



Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66

About the MD

The MD of Ranchland No. 66 was incorporated as a municipality in the Province of Alberta on January 1, 1995. The present land area of the MD was a large portion of what made up I.D. No. 6. Encompassing about 660,000 acres, the MD is in the beautiful southwestern corner of Alberta, bordered on the west by the Alberta/BC border, and surrounded by the municipalities of Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek, Willow Creek, Foothills and Kananaskis. The MD office is located in Chain Lakes Provincial Park on Highway 22 (the Cowboy Trail), west of Nanton about 20 minutes.

The MD includes some of the finest ranching country in the world, and its Council and community share a common vision *“To protect and enhance the unique ranching heritage and to promote activities that are sustainable and compatible with the environment”*. In support of that vision, the MD strives to be a regional leader in sustainable land use planning, heritage ranching, and land use practices that encourage and support the ecological integrity and diversity of this environmentally sensitive area of the Province.

The MD has played a partnership and/or a leadership role in most of the land use policy or planning initiatives for public land in the MD, and further afield along the Eastern Slopes. The MD has provided input and has promoted, funded and championed initiatives such as SALTS, Pekisko Group, NCC, Pekisko Heritage Rangeland, Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park, Black Creek Heritage Rangeland, Porcupine Hills Coalition, Livingstone Landowners Group, Livingstone - Porcupine Hills PLUZs, Southern Foothills Study, Cows n Fish, Castle Park and Carnivore Working Group. The MD is also the first in the Province to fund an enhanced Fish and Wildlife Officer position.

Councillors

The MD has three elected officials filling the roles of Reeve, Deputy Reeve and Councillor. Two of the three Councillors currently serving were on the Advisory Council for I.D. No. 6 and have continued as Councillors since the incorporation of the MD in January of 1995. The shortest serving Councillor has completed 23 years of service. The experience and solidarity of Council has led to a strong common vision for the community and the landscape, as well as the economic sustainability of the municipality.

Administration Department

The Administration Department consists of the CAO, Secretary to the CAO and an Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk. The three-member staff manage and oversee the day-to-day operations of the MD along with the finance, taxation and planning departments, and the health and safety and emergency management programs. As the Development Officer, the CAO has the responsibility to follow proper protocol when development proposals occur. While only a few residential developments occur annually, the bulk of the time spent as Development Officer is in evaluating and monitoring industrial development proposals.

The MD has Council or administrative representation on over 20 Boards and Committees, some of which include: Nanton Health Clinic Construction Committee, Carnivore Working Group,

Oldman Watershed Council, Bob Creek/Black Creek Advisory Committee and Pekisko Heritage Rangeland Management Planning Committee.

The Administration building is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The building also includes a community center for the residents and ratepayers of the MD, as well as offices for Alberta Parks and Fish & Wildlife. The building is also used as a meeting place for various GoA departments and local stakeholder groups.

Agricultural Service Board & Ag Department

The Agricultural Service Board is formed under the authority of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* (ASB) and serves as an advisory body to Council for agricultural and environmental issues. The ASB provides recommendations and feedback to Council and the Agricultural Fieldman including, but not limited to:

- ASB programs and extension events intended to promote environmental stewardship and preserve our ranching heritage;
- Inspection and enforcement of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agriculture Pests Act* and *Soil Conservation Act*;
- Activities assisting with the *Animal Health Act*;
- Rental programs; and,
- Large carnivore predation.

The ASB consists of all three council members and five members-at-large. The Province provides financial assistance towards the administration of services, including material, equipment and labour in conducting approved programs and policies. Environmental programs and extension activities are funded in part through a separate Environmental Funding Stream.

Agricultural Fieldman

Council in consultation with the ASB must appoint a qualified person as Agricultural Fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs, and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality. The Ag Fieldman acts as a designated officer by carrying out the functions, duties and powers allotted under the various Acts relating to agriculture, and in implementing those projects agreed upon by Council and the Province.

Roads Department

The Roads Department consists of three full-time staff members including a Road Foreman and two grader operators. The department does summer and winter maintenance on approximately 203 kms of municipal roads. Roads staff are responsible for all signage and infrastructure, including culverts and cattleguards, they monitor road use by industry, oversee bridge repairs and do some plowing and grading on a local highway for the Alberta Transportation contractor. Roads staff are also an integral part of the MD's response for many local emergencies like floods and wildfires. They support the local agricultural industry in many ways, and manage and maintain gravel resources for the MD.