maintenance burdens
 - Cost-shifting from other levels of government
- Neighbouring municipalities — Emphasize shared challenges and opportunities for collaboration with adjacent municipalities, including joint service delivery, regional planning, and coordinated advocacy.

Enhanced Access to RMA Legal Advice

- RMA legal access — Streamlined, timely, or expanded access to RMA's legal advisory services, especially for:
 - Complex intermunicipal agreements
 - Land-use and development matters
 - Policy Legislative interpretation
 - Emerging governance issues

Council Initiatives to Highlight

- Council initiatives — Showcase the work Council is undertaking to strengthen governance and community well-being, such as:
 - Strategic planning updates
 - Policy modernization
 - Community engagement improvements
 - Regional partnerships
 - Advocacy efforts already underway

MMSA GIS Training for Data Collection

On June 2, 2026, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency (MMSA) hosted an online GIS Editing Training session focused on the collection, maintenance, and update of municipal asset data. Targeted at office and field-based GIS editors, the session covered role-based workflows, web and mobile application deployment, and data quality best practices. Staff were prepared with the ArcGIS Field Maps application to streamline field data collection. Ongoing training resources and instructional videos have also been made available on the MMSA website to support continuous learning. Assistant CAO, Monty Bremont will be hosting a follow up training session for the staff over the summer months. The following is additional information regarding the APP's capabilities:

Centralized Municipal Asset Management

Instead of relying on scattered paper files, separate spreadsheets, or historical employee memory, ArcGIS acts as a single, unified system of record for all physical infrastructure.

What it tracks: Roads, bridges, culverts, signs, and water/wastewater lines.

benefit: Staff can click on a specific asset on a digital map and instantly see its install date, material, current condition score, and maintenance history, which is essential for provincial asset management compliance.

Streamlined Field Operations via Mobile Apps

With tools like **ArcGIS Field Maps**, public works and field crews can ditch clipboard paperwork entirely.

- **Real-time updates:** Field staff can update a culvert's condition or log a road hazard on their mobile devices right from the ditch, and it immediately populates on the office system.
- **No duplicated data entry:** Office staff don't have to spend hours translating messy handwritten field notes into spreadsheets.

Smarter Capital Planning and Budgeting

ArcGIS allows administration to move from *reactive* repairs to *predictive* maintenance, maximizing the value of tax dollars.

- **Visualizing risk:** By overlaying asset conditions with usage data (e.g., heavily trafficked industrial or agricultural haul roads versus quiet local roads), the MD can prioritize which infrastructure projects need funding first.
- **Defensible budgeting:** When presenting the 5-year Capital Plan to Council, having data-driven, color-coded maps showing exactly which assets are nearing the end of their lifecycle makes budget approvals much smoother.

Efficient Rural Land and Drainage Tracking

Managing a rural MD involves overseeing massive geographical zones with complex drainage and agricultural needs.

- ArcGIS allows the MD to easily manage parcel boundaries, track zoning changes, monitor municipal reserves, and map complex ditch and overland drainage networks to prevent flooding and manage agricultural runoff effectively.

Enhanced Regional and Emergency Coordination

Because neighboring municipalities (such as Birch Hills County, Rycroft, or the Town of Spirit River) and provincial bodies like Alberta Forestry use similar GIS standards, data sharing becomes seamless.

- In mutual aid scenarios (like wildfire or disaster response), sharing exact spatial coordinates of water sources, staging areas, and road closures can save hours when seconds matter most.

Friendly Reminders: Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Rycroft Ag Centre is hosting: Empowering Minds Initiative - Ian Hill, national leadership and community-building speaker.

The Empowering Minds initiative is a province-wide rural mental health movement in Alberta. Developed by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS), the program partners with humanitarian and social innovator Ian Hill to bring proactive mental health support to rural and agricultural communities across the province. Combating the Stigma: Addressing the statistical realities of rural mental health strain (such as the heightened pressures on resource-sector workers facing financial or environmental stressors).

Young Adults First Identifiers - June 16th, 2026

First Identifiers Training – June 17th, 2026**The First Identifier Philosophy:**

The people closest to the problem are best suited to solve it. In rural settings where professional mental health resources are sparse, empowering neighbors to act early saves lives.

RMA Member Visit – MD SPIRIT RIVER NO.133 VISIT - 2026

Confirmed Date and Time:

- **Date: June 24, 2026**
- **Time: 11:00 a.m.**

The visit will include the RMA President, our District Director, and members of the RMA administrative team. This engagement serves as a vital opportunity for Council to: Discuss local priorities and municipal initiatives directly with RMA leadership, highlight specific regional challenges facing our municipality and strengthen our advocacy efforts by ensuring the RMA has a firsthand understanding of our current requirements.

G5 Municipalities Meeting (July 8) – 5:00p.m. @ the Brownlee Building**Guest Speakers:**

Derek Young: Operations Manager, Regional Representative, Alberta Transportation: Update on regional projects.

Max Fritz, owner, Western Sky Land Trust: Strategic Planning, Community Building

Strategic Planning - Max Fritz, Western Sky Land Trust

Full day session: July 9th - 9 a.m.

Half day session: July 10th - 10a.m.

Alberta Sheriffs Police Service Presentation

Brian Kostyniuk, Executive Officer and Chief Satpal Parhar:

Confirmed Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Regular Council Meeting)

RMA DISTRICT FOUR ZONE MEETING

RMA District Four Zone Meeting

Friday, August 14th, 2026

Pioneer Threshman's Hall (located 14km west of High Prairie)



a division of Englobe

CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM PHASES 1, 2, and 3

PROJECT OVERVIEW

June 03, 2026

NOTE: Sections that include notable updates are highlighted in bold text.

1. **Steel Pipe Contract for Peace River Valley Hill (Phase 1 & 2 Contract 2):** *The General Contractor for the Contract 2 work is Option Excavating Inc. Horizontal drilling of steel portion of the pipe was completed on February 04, 2025, which was then followed by reaming of the hole with a 26" reamer head. Reaming operations were completed and the 16" (400 mm) diameter steel pipe was successfully pulled back through the reamed drill passage on March 04, 2025. The total length of the HDD steel pipe installation was 1,770 m. The HDD Subcontractor, The Crossing Company, then demobilized their equipment off site. The transition of the pipeline material to high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic at the top of the hill with installation of the section of HDPE pipe to reach the road allowance at the west end of the field (approximately 900 m) commenced in April 2025 and was completed in May 2025, installed by open cut trenching method of installation. Installation of a valve and temporary pig launch riser was completed in June 2025. Work remaining for the Contract 2 project includes the final installation of the pig launching/receiving concrete vault at the bottom of the hill on the steel pipe portion of the pipeline. The vault at the top of the hill was installed in April 2026. Re-mobilization of equipment to site for the vault installations occurred in February 2026. Construction of a temporary ice road was completed in early March 2026 with D6 dozer and two water trucks to provide access to the pipe location and protect against damage to the farm field. The concrete valve chamber vaults with long delivery dates were delivered to site on March 10, 2026. Installation of the pig launch/receiving vault at the top of the Valley hill together with the corresponding pipe connections were completed in April before the crew moved to the Dunvegan location to install the vault and balance of piping at the bottom of the Valley hill. The vault at the bottom of the hill was confirmed to be undersized to accommodate the higher-pressure valves so a larger vault has been ordered with delivery scheduled for summer 2026. Coordination between the Contract 1 Contractor, Greenfield Construction, and the Contract 2 Contractor, Option Excavating, must be executed for sharing of the work area at the Dunvegan site during the lower vault installations. Option Excavating may coordinate installation of the bottom concrete valve chamber vault and the final sections of steel piping that connect into the vault structure to be completed in August 2026 followed by pipe flushing and leakage testing in September following harvesting of the crop from the field at the top of the Valley hill by the farmer. Final site restoration around the concrete vault locations will follow the installation work.*

2. **River Intake and Raw Water Transfer Station (Phase 1 & 2 Contract 1):** *Following award of the Contract by Saddle Hills County in late May 2025, Greenfield Construction mobilized to the Dunvegan project site and commenced construction on site in July 2025 with the access road construction down the hill to the raw water transfer station location. Bulk excavation of the project site continued through the month of September 2025 and the access roadways were constructed including the access down to the River's edge for the temporary trestle bridge and river structures construction. A 275 Ton crane with 170 foot boom was utilized on the River for the assembly and disassembly of the temporary trestle bridge that provides access to the river intake structure. Construction of the trestle bridge was started in mid-October 2025 and was completed in November 2025. The decision was then made by the Contractor in November to cease further works on the water to avoid the risk of getting caught by the upcoming freezing of the River. Disassembly was completed of the trestle bridge deck platform in December 2025 to protect the structure from the impending high water ice forces of the freeze up and spring thaw ice floes. The driven pile supports for the trestle bridge were left in place for the winter. Installation of the temporary cofferdam isolation system for the river intake structure shall proceed in the spring of 2026 following re-assembly of the trestle bridge deck in June 2026. The second 275 Ton crane is being utilized at the Raw Water Transfer Station wet well location. Excavation of the 28 m deep wet well within the secant pile wall shoring system was completed on October 27, 2025. Boring of the 42 inch diameter steel casing for the intake pipes was commenced on October 31, 2025 and was completed on November 27, 2025. A temporary tower staircase into the wet well was installed in to allow for worker access to the bottom of the wet well without use of any cranes. The Contractor's winter shutdown schedule consisted of an extended Christmas break from December 12, 2025, to January 18, 2026. Following their return to site on January 19 to resume construction for the 2026 season, the initial work completed was the installation of the river intake piping (three individual pipes) within the previously installed 42 inch steel casing. The pipe sections were welded and then hydraulically pushed into the casing under the river bottom. All weld connections were radiographically inspected prior to acceptance. Following installation of the river intake piping the Contractor completed grout fill installation in the 42 inch steel casing during the week of April 06, 2026 to fill the spaces between the three river intake pipes and the casing. The Contractor then proceeded with contouring (machine grinding) of the interior concrete surfaces of the secant pile wall in advance of commencing construction of the concrete wet well tank structure within the perimeter of the secant pile wall shoring system. The procedure undertaken by the Contractor was to remove the temporary tower staircase, then backfill the wet well excavation and utilize a small hydraulic excavator with a grinder attachment to contour grind the rounded interior surfaces of the secant pile wall shoring structure to provide a more flattened surface for the concrete wet well installation. The backfilled wet well was then re-excavated in stages as the grinder work progressed vertically down the secant pile wall interior to the bottom. The remaining valleys between the secant piles are bridged by plywood backing strips and perimeter drainage panel material is being installed between the secant pile wall and the concrete wet well interior structure. Detailed excavation was completed to contour the bottom for the wet well structure. A keyway was cut into the interior surface of the secant pile wall at its base in late May 2026 to provide structural connection between the wet well concrete base slab and the secant pile wall shoring system. A mud slab was then poured on June 01, 2026 at the bottom of the excavation to provide a working surface for the upcoming installation of the wet well concrete base slab that shall be completed in June 2026. Photos of the Phase 1 & 2 Contract 1 construction are attached. Construction completion of the Contract 1 facility remains scheduled for autumn 2027.*

3. **HDPE Raw Water Transfer Piping Contracts (Phase 1 & 2 Contracts 3+):** The contracts for the balance of the raw water transfer pipeline that extends from the top of the river valley, south to the new Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant site are yet to be tendered. Working together with the County, the adjusted pipeline alignment has been determined, and the County is awaiting notification of additional grant funding from the Province. The design of the piping was re-started in April 2026 and shall be finalized in anticipation of pending approval of funding, to prepare for tendering of the contract(s) in 2026 for construction.

4. **Electrical Service to the Pumping Station:** *The route for servicing of the Raw Water Transfer Station facility shall be from the Village of Rycroft which is the nearest connection point for the required three-phase power supply. Representatives from the County and MPE met with ATCO in Edmonton on February 01, 2023 to review the potential for decreasing the high servicing cost for the Raw Water Transfer Station. An adjusted servicing amount was received from ATCO on March 10, 2023 with an 80% load investment from ATCO as an update on the previous 60% load investment resulting in a cost reduction of approximately \$164K to the previous cost proposal. ATCO has completed site review of the finalized routing of the power line to the River location. Further to meeting with ATCO on March 07, 2024 in Edmonton, a more detailed schedule of the pumping facility usage for the initial years of operation was forwarded to ATCO for re-assessment of the projected monthly billing charges. The County then received a more updated servicing proposal agreement from ATCO in November 2024. The servicing proposal from ATCO was accepted and executed by the County in 2025. The ATCO field crew confirmed their design assumptions on site during September 2025, and a project coordination meeting with ATCO, Saddle Hills County, and MPE Engineering was held on October 17, 2025. ATCO are presently in the process of acquiring regulatory approvals, crossing agreements, laydown areas, and land easements along their powerline route to the Dunvegan project site. A coordination meeting was held on April 01, 2026 between ATCO, Saddle Hills County, and MPE to coordinate details such as the transformer location and grounding requirements at the Dunvegan Raw Water Transfer Station site. The tentative schedule for provision of power service to the Dunvegan location is late autumn 2026.*

5. **Water Treatment Plant Site Raw Water Reservoirs (Phase 3 Contract 1A):** *The tender for the Raw Water Reservoirs contract closed on March 03, 2026. Award of the Contract by Saddle Hills County occurred in early March 2026 to the low bidder, Northern Road Builders, who then initially mobilized to the project site in late March 2026 with a limited contingent of heavy equipment to construct a temporary dugout to capture spring runoff water. The purpose of the dugout was to provide a source of water that could be utilized for the duration of the project earthwork construction for compaction and dust control. Following completion of the temporary dugout excavation, the Contractor then de-mobilized from the project site to allow for the spring melt and runoff. The Contractor re-mobilized to site in mid May 2026 to commence construction of the raw water reservoirs. Topsoil stripping of the site was completed by late May 2026 and excavation of the reservoir cells and construction of the reservoir berm embankments is proceeding. Photos of the Phase 3 Contract 1A construction are attached. The required Regulatory Approvals for the project have been obtained. Construction completion of the Contract 1A work is scheduled for September 2027.*

6. **Project Budget:** An updated preliminary opinion of probable costs for the project was developed and provided to the County. The estimated costs had increased significantly since the 2018 Pre-Design Report and the County made a request to the Province for additional grant funding under the Water for Life program to make up the projected cost difference. The County had follow up meetings related to the grant request with representatives from the Province and had presented a cash flow projection to the Province that provided a schedule of expenditures over the course of the next three years as it relates to grant funding. The County met with the Province again in March 2024 and again in April 2024, and ultimately received formal response from the Province this June 2024 that confirmed additional grant amounts for the 2025 construction year. A subsequent meeting between the County and the Province for funding support occurred in early November 2024. More recently, the Grant Funding administrators for Alberta Transportation completed a tour of the project construction sites on October 02, 2025, together with the County and MPE Engineering. Saddle Hills County then had a meeting with the Provincial Minister on November 03, 2025 to review the upcoming grant requirements for the overall Central Peace Regional Water Supply System project. Updates to the previous grant applications were completed by the County and forwarded to the Province in November 2025.

NEXT STEPS

7. Continue with the construction for Phase 1 & 2 Contract 2, continue with construction for Phase 1 & 2 Contract 1, detailed design including the drafting of revised plan and profile drawings for the pipeline (Phase 1 & 2 Contract 3+), continue with construction for Phase 3 Contract 1A, continue with regulatory approvals for final construction details, coordination with ATCO for power service to the Raw Water Transfer Station, assist the County to obtain Provincial support for the balance of grant funding for project ultimate completion.

Haj Oshiki, P.Eng.

Attachments:

1. **Phase 1 & 2 Contract 1 Construction Photos (7 total photos)**
2. **Phase 3 Contract 1A Construction Photos (2 total photos)**
3. **Phase 3 Contract 1A Comparison View Photos May 28, 2026 by Trevor Siemens, C.E.T.**

1. Phase 1 & 2 Contract 1 River Intake and Raw Water Transfer Station – Crane Lift Access into Wet Well



2. Grinding of Concrete Interior Surface of Secant Pile Wall Shoring for Wet Well



3. Grinder Attachment on Excavator



4. Keyway at Bottom of Secant Pile Wall for Wet Well Concrete Base Slab



5. Cutting of Keyway into Secant Pile Wall for Wet Well Concrete Base Slab



6. Mud Slab Installed as Working Surface for Wet Well Concrete Base Slab



7. Mud Slab Installed to Bottom of Keyways for Wet Well Concrete Base Slab



8. Phase 3 Contract 1A – Raw Water Reservoir Site Topsoil Stripping



9. Raw Water Reservoir Construction



Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant

*Phase 3 Contract 1A: Raw Water Reservoirs
5201-006-01*



2026-05-28 NE Corner, Looking SW

Project Progress

- Site Laydown setup and mobilization
- Topsoil Stripping
- Wetland delineation



Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant

Phase 3 Contract 1A: Raw Water Reservoirs
5201-006-01



Project Progress

- Site Laydown setup and mobilization
- Topsoil Stripping
- Wetland delineation



**Central Peace Regional
Water Supply System**
Phase 3 Contract 1A: Raw Water Reservoirs
5201-006-01



Project Progress

- Site Laydown setup and mobilization
- Topsoil Stripping
- Wetland delineation





MEETING: RM 11-26
MEETING DATE: May 27th, 2026
ORIGINATED BY: Monty Bremont, Assistant CAO
TITLE: 07-DP-26 Development Fee Reimbursement

BACKGROUND

Development Permit 07-DP-26, for the construction of three reservoirs to store raw water for treatment, two process waste ponds for storage & treatment of process waste from proposed water treatment plant, one water treatment plant, two access roads, and one perimeter ditch was approved by the Municipal Planning Commission on May 27th. The corresponding application fee of \$3,690.00 was paid in full by Saddle Hills County.

While the MD retains the authority to waive this development fee upfront, the application went through the standard payment process as Administration was aware that contractors typically integrate municipal permit fees directly into their total project bid prices.

Reimbursing the fee ensures that 100% of the allocated project funds stay within the project budget itself and fosters good faith and financial transparency between the municipalities and the contracted parties.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

That Council authorize the reimbursement of the development permit fee in the amount of \$3,690.00 for Permit 07-DP-26 to Saddle Hills County.

Or

That Council directs administration accordingly.



MEETING: RM 11-26
MEETING DATE: June 10th, 2026
ORIGINATED BY: Administration
TITLE: Annual MD Council Road Tour

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

Road tours are routine field reviews of municipal roads to assess their condition, identify maintenance needs, and support budgeting, as well as an opportunity for inspection, and for Council to demonstrate their accountability to their ratepayers. Road tours, although not required by the Government of Alberta, are useful, and empower Council, Finance, and Public Works, to manage infrastructure responsibly and effectively. Road tours are a best practice that many municipalities use to meet these broader responsibilities.

What road tours are:

The MD road tours are systematic, in-person inspections where municipal staff, council members, and public works teams physically navigate the municipality's road network to observe:

- Pavement condition
- Gravel road quality
- Drainage issues
- Signage and safety concerns
- Emerging hazards.

Road Tours offer opportunities for:

- **Asset assessment** — firsthand data on the state of municipal assets, helping prioritize repairs and replacements.
- **Budget planning** — Councils use road-condition observations to justify capital and operating expenditures.
- **Risk management** — Identifying hazards early reduces liability and improves public safety.
- **Transparency for Council** — Councillors gain direct understanding of infrastructure needs instead of relying solely on reports.
- **Maintenance scheduling** — Helps Public Works plan grading, patching, dust control, and drainage work.
- **Long-term planning** — Supports 5–20-year road plans and compliance with asset-management best practices.

Participating in the annual Road Tour provides the information and context for Council, collaboratively with Public Works and Finance, to:

- Manage infrastructure responsibly
- Prepare budgets and capital plans
- Maintain safe public infrastructure
- Follow asset-management and financial-planning obligations (especially for grant eligibility).



RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

That Council collectively participate in a Municipal Road Tour utilizing the MD Transit Bus, and direct Administration to coordinate the Tour, on or around the following dates: July 20th, 2026, or July 27th, 2026.

Or

That Council direct Administration accordingly.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133

45

MEETING: RM 11-26
MEETING DATE: May 27th, 2026
ORIGINATED BY: Monty Bremont, Assistant CAO
TITLE: PREDA AGM & 2026 – 2030 Board of Directors Election

BACKGROUND

Administration received an email from PREDA regarding their upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 26th and the election of their new Board of Directors for the 2026–2030 term.

PREDA requires formal notice from member municipalities by June 19th, 2026, if they wish to place a representative on the election slate. Note: It is the municipality that is elected; the designated representative may change throughout the four-year term.

As a member municipality, Council has the option to be considered for a seat on the Board to help shape regional economic development priorities.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

That Council directs administration accordingly.

From: Mary Joan Aylward <admin@peacecountrycanada.com>
Sent: June 1, 2026 9:59 AM
To: Shelley Rozecki <srozecki@mdspiritrivier.ab.ca>
Cc: Shirley Hayden <cao@mdspiritrivier.ab.ca>
Subject: PREDA AGM June 26th - Election of Board of Directors
Importance: High

PREDA AGM June 26th - Election of Board of Directors

Good morning Shelly and Shirley,

Hoping you and yours are doing well!

In preparation for the upcoming PREDA AGM and election of PREDA 2026-2030 Board of Directors on June 26th; if your Municipality would like to be considered on the slate of nominees; and as your Council's designated representative to PREDA; to be considered for election to the Board of Directors PREDA requires a notice of approval from your Council to have you added to our slate of nominees.

If at all possible, we request Council's notice of approval by Friday June 19th to facilitate administrative submission of the slate of nominees to our AGM parliamentarian and the PREDA membership.

Briefly: (Articles of Association 2025)

- 1) There are six positions on PREDA Board of Directors. Note: It is the municipality that is elected; the designated representative may change throughout the four-year term.
- 2) PREDA's Board of Directors is a four-year term.
- 3) Nominees must be a municipal elected official in good standing and approved by their Council
- 4) PREDA's membership elects the Board of Directors.
- 5) The election of the Board of Directors is conducted through a non-municipal parliamentarian.
- 6) Post-Election: The Board of Directors appoints a Chair, and 2 Vice Chairs during their first official meeting / orientation session to be held during the summer.

Please note: The June AGENDA is attached; I am in the process of finalizing the related documents and will notify you when available for download through our Virtual Office website portal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Much appreciated,

Joni



Mary Joan Aylward - MSc, CBA

Research & Operations

10128 95th Avenue

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0L4

Voice: 780-527-6232

Website: <https://peacecountrycanada.com/>

Open Video Connect: <https://meet.goto.com/584833773>

Teleconference: 1(647) 497-9373 Code: 584833773#

From: Mary Joan Aylward <admin@peacecountrycanada.com>
Sent: June 1, 2026 9:59 AM
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Much appreciated,

Joni



Mary Joan Aylward - MSc, CBA
Research & Operations
10128 95th Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0L4



DATE: Friday - June 26th, 2026

TIME: 10:00 AM – 3:00PM

Location: Grande Prairie Regional Airport (2nd Floor Conference)

Need Help? 780-527-6232 (PREDA Cell)

Video Connect: <https://meet.goto.com/584833773>

Teleconference: 1(647) 497-9373 Code: 584833773#

NOTE: Parking validation has been reserved for PREDA Meeting Attendees

10:00AM Call to Order / Welcome Ken Hildebrand – Town of Sexsmith – PREDA Acting Chair



The Grande Prairie Airport is an economic development anchor for the Peace Country.

Will Stewart, (Board of Directors: Alberta Airports Management Association and

Board of Directors: Regional Community Airports of Canada), currently Acting General Manager of the

Grande Prairie Airport, Will presents information on usage profiles, airline services, and the future vision for the GPA.

Following his presentation, Will invites you to jump aboard the GPA shuttle to introduce you to the numerous services and small businesses that use the airport hub which augment the airport's sustainability.



LUNCH

1:00PM Regional Organizations – Open Discussion

The Oct 2025 municipal elections witnessed a sizable number of new councillors who are seeking clarification on the various economic development related membership organizations within the region. In response, PREDA has been engaging with various regional organizations to compare mandates, costs, membership fees, and governance models to identify strengths, duplication, and potential synergies.

2:00PM PREDA 2026 Annual General Meeting

**On behalf of the PREDA membership, thank-you to our Board of Directors
who provided leadership and direction from 2022 to 2026**

Carolyn Kolebaba – Northern Sunrise County
Ken Hildebrand – Town of Sexsmith
Brian Peterson – County of Grande Prairie
Deanne Wendland – Birch Hills County

Elaine Garrow / Nick vanRootselaar – MD of Spirit River
Bob Willing / Sandra Eastman – MD of Peace
Gary These – Northern Lights County
Joe Chelick – Village of Rycroft

- A) 2026 AGM Agenda / 2025 AGM Minutes (Att: 1)
- B) 2026 Year End Financials - Submitted for Audit (Att: 2)
- C) PREDA – Year in Review - Gov. of AB. Annual Report (Att: 3)
- D) Election of PREDA 2026-2030 Board of Directors: Parliamentarian – Will Stewart, GM - GPA (Att:4)
- E) Schedule of PREDA Membership Symposiums – Sept 4th/26, Dec 4th/26, March 5th/27, AGM June 4th/27
- F) Adjourn PREDA 2026 AGM

Next PREDA Membership Symposium

September 4th - Grande Cache/Greenview Theme: The Coal & Steel Industry

PREDA Members: Related Documents are available for download in the PREDA Virtual Office



MEETING:	RM 11-26
MEETING DATE:	June 10th, 2026
ORIGINATED BY:	Administration
TITLE:	Letter regarding Wildfire Mutual Aid Response Invoice 2024

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

The attached letter to Senior Wildfire Investigator of the Forestry and Parks Wildfire Management Branch of the Government of Alberta regarding the mutual aid response invoice of March 25th, 2026, for the wildfire of August 24th, 2024, is for Council review.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

That Council direct Administration to send the letter as presented, with the signature of the Reeve, to the Forestry and Parks Ministry Senior Wildfire Investigator;

Or that Council direct Administration accordingly.



The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133
Box 389, 4202-50th Street, Spirit River, Alberta T0H 3G0
E-mail: mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca
Telephone (780) 864-3500

June 1st, 2026

Forestry and Parks Wildfire Management Branch
J. G. O'Donoghue Building, Suite 100, 7000 – 113 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6

Attention: Theo Bailey, Senior Wildfire Investigator

RE: Inquiry Regarding Delayed Cost-Recovery Invoice for Mutual Aid Fire Response dated August 24, 2024

Dear Mr. Bailey ,

On behalf of the Municipal District of Spirit River Council , I am writing to respectfully bring a matter of operational and financial concern to your attention and to request your guidance and clarification.

Our concern relates to a demand letter and associated invoice recently received by our municipality from Alberta Forestry and Parks, signed by Shawn Barraclough, Acting Executive Director of the Forest Operations Branch. The correspondence pertains to a wildfire that occurred within the Municipal District of Spirit River on August 24, 2024, during which Alberta Forestry and Parks graciously responded to a Mutual Aid request from the Central Peace Fire and Rescue Committee (CPFRC). We remain deeply grateful for the provincial support and collaborative efforts of the department during that incident to ensure the safety of our community.

Council's primary concern centers around the timeline of this correspondence and the significant administrative challenges it has unintentionally created for our municipality. We would highly appreciate your insight on the following timeline:

August 24, 2024: The wildfire incident and provincial Mutual Aid response occurred.

March 25, 2026: The cost-recovery demand letter was officially dated by the Forest Operations Branch.

May 14, 2026: The correspondence was successfully received by our municipal office via registered mail.

As you can see, a period of 21 months elapsed between the date of the incident and our receipt of the invoice. In addition there was a multi-week gap between the internal dating of the letter (March 25) and its arrival at our office (May 14).

We bring this forward to highlight the direct impact this delay has on our fiscal management. As the smallest rural municipality in Alberta, we are legally prohibited from running a deficit. Because this expenditure was not allocated in our budget, approving it would place the municipality in a difficult financial position having to deduct the funds from our municipal reserves.

To help us resolve this matter constructively, Council respectfully requests clarification on the administrative delay and looks to collaborate with your office on a viable path forward. Specifically, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss review of the timeline regarding the 21-month delay in issuing the notice and the potential transitional mechanisms within the new HARP framework, or a specialized variance through AEMA, that would allow our municipality to apply for the wildfire assistance funding which would have potentially been available to the MD back in 2024.

In light of this administrative delay, Council requests that an extension be granted and that consideration be given to processing the payment under these exceptional circumstances. Ultimately, the municipality is seeking formal clarification that this expenditure would be covered under the existing MWAP grant program at the time of the fire.

We value the strong working relationship our MD shares with the Government of Alberta. It is our hope that by working together transparently, we can find a mutually beneficial solution that respects provincial cost-recovery processes while protecting the fiscal health of our rural municipality.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued leadership. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar

The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133

Cc:

Robert Galon, Forest Area Manager for Alberta Wildfire: rob.galon@gov.ab.ca

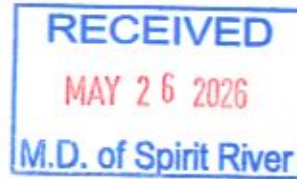
Shawn Barraclough, Acting Executive Director, Forest Operations Branch: shawn.barraclough@gov.ab.ca

Todd Loewen, MLA, Central Peace- Notley : CentralPeace.Notley@assembly.ab.ca

Alberta-NWT Command



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SCANNED



DEAR VALUED SUPPORTER:

Thank you for your pledge of support for our **Alberta NWT Command Legion's** annual digital **Military Service Recognition Guide Project**. Each year this guide honours and recognizes the selfless contributions made by Veterans from Alberta and the Northwest Territories who have so honourably served our Country.

Your generous contribution and support is sincerely appreciated. Digital versions of our Annual Military Service Recognition Guides are available online at abnwtlegion.com under the Remembrance Tab for easy access for everyone, especially our younger generation, to better understand the sacrifices that our local Veterans made for our Country. **You may scan the QR Code below for quick access.**

Our annual guide helps identify and recognize our Veterans in Alberta and the Northwest Territories who served our country. As Keepers of Remembrance, The Royal Canadian Legion strives to perpetuate the sacrifices that our Veterans and their families made for our freedom. The Military Service Recognition book will serve as a reminder, for generations to come, of the contributions our Veterans made to the creation of our nation and the continuance of Canada as a protector of freedom.

The Royal Canadian Legion has been active in communities across the country for over 90 years. By supporting our Veterans and their families, the Legion has made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Every day, the Legion makes a difference, whether it is providing emergency funds for food, shelter or clothing to a Veteran, to funding groundbreaking research in mental and physical health. In addition, through the annual Poster and Literary contest, the Legion provides opportunities for our youth to showcase their writing and artistic talents.

The Alberta-NWT Command Service Officers focus on supports to our Veterans by advocating on their behalf and preparing disability and pension claims through Veterans Affairs Canada. Annually, over 900 Veterans in the Alberta-NWT Command, benefit from the expertise provided by our professional Service Officers.

As a stalwart in many communities across Alberta and the Northwest Territories, The Royal Canadian Legion will continue to change lives every day.

Thank you for your support in helping to improve the lives of our Veterans and their families and making our communities greater.

Sincerely,

Dave Velichko
President
Alberta-NWT Command



MSR Guide



HEARTLAND

— TRAINING & SUPPORT HUB —

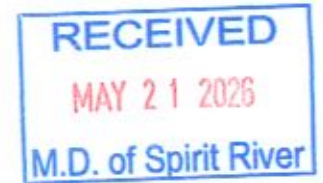
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SCANNED



265 East 400 South | Box 291 | Raymond | Alberta | T0K 2S0 | 403 752-4585 | www.heartlandsupport.ca

May 14, 2026

MD Spirit River #133
Box 389
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0



Subject: Thank You for Your Generous Support

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$364.50 to Heartland Training & Support Hub. Your continued support ensures we can deliver essential programs to schools and communities across County/MD. Your donation will help cover a portion of the delivery costs for the Safety Smarts program in your area, ensuring students receive vital farm safety education. It also helps us meet the matching fund requirements necessary to qualify for additional grant funding, allowing us to expand our impact across rural Alberta.

Attached, you will find your charitable tax receipt. Receipt No. 2068 for your records. Moving forward, we will be sending out an annual update and donation request via email each fall. This update will include a brief report on program delivery within County/MD, so you can see how your funds are making a difference locally.

We will recognize County/MD on our website and social media platforms.

Thank you again for your invaluable support. Together, we are helping rural families and children stay healthy, informed, and safe.

With warm regards,

Jordan Jensen | Executive Director
Heartland Training & Support Hub
Office: (403) 752-4585 | Cell: (403) 593-8960
Email: j.jensen@heartlandsupport.ca | www.heartlandsupport.ca

Rebecca Fitzsimmons

From: Rombs, Alise <ARombs@nwpolytech.ca>
Sent: May 26, 2026 2:00 PM
To: Rebecca Fitzsimmons
Cc: Jessie Urness
Subject: Follow-Up Regarding Support for the Maskwa Medical Center

Good afternoon, Rebecca,

I hope this message finds you well!

My name is Alise Rombs and I am a board advisor for the Maskwa Medical Center in Grande Prairie. Last month, board members from Maskwa Medical Center had the opportunity to present to your municipality regarding the future of the Maskwa Medical Center and the Northern Alberta Medical Program. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to connect with your community and share more about this important initiative.

As we continue to build partnerships across northern Alberta, we are following up regarding two areas where municipalities may be able to support this work:

1. Helping to raise awareness of the Northern Alberta Medical Program among students and community members within your region.
2. Identify a potential community champion who may be interested in supporting local awareness initiatives and/or future fundraising efforts connected to Maskwa Medical Center.

We recognize that each municipality has differing capacities, priorities, and available resources, and we sincerely appreciate any level of support or collaboration your community may be willing to consider. We would welcome the opportunity to learn whether your council may be interested in assisting with either of these initiatives; and what resources, information, or support from our team that may help facilitate these efforts.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and continued interest in supporting the Maskwa Medical Center in northern Alberta. We value the importance of community partnerships in strengthening the future and access of healthcare needs across our region.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to discuss potential next steps further.

Warm regards,

Alise Rombs (She/Her) MSN, RN
Nursing Instructor
Nursing Education & Health Studies

COMMUNITY CONNECT



Editorial: Empowering Minds Means Stronger Communities

The Central Peace is no stranger to tough times. We know what it means to weather drought, push through economic ups and downs, and keep going when the work is hard. That resilience is our strength. But even the strongest among us can struggle in silence.

Rural Alberta has one of the highest suicide rates in the country. Too many of our friends and neighbors face stress, addictions, isolation, or despair without ever reaching out for help. Distance from services, long hours, and the “handle it yourself” mindset make it easy to miss the signs until it’s too late.

That is why the Empowering Minds: First Identifier initiative is coming to Rycroft. Its goal is simple: give everyday people the skills to notice when someone is struggling, have a conversation, and point them toward help.

This initiative is built on two vital ideas:

- The people closest to the problem are best suited to solve it. Neighbors, friends, coaches — those embedded in rural life see what’s off earlier and can act with trust and relevance.
- Upstream is better than downstream. Catching distress before it intensifies saves lives, preserves dignity, and protects the whole community.

The initiative is being led by Ian Hill, humanitarian and award-winning rural advocate who has worked with thousands of communities across North America. Hill will personally lead the training sessions, helping local residents gain the confidence to step in early and support those in need.

A First Identifier is not a counselor or a doctor. They are the farmer who sees his neighbor at the auction mart. The coach who notices a kid pulling away from the team. The friend who hears the quiet change in someone’s voice. Empowering Minds equips those people with the tools to act before a crisis.

Empowering Minds will bring leaders, students, and the wider community together. Join the community supper and training that turns willing residents into First Identifiers. A 30-day follow-up will be provided for ongoing resources, reminders, and support so momentum isn’t lost after one day.

In Rycroft, AB, community training events are scheduled:

Young Adults First Identifier Training (ages 17-25)

June 16, 2026 - 5:30pm Supper & 6:00pm Event Starts
Rycroft Agricultural Society Hall 11055 PTH Rycroft AB

First Identifier Training (Public)

June 17, 2026 - 5:30pm Supper & 6:00pm Event Starts
Rycroft Agricultural Society Hall 11055 PTH Rycroft AB

Supper will be provided at both sessions, and all residents are invited to attend.

Link provided to sign up for the events.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/829C23J>

This newsletter is a community project supported by the Central Peace Health & Wellness Coalition and the Town of Spirit River. We welcome your ideas and submissions, please email by the 20th of the month to: cphawc2.connect@outlook.com.

Visit [Central Peace Health And Wellness Coalition \(CPHAWC\)](#) Facebook page.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please send an email to cphawc1@outlook.com requesting to be added to the list.

Upcoming Events

- **LADIES NIGHT** @ Rycroft Library on Wednesday June 17, 7 - 9 pm

Monthly Events

- **BOOK CLUB** @ Spirit River Library on Tues June 2 & July 7 at 7:30 pm

- **STITCH BY STITCH** @ Spirit River Library Wednesdays starting at 7:00 pm

- **WRITER'S GROUP** @ Spirit River Library second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

- **ANCESTRY CORNER** @ Rycroft Library - by appointment only, contact 780-765-3973

Office - 587-771-3567

Cell - 780-864-5698

Central Peace FCSS News

fcss@townofspiritriver.ca

4201 50th Street

Meals on Wheels - hot meals delivered to your door; Delivered Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays and is intended for persons that are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. Call or email us for more information.

Home Support - for a senior over the age of 55 years, any person with a disability, new mothers (short-term basis only), any person recovering from a surgery or operation (short-term basis only), any person dealing with death of an immediate family member (short-term basis only)

Upcoming Events :

FCSS Board Meeting - June 9, 2026, at 6:30 at the Peace Wapiti Sub Office.

Rycroft Merry Pioneers

Rycroft Community Hall
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
1:00 to 4:00 pm

Chair Yoga - 200 pm on Tuesday & Thursdays

June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30

June 17 - Foot Care by Echo

1:00 to 4:00 pm \$30

Get Out and Play

Please join the Rycroft Community Library for outdoor activities.

June 20th between 1 - 4 pm

We will have hotdogs and popcorn to snack on. Please plan on attending with your children.



4724 50th Street
Box 248 Rycroft, AB
T0H 3A0
Phone: (780) 765-3973

Camp Wanaago
For 5-7 Graders
June 28-Aug 25
8:30 am - 7 pm
Registration starts June 1

Each week there is a different theme with corresponding activities, games, and crafts. Come and learn new things, make new friends, and have lots of fun!

Gift Certificates Available

GIANT PUMPKIN and SUNFLOWER GROWING CONTEST!

BRINGED TO YOU BY THE LIONS CLUB OF RYCROFT & DISTRICT

PRIZES
\$250 PRIZE for the Largest Pumpkin by Weight
\$100 PRIZE for Mystery Weight

REGISTRATION COST
PUMPKIN - \$20 (including seeds)
SUNFLOWERS - \$10 (including seeds)

WEIGH-IN DATE
to be held at 3:00PM
OCTOBER 4, 2026
PEACE TRANSCENDING TURKEY BINGO

SEED PICK UP LOCATIONS
• Store of Spirit River • Spirit River Public Library
• Village of Birch • Rycroft Public Library

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
Darrall Pick (780) 228-5397
Terry Gale (780) 3811-9728

Spirit Days – June 13

Small Towns, Big Hearts

8am to 10 am - Pancake Breakfast (Centennial Hall)
In support of the Grade 6 Field Trip

8am to 2 pm - Ag Society Bench Show (Centennial Hall)
Items for judging must be dropped off June 12 between 12 to 5pm

10am to 2 pm - Scavenger Hunt (Spirit River Library)
- Book Sale (Spirit River Library)

10am to 4 pm - Marketplace (Curling Rink)
Contact spiritrivermarkets@gmail.com to reserve a table.

11am - Parade (Main Street)
Floats to meet at Ste Marie School Parking Lot by 10:30am

11am to 4 pm - Pie & Sandwich Food Booth (United Church)
- Thrift Store (United Church)
- Silent Auction (United Church)

12pm - Ball Game & Home Run Derby (East Ball Field)

12pm to 4pm - Face Painters & Roving Entertainers
(Centennial Hall Parking Lot)

12:30pm - Bike Rodeo (SRRA South Parking Lot)
Sponsored by Central Peace FCSS and RCMP

12:30pm to 3 pm - 4H Showcase (SR Museum)

1pm to 3pm - Bingo (Happy Hour Club)

1pm to 3pm - Car Show (Arena Parking Lot)

1pm to 3pm - Bouncy Castles (Inside Arena)

7pm - 18+ Dance (Spirit River Centennial Hall)
In support of the new Fire Hall.

Food Truck will be set up in the Centennial Hall and Arena Parking Lots.

Friday & Saturday - Tractor Pulls (West of the Old ESSO)

RYCROFT FARMERS' MARKET
OPEN THURSDAYS
3 - 6
MID-JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER
RYCROFT AG CENTRE

CELEBRATING SENIORS' WEEK

June 1 from 10 am to 4 pm | Woking Multiplex | Open to all seniors in the G5 area

Sponsored by Central Peace Health & Wellness Coalition & Central Peace FCSS

The Municipal District of Spirit River has offered to take seniors to the event using their transit bus.

If interested in catching a ride on the bus, please contact the MD's office at (780) 864-3500 to reserve your spot.

COPY

Municipal Accountability Program
17th Floor Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4
Canada
Telephone: 780-427-2225
MAP@gov.ab.ca

AR120508

June 2, 2026

Ms. Shirley Hayden
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133
PO Box 389
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

Dear Ms. Hayden:

Thank you for your email of May 4, 2026, regarding the completion of all items identified in the 2021 Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) report for the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133.

I commend the municipal district for moving forward and addressing these items, and I am pleased to advise that the MD of Spirit River's 2021 MAP review has been completed to the satisfaction of the ministry.

On behalf of Municipal Affairs, I wish the municipal district all the best for the future.

Yours truly,



Sarah Ranson
Director
Municipal Sustainability and Accountability

cc: Priscilla Sorochan, Municipal Accountability Analyst, Municipal Affairs
Clint Neufeld, Manager, Municipal Accountability, Municipal Affairs



Village of Rycroft

COPY

Box 360
Rycroft Alberta
T0H 3A0

Telephone: 780 765 3652
Fax: 780 765 2002
Website: www.rycroft.ca

June 3, 2026

The Village of Rycroft will be hosting a PARADE on Saturday, July 25th 2026 to coincide with the annual 'Race the 8 Rodeo Weekend'. Council has chosen the theme of "Summer Bash/ Beach Party" and will be leaving it up to personal interpretation as to how you choose to represent this idea. You can walk, pedal your bike, ride a horse, drive a car, or enter a float. Let your imagination go wild, pull out the ribbons and decorations, and have a good time down the streets of Rycroft. Let's make this parade bigger and better than last years!!

We are hoping that you will be able to join us in this exciting event. The judging will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Rycroft arena parking area and the parade will start at 11:00 a.m. It will travel north on 50th street, and then south on 51st street, and finish up in time to head over to the main event at the Rycroft Ag Grounds.

If you are available to participate, we would appreciate acknowledgment by July 23 by calling the Village office at 780-765-3652 or email at rycroft@rycroft.ca.

James Verquin

Mayor, Village of Rycroft



RMA District Update

June 2026



Bill 28

Overview

Bill 28, *the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026*, received Royal Assent on May 14, 2026. The legislation introduces wide-ranging amendments across seven major themes:

- ◆ Enabling Growth and Housing
- ◆ Assessment and Property Tax
- ◆ Aggregate Pits
- ◆ Seniors Lodges
- ◆ Governance and Accountability
- ◆ Municipal Transparency
- ◆ Public Institutions

RMA developed a detailed initial analysis of the Bill, found here: [Bill 28: RMA Analysis](#). The analysis highlights that while some amendments clarify existing processes or introduce new tools, many signal a broader shift toward increased provincial oversight in areas historically under municipal authority. As many of the most consequential impacts will be determined through forthcoming regulations, RMA continues to emphasize the need for clear provincial rationale, practical implementation guidance, and meaningful engagement with municipalities throughout the regulatory process.

RMA also hosted a Bill 28 Member Webinar on April 29, featuring RMA President Kara Westerlund and senior staff. The session provided an in-depth walkthrough of RMA's analysis and offered members an opportunity to raise questions and share perspectives. RMA appreciates the strong member participation and continues to rely on member feedback as this work progresses.

RMA Advocacy and Next Steps

Since Bill 28 received Royal Assent, RMA has taken several steps to ensure that rural municipal perspectives are clearly communicated to the Government of Alberta and reflected in the development of any associated regulations and implementation processes. RMA has written to three Ministers whose portfolios are directly affected by Bill 28:

- ◆ **Minister Dan Williams, Municipal Affairs** – regarding governance, transparency, and changes to municipal authority.
- ◆ **Minister Grant Hunter, Environment & Protected Areas** – regarding aggregate pit approvals and the implications of MGA Section 619.1.
- ◆ **Minister Nathan Neudorf, Assisted Living and Social Services** – regarding social housing and seniors' lodge reserve funds, requisitioning, and the designation of contributing municipalities.

Each letter outlines RMA's significant concerns, requests clarity on key provisions and associated implementation considerations, and seeks meetings with Ministers and senior staff to discuss impacts on rural municipalities.

In addition to this correspondence, RMA is preparing a secondary analysis of Bill 28 that will provide members with a deeper understanding of the most impactful amendments, including potential operational, financial, and governance implications. RMA plans to share this resource with members in the coming weeks.

Additionally, RMA is conducting ongoing research to better understand the practical effects of the Bill and continues to liaise with government staff across multiple ministries to seek clarity on timelines for regulation development, implementation expectations and considerations, and opportunities for municipal input.

Member engagement remains critical to this work. RMA will continue gathering member perspectives on the Bill's most consequential amendments to ensure future advocacy reflects rural realities. RMA will monitor implementation closely and advocate for clarity, meaningful engagement, and the protection of municipal autonomy and decision-making authority. Members with questions or feedback are encouraged to contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy team at any time.

Assessment Model Review

The AMR Steering Committee met on May 25 to further discuss an approach to shifting the review into a technical focus on specific property types. Beginning in June, Municipal Affairs will form three technical working groups (TWGs), each with a focus on an individual regulated property type. The three TWGs are as follows:

1. Rail
2. Electrical generation
3. Telecommunications

The second round of TWGs, focusing on wells, pipelines, and machinery and equipment property, are expected to commence in late 2026.

TWGs will consist of Municipal Affairs staff, representatives from various sector organizations involved in the AMR, and hired contractors to provide technical data and undertake the work of developing changes to assessment methodology for each rate.

RMA has shared concerns and input with Municipal Affairs on some of the governance decisions made in relation to the TWGs, including the ability for organizations to assign the same representative to TWGs and the Steering Committee, the ability for industry organizations to "self-select" their participation in the various TWGs, and the introduction of the contractor in the TWG process after stakeholder reps have identified issues or challenges with the existing methodologies for each rate. RMA is prepared to participate in the process as designed, but believes several governance-related decisions have introduced unnecessary risks into the process.

RMA continues to collaborate with other organizations representing the municipal sector to ensure aligned messaging at both the technical and governance levels of the AMR process.

RMA also expects the release of a regulation in the coming weeks to formalize application of many of the Minister's regulated assessment-related policy decisions, announced in April, into the model (applied only to newly constructed properties or those with substantial capital additions). RMA will provide members with more information and analysis on the regulation after it is released.

Agritourism Strategy Working Group

RMA is continuing work on the Agritourism Strategy Working Group to guide the development of a comprehensive provincial strategy that supports the responsible growth, promotion, and regulation of agritourism in Alberta. The Working Group has identified several themes that will guide the overall strategy, including:

- ◆ Risk identification and management
- ◆ Regulatory considerations
- ◆ Municipal, operator, and visitor education opportunities
- ◆ Agritourism business support
- ◆ Rural municipal impact
- ◆ Economic development considerations

RMA will share key updates with members and is looking forward to developing a public facing report in Summer 2026.

ICF Workbook Update

RMA, ABmunis, and the Government of Alberta are working together to update the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Workbook so it reflects recent MGA amendments under Bill 50 and better supports municipalities preparing for upcoming ICF renewals. The updated workbook is expected to be available this fall and will offer clearer, more accessible guidance for elected officials, administrators, and facilitators involved in intermunicipal collaboration discussions. To further support members, RMA is planning to also release a supplementary resource focused on rural-specific considerations when developing ICFs.

Upcoming and Recent Webinars

Regional Advisory Councils

Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) are intended to represent communities across the province to identify healthcare issues in their regions and explore potential solutions. There are 14 RACs across the province with representation from a wide range of backgrounds and diverse experiences. As the RAC's mandate is to represent their communities' health care perspectives and unique needs, RMA sees immense value in creating meaningful connections between RACs and RMA members.

As such, RMA is hosting a webinar for members to gain a better understanding of RACs and how they function. RMA encourages all members to attend.

This webinar will take place on **June 22, 2026, from 10:00am – 11:00am**. Please register [here](#).

Water Act Changes

The Ministry for Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) held a [webinar](#) for RMA members on May 29, 2026 to provide more detail on recent amendments to the *Water Act* which came into effect on March 11, 2026. The webinar covered four areas:

- ◆ Streamlined decision-making for water licensing and transfer
- ◆ Enhanced water use information to support effective and transparent management by all users
- ◆ Enabling lower risk inter-basin transfers
- ◆ Enabling use of alternative water sources.

During the EPA's water availability engagements in 2024 and 2025, RMA opposed proposals to enable lower risk inter-basin transfers and merging of the Peace-Slave and Athabasca river basins. The *Water Act* sets out the criteria a transfer must meet to be considered lower risk and enables, but does not require, the Minister to develop regulation to prescribe further criteria, limitations or conditions applicable to lower risk transfers. EPA has indicated that there are no plans to develop such regulation and has not estimated whether there will be an increase in applications for inter-basin transfers due to the amendment.

Later this year, EPA will host a series of engagements on the development of draft standards for measuring and reporting water use, policies on how to keep a water license in good standing, disclosure of prices paid for water transfers and other water access, and alternative water sources. RMA encourages all members to participate in the engagements and will share more information as it becomes available.

Resolution Highlight – 4-24F: Amend Municipal Government Act to Designate Police Funding Model Levy as Requisition

Under the Police Funding Model (PFM), all municipalities receiving their policing through the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA), which includes most RMA members, must contribute to the cost of policing. For many municipalities, this cost is passed on to ratepayers and municipalities are effectively left to collect tax on behalf of the province for policing costs. On a tax bill, rate increase to cover the PFM costs can look like an enormous increase to municipal taxes, leading members to have concerns about transparency for ratepayers. RMA passed resolution [4-24F: Amend Municipal Government Act to Designate Police Funding Model Levy as Requisition](#) and advocates that the *Municipal Government Act* be amended to show the PFM as a requisition so that ratepayers have a clear understanding of how their tax dollars are distributed. Recent changes introduced in Bill 28 authorize municipalities to disclose the amount of the municipal tax rate that are allocated directly to fund policing costs. However, this change falls short of collecting policing as a requisition, which does not resolve concerns around transparency for ratepayers.

In addition to advocacy on requisitioning, RMA is engaged in analyzing the financial and service impacts that the PFM has on rural member municipalities. Analysis shows that municipalities have experienced increased policing costs with no real improvements to police services. In 2025, RMA conducted a member survey to better understand members' experiences and perspectives on the new PFM. The results of the survey were used to support a submission to the Government of Alberta with 12 core recommendations. RMA also produced a [member guide](#) to support members' participation in engagement sessions. RMA is finalizing a PFM impact analysis that is expected to be released shortly.

EOEP Update

The Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP) is jointly owned and operated by the RMA and Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis). The EOEP was formed in 2007 to provide Alberta's municipal elected officials with professional development opportunities and ensure that they are well-positioned to serve their communities effectively.

While there are no courses over the summer months, offerings begin again in September. Upcoming courses are posted [online](#) – start planning your professional development now!

As a reminder, participants who complete all seven core EOEP courses will earn their [Municipal Elected Leaders Certificate](#) (MELC), which is offered in coordination with the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus.

RMA members interested in completing the MELC in 2 years are encouraged to reference the "[Course Roadmap](#)" for the quickest way to succeed!

RMA Communications

Communicating with members is an essential role of the RMA, both to share information and to obtain member input. To ensure that you receive the most up to date information, please [subscribe to the Contact newsletter](#). Contact is distributed weekly and includes important member bulletins, announcements, and links to news articles that may be of interest to Alberta's municipalities. [Trader](#) is the monthly Canoe newsletter sharing news about procurement services available to members and updates from approved suppliers.

We are also active on social media! Follow us on X [@RuralMA](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).