

**M.D. of Ranchland No.66
Council Meeting Agenda**

**Municipal Building
Chain Lakes Provincial Park**

**March 12, 2024
at 1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Council Meeting of February 27, 2024..... Pages 3-6
- B.
- C.

4. DELEGATION'S SCHEDULE

- A. RCMP. Cpl. Nairn, Pelletier @ 2:00pm / Cpl. Amatto @ 1:00 p.m.
- B. Kelly Starling – In at 2:00 p.m., will present following RCMP

5. EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE – (for information)

- A. Administration/ Finance
- B. Public Works
- C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation
- D. Emergency/ Protective Services
- E. Legislative / Planning /Development
 - i. Minister Invite Letter Pages7/8
- F. Other Business
 - i. Head to heart event (NQLF) Pages 9/10

6. BUSINESS – (action items)

- A. Administration/ Finance
 - ii. Action List To be distributed
- B. Public Works
 - i. .

C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation

- i. .

CI. Emergency/Protective Services

- i. RCMP Delegations Pages 11-19
- ii. Emergency Services 2023 Year in Review Report
& DEM Report (January/February) Pages 20-44
- iii. CPO Authorities - RFD Pages 45-47
- iv. 2024 Priorities -RFD..... Pages 48-57

CII. Legislative/& Planning/Development

- i. Bylaw 2024-02 – Municipal Development Plan Bylaw..... Pages 58-113

CIII. Other Business

- i.

7. IN-CAMERA (closed session)

- A. L.O Report to Council
- B. -

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

- A. Administration/ Finance
- B. Public Works
 - i. Change in Scope for ISL Agreements
- C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation
- D. Emergency/Protective Services
- E. Legislative /& Planning /Development
- F. Other Business

9. ADJOURNMENT

M.D. of Ranchland No. 66
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

The meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 was held in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office located at the Chain Lakes Provincial Park on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, commencing at 10:30 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Ron Davis, Reeve
Harry Streeter, Deputy Reeve
Cameron Gardner, Councillor

Robert Strauss, CAO
Sheldon Steinke, Council Liaison
Greg Brkich, Accountant
Nikki Funk, Recording Clerk
Rick Lawson, Public Works Manager
Rick Niwa, Agricultural Fieldman

Cale Leishman, Structural Manager, ISL Engineering
Jason Warketin, Project Engineer, ISL Engineering
Mike Young, CEO, Northback
Daina Lazzarotto, Community Relations Advisor, Northback
Vern Emard, MD of Ranchland Ratepayer
J.D. Emard

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Davis called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion No. 24/02/27/052 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the agenda as amended with the addition of in-camera:
7.E – Nanton Medical Clinic Updates

CARRIED

Cale Leishman and Jason Warketin left the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion No. 24/02/27/053 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter that the minutes of the February 6th, 2024, meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA

Motion No. 24/02/27/054 MOVED Councillor Gardner that, in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, Council moves into a closed meeting at 11:44 p.m. to discuss advice from officials, per section 24, of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/055 MOVED by Reeve Davis that Council return to an open meeting at 11:59 a.m.

CARRIED

Reeve Davis recessed the meeting at 11:59 a.m.
Reeve Davis reconvened the meeting at 12:58 p.m.
Mike Young and Daina Lazzarotto joined the meeting at 12:58 p.m.
Rick Niwa joined the meeting at 12:58 p.m.
Rick Niwa left the meeting at 2:13 p.m.
Mike Young and Daina Lazzarotto left the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Reeve Davis recessed the meeting at 2:24 p.m.
Reeve Davis reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Vern Emard joined the meeting at 2:31 p.m.
JD Emard joined the meeting at 2:31 p.m.
Vern Emard left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.
JD Emard left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

BUSINESS

Motion No. 24/02/27/056 6.A.i – Bank Rec and Cheque Register
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the January 2024 bank rec and cheque register for information.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/057 6.A.ii – LAPP Update
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the update provided by CAO Strauss regarding the LAPP program, for information.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/058 6.A.iii – MD of Ranchland Insurance Update
MOVED by Reeve Davis to accept the update regarding M.D. of Ranchland's insurance costs.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/059 6.B.i – ISL Engineering Delegation
MOVED by Councillor Gardner to accept the presentation from ISL Engineering regarding watercourse crossing projects for information.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/060 6.E.i – Northback Delegation – Mike Young, CEO
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the presentation regarding Northback as provided by Mike Young, CEO, for information.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/061 6.E.ii – Delegation and Letter of Concern: Vern Emard
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to direct administration to research current road plan for

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/062 MOVED by Councillor Gardner to accept the delegation presentation provided by Vern Emard for information.
CARRIED

IN-CAMERA

Motion No. 24/02/27/063 MOVED by Reeve Davis that, in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, Council moves into a closed meeting at 3:40 p.m. to discuss advice from officials, per section 24, as well as matters involving legal privilege, per section 27, of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).
CARRIED

Rick Lawson left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Motion No. 24/02/27/064 MOVED by Reeve Davis that Council return to an open meeting at 5:02 p.m.
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

Motion No. 24/02/27/065 7.C. – Winter Public Works Hours
MOVED by Councillor Gardner to authorize a change to the personnel policy, Public Works employee hours of work change, pursuant to labour standards.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/066 7.B. – RCMP Discussion
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to direct administration draft a letter of support to RCMP Cpl. Nairn.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/067 7.A. – Liaison Officer's Report to Council
MOVED by Reeve Davis to direct administration to engage legal counsel (Carscallen, LLP) to represent the municipality in the upcoming AER hearings Ref: Northback.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/068 MOVED by Councillor Gardner to authorize administration engage legal counsel, R. Harrison, to request the AER to provide a decision on the issue of reclamation of the exploration disturbances on all land that was used for the coal exploration programs by Elan Coal Ltd, Cabin Ridge Projects Ltd and Monten Resources Alberta Operations Ltd within the boundaries of the Municipality of Ranchland No. 66.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/069 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the Liaison Officer's report to council for information.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/070 7.D. – Consolidation of Parcels
MOVED by Councillor Gardner to table the discussion about the consolidation of the parcels at 29-10-2-W5 North of the Old Man River, to the March 12th Council meeting.
CARRIED

Motion No. 24/02/27/071 7.E. – Nanton Health Clinic Update
MOVED by Reeve Davis to accept the update discussion provided
by Deputy Reeve Streeter for information.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT Being that the agenda matters have concluded, the Reeve declared the
meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

These minutes approved this 12th day of March, 2024.

Ron Davis, Reeve

Robert Strauss, Chief Administrative Officer



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR113651

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2024 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence. This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and provision of library services, and promotes knowledge-sharing to build capacity. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work happening in communities across Alberta.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

- **Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that builds the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community, and/or improves the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.
- **Enhancing Community Safety (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that engages the community to address a safety issue. This could involve crime prevention, infrastructure enhancements (for example: lighting, accessibility, traffic calming measures), and community services initiatives.
- **Partnership (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative involving a local or regional partnership that achieves results that could not have otherwise been accomplished by the municipality alone. This could involve cooperation, coordination and collaboration with other municipalities, businesses, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government to achieve a specific outcome.
- **Public Library Services (open to Library Boards serving a population over 10,000)** – Two awards will be given for library service initiatives that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation. The initiatives should demonstrate responsiveness to community needs and provide direct benefit to the public.

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- **Public Library Services (open to Library Boards serving a population under 10,000)** – Two awards will be given for library service initiatives that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation. The initiatives should demonstrate responsiveness to community need(s) and provide direct benefit to the public.
- **Red Tape Reduction (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that improves a municipal program or service by saving time, money, and resources, or impacts municipal operations by reducing regulatory, policy, or process requirements.
- **Service Delivery Enhancement (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that improves, or presents a new approach to, how a municipality can deliver a program or service.
- **Smaller Municipalities (open to municipalities with populations less than 5,000)** – An award will be given for a municipal initiative that demonstrates leadership, resourcefulness or innovation, or both, to better the community.

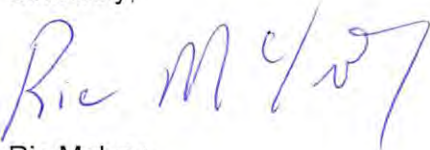
Details regarding eligibility and submission requirements are available on the Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence webpage at www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-for-municipal-excellence.aspx. The deadline for submission is **April 15, 2024**.

Questions about the program from municipalities can be sent to municipalexcellence@gov.ab.ca or program advisors may be reached at 780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Questions about the program from library boards can be sent to libraries@gov.ab.ca or program advisors can be reached at 780-427-4871 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

I encourage you to share your stories, and I look forward to celebrating these successes with your communities.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister



Head *to* Heart

RURAL MENTAL WELLNESS

A Day to focus

on mental wellbeing in our community

Join us for our first rural mental wellness day!
Stop by for a little inspiration or to learn about resources in the area

Saturday, March 23rd 12:00 – 3:00 pm (drop in style and no registration required)

Nanton Community Memorial Centre 2204 18 St Nanton

Free lunch for the first 50 guests, catered by Georgie's Café from 12-1 pm

- 12 - 1 pm:** Lunch social
- 1-2 pm:** Keynote speakers, Chris Koch & Jody Seeley will chat from 1 - 2 about living YOUR best life and ways to support friends and family with 'HOW'S YOUR 5?' five simple questions to start conversations and help each other with everyday challenges
- 12-3 pm:** Health & Wellness Fair - stop by and visit local service providers such as counsellors, agencies and wellness programs
For more details contact the Nanton Quality of Life Foundation (403) 646-2436 or visit highriverhealthfoundation.ca



Chris Koch



Jody Seeley

Co-Hosted by the High River District Health Care Foundation and the Nanton Quality of Life Foundation





Head *to* Heart

RURAL MENTAL WELLNESS

Join us as a Vendor at our first Community Mental Wellness Day in Nanton on Saturday, March 23, 2024

We are looking for health and wellness agencies, service providers and businesses to join us as vendors for the day!

- Counselling services
- Yoga, exercise, meditation, massage practitioners
- Social service agencies
- Rural mental health organizations
- Group programs that support mental wellness

This is our inaugural event and we are estimating up to 50 guests - no registration is required and it's a drop-in style event

- No fee to participate!
- Event is open to the public from 12-3pm
- A complimentary lunch will be provided to vendors and first 50 guests
- Deadline to reserve a vendor space is Friday, March 1st
- For more information or to reserve your table, call Wendy at 403.971.4555 or email wendy.kennelly@highriverhealthfoundation.ca

This event is proudly co-hosted by



**M.D. OF RANGLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Information Update (IU)**

Title: RCMP Q4 Stats and Delegation

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

Originated By: Robert Strauss, CAO

Background: The RCMP Detachment Commanders, Cpls. Thomas Nairn, (Nanton), Perry Pelletier (Claresholm) and Mark Amatto (Crowsnest Pass) will be present to meet with Council.

Strategic Pillar:
3: Public Safety & Emergency Services
5: Collaborative Partnership

Options for Action: 1.) Upon conclusion of the delegation and any follow-up questions by Council, accept for information.

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** This is a great opportunity to continue dialogue with the detachments.

Attachments: Stats and Report

CAO's Initials _____

2024/01/25

Cpl. Tom NAIRN
Detachment Commander
Nanton, AB

Dear Reeve Ron DAVIS,

Attached you will find the quarterly Community Policing Report that encompasses the October 01 to December 31, 2023 reporting period, and will provide you a quarterly snapshot of the human resources, financial data and crime statistics for the Nanton Detachment. These quarterly reports contribute greatly to ensuring that the police services provided by the Alberta Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to you, the citizens you represent and meeting your needs on an ongoing basis.

As the Chief of Police of your community, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Cpl. Tom NAIRN
Detachment Commander
Nanton Detachment



RCMP Provincial Policing Report

Detachment	Nanton
Detachment Commander	Cpl. Thomas NAIRN
Quarter	Q3
FTE Utilization Plan	2023/24
Date of Report	2023/01/25

Community Consultations

Date	2023-11-14 8:00:00 PM
Meeting Type	Meeting with Elected Officials
Topics Discussed	Regular reporting information sharing
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment member attended a council meeting at the MD of Ranchlands and presented the Nanton RCMP Q2 report.

Date	2023-10-18 7:30:00 PM
Meeting Type	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	Youth
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment staff attended A.B.Daley Elementary School and participated in "Story Dogs" with their dog Sheilagh and the children read story books to Sheilagh.

Date	2023-11-01
Meeting Type	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	Youth
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment member and staff drove around Nanton during Halloween and handed out Candy from the Police SUV and it was very well received by the community.



Date	2023-11-11 5:45:00 PM
Meeting Type	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	Diversity
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment members attended the Nanton Remembrance Day ceremony at the Bomber Command Museum cenotaph in Red Serge. Member stood honour guard at the cenotaph during the ceremony and another member laid the wreath for the Nanton RCMP during the ceremony. Members had coffee back at the Legion with the community after the ceremony.

Date	2023-11-15 7:30:00 PM
Meeting Type	Meeting with Elected Officials
Topics Discussed	Regular reporting information sharing
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment member attends the MLA Livingstone Macleod office and has coffee with the MLA as well as introducing the new Claresholm Sgt. to the MLA. Parties discuss goings on in the community and issues that need to be targeted.

Date	2023-11-24 9:00:00 PM
Meeting Type	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	Regular reporting information sharing
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment members attended a town hall with all representatives of councils from MD of Ranchlands, Stavely, Nanton, Claresholm and MD of Willow Creek. Meeting was discussing hubbing and decided that Detachments would Deintegrate, other information was gathered and questions answered.

Date	2023-12-01 5:30:00 PM
Meeting Type	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	Youth
Notes/Comments	RCMP Detachment member attended the JT Foster High School and presented on Digital Citizenship, online bullying and best practices while on social media.



Notes/Comments Presentation ran for 45mins with the member answering multiple questions from youth. Presentation was well received by school staff and youth.

Date 2023-12-01 4:00:00 PM

Meeting Type Meeting with Stakeholder(s)

Topics Discussed Education Session

Notes/Comments RCMP Detachment member attended a disaster scenario put on by the Town of Nanton and Alberta Disaster Management were participants are given a scenario of a wildfire hitting town and problem solve through it with resources and tactics.

Date 2023-11-29 9:00:00 PM

Meeting Type Meeting with Stakeholder(s)

Topics Discussed Regular reporting information sharing

Notes/Comments RCMP Detachment member and Chaplain attended the Nanton Town Hall and visited the CAO where the member updated him.



Community Priorities

<p>Priority 1</p>	<p>Enhance Road Safety</p>
<p>Current Status & Results</p>	<p>Q3 Driving Behaviour Enforcements- Q3 saw 70 driving enforcement actions taken with 70 violation tickets issued to motorists for, stop sign violations, speeding, distracted driving. Detachment is at 243 tickets issued for the year with year end goal 240. Detachment is currently over the year end goal of 240 Tickets.</p> <p>Q3 Impaired Driving Enforcements- Q3 saw 5 impaired driving enforcement actions being taken, taking 5 impaired drivers off the street. Detachment currently at 21 enforcements for the year and on track to reach year end goal of 30.</p>
<p>Priority 2</p>	<p>Communicate effectively</p>
<p>Current Status & Results</p>	<p>Q3 Foot Patrols- Q3 saw 11 foot patrols being conducted in town, downtown, special events, Campgrounds, Chain lakes and Indian Graves area. At 49 foot patrols for the year well over the goal of 40.</p> <p>Q3 Enhanced Visibility Shifts- Q3 saw 3 enhanced visibility shifts being conducted with shifts being used for traffic enforcement on long weekends, during impaired driving day Dec 02 for checkpoints. Currently at 7 shifts for the year on track to reach year end goal of 8.</p> <p>Q3 Conduct Presentations/Meetings with Community Partners- Q3 saw 14 presentations/ meetings being conducted at the schools, also presentations/meetings with with local stakeholders and elected officials. At 33 presentations/Meetings for the year and have exceeded year end goal of 12.</p> <p>Q3 School Visits by Members- Q3 saw 11 school visits being conducted by Members visiting with students and staff. At 20 visits for the year on target to reach year end goal of 40.</p>
<p>Priority 3</p>	<p>Reduce substances abuse</p>
<p>Current Status & Results</p>	<p>Q3 Drug Enforcement Actions- Q3 saw 1 drug enforcement action taken with the seizure of several grams of Methamphetamine from a vehicle collision and the driver was charged and charges before the courts. Still a few open investigations looking into drug trafficking in the area. At 6 drug enforcement actions being taken and met year end goal of 6.</p>



Priority 4

Crime Reduction

Current Status & Results

Q3 Conduct Prolific Offender Checks- Q3 a total of 4 compliance checks were completed. One compliance check came to the offender being arrested and brought before a Justice of the Peace.

Q3 Education and Awareness for Domestic Violence- Q3 saw 2 Domestic Violence awareness and education actions being taken with 1 being a media release raising awareness to the public and 1 being educational with the RCMP Domestic Violence Coordinator educating the Members.

Q3 Operation Street Sweep- Q3 saw 1 operation street sweep being conducted on Dec National impaired enforcement day were Members worked with the Sheriffs and local RCMP traffic unit. The operation saw 150 vehicles being stopped, 3 impaired drivers taken off of the road, 3 violation tickets being issued for no insurance, expired registration and a suspended driver being taken off of the road. At 3 operation street sweeps being conducted thus far and on track to meet year end goal of 4.



Crime Statistics¹

The following table provides policing statistics on actual offences within the periods listed. Please see Appendix for additional information and a five-year comparison.

Category	October - December			January - December		
	2022	2023	% Change Year-over-Year	2022	2023	% Change Year-over-Year
Total Criminal Code	51	59	16%	229	200	16%
<i>Persons Crime</i>	22	12	-45%	67	50	-25%
<i>Property Crime</i>	25	41	61%	131	114	-13%
<i>Other Criminal Code</i>	4	6	50%	31	36	16%
Traffic Offences						
<i>Criminal Code Traffic</i>	1	1	0%	28	10	-64%
<i>Provincial Code Traffic</i>	164	136	-17%	932	795	-15%
<i>Other Traffic</i>	0	1		4	3	-25%
CDSA Offences	2	1	-50%	2	0	-100%
Other Federal Acts	0	1		4	6	50%
Other Provincial Acts	19	33	74%	120	93	-23%
Municipal By-Laws	2	1	-50%	8	11	38%
Motor Vehicle Collisions	57	57	0%	153	183	20%

1. Data extracted from a live database (PROS) and is subject to change over time.

Trends/Points of Interest

Quarter 3 closed off with mostly favorable results. We see a decline in persons crime with 12 files as per 22 files the previous year. We see an incline in property crime with not much spike from offences related to stolen property but the incline is seen from fraud investigations as fraud files seem to continually increase in the community.



Provincial Police Service Composition Table²

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Soft Vacancies ³	Hard Vacancies ⁴
Police Officers	4	3	1	0
Detachment Support	2	1	0	0

2. Data extracted on December 31, 2023 and is subject to change.

3. Soft Vacancies are positions that are filled but vacant due to maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc. and are still included in the overall FTE count.

4. Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

Comments

Police Officers: Of the four established positions, three officers are currently working with one officer on special leave (Graduated Return to Work). This position has been backfilled with a lateral Member expecting to arrive in April and there are no hard vacancies. The Corporal commander position is in the process of being reclassified to a Sergeant position, this ultimately will allow for expansion of the Detachment with new positions in the future.

Detachment Support: There is one established position with one resource working. There are no hard vacancies at this time. There has recently been a second established position created which is in the process of being advertised to fill that position.

Quarterly Financial Drivers

**M.D. OF RANGLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Information Update (IU)**

Title: **Emergency/Protective Services Update**

Meeting Date: **March 12, 2024**

Originated By: **Robert Strauss, CAO**

Background: Kelly Starling will be giving an update of events that have transpired since the last meeting he attended.

Strategic Pillar: 3: Public Safety & Emergency Services
 5: Collaborative Partnership

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** As per Kelly Starling's Report

Attachments: Emergency Services Report January and February 2024 & 2023 Year in Review report.

CAO's Initials _____

Emergency Services

Key Action Items:

Fire Services:

1. WCES had four calls for service within the MD of Ranchland in January; three of which were motor vehicle accidents, and one was for an outside fire.
2. The NFPA 1001 Level 2 class reconvened after the Christmas break.
3. First Aid training was completed at the Claresholm Fire Department.
4. WCES staff has been making arrangements to host an EV course for contracted fire services on February 24, 2024.
5. WCES staff has been making arrangements to host a Livestock Emergency Response course for contracted fire services, local veterinarians and enforcement agencies on February 17, 2024.
6. WCES staff has scheduled a meeting on February 28, 2024 with Fire Chiefs from Foothills County, MD of Pincher Creek, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta Wildfire and contracted fire stations within Willow Creek to review mutual aid response in the MD of Ranchland.

Community Peace Officers:

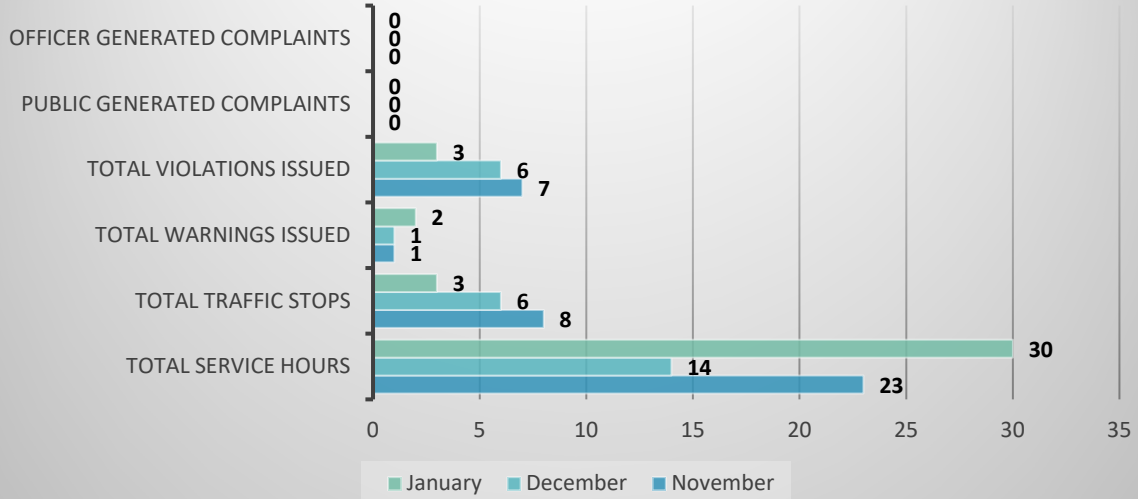
7. Process for CPO access to JOIN (Justice Online Information Network) was completed.
8. CPOs had successful convictions at traffic court trials.
9. CPOs were requested to increase patrols on the Forestry Trunk Road as a result of increased activity and damage to municipal infrastructure (gates).
10. On February 1st CPOs will be transitioning to the MRF Enforcement Center Records Management System.
11. WCES staff assisted with the scheduling of a meeting for the Board of Directors for the Willow Creek Rural Crime Watch Association on February 2, 2024.
12. Noteworthy charges in January: *148 km/h in a 100 km/h zone on Hwy 22; and 163 km/h in a 110 km/h zone on Hwy 2.*
13. Three violation tickets and two warnings were issued within the MD in January.

Emergency Management:

14. Five members of the regional AHIMT attended an in-person Scribe Workshop that was organized and hosted by WCES staff at the Town of Claresholm.
15. Members of the regional AHIMT attended an ICP Activation and ICS 214 form Drill.
16. Eleven members of the regional AHIMT completed ICS 200 training, which was organized and hosted by WCES staff at the Town of Claresholm.
17. Firefighters from Station 14 completed Basic Emergency Management training.
18. Updates to the appendices of the RMEMP continued in preparation for the upcoming (Internal) Joint Emergency Management Agency meeting in February.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

MD of Willow Creek Peace Officer (Ranchland)



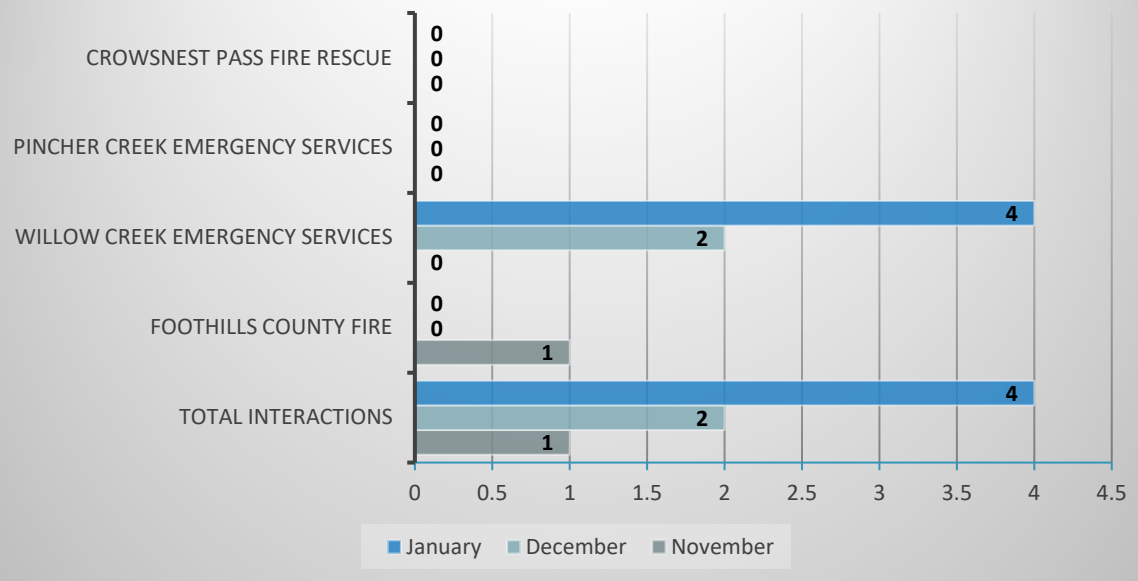
Priorities

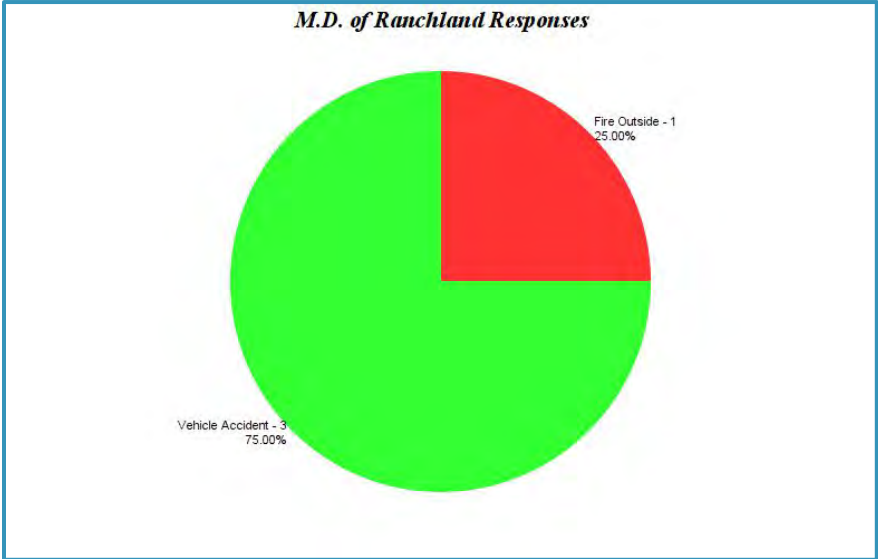
2024 priorities will be set at the March 12, 2024 Council meeting

Percentage Complete

Change from Last Month

Emergency Events by Fire Station





Emergency Services

Key Action Items:

Fire Services:

1. WCES had six calls for service within the MD of Ranchland consisting of three motor vehicle accidents, two medical assists and one public service (assist police).
2. The 1001 Level 2 students continued their training, and final testing is scheduled for the end of March.
3. WCES staff assisted the MD of Ranchland with a fire drill.
4. WCES staff continued with instructing the 11 students enrolled in the Granum Fire Academy.
5. WCES staff organized and hosted a one-day Livestock Emergency Response course. Members from all five contracted fire departments, local veterinarians and law enforcement attended the training.
6. WCES staff organized and hosted an EV course that was attended by members from all five contracted fire departments.
7. WCES staff attended a meeting of the executive for the Willow Creek Rural Crime Watch Association.
8. WCES staff organized and hosted a meeting of Fire Chiefs for the municipalities that provide mutual aid within the MD of Ranchland to review and discuss response areas.

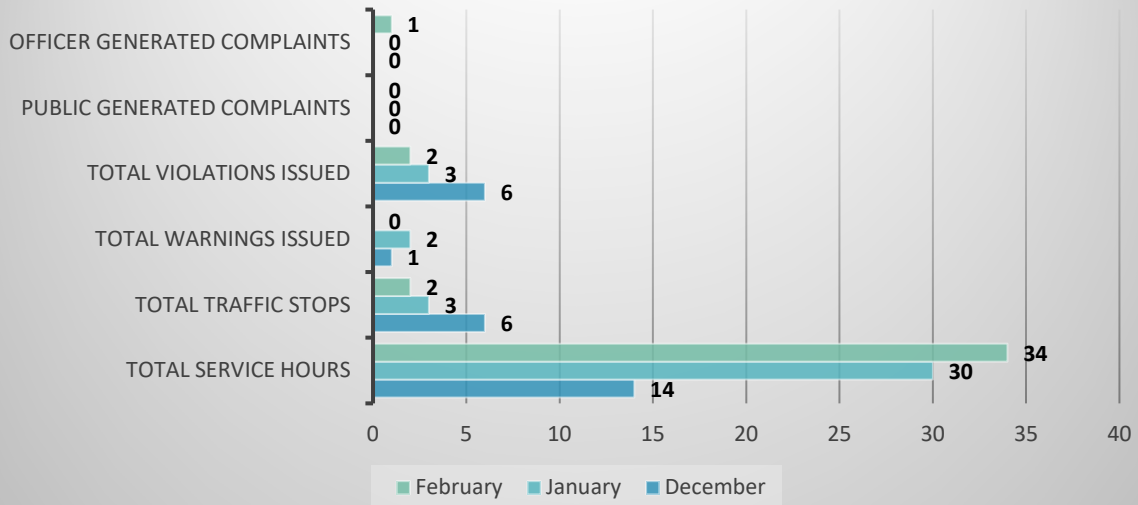
Community Peace Officers:

9. CPOs completed a public lands familiarization training session.
10. CPOs completed an online Alberta Wildfire Orientation course. This course is a requirement for authorities under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*.
11. CPOs completed e-ticket training for the MRF system.
12. CPOs participated in the Livestock Emergency Response course.
13. CPOs assisted fire crews with the redirection of traffic on Hwy 22 as result of poor winter driving conditions on Hwy 533.
14. CPOs attended the mutual aid meeting in Ranchland to introduce themselves to the Fire Chiefs from the other municipalities and Alberta Wildfire.
15. As volunteer members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, CPOs presented medals to the winners of the cross-country skiing event in Calgary for the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.
16. *Noteworthy charges in February: while on regular patrol CPOs observed a semi truck hauling a large unsecured load of hay on Highway 2 south of Fort Macleod. Officer initiated a traffic stop and noted that the load had no means of securement. The driver was educated on proper load securement requirements, and safely made it to the destination.*
17. Two violation tickets were issued within the MD in February.

Emergency Management:

18. An (internal) Joint Emergency Management Agency meeting was held to review the new Regional Municipal Emergency Management Plan.
19. WCES staff completed AEA Authorized User training.
20. WCES staff attended an AEMA Resilience Builders Information Session.

MD of Willow Creek Peace Officer (Ranchland)



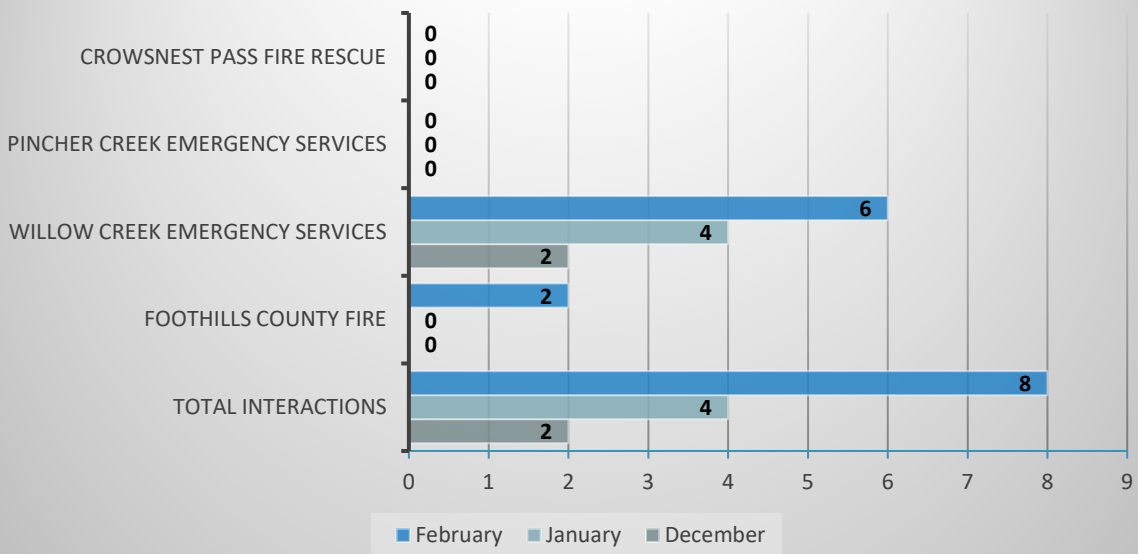
Priorities

2024 priorities will be set at the March 12, 2024 Council meeting

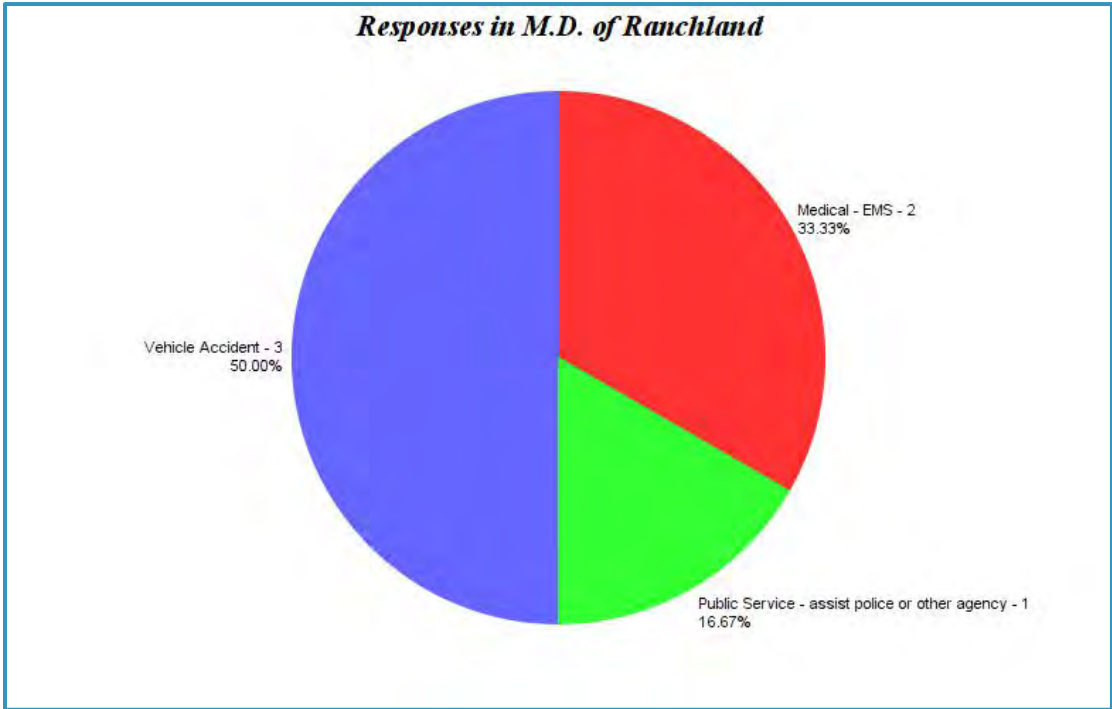
Percentage Complete

Change from Last Month

Emergency Events by Fire Station



EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT – MARCH 2024



Livestock Emergency Response Course

2023 Year In Review



Prepared by
Kelly Starling



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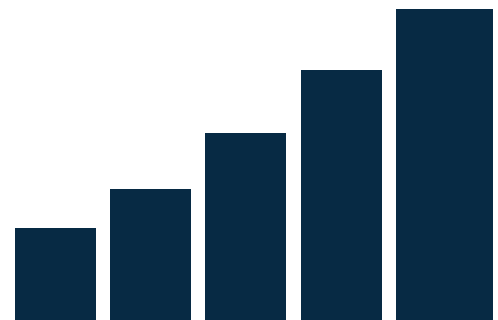
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Message from the Director of Emergency Services

On behalf of Willow Creek Emergency Services (WCES), thank you for taking the time to read through the WCES 2023 Year-In-Review. I trust that this overview will provide you with valuable insights into the wide range of services our department delivers.

It is an honor to serve as the Director of Emergency Services in the community and area that I grew up in. As the Director of Emergency Services, I am committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, and I look forward to working with all of you to achieve this goal.

I am extremely proud of our team and their accomplishments. We are a vibrant department that values our past, grasps present opportunities, and embraces the challenges of the future. Our personnel takes great pride in serving the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the MD of Willow Creek, the Town of Stavely and the MD of Ranchland.

I welcome any questions or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to contact me at (403) 625-3351 ext. 225, or by email at kelly@mdwillowcreek.com.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are dedicated to serving the community.

Best regards,
Kelly Starling
Director of Emergency Services

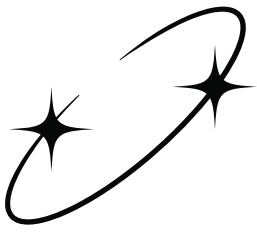


Organizational Chart



If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself ~ Henry Ford





Highlights from 2023



310 Tickets Issued



77 Medical Assists



226 Files Investigated



11 Structure Fires



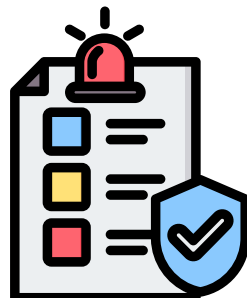
47 Outside Fires



458 Burn Permits Issued



82 MVCs



New Regional MEMP approved

Budget Review



2023 Budget Actuals

Emergency Services	\$497,700.00
Contracted Fire Departments	\$542,480.00
Community Peace Officer	\$361,387.00

2023 Capital Purchase Highlights



SCBAs \$221,000.00
Fort Macleod FD



\$22,000.00

- Ground Monitor (GFD)
- Thermal Imaging (NFD)
- Ice Board (SFD)



Washing Machine
\$15,000.00
Stavely FD



\$248,350 CPO Trucks



2023 Council Priorities

MD of Willow Creek

Implementation Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement	100%
Support Rural Crime Watch within the municipality	100% complete and continuing to support initiative into 2024
Increase Public Safety through Emergency Services and Community Peace Officer Program	100%

Town of Stavelly

Unsightly Properties	90%
Traffic Safety	65%



2023 Council Priorities continued

MD of Ranchland

Patrols - to be a presence in the community and to identify problem areas	100%
Collaboration with other agencies serving the Ranchland area	100%
Traffic Safety - rules of the road infractions and assist Ag Dept. with invasive species checks	100%

Contracted Services

Town of Stavelly

- Community Peace Officer Services
- Regional Emergency Management Program
- Safety Codes Services Contract

Town of Fort Macleod

- Safety Codes Services Contract

MD of Ranchland

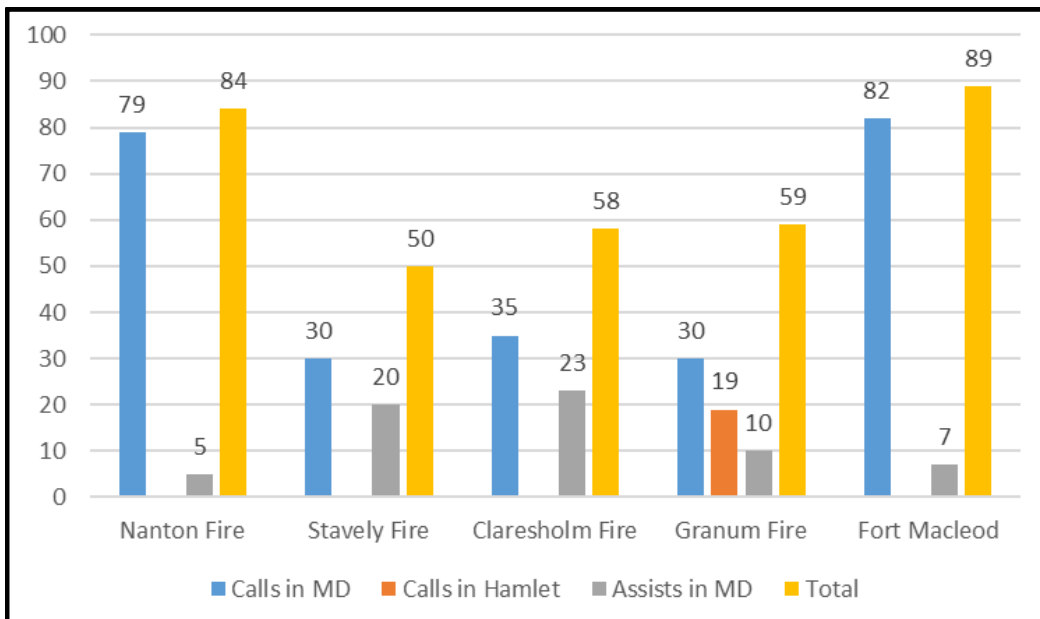
- Director of Emergency Services & Fire Chief Services
- Community Peace Officer Services
- Regional Emergency Management Program



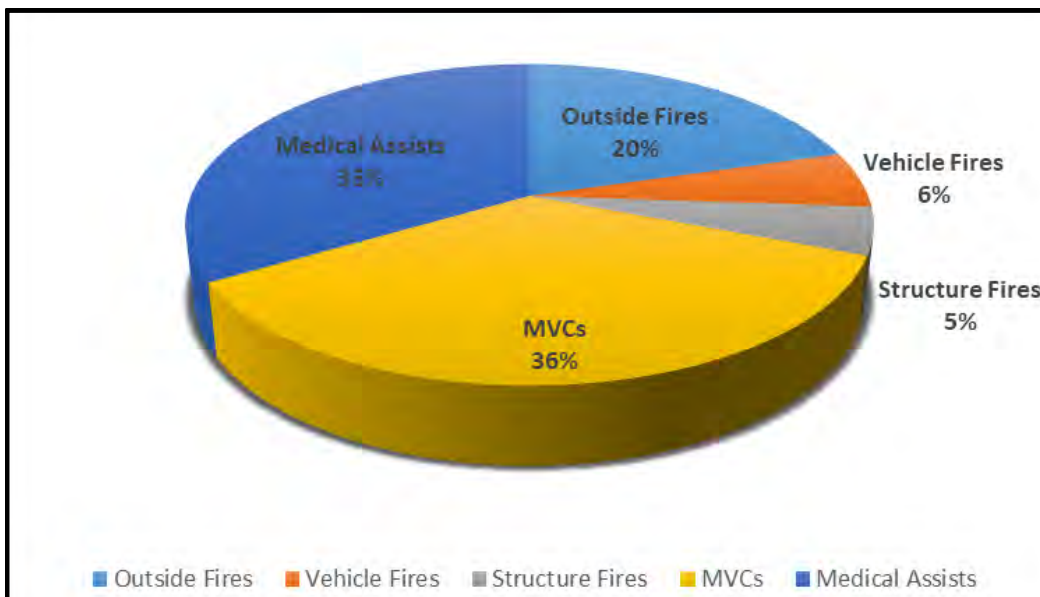
Year In Review Fire Services



Summary of Station Calls



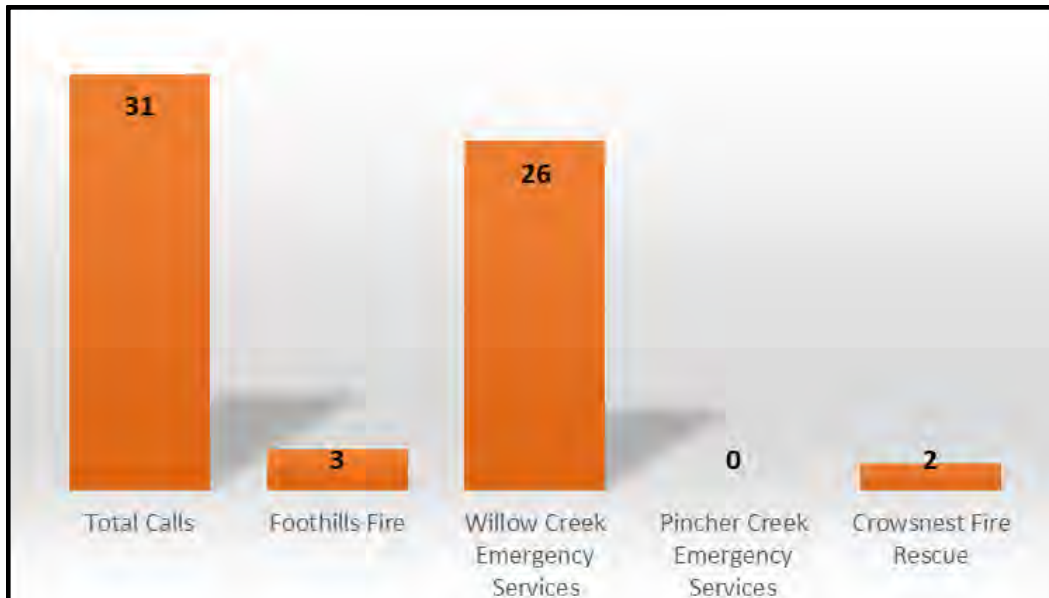
Highlights of Events



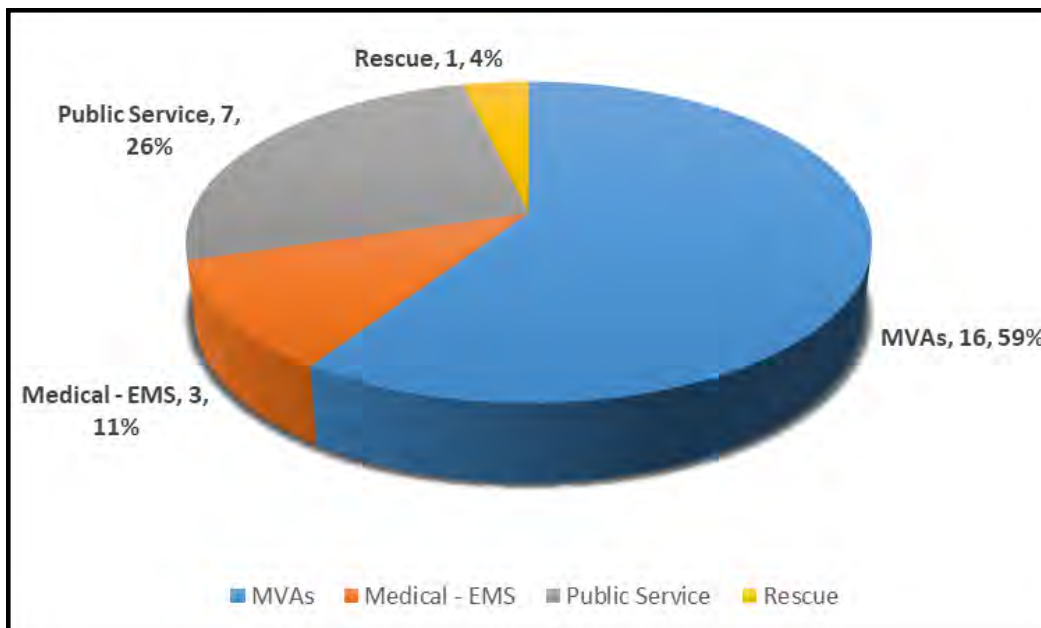
Year In Review Fire Services



Summary of Calls by Fire Station in the MD of Ranchland



Summary of WCES Response in the MD of Ranchland



Year In Review Fire Services



Notable Events & Initiatives

- A new wildland unit (Bush 14-2) was put into service at the Granum Fire Department
- New MSA G-1 SCBAs were rolled out at Station 15 in Fort Macleod
- Expanded the MFAP Program (added services) for all fire department personnel throughout the MD of Willow Creek
- MD of Ranchland signed a grant agreement with FRIAA for a Wildfire Mitigation Assessment Project
- Responded to an outside fire (bale stack) requiring a multi-station multi-day response east of Nanton
- Large diesel tanker spill on land within Chain Lakes Provincial Park requiring a multi-agency response
- Open house at the MD of Ranchland to launch the Wildfire Mitigation Assessment Project
- Provided a standby crew for Nanton Fire so their membership could attend their Firemen's Ball
- Provided a standby crew for Vulcan County so their membership could attend their Firefighters Gala
- Installed a new SCBA fill station and compressor in Fort Macleod to support the earlier SCBA rollout
- Assisted AB Wildfire with roving patrols in the Forest Protection Area during the May long weekend
- Provided mutual aid assistance for emergencies in Foothills County, Blood Tribe and Lethbridge County
- Assisted a stranded boater on Clear Lake
- Assisted the RCMP with a lost hiker
- FireSmart presentation was provided to Moon River Estates residents
- Provided medical standby for local rodeos
- Completed FireSmart Home Assessments in both the MD of Ranchland and Moon River Estates
- Participated in the Willow Creek Outdoor Adventure Day hosted by Willow Creek Agricultural Services and the New Oxley Ranche



Year In Review Fire Services



Notable Events & Initiatives *(continued)*

- Provided fire standby and participated in Canada Day celebrations in Granum
- Responded to a large bale fire south of Fort Macleod requiring three departments over a 24-hour period
- Responded to a fire in the Forest Protection Area that required the use of all three MD UTV apparatus
- Responded to a light aircraft crash west of Claresholm
- Provided a standby crew to assist Vulcan County during a funeral for one of their members
- Duncan McLean joined the WCES team as a new Deputy Fire Chief
- Granum Fire Academy started up again with 10 students taking the NFPA 1001 Level 1 training
- Responded to a cattle liner rollover on Highway 520



Year In Review Fire Services



Training

- WCES staff provided the following training to contracted Fire Department members:
 - NFPA 1041 Level 1 Instructor course
 - Ice Rescue training
 - NFPA 1001 Level 1 course
 - NFPA 1002 Pump Driver course
 - First Aid training
 - NFPA 1091 Traffic Safety course
 - NFPA 1002 Pump Operator course
 - Grain B Rescue training
 - NFPA 1072 Hazmat Operations course
 - NFPA 1001 Level 2 course
- WCES staff attended the following training
 - Protecting Privacy and Access to Information
 - UTV/ATV Training course
 - NFPA 1403 Live Fire Instructor course
 - Train-the-Trainer for high performance CPR
 - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training



Year In Review CPO Services



Fines, Warnings and Positive Tickets

- 310 total citations were generated (fines & warnings), which is up 84 from 2022.
 - 225 Fines issued (up 70 from 2022) totaling an approximate \$69,504.00 in fine revenue
 - 70 Warnings issued (verbal & written)
 - 15 Positive Tickets issued to youth in the communities of Granum & Stavely
- 226 Public Complaints & Officer Generated Reports created (up 42 from 2022)
 - 196 Public Complaint (10-71) Reports (up 56 from 2022)
 - 30 Officer Generated Reports (down 14 from 2022)

2023 Daily Event Officer Hours & District Statistical Summary

- Hamlet of Granum: 240 hrs (50 Public Complaints, 8 OGRs, 25 Tickets Issued, 10 Warnings Issued)
- Town of Stavely: 192 hrs (49 Public Complaints, 3 OGRs, 6 Tickets Issued, 8 Warnings Issued)
- MD of Ranchland: 394 hrs (3 Public Complaints, 5 OGRs, 55 Tickets Issued, 12 Warnings Issued)
- MDWC District 1 - Nanton: 216 hrs (11 Public Complaints, 2 OGRs, 17 Tickets Issued, 10 Warnings Issued)
- MDWC District 2 - Stavely: 214 hrs (24 Public Complaints, 3 OGRs, 17 Tickets Issued, 4 Warnings Issued)
- MDWC District 3 - Claresholm: 274 hrs (15 Public Complaints, 3 OGRs, 26 Tickets Issued, 4 Warnings Issued)
- MDWC District 4 - Granum: 242 hrs (15 Public Complaints, 2 OGRs, 34 Tickets Issued, 7 Warnings Issued)
- MDWC District 5 - Fort Macleod: 371 hrs (29 Public Complaints, 4 OGRs, 45 Tickets Issued, 15 Warnings Issued)

Year In Review CPO Services



Notable Events / Training / Initiatives



- Notable Events & Initiatives:
 - Scott Elford joined the WCES team as a new CPO
 - Willow Creek Rural Crime Watch initiative was launched
 - New Animal Boarding Agreement was entered into for the placement of abandoned and at-large dogs
 - Positive Ticket campaign for youth in Granum and Stavelly commenced
 - Two Bike Safety events were held in the summer; one in Granum and the other in Moon River Estates
 - CPOs attended a SW Alberta multi-agency working group meeting in May regarding enforcement on the landscape (i.e., AB Sheriffs, Fish & Wildlife, Conservation Officers, Environment & Parks etc.)
 - Volunteered for Tim Hortons Camp Day in Claresholm
 - Volunteered at the Soup Bowl during Fire Prevention Week
 - Provided traffic control for cattle drives in both Willow Creek and Ranchland
 - Coordinated a JFO in the MD of Ranchland with AB Sheriffs, RCMP and three other CPO agencies
 - Two new Ford F150 first responder patrol vehicles were put into service
 - CPO Elford was selected and attended the Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference in Chicago. The LETR is an international organization that fundraises to support and raise awareness for Special Olympics
 - The CPO program received a rebrand of its crest and patch refreshing the design to acknowledge the local farming and ranching heritage, and the working relationship with the Town of Stavelly and MD of Ranchland
- Training:
 - Unsightly Property Enforcement & the MGA
 - UTV/ATV Training course
 - Commercial Weights & Dimensions course
 - Pepperball Instructor/Armorer course
 - Officer Shotgun recertification course
 - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
 - APIS - SafeRoads User Authorized Training
 - CPIC application process completed, and access granted



Year In Review Emergency Management



Regional Emergency Management Program MD of Willow Creek / Town of Stavely / MD of Ranchland

The three municipalities collectively had a vision that recognized the necessity and importance of establishing a strong emergency management program through a partnership that included the ability for internal growth and innovated thinking. All three communities have long supported the general principle of collaboration for the efficient use of tax dollars by working with neighboring municipalities to provide services. When municipalities work together, they achieve efficiencies and economies of scale that would otherwise be impossible. It was from this meeting that the concept of a Joint Emergency Management Agency under a Regional Emergency Management Program Agreement was brought forward for the approval by the respective Councils. By mid-September of 2022 all three municipalities passed new Emergency Management Bylaws and approved and executed the Joint Regional Emergency Management Program Agreement.

Summary of 2023 Training & Engagement Opportunities

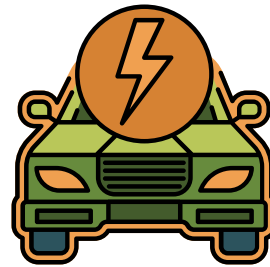
- ICS 300 and 400 training
- Operations Section Chief training
- Planning P course for members of the SZAHIMT
- ICS Safety Officer course
- Provided mentoring at Block 1 and Block 2 Emergency Management training in Vulcan County
- Attended Resilience Builders Information Sessions
- Participated in an AltaLink Wildfire Mitigation Tabletop Exercise
- Attended the 2023 South Region Water Infrastructure & Operations Branch Stakeholder Engagement Session
- Conducted an Evacuation Drill for the residents of Moon River Estates
- Hosted an Intermunicipal DEM meeting
- Toured the Provincial Stockpile with AEMA Field Officers
- Attended a stakeholder session with Alberta Transportation regarding winter road closures and detours
- Organized and attended individual Emergency Advisory Committee meetings to review the new Regional Emergency Management Plan. Each Council has approved the new Plan.

2024 Training & Planned Capital Purchases

Fire Training



NFPA 1001 Lvl 2



EV Course



NFPA 1002 Pump Driver & Operator



Livestock Emergency Response



NFPA 1051 Wildland



NFPA 1006 Angle Rescue



NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor & NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Level 1

2024 Training & Capital Purchases

CPO Training



**DG on Highways
Inspector**



**Public Lands
Familiarization Workshop**



**Shotgun & Pepperball
Recertification**



**OC & Baton
Recertification**



Emergency Vehicle Operations Course

Capital Purchases



**\$185,000.00 SCBAs
Nanton FD**



**\$145,000.00 Wildland Unit
Stavely FD**



**\$15,000.00 Washing
Machine Granum FD**



**\$9,000.00 High Volume Hose
Granum FD**



**Contributed Asset
\$62,350.00
Side x Side & Skid Unit
Fort Macleod FD**



**\$25,000.00 Trailer for
Side x Side
Fort Macleod FD**



Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 For Decision

Date Submitted: March 7, 2024

Originated by: Kelly Starling, Director of Emergency Services

Subject: Potential Additional Authorities for CPOs

RECOMMENDATION

Option #1 is recommended.

POLICY DIRECTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY PILLAR 5: Collaborative Partnerships

Key Initiative: Effective programs and service delivery that meet the needs of the community.

Measures: Level of participation and cooperation between the MD and government agencies on issues directly affecting the MD including, but not limited to, environmental, public lands, emergency, and wildfire mitigation.

SUMMARY

Council requested that administration investigate the requirements for seeking additional authorities under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* for a further review and discussion of service level needs within the municipality given the significant public land base and the overlapping boundary of the Forest Protection Area.

BACKGROUND

Council recently requested that administration review the current appointments of the Community Peace Officers to investigate whether any additional authorities may be required to assist / support other agencies with enforcement activities on the landscape, including public lands.

Currently, the CPOs while acting within the scope of their employment can enforce the following legislation and all regulations thereunder, and serve court documents relating to the:

Animal Protection Act	Dangerous Dogs Act
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Part 9, Division 2)	Fuel Tax Act
Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act	Petty Trespass Act
Provincial Administrative Penalties Act	Provincial Offences Procedure Act
Tobacco, Smoking, and Vaping Reduction Act	Traffic Safety Act (including the Off-Highway Vehicle Reg)
Trespass to Premises Act	

From the legislation noted above, below is a list of some of the violations that the CPOs can enforce under their **current appointments**:

- *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (Part 9, Division 2) **Waste** – this covers waste on public land, on a highway, on land owned or administered by a local authority, on land owned by another person or on, into or under water or ice. This section also addresses waste moved to any of these locations by natural forces.

- *Petty Trespass Act* – this act creates an offence for unauthorized entry onto private land.
- *Trespass to Premises Act* – this act prohibits and creates an offence for unauthorized entry onto a premises or land, which is not covered under the *Petty Trespass Act*.
- *Traffic Safety Act* – CPOs can enforce all of Part 6 regarding Off-Highway Vehicles whether they are on a highway, municipal road or in another location other than a highway (i.e., public land, designated trail system) with respect to registration, insurance, driving without due care and attention, driving on any portion of a highway, wearing of safety helmets etc.

Potential authorities for additional enforcement capabilities on the landscape:

- CPOs would need to be granted authority under the *Public Lands Act* and associated regulations to conduct enforcement activities in relation to operating a motorized vehicle off a designated trail (s. 185 *PLAR*), wheels in water (s. 43 *PLAR*) and accessing land that is subject to a grazing lease etc. (s. 5 Rec. Access Reg). Authority under the *Public Lands Act* would need to be approved and granted through the ministry responsible for the Act (Forestry and Parks). This would require the submission of a business case identifying the need for the specific appointments sought, along with a MOU with Forestry and Parks.
- The process for granting of authorities under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act (FPPA)* requires the approval and support of the Wildfire Management Branch of Forestry and Parks. This process is already underway for the following authorities:
 - *FPPA* – s. 14(3)(b), 15, 18, 20, 21(3), 22 and 35; and
 - *Forest and Prairie Protection Reg* – s. 3 (a-e), 6(1), 6(2) (a) and (b) and 7.
 - The granting of these authorities under the *FPPA* will allow MDWC Peace Officers to provide enforcement within the Forest Protection Area to address concerns observed during the normal course of their duties, or when requested by the lead agency to provide support during Fire Bans and Forest Closures. Their authorities will be restricted to those listed above and will require some additional training.

OPTIONS

- Option #1 Motion “To authorize administration to proceed with the administrative process to seek the following additional authorities for the Peace Officers under the *Public Lands Act* and associated regulations: ……….”
- Option #2 That alternative direction be provided.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

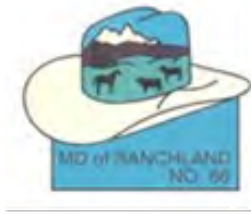
No budget implications as CPO services are provided under a Shared Services Agreement with the MD of Willow Creek. It is noted that staff time will be required to complete the necessary administrative processes (business case, MOU, policies etc.) and training for the additional authorities.

ATTACHMENTS

- Portions of the following Acts & Regs.
 - *Public Lands Administration Regulation*
 - *Recreational Access Regulation*
 - *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*

- *Forest and Prairie Protection Regulation*
- *Procedures Regulation*

Prepared By:	Reviewed and Approved for Agenda
	
_____ Director / CAO / Committee	_____ Chief Administrative Officer



Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 For Decision

Date Submitted: March 7, 2024

Originated by: Kelly Starling, Director of Emergency Services

Subject: 2024 Priorities for Fire & Emergency Services, CPO Services and the Regional Emergency Management Program

RECOMMENDATION

Option #1 is recommended.

POLICY DIRECTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY PILLAR 5: Collaborative Partnerships

Key Initiative: Effective programs and service delivery that meet the needs of the community.

Measures: Level of services after ICFs are in place compared to current level of services.

SUMMARY

Administration is seeking confirmation of priorities for the 2024 calendar year in relation to Fire and Emergency Services, Community Peace Officer services and the Regional Municipal Emergency Management Program.

BACKGROUND:

The MD of Ranchland and the MD of Willow Creek have the following program agreements in place for shared services:

- Community Peace Officer Shared Services Agreement (April 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024);
- Regional Emergency Management Program Agreement (September 12, 2022, to December 31, 2025); and
- Director of Emergency Services and Fire Chief Services Agreement (January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2025).

The priorities for 2023 were as follows, and are listed below in no specific order:

- Patrols – to be a presence in the community and to identify problem areas.
- Collaboration with other agencies serving the Ranchland area.
- Traffic Safety – rules of the road infractions and assist the Ag Dept. with invasive species checks (slight increase to areas of traffic safety and excessive speed violations).

OPTIONS

Option #1 Motion “To carry forward the three priorities from 2023, and to add two other priorities in relation to current programming being the “Implementation of the Regional Emergency Management Program” and the “Completion of Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring municipalities for fire and rescue services”.

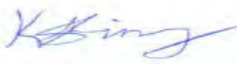
Option #2 That alternative or additional priorities be provided.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No budget implications anticipated as the priorities recommended are in relation to current programming agreements in place. The Mutual Aid Agreement established with the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass will serve as the template to move forward with individual agreements with Foothills County, MD of Pincher Creek, and the MD of Willow Creek.

ATTACHMENTS

- None

Prepared By:	Reviewed and Approved for Agenda
	
_____ Director / CAO / Committee	_____ Chief Administrative Officer

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

BYLAW NO. 2024-02

BEING a bylaw of Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 in the Province of Alberta, to amend Bylaw No. 02-03, being the Municipal Development Plan for the municipality.

WHEREAS Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 Council is amending the Municipal Development Plan to update and ensure the plan is in compliance with the modernized Municipal Government Act and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

AND WHEREAS THE PURPOSE of proposed Bylaw No. 2024-02 is to undertake a series of amendments as identified in the attached 'Schedule A' in order to add policies to promote orderly, economical and beneficial development, ensure provincial land use initiatives are met, address environmental considerations, ensure compatibility with subdivision and development regulations, and enhance efficiency and delivery of municipal services and the protection of municipal infrastructure.

AND WHEREAS the municipality must prepare a corresponding bylaw and provide for its consideration at a public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority and subject to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, the Council of Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 in the Province of Alberta duly assembled does hereby enact the following:

1. That the amendments in attached 'Schedule A' are adopted and added into the Municipal Development Plan.
2. That Bylaw No. 02-03, being the Municipal Development Plan, is hereby amended.
3. This bylaw comes into effect upon third and final reading hereof.
4. That Bylaw No. 02-03 is consolidated to incorporate the amendments in 'Schedule A'.

READ a **first** time this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Reeve – Ron Davis

Chief Administrative Officer – Robert Strauss

READ a **second** time this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Reeve – Ron Davis

Chief Administrative Officer – Robert Strauss

READ a **third** time and finally PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Reeve – Ron Davis

Chief Administrative Officer – Robert Strauss

Schedule 'A'

Bylaw No. 2024-02

Amendments to the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 02-03

The following are amendments, consisting of revisions and additions, to be incorporated into the Municipal Development Plan of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66:

Vision and Mission Statement (pg 4) - Replace and Add the following text:

Vision: *The MD of Ranchland's vision is:*

"To serve the ranching community and support the sustainable use of healthy ecosystems and watersheds by creating a sustainable and safe community that harmonizes progressive change with traditional rural values, whilst protecting our natural environment."

Mission Statement:

"To protect and enhance the unique ranching heritage and to promote activities that are sustainable and compatible with it and the environment, and to support ranching and grazing as the mainstay of the municipality in conjunction with healthy ecosystems that support it, such as watersheds."

Emerging out of a series of amalgamations and annexations in 1995, the newly formed Municipal District embraced a vision for their community's future. This vision promotes the protection of the area's ranching heritage while conserving the environment. The Council and the residents share the vision, and they are unfaltering in their belief in it. The municipal development plan and its policies are to be supportive and in alignment of the overall Vision and Mission Statement of the Municipal District of Ranchland.

Plan Goals (pg 5) - Add the following text as Goals:

- To protect the present environment, watershed, local ecosystems, and natural amenities for future generations.
- To ensure land use planning decisions consider the compatibility with ranching and grazing operations and any non-agricultural development is suitably managed to not negatively impact residents, ranching, grazing lands, watersheds, or municipal infrastructure such as roads.
- To protect the Municipal District of Ranchland's interests as they relate to Section 619 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and ensure the Province (i.e., Government of Alberta) is aware of local interests and issues as they relate to matters pertaining to Section 619 of the MGA.

Land Use Issues, General Land Use (pg 17) – Revise and Add the following text:

Change the words "Public Lands Division of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development" to the "Crown".

Add (and remove strikethrough) the following text: The Crown (provincial government) ~~department~~ should require, as a condition of its disposition, that the lessee also receive development approval from the Municipality for any activity that is subject to part 17 of the Municipal Government Act.

Future Land Uses (pg 19) – Revise the text to read:

The Council for the Municipal District of Ranchland endorses the following land use concepts and objectives with regard to future development within its boundaries:

Add the following Land Use Concepts and Objectives (pg 20):

- Mineral extraction, aggregate excavation, mining activities and coal exploration should only be carried out in alignment with the vision and objectives established by the MD and this plan.
- Ranching and grazing activities are considered the principal land use of the MD of Ranchland and other land uses and development should only be considered in regard to compatibility with agricultural operations.

Development Criteria (pg 24) - Revise and add text to read:

- Land Use Bylaw No. 2023-01 establishes the criteria for development within the Municipal District.

Policies

Future Land Use and Growth, Objectives (pg 26) – Revise and add text to read:

- To protect agricultural land for agricultural activities and, in particular, ranching and grazing activities.
- To ensure that non-agricultural development does not negatively impact ranching and agricultural land and that any such development aligns with the overall goals and objectives of this Plan.
- To support consultation and collaboration between the MD and the Province in decision making, especially in regard to development activities on Crown land that may impact the MD of Ranchland, landowners or disposition holders.

Crown Land, Objectives (pg 28) – Revise and add text to read:

- To recognize that activities under section 619 of the Municipal Government Act may impact matters or infrastructure of local importance and these need to be addressed as part of land use decisions.
- To identify a process for of maintaining involvement and input into subdivision and development activities within public owned land or the green zone of the municipality with respect to section 619 of the of the Municipal Government Act.

Crown Land, Policies (pg 28 & 29) – Revise and add text to read:

- 3.1 The appropriate government departments having jurisdiction on Crown lands are requested to have regard for the policies established in this plan and follow Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act for any approval that involves subdivision or development.
- 3.2 To ensure proper notification of adjacent landowners and provincial departments, and to address issues of local importance, applicants are ~~requested~~ required to obtain municipal approval for any subdivision or development on Crown land and make an appropriate Development Permit application if required by the municipality.
- 3.3 Prior to the disposition on Crown lands, the appropriate government department is encouraged to inform the Municipal District of the said disposition.
- 3.4 Mining activities and coal exploration are discretionary uses within the MD of Ranchlands in accordance with the land use bylaw. These activities may be deemed contrary to the vision and objectives established for the municipality. Should an application for commercial mining activities and coal exploration proceed under section 619 of the Municipal Government Act, the municipality requires a Development Permit application to be made to ensure issues of local importance are addressed.

Municipal Services and Transportation, Objectives (pg 28 & 29) – Add text to read:

- To ensure any subdivision and/or development that may use or impact a municipal road shall be responsible for the upgrades or maintenance of the road infrastructure at the expense of the developer.

Municipal Services and Transportation, Policies (pg 30 & 31) – Add policies and text to read:

- 4.4 The MD shall request that developers include timeframes for active use and the dates for decommission and reclamation for any permits, approvals or agreements being entered into with the municipality for construction of roads, private driveways or access roads, or other linear disturbances.
- 4.5 The MD shall discourage land use and development activities that insert new cut lines, access trails and roadways into what was previously dense forest, as additional access to public land brings added pressure to the environment and disposition holders, as the potential for increased conflict with disposition holders is a concern.
- 4.6 The protection of the MD roads during certain seasonally vulnerable weather periods throughout the year is deemed to be beneficial and the MD may control and manage road use, and may apply conditions through a permitting process, road bans, or through the application of Road Use Agreements.
- 4.7 To address municipal servicing matters, and in particular municipal roads and any potential impacts to them, the municipality will require when deemed necessary that a developer to enter into and abide by a development agreement pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* as a condition of a development permit or a subdivision approval.
- 4.8 The MD of Ranchland shall ensure that developers are responsible for any costs related to servicing or impacts to municipal infrastructure so as to not place an unnecessary burden on the MD ratepayers. The MD may require the posting of financial security or bonds be provided by developers to ensure that development permit or subdivision approval conditions are met when required by the development officer or the Municipal Planning Commission as a condition of development approval.
- 4.9 The MD of Ranchland shall manage the impacts from development and use of municipal roadways by requiring an applicant or developer to enter into either a Road Use Agreement or Road Use Maintenance Agreement with the municipality to address any road use and upgrades required, new construction, load and weight limitations, or maintenance or repair that may result from development and/or heavy truck traffic.
- 4.10 It is the objective of the MD to better manage timber harvesting (logging) operations that may impact municipal roads and the MD will, through the land use bylaw, identify a size threshold for such operations as a discretionary use that would require a development permit issued by the MD Municipal Planning Commission.
- 4.11 The MD shall strive to limit development impacts to the Highway 22 transportation corridor which is a major transportation route for commercial vehicles. The MD will encourage the Province to consider in its decision making the potential effects and increase in heavy traffic within the municipality which may negatively affect cattle and ranching operations.
- 4.12 The municipality recognizes that the Highway 22 corridor has become a tourist/public attraction as exemplified by the establishment of the Bar U National Historic Site and the designation of

the Cowboy Trail. The MD shall strive to preserve the natural beauty along this corridor from a tourism perspective as a major consideration in any land use/planning decision and the Province is encouraged to do so also.

Petroleum and Gas Facilities (pg 32 & 33) – Revise text to read:

All references to “Alberta Energy and Utilities Board” shall be changed to “Alberta Energy Regulator (AER”).

Add the following policy text (pg 34)

- 6.10 Subdivision and development applicants are required to confirm if there are any abandoned gas wells on the parcel of land subject to the proposal and are responsible for providing an abandoned gas well map to the MD in accordance with the Regulations at the time of application.

Subdivision Criteria and Requirements (pg 37) – Add text to read:

- 8.12 The Subdivision Authority shall refuse to approve any subdivision application where the subdivision of land is not expressly permitted by the Land Use Bylaw or the MD of Ranchland No. 66 Municipal Development Plan.
- 8.13 The Subdivision Authority may request information from an applicant in order to accurately evaluate the application and determine compliance with the Land Use Bylaw or other government regulations. This may include but is not limited to the provision of geotechnical information, soil analysis reports, water reports, soil or slope stability analysis, drainage information, contours and elevations of the land, engineering studies or reports, wetland reports, environmental impact assessments, utility and servicing information, and/or the preparation of a conceptual design scheme or an area structure plan may be required from the applicant prior to a decision being rendered on a subdivision application to determine the suitability of the land for the proposed use.

Development Criteria, Objectives (pg 37 & 38) – Add text to read:

- To ensure that all developments in the Municipal District of Ranchland are compatible with ranching operations and meet the overall land use objectives of the MD.
- To ensure land use activities consider the environment, the protection of grasslands, and do not threaten watersheds.
- To help protect the integrity of Highway 22 historic designation of the Cowboy Trail and the scenic attributes of the eastern slopes and its view scape.

Development Criteria, Policies (pg 38 to 40) – Revise and Add text to read:

- 9.5 No person shall construct or erect more than one dwelling unit on a parcel of land unless authorized to do so in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw and by the issuance of a development permit by the Development Authority.
- 9.6 Developers shall be required when requested by the MD or its Development Authority to enter into a Road Use Agreement or Road Use Maintenance Agreement to control traffic, manage dust control or maintenance issues if access to the development is required from a road under its control or jurisdiction.
- 9.7 The preservation of good agricultural land for ranching and agricultural purposes, in particular Canada Land Inventory Capability for Agriculture classifications 1 to 4, and grazing lands with

classifications 5 and 6, shall be highly encouraged. Land use and development decision making shall have regard to the impacts of non-agricultural development on such agricultural land.

- 9.8 Council requests that the authority having jurisdiction over development on subject lands, either municipal or Crown, shall have regard for how any proposed development may impact adjacent or area livestock, grazing and agricultural operations, water sheds, and how local municipal infrastructure and roads may be impacted prior to approving any use or development.
- 9.9 The MD will manage noxious industry as a discretionary use within its municipal Land Use Bylaw to help mitigate potential issues of such uses that typically are associated with hazardous, noxious, unsightly or offensive by products by nature of the industrial activity, and they may often not be compatible in the environment and/or be contrary to Ranchlands' vision and land use policies.
- 9.10 The following classes of industrial use may be considered in the municipality in accordance with the applicable land use district of the Land Use Bylaw:
- (i) agriculture-related industries which support ranching and agricultural production;
 - (ii) non-labour intensive industries which require relatively large areas of land, but minimal on-site improvements, services, and public amenities;
 - (iii) quarries, sand and gravel operations, and natural resource extractive uses, which are governed by the location of a natural resource and provided any potential environmental impacts are adequately addressed.
- 9.11 Land use decisions shall consider the cumulative impacts of the approval in conjunction with current and future land uses, including recreational, economic or development uses or other approvals either applied for or granted.
- 9.12 The Development Authority of the MD shall consider the effects of visual intrusion, dust, noise, traffic, and air and water pollution when evaluating applications for resource extractive type activities.
- 9.13 The MD will adopt standards through the application of the Land Use Bylaw and manage logging on privately owned lands in specific geographic locations within the municipality to ensure municipal roads are protected. Municipal planning requirements may also apply to Crown lands where authorized by the province or through the agreement with lessees.
- 9.14 The developer of lands identified to contain a historic resource shall consult the *Historical Resources Act* and Alberta Culture and Tourism and may be required to conduct a historical resource impact assessment (HRIA).
- 9.15 When making land use decisions, the municipality will:
- a) utilize and incorporate measures which minimize possible impacts to important water resources;
 - b) determine appropriate land use patterns in the vicinity of significant water resources and other water features;
 - c) establish appropriate setbacks to maintain water quality, flood water conveyance and storage, bank stability and habitat.
- 9.16 To plan and manage development in an orderly manner, an Area Structure Plan, Conceptual Design Scheme or Comprehensive Site Plan shall be required in conjunction with a

redesignation application, industrial development, recreational development, resource extraction and mining activities, or when requested by Council or the Development Authority.

- 9.17 The provision of an Area Structure Plan, Conceptual Design Scheme or Comprehensive Site Plan may be required from the applicant/developer prior to a decision being rendered on a development application to determine the suitability of the land for the proposed use. Such a plan may be required to address geotechnical information, soil analysis, soil or slope stability analysis, storm water management, road and traffic impacts, an emergency or fire response plan, and development setbacks, amongst other matters, to the satisfaction of the municipality.

Environmental Considerations, Objectives (pg 40) – Add text to read:

- To manage subdivision or development activities to ensure they do not negatively impact or threaten the vitality and health of important watersheds in the MD of Ranchland.
- To make aware the public recreational users of land, both private and public, the importance of respecting and protecting grazing lands, the environment, and watersheds, and to regulate such uses where appropriate to do so and where matters are under the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- To help protect watersheds and the headwaters and source waters in the Oldman River watershed.
- To encourage public understanding of cumulative impacts on the Oldman River headwaters and the management actions that are needed to effectively address them.
- To ensure any/all development within the municipality is environmentally balanced.

Environmental Considerations, Policies (pg 41 & 42) – Add text to read:

- 10.5 The Municipality shall discourage any subdivision or development activity that will result in the loss of habitat through the removal of riparian vegetation, especially around stream margins or which may lead to exposure of underlying soils and increased erosion, thereby increasing sediment into waterways.
- 10.6 As all agricultural endeavors depend on water, the MD of Ranchland is committed to working with the greater watershed community to ensure landowners and the greater public interests are supported in helping to maintain and protect the headwaters and source waters in the Oldman River watershed.
- 10.7 The MD supports the action plan of the *Oldman Integrated Watershed Management Plan* to manage and protect the integrity of headwaters and source waters to initiate collaborative stewardship work that will address key issues to headwater health over time, and within the capacity of participating stakeholders and the watershed community.
- 10.8 Through the implementation of criteria, standards and land use regulations in the municipal land use bylaw, the MD shall manage land use and development activities related to recreational development or use to ensure it is compatible with the environment, adjacent or existing area land uses, municipal infrastructure such as roads, and ranching and grazing operations.
- 10.9 Industrial, mining, aggregate and resource extraction related development activity should not be approved if it will negatively impact ranching and grazing operations, the watershed they are dependent on for self-sustainment and healthy grasslands, or the watersheds and associated ecosystems and riparian habitat.

- 10.10 In support of the strategic plan of Council, it is the goal of the municipality to ensure any/all development is environmentally balanced and Council and the Development Authority shall consider such in its decision making on land use matters.
- 10.11 All land use decision making on lands within the MD of Ranchland require consideration for cumulative effects and species at risk, and in particular, any critical habitat for threatened species that may exist and potentially impacted by development activities. Decision makers shall consider whether an activity will impact a species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* and any critical habitat related to that species.
- 10.12 The developer of lands identified to contain an environmentally significant site shall contact Alberta Environment and shall be required to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) when requested.
- 10.13 The municipality through its policy decisions shall work at preserving Alberta native grassland ecosystems and protecting the rolling fescue grassland of the foothills that ranchers rely on for providing the continued diversity and production of native grasses that sustain ranching.
- 10.14 The MD of Ranchland should continue to play a critical role in the Green Zone (Forest Reserve) assisting the GOA in meeting it's own management goals for those same lands both in well-established roles like enforcing the Weed Control Act, Emergency Services, road network and bridges, and less tangible services supplied to help the Province in maintaining habitat integrity and limit cumulative effects from human footprint, as these have direct impacts to the landowners of the MD.
- 10.15 The MD of Ranchland is concerned with public access to Porcupine Hills and the forest reserve north of Highway 3 and land use planning is required to consider the impact of recent activity, especially coal, in the vicinity. The MD of Ranchland is supportive of policies requiring access management that need to be adopted and required following any land exploration or other types of coal development.
- 10.16 The MD of Ranchland is not supportive of coal related activities in the headwaters of the entire South Saskatchewan River Basin due to lack of water resources, conflict with current uses, and biodiversity and environmental concerns.

**M.D. OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

Choose an item.

Title: Bylaw 2024-02

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Originated By: Robert Strauss, CAO

Background: We are working with ORRSC to commence the process for a new updated Municipal Development Plan (MDP) for the MD of Ranchland. Through discussions with ORRSC it has been determined there may be some changes to the MDP the MD of Ranchland may wish to consider initially and prior the overall large update to the MDP.

First reading of the bylaw, accomplishing the initial changes to the MDP, which are more time sensitive, is presented to Council at this meeting.

Strategic Pillar:

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. Infrastructure and Service Delivery
3. Public Safety & Emergency Services
4. Financial Sustainability
5. Collaborative Partnership
6. Community

Options for Action:

- 1.) Initiate 1st reading of Bylaw 2024-02
- 2.) Postpone 1st reading of Bylaw 2024-02

Financial Considerations: Relatively insignificant additional cost as the MD of Ranchland is part of the ORRSC organization and updates to statutory planning documents are mostly covered through the membership fees.

CAO's Review/Comments/: Discussion to follow at the March 5th , 2024 Council meeting.

Attachments: Consolidated preliminary amendments to the MD of Ranchland MDP attached in draft amendments document and email as well as Bylaw 2024 – 02.

CAO's Initials _____

THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCHLAND No. 66

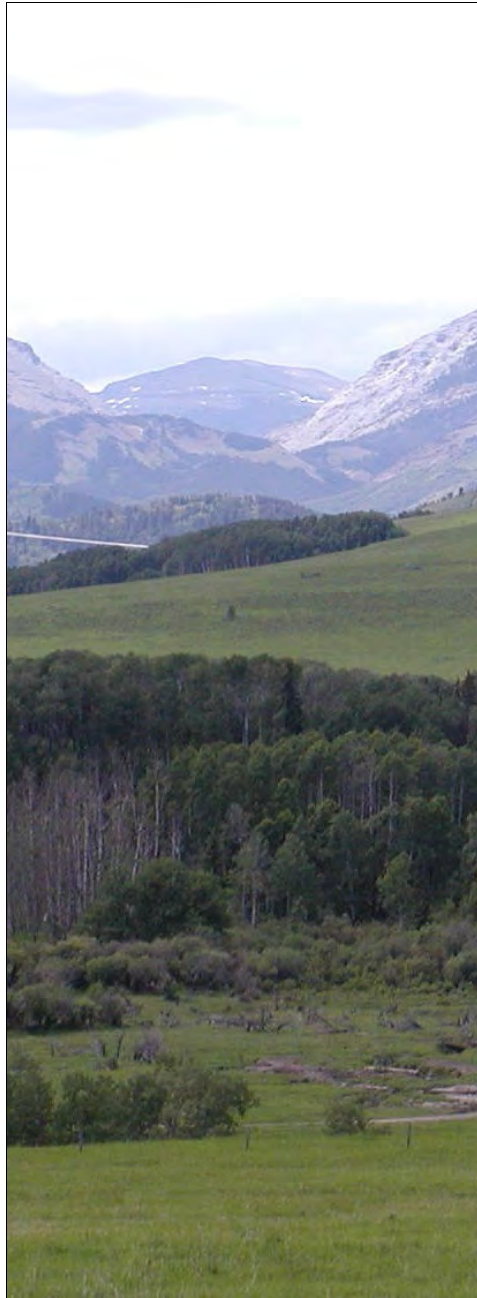
PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENTS 2024

Municipal Development Plan
Bylaw No. 02/03
November 2003

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INTRODUCTION

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains and rolling foothills of southern Alberta, the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 includes some of the finest ranching country in Canada. Located in the southwestern portion of the province,, municipal boundaries stretch north to Kananaskis Country, south to the border of the Crowsnest Pass, west to the British Columbian border and east to the ranch lands west of Willow Creek. The area possesses outstanding forestry, wildlife, and grazing resources, in addition to some of the most important watersheds in Alberta.

Administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs since the early 1900s as an Improvement District, the MD of Ranchland seized the opportunity provided by the Government to incorporate and become a self-governing municipality in 1995. As part of the transformation from an Improvement District to a Municipal District, the MD was required to develop a series of new policies, procedures and bylaws.

In a proactive effort to pursue its vision of preserving and promoting their unique ranching heritage, the MD Council initiated the preparation of this Municipal Development Plan to further reinforce the Municipality's land use goals and objectives as defined in the Land Use Bylaw.

FUNCTION OF A MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In 1995, the Alberta Planning Act was rescinded and matters relating to planning were incorporated into Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act. Under the new legislation, a hierarchy of statutory planning documents exists. Created and adopted by bylaw for the purpose of planning and managing land use, these statutory plans include Municipal Development Plans, Land Use Bylaws, Intermunicipal Development Plans, Area Structure Plans and Area Redevelopment Plans. All plans must comply with the Provincial Land Use Policies.

Under this system, the role of a Municipal Development Plan is to guide the general direction of future development and provide land use policies regarding development, while the Land Use Bylaw regulates land use and development on a site-specific basis. Section 639 of the Municipal Government Act requires every municipality to adopt a Land Use Bylaw and section 632(1) requires those municipalities with populations of 3500 or more to adopt a Municipal Development Plan, whereas municipalities with smaller populations have the choice of creating and adopting a plan.



As required, the Municipal District of Ranchland completed and adopted their Land Use Bylaw in March of 1996 but at that time did not pursue the development of a long-range plan. The preparation of a Municipal Development Plan at this time satisfies the current need to define a long-term land management strategy for the Municipality. The MD represents one of the most biologically diverse areas in the province. The ranching community has been the main contributor to the present landscape and the long-term viability of the area is dependent on the effective management of local natural resources and preservation of the Municipality's ranching heritage.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The Municipal District of Ranchland's Municipal Development Plan has been developed in accordance with section 632(3) of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended (MGA) for the purpose of identifying future land use goals, defining the long-term expectations and aspirations and clearly defining the municipality's development philosophy. The goals, objectives and policies of this Plan are reflective of the values and philosophy of the landowners and residents of the Municipal District of Ranchland. The Municipal Government Act requires that the plan provide policies on a broad range of issues. Specifically, section 632(3) of the Act states that:

A municipal development plan

(a) must address

- (i) the future land use within the municipality,*
- (ii) the manner of and the proposals for future development within the municipality,*
- (iii) the co-ordination of land use, future growth patterns and other infrastructure with adjacent municipalities if there is no intermunicipal development plan with respect to those matters in those municipalities,*
- (iv) the provision of the required transportation systems either generally or specifically within the municipality and in relation to adjacent municipalities,*
- (v) the provision of municipal services and facilities either generally or specifically,*

(b) may address

- (i) proposals for the financing and programming of municipal infrastructure,*
- (ii) the co-ordination of municipal programs relating to the physical, social, and economic development of the municipality,*
- (iii) environmental matters within the municipality,*



- (iv) the financial resources of the municipality,*
- (v) the economic development of the municipality,*
- (vi) any other matter relating to the physical, social or economic development of the municipality,*
- (c) may contain statements regarding the municipality's development constraints, including the results of any development studies and impact analysis, and goals, objectives, targets, planning policies and corporate strategies,*
- (d) must contain policies compatible with the Subdivision and Development Regulation to provide guidance on the type and location of land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities, and*
- (e) must contain policies respecting the provision of municipal, school or municipal and school reserves, including but not limited to the need for, amount of and allocation of those reserves and the identification of school requirements in consultation with affected school authorities.*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In order to allow for public participation and to meet the requirements of the Municipal Government Act, the MD of Ranchland undertook the following steps:

- conducted a survey of rate-payers of the municipality and published a summary of questionnaire results,
- published a background summary and preliminary recommendations,
- held meetings with Council and administration to discuss preliminary recommendations,
- published a draft plan,
- circulated draft plan to adjacent municipalities and affected government departments for comment,
- conducted a formal public hearing.



VISION

The MD of Ranchland's vision is:

"To serve the ranching community and support the sustainable use of healthy ecosystems and watersheds by creating a sustainable and safe community that harmonizes progressive change with traditional rural values, whilst protecting our natural environment."

MISSION STATEMENT

"To protect and enhance the unique ranching heritage and to promote activities that are sustainable and compatible with it and the environment, and to support ranching and grazing as the mainstay of the municipality in conjunction with healthy ecosystems that support it, such as watersheds."

Emerging out of a series of amalgamations and annexations in 1995, the newly formed Municipal District embraced a vision for their community's future. This vision promotes the protection of the area's ranching heritage while conserving the environment. The Council and the residents share the vision and they are unflinching in their belief in it. *The municipal development plan and its policies are to be supportive and in alignment of the overall Vision and Mission Statement of the Municipal District of Ranchland.*

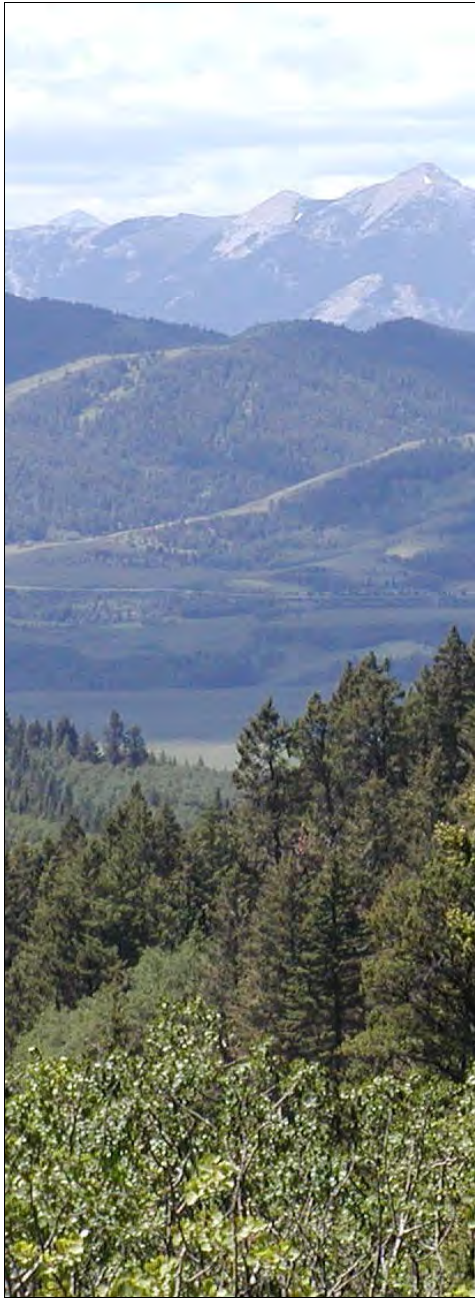
Local ranchers are cognisant of the fact that their livelihood depends on the preservation and continued existence of the current rangelands. The Municipal District of Ranchland supports this concept.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS

In pursuit of the implementation of the various policies of this plan, Council intends to accomplish the following:

- To protect the existing unique ranching heritage from the encroachment of land uses that conflict with the Municipal District's mission statement.
- To ensure, where applicable, historically and environmentally sensitive lands are considered when making land use planning decisions.

- To promote intermunicipal cooperation and partnerships that support the Municipal District of Ranchland's Mission Statement.
- To protect the present environment, watershed, local ecosystems, and natural amenities for future generations.
- To ensure land use planning decisions consider the compatibility with ranching and grazing operations and any non-agricultural development is suitably managed to not negatively impact residents, ranching, grazing lands, watersheds, or municipal infrastructure such as roads.
- To ensure the municipality has a policy framework to guide and direct appropriate subdivision and development standards incorporated into the municipal land use bylaw to manage land use within the MD.
- To protect the Municipal District of Ranchland's interests as they relate to Section 619 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and ensure the Province (i.e., Government of Alberta) is aware of local interests and issues as they relate to matters pertaining to Section 619 of the MGA.



BACKGROUND

REGIONAL LOCATION

Located in the foothills and Rocky Mountains of Alberta's eastern slopes, the Municipal District of Ranchland is one of the most picturesque areas in southern Alberta. Encompassing nearly 2500 km², the Municipality consists of forest reserves, protected areas, creeks and streams and open rangeland. Approximately 75 percent of the land base is Crown owned; privately owned land is held in large holdings. Highway 22 and Forestry Truck Road 940 traverse the MD, providing a route between the Municipal Districts of Crowsnest Pass and Pincher Creek to the south and Kananaskis Country and the Municipal District of Foothills to the north. Secondary Highways 520, 532 and 533 provide additional access.

Approximately 100 people populate the Municipal District and traditionally reside on secluded ranching operations rather than in urban areas. Currently no urban centres exist within Municipal boundaries and residents travel outside the Municipality for goods and services.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Three main events have shaped the southwestern portion of Alberta. First, the advance and retreat of the Bearpaw Sea approximately 100 to 70 million years ago; second, the formation of the mountains between 70 and 55 million years ago; and finally, a major period of glaciation.

Located in the Rocky Mountain Natural region, western portions of the Municipal District lie on a major uplift that forms the Continental Divide. Characterized by a rugged mountain environment, underlain primarily by up thrust and folded carbonate and quartzitic bedrock, surface materials vary from residual bedrock to colluvial material on the upper and mid-slopes. The lower slopes and valley bottoms consist of gravely alluvial material associated with watercourses. Major valleys trend southeast northwest through the mountains and are occupied by headwaters of many of the Province's major rivers, which drain into the Saskatchewan River System.



NATURAL SUBREGIONS

Situated at the crossroads of several natural subregions, the landscape within the Municipal District is characterized by four distinct categories that include the:

- foothills fescue grassland subregion,
- montane subregion,
- subalpine subregion, and
- alpine subregion.

Figure 1
MD of Ranchland and
Natural Sub Regions



Source: The Southern Rockies
Landscape Planning Pilot Study
Alberta Environment, 2000



The rough fescue grassland lies to the east at the edge of the foothills and mountains. The region is flat to gently rolling with a few major hill systems. Most of the bedrock is covered with extensive, thick glacial tills supporting mixed vegetation in addition to rough fescue and Parry oat grass.

The Montane subregion ranges from an elevation of 3,300 ft. to 6,300 ft., depending on the location and aspect. Chinooks are characteristic of this subregion and soils vary with the climatic conditions and complex topography. A pattern of open forests and grasslands characterize the landscape. Douglas fir and limber pine can be found on the exposed ridges of the north and east aspects, while lodge pole pine and aspen can be found in areas recently disturbed by forest fires.

The Subalpine region is found between the elevations of 4,300 ft. to 7,600 ft. and occupies the area between the montane and alpine subregions. Below freezing temperatures occur year round and the frost-free period is likely less than 30 days. Englemann spruce, subalpine fir and larch dominate the mature forests and typically occur on higher, moister sites, which have not been as subject to fire as the lodge pole pine forests.

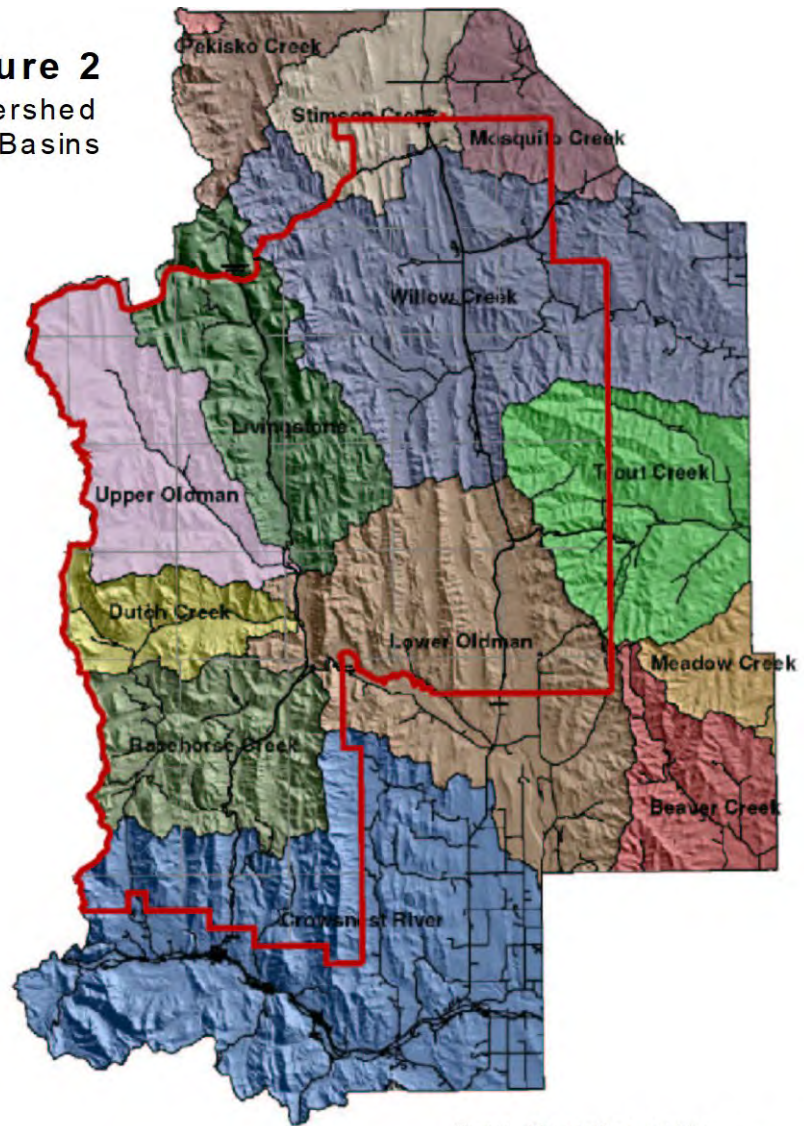
Finally, the Alpine subregion includes all areas above tree line including vegetated area, rock land, snowfields and glaciers. Much of the alpine subregion has no soil and the amount of weathered material present is too thin to qualify as soil. Climatic data for this region is limited and few records exist for winter periods. However, this is clearly the coldest subregion in Alberta and wind speeds and temperatures are more extreme than those found at lower elevations.

WATER AND WATERSHED

A significant portion of the headwaters of the Oldman River, which eventually flows into South Saskatchewan River, originates in the Livingston Range and Porcupine Hills. In southern Alberta both the Oldman and South Saskatchewan Rivers are heavily used downstream for domestic, recreational and irrigation purposes. The drainages of the Oldman, Crowsnest, and Livingston Rivers are provincially significant and an important natural resource.

Precipitation throughout the Municipal District is high, generally increasing towards the west at the higher elevations. Approximately 60 percent of the annual precipitation is in the form of snow and stream levels peak in the spring with the melting snow pack.

Figure 2
Watershed
Sub Basins



Source: The southern rock ies
Landscape planning Pot Study
Alberta Environment 2000



HISTORY OF RANCHING IN ALBERTA

An essential component of the Conservative government's national policy in the 1870s was to encourage a stable and productive settlement of the West, particularly Alberta. In an effort to promote settlement, surveyors were sent west to survey the land into townships in 1871. In 1872, the Dominion Lands Act was enacted to attract millions of hard-working farmers to the area. Continuing debate over the suitability of southern Alberta for extensive agriculture hampered the government's settlement aspirations, and prompted the government to reconsider its settlement plan.

Activities of early settlers, the North West Mounted Police and American merchandising companies convinced the government to support, at least in the short term, ranching. Southern Alberta in fact had several factors that made the area ideal for ranching. First, the warm Chinook winds regularly alleviated excessive snow accumulation; coulees provided ample shelter from the cold, and the abundance of native grasses and mountain streams provided food and water for range cattle. Second, the success of the American merchandising companies of I. G. Baker and T.C. Power in the area offered further proof of the region's suitability for ranching. These companies brought stock, capital and expertise to an area lacking all three and demonstrated the economic viability of the industry. Third, the presence of the North West Mounted Police provided both the security and the market required to launch a growing industry. Local ranchers supplied the force with beef and in turn, it represented a small but stable market. Finally, the signing of Treaty 7, including the commitment by the Federal Government to supply beef to the First Nation's people of southern Alberta, created an additional local market.

To stem the flow of money and profits across the border, the Federal Government initiated favourable land policies that encouraged the growth of a domestic cattle industry. In an effort to promote investment, Prime Minister Macdonald eagerly established a long-term lease system that would be the foundation of open range ranching. This lease system allowed the leasing of 100,000 acres for up to 21 years at an annual rental of one cent per acre. With capital expenditures kept at a minimum, investors were encouraged to commit large amounts of money.

By 1885, four major cattle companies — the Walrond Ranch, the Cochrane Ranch, the North-West Cattle Company and the Oxley Ranch — alone controlled 42 percent of the total leased land in southern Alberta. By 1895 approximately 200 ranchers controlled the entire region and provided the majority of Canadian exports of live cattle. Ranching and ranchers wielded a considerable amount of power and from 1885 to 1905 the cattle business dominated the southern Alberta economy. However, the vigorous immigration campaigns of Clifford Sifton and Frank Oliver succeeded and attracted thousands of farmers to southern Alberta and brought an end to the glory days of ranching. Within months of Oliver taking office, government leased lands, which were the foundation of ranching, were sold and opened to general settlement.



Although the closing of the lease system was the most detrimental to the cattle business, poor markets, high tariffs and freight weights and a series of hard winters all affected the industry. Many ranchers sold out but the cattlemen who remained endeavoured to place ranching on a more solid footing by scaling down operations. After the Great Depression of the 1930s, the provincial government reassessed land use policies and enacted legislation designed to re-establish viable ranching and community livestock grazing in the southern region of the province. Many of the ranchers in the area today are continuing to build on the legacy left by their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers.

POPULATION ANALYSIS

PAST TRENDS

Table 1 displays a history of the Municipal District of Ranchland population growth from 1976 to 2001. Due to boundary changes experienced by the current incorporated MD of Ranchland, historical populations are those of Improvement District 5 and 6.

TABLE 1
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND
HISTORIC POPULATION 1976-2001

Year	Population	5 Year % Change	Average Annual % Change
1976	116	—	—
1981	119	2.5	0.5
1986	128	7.5	1.5
1991	130	1.5	0.3
1996	108	-16.9	-3.4
2001	96	-11.1	-2.2

Source: Statistics Canada



The Municipality's population displays a significant drop between 1991 and 1996. This decrease can be explained by the incorporation of southern portions of the former Improvement District No. 6 into both the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Municipal District of Pincher Creek, taking a percentage of the population with it.

TABLE 2
POPULATION BREAKDOWN FOR THE
MD OF RANCLAND 1996

Age Group	Males	Females	Total Population by Age Group	Percentage of Total Population
0-4	5	5	10	8.3
5-9	0	0	0	0.0
10-14	5	5	10	8.3
15-19	10	5	15	12.8
20-24	5	0	5	4.1
25-29	0	0	0	0.0
30-34	5	0	5	4.1
35-39	5	5	10	8.3
40-44	5	5	10	8.3
45-49	0	5	5	4.1
50-54	5	5	10	8.3
55-59	5	5	10	8.3
60-64	5	0	5	4.1
65-69	5	0	5	4.1
Over 70	10	10	20	16.9
Total	70	50	120	100.0

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences between the total population and the breakdown of the age structure will occur.

Table 2 and Charts 1 and 2 depict a fairly even split between the males and females for each of the census periods and they indicate an aging population. Approximately 42.0 percent of the population is over the age of 50, but a healthy 29.4 percent of the residents are under the age of 19. These statistics indicate that while the municipal population will not grow at a dramatic rate in the years to come, families continue to have children at a moderate rate.

CHART 1 Municipal District of Ranchland

1996 Population Structure

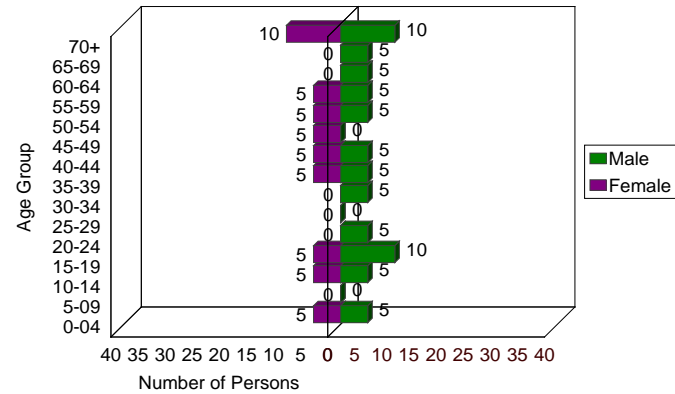
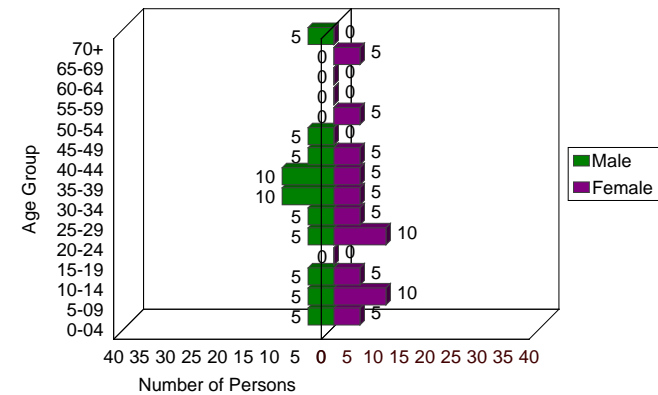
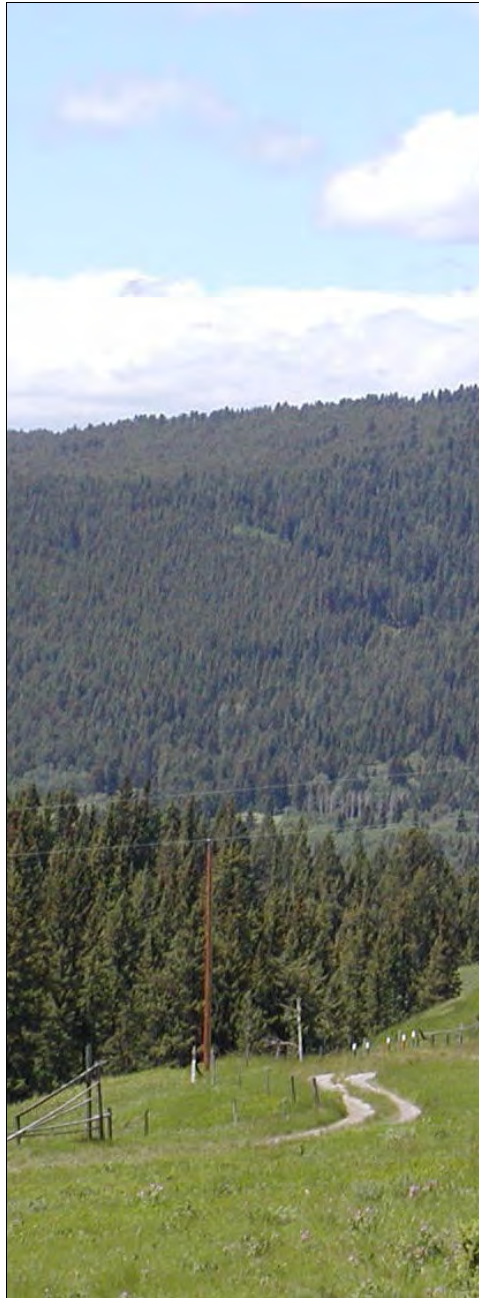


CHART 2 Municipal District of Ranchland

1991 Population Structure



Population Statistics from ID No. 6



POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The knowledge of possible directions of population change can aid in assessing future requirements of a population. Through the use of population projections, planners can formulate the necessary strategies to cope with population change and its effects on a municipality.

Population projections have been defined as the numerical outcome of a set of assumptions made about future trends usually with reference to trends from the past. Any projection must be carefully reviewed and, in the case of the MD of Ranchland, some factors to be considered are:

- Population projection methods are only as accurate as the initial data.
- In general, the smaller the initial population, the greater the error to be expected.
- There are various forces affecting population change. The most common are migration in and out; birth, death, and fertility rates; and social, economic and political pressures.

TABLE 3
MD OF RANCLAND
POPULATION PROJECTIONS UNTIL THE YEAR 2021

Year	Arithmetic	Logarithmic	Cohort 5 Year	Cohort 10 Year	Cohort 20 Year
2006	118	117	95	96	111
2011	118	117	76	83	106
2016	117	116	50	69	102
2021	117	115	17	52	98

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences will occur.

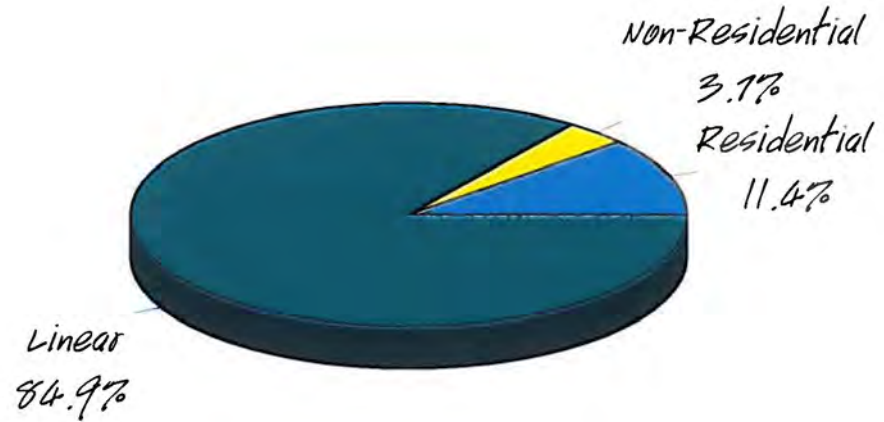
Due to the small population of the Municipal District, it is unlikely it would grow significantly or decrease significantly in population to the extent of the Cohort Survival Projections (Table 3). It would be prudent to project either a stable or slight growth rate for the future, but it would be unlikely to reflect the extremes of the projections.



MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT

Chart 3 illustrates the equalized tax assessment for the Municipal District for 2001 as reported by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Approximately 84.9 percent of the total assessment levied in the Municipal District is derived from linear assessment while residential and non-residential assessment contributes 11.4 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively.

CHART 3
Municipal District of Ranchland
2001 Equalized Assessment



Source: Alberta Municipal Affairs

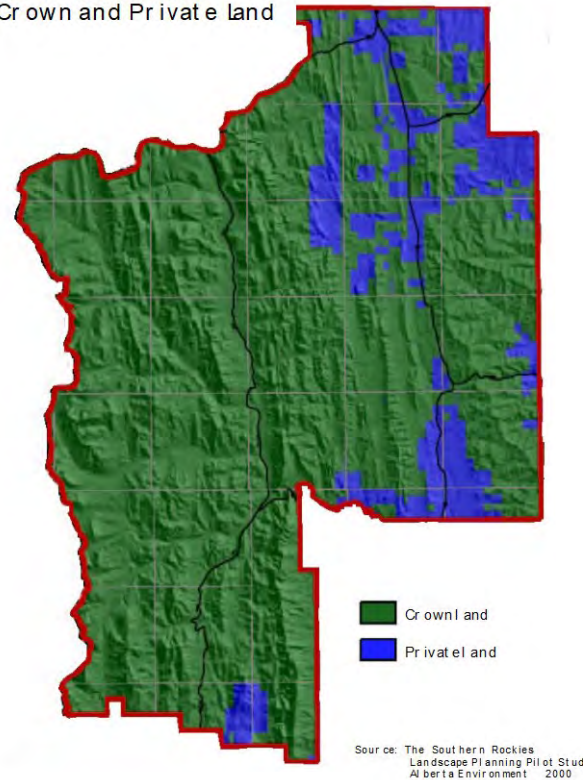


GENERAL LAND USE

The Municipal District of Ranchland encompasses approximately 631 999 acres (255 770 ha) of land adjacent the Alberta-British Columbia border. It is unique in that there are no urban municipalities, hamlets or urban service areas within the boundaries of the Municipal District and almost all land within the municipality is used for agricultural purposes. The Council has endorsed the concept that the complex watershed, ecoregion and habitat are protected to interact with grazing, ranching and other land uses. Land uses that conflict, fracture or destroy the long-term vision of the MD are discouraged.

The Municipal District is one of many municipalities along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in which much of the land is Provincial owned. Public land in Alberta is managed by the provincial government.

Figure 3
MD of Ranchland
Crown and Private Land





The Council for the Municipal District endorses the concept that land is an extremely valuable resource. All lands should be used wisely to encourage both a prosperous regional economy and a stable rural environment where residents, especially farmers and ranchers, can plan their livelihoods, confident that potential conflicting non-agricultural uses will be minimized.

Over 72 percent of the Municipal District is in the Green Area and committed to the Bow Crow Forest Reserve. Of the remaining 28 percent, approximately one-third is in the possession of individual private landowners. Of the privately held land, approximately 172 891 acres (69 939 ha) is zoned as agricultural land in the Municipal District's Land Use Bylaw. The purpose of the district is to conserve agricultural land, including grassland while permitting activities associated with agricultural production on privately held land or leased land within the White Area. All development proposed for leased lands requires prior approval from the ~~Crown Public Lands Division of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development~~. ~~The Crown (provincial government) department~~ should require, as a condition of its disposition, that the lessee also receive development approval from the Municipality for any activity that is subject to part 17 of the Municipal Government Act.

Within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Ranchland, there exists one provincial park, a wildland park, an ecological reserve and three natural areas. The protection of these landscapes reflects the unique roles that the Municipality and its residents must play in preserving Alberta native grassland ecosystems. Ranchers rely on the continued diversity and production of native grasses, and the fact much of the land is unbroken and without road access is a direct consequence of their stewardship.

TABLE 4
PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND

Parks and Protected Areas	Acres	Hectares
Chain Lakes Provincial Park	1,010.56	408.95
Bob Creek Wildland Park	52,608.65	21,290.72
Don Getty Wildland Park	2,953.99	1,195.48
Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve	6,426.86	2,600.95
Beehive Natural Area	13,990.61	5,662.00
Mount Livingston Natural Area	1,358.07	549.60
Black Creek Heritage Rangeland Natural Area	18,160.54	7,349.57
Total Area	93,555.29	37,861.79



Provincial Parks are areas that have been set aside to provide opportunities and facilities for a wide range of outdoor recreational and educational activities. Parks designated under the Provincial Parks Act offer protection to significant natural, historical and cultural landscapes and features. Chain Lakes Provincial Park was opened in 1972 as a result of access conflicts between private landowners and the general public to the Chain Lakes Reservoir. The park has grown to encompass 1010 acres of willow and aspen groves and grassland. The park hosts a large abundance of flora and fauna to be viewed and enjoyed by the public.

In 1999, the Bob Creek Wildland Park was designated under the Provincial Parks Act. These types of parks are usually large, natural land bases where human development and interference are kept to a minimum. Intensive recreational development is not permitted, but backcountry campsites and a few motorized trails may be allowed. Approximately 70 percent of the Bob Creek Wildland Park is montane landscape and largely undisturbed.

Ecological Reserves are designated under the Wilderness Area, Ecological Reserve and Natural Areas Act (Wерна). Some of Alberta's most rare and fragile landscapes, plants, animals and geological features have been given protection under the Ecological Reserves Program and designated land is primarily used for scientific research and educational opportunities and is protected from recreational and industrial development. While staging, parking and/or interpretive facilities may exist on the perimeter of some ecological reserves, surface disturbances within the reserve are prohibited. The Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve was designated in 1999 to protect significant resources in the Whaleback Area of the Porcupine Hills.



LAND USE ISSUES

This section of the Municipal Development Plan attempts to identify land use planning issues that are prevalent in the Municipal District of Ranchland. The identification of such issues will lead to the formulation and application of the policies presented in this plan. As the Municipal Government Act establishes a detailed number of issues that must be addressed, including the provision of transportation systems, municipal services, guidance on land use adjacent to sour gas facilities and other land uses, municipal and school reserve issues, and coordination of land use issues with adjacent municipalities, this section will also identify the legislative requirements pursuant to this enactment.

FUTURE LAND USES

Ranching is the predominant land use in the Municipal District of Ranchland and pressures from country residential and non-agricultural developments can have a dramatic impact on agricultural land and the environment. The Municipal Development Plan will contain policies which relate to the regulation of land use and will identify uses that are suitable in certain locations within the Municipal District.

The paving of Highway 22 from Longview to Lundbreck has resulted in the MD becoming a very significant transportation corridor. In addition to a major increase in commercial vehicles, the corridor has also become a tourist/public attraction in its own right as exemplified by the establishment of the Bar U National Historic Site and the designation of the Cowboy Trail. Preserving the natural beauty along this corridor from a tourism perspective should be a major consideration in any land use/planning decision by the MD or the Province. It may be that tourism and conservation groups are the best allies for the MD residents in preserving the area and restricting resource development and urban encroachment.

The Council for the Municipal District of Ranchland endorses the following land use concepts **and objectives** with regard to future development within its boundaries:

- Land with a Canadian Land Inventory soil classification of 1 to 6 will be considered prime agricultural land since classes 5 and 6 (the lower soil classes) are equally important to agricultural production in the Municipal District as those soils of higher capability. In many circumstances, marginal lands form a valuable and integral part of a viable agricultural operation.
- The development of non-agricultural land uses within the Municipal District should be considered only in the case where agricultural opportunities are not compromised by conflicting developments.



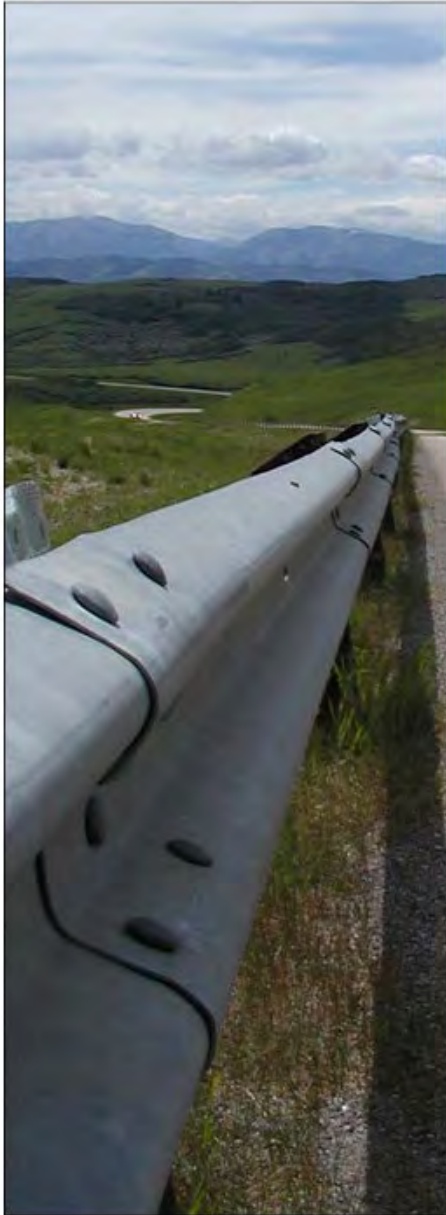
- Owners of agricultural land will try to maintain viable agricultural operations.
- Fragmentation of rural land should be discouraged.
- Development, which may detract from the aesthetic appearance of an area, should be discouraged.
- Oil and gas (exploration, production, gathering and processing); pipelines or electricity transmission activities and developments in the MD will be considered subject to certain qualifications outlined in the Policy section of this plan.
- Mineral extraction, aggregate excavation, mining activities and coal exploration should only be carried out in alignment with the vision and objectives established by the MD and this plan.
- The municipality should encourage utility companies to locate on lands that will not unduly interfere with the scenic attributes of the area.
- Future recreational development should be limited so that agricultural endeavours are not compromised.
- The municipality shall encourage landowners to protect the present environment, watershed and natural amenities for future generations.
- Ranching and grazing activities are considered the principal land use of the MD of Ranchland and other land uses and development should only be considered in regard to compatibility with agricultural operations.

COORDINATION OF LAND USE

The Municipal Government Act and the Provincial Land Use Policies encourage intermunicipal planning cooperation. This can be addressed formally in two ways through the adoption of a Municipal Development Plan or an Intermunicipal Development Plan. As there are no urban jurisdictions existing with the MD of Ranchland, the intent would be to establish policies that are compatible and acceptable to adjacent rural municipalities and provincial Crown interests in terms of desirability and location of development, which may affect them.

ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES

One of the other requirements of the Municipal Government Act is that a Municipal Development Plan must address land use matters with adjacent municipalities. Section 632(3)(a)(iii) of the Municipal Government Act states:



“A municipal development plan must address the co-ordination of land use, future growth patterns and other infrastructure with adjacent municipalities if there is no intermunicipal development plan with respect to those matters in those municipalities.”

The Municipal District of Ranchland shares boundaries with the Municipal District of Willow Creek, the Municipal District of Pincher Creek, the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, the Municipal District of Foothills and Improvement District No. 5 (Kananaskis Country). Therefore, it is of benefit for the MD to maintain contact with the other municipalities and to discuss issues of shared concern. Administration and Council should endeavour to consult with all neighbouring municipalities regarding plans to undertake any major projects which may affect the other municipality, or other projects that may be of mutual interest.

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

In addition to the surrounding municipalities, it is essential that the Municipal District coordinate land management with the provincial government. The Government of Alberta is responsible for managing public land and focuses on establishing and sustaining an optimum balance of use, conservation and development of resources in harmony with the values and needs of the citizens of Alberta.

Through Integrated Resource Management, government policies, programs and activities are integrated to gain the best long-term benefits while minimizing conflicts. Currently, the Livingston-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan is responsible for identification and assessment of all resource value in the Municipal District of Ranchland. In order to promote consistent and compatible development on both public and private lands, consideration should be given to public policies outlined in the Integrated Resource Plan.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

The normal hierarchy of road systems characterizes the Municipal District of Ranchland and includes one primary highway, numerous secondary highways and a local road system. Highway 22 is the main north-south route through the Municipality from the Municipal District of Pincher Creek and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass in the south to Improvement District No. 5 and the Municipal District of Foothills in the north. Secondary highways 533, 532 and 520 all provide access from various points east into the Municipality.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 (see Appendix A) track traffic volumes, type of vehicle and primary function of primary and secondary highways and the local road system within the Municipal District of Ranchland. The network of roads and highways is essential to the movement of people and goods. They are especially important to the ranching



community as a primary means of moving agricultural products to market. The provision, maintenance and improvement of the system are a constant challenge to the Municipal District of Ranchland.

WATER ACT

The Water Act was enacted January of 1999 and is the primary provincial legislation governing a municipal council's ability to pass resolutions, or enact bylaws for the direction, control and management of water within its jurisdiction. It is the intent of the provincial government to eventually adopt Water Management Plans (WMPs) for all basins in Alberta.

Watershed management within the Municipal District of Ranchland is a priority and, as these WMPs will take several years to prepare in accordance with the provincial guidelines, the Municipal District is encouraged to adopt interim policies in the respective Municipal Development Plan with respect to the Water Act.

SOUR GAS FACILITIES

The Municipal Government Act recognizes that sour gas facilities can create special planning concerns and may have a detrimental effect on subdivision and development; thus, the Municipal Government Act requires that they be addressed in the Municipal Development Plan. The Municipal Government Act stipulates that the Municipal Development Plan contain policies consistent with the Subdivision and Development Regulation regarding the type and location of land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities.

However, municipalities have no jurisdiction in the location of most oil field development. The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (AEUB) and/or the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) regulate the oil industry and they are exempt from the planning legislation pursuant to the following section of the Municipal Government Act:

"618(1) This Part and the regulations and bylaws under this Part do not apply when a development or a subdivision is effected only for the purpose of

- (a) a highway or road,*
- (b) a well or battery within the meaning of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, or*
- (c) a pipeline or an installation or structure incidental to the operation of a pipeline."*



Since municipal approval must comply with the distances established by the AEUB, land use policies must be adopted which identify facilities within the Municipality and which sets off the mandatory referrals. According to section 9(1) of the MGA Subdivision and Development Regulation it is required that:

"A subdivision authority must send a copy of a subdivision application and a development authority must send a copy of a development application to the AEUB if any of the land that is subject to the application is within 1.5 kilometres of a sour gas facility or a lesser distance agreed to, in writing, by the AEUB and the subdivision authority."

According to information from the AEUB, there are currently sour gas wells located in various areas of the Municipal District of Ranchland (see Map 2). As municipal approval must comply with the distances established by the AEUB, land use policies must be adopted which identify these facilities within the municipality and which trigger the mandatory referrals.

MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL RESERVES

The Municipal Government Act allows for the taking of municipal and/or school reserve at the time of subdivision under certain circumstances, subject to section 666(1). The Subdivision Authority may require the owner of a parcel of land that is the subject of a proposed subdivision to provide a part of the parcel of land, to provide money in lieu of land, or to provide any combination of land or money.

The Municipal Government Act requires all Municipal Development Plans contain policies respecting the provision and allocation of municipal and school reserves. As no formal agreements exist with the associated school authorities, the Municipal Government Act requires that the amount and allocation of those reserves be discussed with those affected authorities.

OTHER LAND USES

All other land uses proposed in the municipality shall be regulated through the standards established in the Land Use Bylaw.



SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT

Due to the traditionally large tracts of land utilized for ranching within the Municipal District of Ranchland, very little subdivision or development occurs within the Municipality. In the last ten-year period, one subdivision was applied for and approved in 1994 for the purpose of consolidating land with an adjacent ranching operation. Prior to 1994, subdivision records reveal that only five additional subdivisions have been approved in the former Improvement District since 1966.

SUBDIVISION CRITERIA

At this time, no Municipal Development Plan or General Municipal Plan (plans adopted prior to 1995) exists for the Municipal District of Ranchland. The Advisory Council for former Improvement District No. 6 endorsed a **Land Use Policy Statement**, which provided a philosophical overall view regarding land use and established a number of guiding principles that still govern many land use decisions today. The preparation of the Municipal Development Plan will provide an opportunity to review and incorporate these land use principles as they pertain to the various land uses encountered in the municipality.

DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

Land Use Bylaw No. ~~12/95~~ **2023-01** establishes the criteria for development within the Municipal District. These criteria deal with:

- permitted and discretionary uses,
- minimum and maximum parcel sizes,
- development setbacks.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The unique natural environment, including both the diverse landscape and vital watersheds, requires the community to be active stewards of the land and to take positive measures to ensure the continued health of the ecosystem. Environmental protection is accomplished through steps by each level of government as well as the public at large. In this regard, the MD of Ranchland, along with appropriate government agencies and landowners, have been very active in promoting and participating in projects which concern riparian habitat protection and reclamation in partnership with the Alberta Cows and Fish Program.

In terms of land use, the powers available to the Municipal District are somewhat limited due to other provincial legislation, but do involve the monitoring of the following:

- land uses adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas,
- land uses in close proximity to sour gas facilities.

POLICIES

Previous sections of this document highlighted several issues and concerns. The identification of these planning issues provides the opportunity to establish land use policies that are intent on addressing and mitigating those concerns. The policies presented in this plan will provide guidance and direction for municipal decision-makers regarding future growth and other planning-related issues. The Council, council committees and the public will review the policies, prior to adoption, to ensure that conformity exists with the Municipal Government Act, Provincial Land Use Policies and reflects the vision and mission statement of the community.

FUTURE LAND USE AND GROWTH

Agriculture has been identified as the predominant land use in the MD of Ranchland and it is imperative to protect and preserve agriculture and the environment while balancing the interests of non-agricultural uses. The current statutory plans adopted by municipal councils have approved very restrictive land use policies with the intent of preserving lands within the MD for farming and ranching. As such, guidance for development and subdivision matters is provided in the Land Use Bylaw and this statutory plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- To protect the present ecosystem.
- To protect agricultural land for agricultural activities **and, in particular, ranching and grazing activities.**
- To ensure that consistency exists between this Municipal Development Plan and the present Land Use Bylaw.
- To ensure that the municipal decision makers have sufficient information to make an informed decision and a process in which to obtain and review that information.
- **To ensure that non-agricultural development does not negatively impact ranching and agricultural land and that any such development aligns with the overall goals and objectives of this Plan.**
- **To support consultation and collaboration between the MD and the Province in decision making, especially in regard to development activities on Crown land that may impact the MD of Ranchland, landowners or disposition holders.**
- To promote consistency of decision making by ensuring decisions are made within a framework of policies.

POLICIES:

- 1.1 The Municipal Development Plan shall contain policies as to the criteria used for making subdivision and development decisions.
- 1.2 The subdivision and development criteria shall be drafted to protect agricultural land and the environment.
- 1.3 Input shall be sought from adjacent municipalities prior to decisions being rendered on matters of mutual concern or interest.
- 1.4 The municipal Council or its committees may require additional information from an applicant or ratepayer any time during the land use process, including the provision for scheduling public meetings or hearings to obtain additional input.
- 1.5 The Municipal District shall continue to prohibit certain land uses that are deemed to be detrimental to a specific land use district in the Land Use Bylaw.

COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES

Recognizing it is important for adjacent municipalities to work together to promote efficiency and effectiveness, dialogue must occur for this process to be successful. It is not intended to increase the complexity of decision-making, but rather to open channels of communication to take advantage of any opportunities that may be available.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure cooperation in planning issues between neighbouring municipalities.
- To allow municipalities to take advantage of mutual opportunities to maximize efficient use of transportation systems, infrastructure and other mutual interests.
- To ensure cooperation and dialogue between municipalities on matters of mutual interest or concern.

POLICIES:

- 2.1 Administration and Council shall consult with adjacent municipalities regarding plans to undertake any major projects that may affect or impact other municipalities.

- 2.2 Administration and Council should endeavour to consult with adjacent municipalities where mutual interest exists.
- 2.3 All proposed statutory plans, land use bylaws and/or amendments that may have an impact shall be forwarded to adjacent municipalities for their comments.

CROWN LAND

The Municipal Government Act requires a municipality to adopt a land use bylaw that prohibits, regulates and controls land use within the Municipal District. The Municipal District has limited jurisdiction over public lands or provincial Crown lands in terms of issuing dispositions, licences of occupation or permits for land use activities. Given this situation, it is desirable that dialogue, coordination and referrals occur between appropriate government departments.

OBJECTIVES:

- To coordinate the land use decisions made between the two levels of government recognizing the planning processes established for integrated resource plans and municipal development plans.
- To ensure land uses are compatible on private land adjacent to provincial Crown lands.
- To recognize that activities under section 619 of the Municipal Government Act may impact matters or infrastructure of local importance and these need to be addressed as part of land use decisions.
- To identify a process for of maintaining involvement and input into subdivision and development activities within public owned land or the green zone of the municipality with respect to section 619 of the of the Municipal Government Act.

POLICIES:

- 3.1 The appropriate government departments having jurisdiction on Crown lands are requested to have regard for the policies established in this plan and follow Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act for any approval that involves subdivision or development.
- 3.2 To ensure proper notification of adjacent landowners and provincial departments, and to address issues of local importance, applicants are requested required to obtain municipal approval for any subdivision

or development on Crown land and make an appropriate Development Permit application if required by the municipality.

- 3.3 Prior to the disposition on Crown lands, the appropriate government department is encouraged to inform the Municipal District of the said disposition.
- 3.4 Mining activities and coal exploration are discretionary uses within the MD of Ranchlands in accordance with the land use bylaw. These activities may be deemed contrary to the vision and objectives established for the municipality. Should an application for commercial mining activities and coal exploration proceed under section 619 of the Municipal Government Act, the municipality requires a Development Permit application to be made to ensure issues of local importance are addressed.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION

A strong, healthy assessment base provides the necessary revenues for the Municipality to provide the services and facilities to which ratepayers have become accustomed. Given the dramatic decline in provincial grants to municipalities and the pressure to keep municipal taxes low, the challenge persists for the Municipal District to maintain its current levels of service.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a basis for evaluating the services provided to the ratepayers of the Municipal District.
- To establish guidelines for the provision or acquisition of services at the time of subdivision and/or development.
- To provide a safe, economic and efficient road system.
- To ensure any subdivision and/or development that may use or impact a municipal road shall be responsible for the upgrades or maintenance of the road infrastructure at the expense of the developer.

POLICIES:

- 4.1 At the time of subdivision and/or development, the provision of municipal services shall be at the expense of the developer.

- 4.2 The Municipality should endeavour to ensure that the developer provides satisfactory levels of services for any subdivision or development application.
- 4.3 The Municipality and or the appropriate government department shall ensure that the developer provide service roads and access points for road or highway related land uses as required following consultation with the appropriate government department.
- 4.4 The MD shall request that developers include timeframes for active use and the dates for decommission and reclamation for any permits, approvals or agreements being entered into with the municipality for construction of roads, private driveways or access roads, or other linear disturbances.
- 4.5 The MD shall discourage land use and development activities that insert new cut lines, access trails and roadways into what was previously dense forest, as additional access to public land brings added pressure to the environment and disposition holders, as the potential for increased conflict with disposition holders is a concern.
- 4.6 The protection of the MD roads during certain seasonally vulnerable weather periods throughout the year is deemed to be beneficial and the MD may control and manage road use, and may apply conditions through a permitting process, road bans, or through the application of Road Use Agreements.
- 4.7 To address municipal servicing matters, and in particular municipal roads and any potential impacts to them, the municipality will require when deemed necessary that a developer to enter into and abide by a development agreement pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* as a condition of a development permit or a subdivision approval.
- 4.8 The MD of Ranchland shall ensure that developers are responsible for any costs related to servicing or impacts to municipal infrastructure so as to not place an unnecessary burden on the MD ratepayers. The MD may require the posting of financial security or bonds be provided by developers to ensure that development permit or subdivision approval conditions are met when required by the development officer or the Municipal Planning Commission as a condition of development approval.
- 4.9 The MD of Ranchland shall manage the impacts from development and use of municipal roadways by requiring an applicant or developer to enter into either a Road Use Agreement or Road Use Maintenance Agreement with the municipality to address any road use and upgrades required, new construction, load and weight limitations, or maintenance or repair that may result from development and/or heavy truck traffic.

- 4.10 It is the objective of the MD to better manage timber harvesting (logging) operations that may impact municipal roads and the MD will, through the land use bylaw, identify a size threshold for such operations as a discretionary use that would require a development permit issued by the MD Municipal Planning Commission.
- 4.11 The MD shall strive to limit development impacts to the Highway 22 transportation corridor which is a major transportation route for commercial vehicles. The MD will encourage the Province to consider in its decision making the potential effects and increase in heavy traffic within the municipality which may negatively affect cattle and ranching operations.
- 4.12 The municipality recognizes that the Highway 22 corridor has become a tourist/public attraction as exemplified by the establishment of the Bar U National Historic Site and the designation of the Cowboy Trail. The MD shall strive to preserve the natural beauty along this corridor from a tourism perspective as a major consideration in any land use/planning decision and the Province is encouraged to do so also.

WATER ACT

The Water Act was enacted January of 1999 and is the primary provincial legislation governing a municipal council's ability to pass resolutions, or enact bylaws for the direction, control and management of water within its jurisdiction. It is the intent of the provincial government to eventually adopt Water Management Plans (WMPs) for all basins in Alberta. As these plans will take several years to prepare in accordance with the provincial guidelines, municipalities are encouraged to adopt interim policies in their respective municipal development plans and land use bylaws. To this end, the Municipal District of Ranchland has identified the following objectives and adopted the subsequent policies with respect to the Water Act.

OBJECTIVES:

- To protect the existing watersheds within the Municipality by implementing the provisions of the Water Act.
- To ensure that subdivision and/or development in the Municipal District of Ranchland complies with the provisions of the Water Act.
- To adopt interim land use polices prior to the preparation of the Water Management Plans.

POLICIES:

- 5.1 Prior to the preparation of a Water Management Plan for the region, the municipality shall require that a certified hydrogeological report be prepared for any application for subdivision approval or a proposed land use redesignation that proposes to create six or more parcels of land in a quarter section.
- 5.2 All certified reports shall be prepared in accordance with the “Report Requirements under Section 23 of the Water Act for Subdivision Development” as produced by Alberta Environment, September 1999.
- 5.3 All costs associated with the preparation, evaluation, interpretation and /or distribution of the said report shall be borne by the registered owner or the agent authorized to act on the behalf of the registered owner.
- 5.4 Any subdivision and or development application within the Municipal District is not precluded from any appropriate federal legislation.

PETROLEUM AND GAS FACILITIES

The Municipal Government Act requires the Municipal Development Plan to contain policies compatible with the Subdivision and Development Regulation regarding the type and location of land uses adjacent to oil and gas facilities. For the most part, the oil industry is regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator and is exempted for the provincial legislation pursuant to section 618 of the Act.

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet the legislative requirements of the Municipal Government Act, the Provincial Land Use Policies and the Subdivision and Development Regulation.
- To identify any sour gas, sweet gas and other petroleum facilities within the boundary of the Municipal District of Ranchland.
- To minimize any adverse land use conflicts in proximity to a sour gas facility.
- To minimize any adverse land use conflicts in proximity to all facilities.
- To ensure that suitable access is provided to all oil and gas developments.
- To encourage an open and continued dialogue between developers in the petroleum industry and the local municipal council.
- To encourage developers in the petroleum industry to reclaim lands and cover-type to their predevelopment state.

POLICIES:

- 6.1 The Municipality shall ensure all subdivision and development applications that are located within 1.5 kilometres of petroleum and gas facilities are referred to the Alberta Energy ~~Regulator (AER) and Utilities Board (AEUB)~~.
- 6.2 Pursuant to section 619 of the Municipal Government Act, a license, permit, approval or other authorization granted by the Alberta Energy ~~Regulator (AER) and Utilities Board~~ shall prevail over any bylaw or land use decision rendered by the Municipality.
- 6.3 Setback guidelines for petroleum and gas facilities shall be in accordance with the standards established in Figure 1 – Minimum Setback Distances in Appendix B provided by the Energy Resources Conservation Board or any subsequent standards should these existing guidelines be revised.
- 6.4 The Municipality should refer all subdivision and development applications to the Alberta Energy ~~Regulator (AER) and Utilities Board (AEUB)~~ for comment.
- 6.5 All subdivision and development shall adhere to setback requirements requested by the ~~AER AEUB~~.
- 6.6 The Municipality should be proactive on matters of mutual interest prior to the issuance of any approvals by the ~~AER AEUB~~.
- 6.7 New pipelines and electricity transmission lines should be sited along existing rights-of-way.
- 6.8 The municipality shall encourage the petroleum industry to refer their exploration and development program to the local council for perusal and comment.
- 6.9 Oil and gas exploration and development activities should be undertaken such that:
 - (a) surface disturbance, environmental damage and land usage is minimized (e.g. use of hand held seismic; multi-well drilling pads; and processing through existing/underutilized facilities);
 - (b) undisturbed lands (e.g. native grasslands) are avoided where at all possible;
 - (c) any disturbed lands are restored to as close to their natural state;
 - (d) the impacts (e.g. traffic, noise, dust, water usage) on adjacent/nearby residences and agricultural operations are minimized;
 - (e) the impacts on waterways and the regional watershed are minimized;
 - (f) public safety is not compromised; and

(g) the scenic attributes are not devalued.

6.10 Subdivision and development applicants are required to confirm if there are any abandoned gas wells on the parcel of land subject to the proposal and are responsible for providing an abandoned gas well map to the MD in accordance with the Regulations at the time of application.

MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL RESERVES

The Municipal Government Act requires that, under certain circumstances, the Subdivision and Development Authority address municipal and/or school reserve at the time of a subdivision decision rendered. The Act also requires that these reserves be allocated in conjunction with affected school authorities.

OBJECTIVES:

- To establish guidelines for the allocation of municipal and school reserves.
- To ensure that any applicable municipal and/or school reserves are addressed and acquired at the time of subdivision.

POLICIES:

- 7.1 Municipal and/or school reserve shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of section 666 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 7.2 Municipal and/or school reserve shall not be required to be provided under the circumstances authorized in section 663 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 7.3 Where the reserve requirement is to be satisfied as money in place of land, it shall be done so in accordance with the provisions of sections section 667 of the Municipal Development Act.

SUBDIVISION CRITERIA

The following objectives and policies are intent on providing guidance to the Subdivision Authority and/or the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board when rendering decisions on these applications.

OBJECTIVES:

- To establish clear policies and guidelines that address subdivision issues in the Municipality.
- To ensure that subdivision approvals are limited in number as to not fragment lands for future ranching, agricultural endeavours and the protection of the environment.
- To provide landowners and residents with a reasonable certainty as to what limited subdivisions approvals are acceptable.
- To ensure that opportunity exists for the referral of any subdivision applications to the appropriate government departments, agencies and adjacent landowners for comment.

POLICIES:

AGRICULTURAL

- 8.1 For the purpose of this plan the minimum parcel size in the Municipality shall be 160 acres (64.75 ha) except where the quarter section may have been reduced in size by road widening, forced roads, cemeteries, school sites or any other public use.
- 8.2 A subdivision application which proposes to create one or more single lot undeveloped country residential parcel (bare land) is prohibited.
- 8.3 A subdivision application which proposes to create two 80 acre (32.4 ha) from a previously unsubdivided quarter section is prohibited.

SINGLE LOT COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL

- 8.4 A subdivision which proposes to create a single lot country residential parcel containing a developed residence or farmstead is prohibited.
(Policy 8.4 amended by Bylaw No. 2012-02, April 18, 2012)

GROUPED COUNTY RESIDENTIAL

- 8.5 A subdivision application which proposes to create a multi-lot residential use shall not be approved unless the said property is redesignated in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Municipal Government Act.

INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

- 8.6 A subdivision application which proposes to create a separate title for an existing intensive agricultural operation shall not be subdivided from the original parcel on which the original operation was allowed to locate.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

- 8.7 No subdivision shall be allowed for a grouped commercial or industrial use unless the property is redesignated pursuant to the process outlined in the Municipal Government Act.
- 8.8 A subdivision for grouped or isolated rural industries shall, wherever possible, be located on poor agricultural lands, unless in the opinion of the subdivision authority such suitable parcels:
- (a) are not reasonably available,
 - (b) would create land use conflicts,
 - (c) would conflict with other Municipal Development Plan policies and objectives.

FRAGMENTED PARCELS

- 8.9 Lands which are physically fragmented by way of forced roads, water courses, railways or any natural barriers are not eligible for subdivision approval.

EXISTING PARCELS

- 8.10 A subdivision application which proposes the enlargement, reduction or realignment of an existing separate parcel may be approved provided that:
- (a) the additional lands required are to accommodate existing or related improvements;
 - (b) the proposal is to rectify or rationalize existing habitational, occupancy, cultivation or settlement patterns;
 - (c) no additional parcels are created over and above those presently in existence;
 - (d) the proposed new lot and the proposed residual lot will continue to have direct legal and physical access to a public roadway, adequate development setbacks, and a suitable building site;
 - (e) the size, location and configuration of the proposed lot will not significantly affect any water project or transportation system in the area.

MUNICIPAL REFERRALS

8.11 The Municipal District shall forward all subdivision applications to adjacent municipalities for comment pursuant to the provisions outlined in this plan.

SUBDIVISION CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

8.12 The Subdivision Authority shall refuse to approve any subdivision application where the subdivision of land is not expressly permitted by the Land Use Bylaw or the MD of Ranchland No. 66 Municipal Development Plan.

8.13 The Subdivision Authority may request information from an applicant in order to accurately evaluate the application and determine compliance with the Land Use Bylaw or other government regulations. This may include but is not limited to the provision of geotechnical information, soil analysis reports, water reports, soil or slope stability analysis, drainage information, contours and elevations of the land, engineering studies or reports, wetland reports, environmental impact assessments, utility and servicing information, and/or the preparation of a conceptual design scheme or an area structure plan may be required from the applicant prior to a decision being rendered on a subdivision application to determine the suitability of the land for the proposed use.

DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

The intent of this section is to ensure that future development complies with the minimum standards established in the Land Use Bylaw or an approved area structure plan. To minimize land use conflicts with other uses in the immediate vicinity, development approval should ensure that a quality development could be provided.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure that all developments in the Municipal District of Ranchland are of an acceptable standard.
- To provide applicants with guidance as to the acceptable standards for development in the Municipal District.
- To ensure that all developments in the Municipal District of Ranchland are compatible with ranching operations and meet the overall land use objectives of the MD.
- To ensure land use activities consider the environment, the protection of grasslands, and do not threaten watersheds.

- To help protect the integrity of Highway 22 historic designation of the Cowboy Trail and the scenic attributes of the eastern slopes and its view scape.

POLICIES:

- 9.1 All development shall occur on parcel sizes outlined in this Municipal Development Plan or the municipal Land Use Bylaw for the use proposed.
- 9.2 Development approvals should ensure that non-compatible land uses are either sited properly or not approved at all.
- 9.3 The development authority may require a developer to provide additional information to determine the suitability of a site. Such information may include the provision of percolation and soil stability tests as well as other geotechnical data.
- 9.4 No development shall take place within the Municipality without being authorized by the issuance of a development permit unless the said development has been specifically identified with the Land Use Bylaw as not requiring a permit.
- 9.5 No person shall construct or erect more than one dwelling unit on a parcel of land unless authorized to do so in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw and by the issuance of a development permit by the Development Authority.
- 9.6 Developers shall be required when requested by the MD or its Development Authority to enter into a Road Use Agreement or Road Use Maintenance Agreement to control traffic, manage dust control or maintenance issues if access to the development is required from a road under its control or jurisdiction.
- 9.7 The preservation of good agricultural land for ranching and agricultural purposes, in particular Canada Land Inventory Capability for Agriculture classifications 1 to 4, and grazing lands with classifications 5 and 6, shall be highly encouraged. Land use and development decision making shall have regard to the impacts of non-agricultural development on such agricultural land.
- 9.8 Council requests that the authority having jurisdiction over development on subject lands, either municipal or Crown, shall have regard for how any proposed development may impact adjacent or area livestock, grazing and agricultural operations, water sheds, and how local municipal infrastructure and roads may be impacted prior to approving any use or development.

- 9.9 The MD will manage noxious industry as a discretionary use within its municipal land use bylaw to help mitigate potential issues of such uses that typically are associated with hazardous, noxious, unsightly or offensive by products by nature of the industrial activity, and they may often not be compatible in the environment and/or be contrary to Ranchland's vision and land use policies.
- 9.10 The following classes of industrial use may be considered in the municipality in accordance with the applicable land use district of the Land Use Bylaw:
- (i) agriculture-related industries which support ranching and agricultural production;
 - (ii) non-labour intensive industries which require relatively large areas of land, but minimal on-site improvements, services, and public amenities;
 - (iii) quarries, sand and gravel operations, and natural resource extractive uses, which are governed by the location of a natural resource and provided any potential environmental impacts are adequately addressed.
- 9.11 Land use decisions shall consider the cumulative impacts of the approval in conjunction with current and future land uses, including recreational, economic or development uses or other approvals either applied for or granted.
- 9.12 The Development Authority of the MD shall consider the effects of visual intrusion, dust, noise, traffic, and air and water pollution when evaluating applications for resource extractive type activities.
- 9.13 The MD will adopt standards through the application of the Land Use Bylaw and manage logging on privately owned lands in specific geographic locations within the municipality to ensure municipal roads are protected. Municipal planning requirements may also apply to Crown lands where authorized by the province or through the agreement with lessees.
- 9.14 The developer of lands identified to contain a historic resource shall consult the *Historical Resources Act* and Alberta Culture and Tourism and may be required to conduct a historical resource impact assessment (HRIA).
- 9.15 When making land use decisions, the municipality will:
- a) utilize and incorporate measures which minimize possible impacts to important water resources;
 - b) determine appropriate land use patterns in the vicinity of significant water resources and other water features;

- c) establish appropriate setbacks to maintain water quality, flood water conveyance and storage, bank stability and habitat.
- 9.16 To plan and manage development in an orderly manner, an Area Structure Plan, Conceptual Design Scheme or Comprehensive Site Plan shall be required in conjunction with a redesignation application, industrial development, recreational development, resource extraction and mining activities, or when requested by Council or the Development Authority.
- 9.17 The provision of an Area Structure Plan, Conceptual Design Scheme or Comprehensive Site Plan may be required from the applicant/developer prior to a decision being rendered on a development application to determine the suitability of the land for the proposed use. Such a plan may be required to address geotechnical information, soil analysis, soil or slope stability analysis, storm water management, road and traffic impacts, an emergency or fire response plan, and development setbacks, amongst other matters, to the satisfaction of the municipality.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The unique natural environment of the Municipal District of Ranchland includes both a diverse landscape and vitally important watersheds. Consideration must be given to the protection of the natural environment to ensure the continued health of the entire ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify environmentally sensitive areas within the Municipal District.
- To ensure public awareness of land use activities within environmentally sensitive areas.
- To manage subdivision or development activities to ensure they do not negatively impact or threaten the vitality and health of important watersheds in the MD of Ranchland.
- To make aware the public recreational users of land, both private and public, the importance of respecting and protecting grazing lands, the environment, and watersheds, and to regulate such uses where appropriate to do so and where matters are under the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- To help protect watersheds and the headwaters and source waters in the Oldman River watershed.
- To encourage public understanding of cumulative impacts on the Oldman River headwaters and the management actions that are needed to effectively address them.
- To ensure any/all development within the municipality is environmentally balanced.

POLICIES:

- 10.1 The Municipality, through its Land Use Bylaw, shall address hazard lands with a view of reducing risks to health, safety and property damage.
- 10.2 The Municipality shall discourage any subdivision or development on lands that are environmentally sensitive or identified as hazard lands.
- 10.3 The Municipality shall consider the acquisition or use of environmental reserve easements as a means of restricting future subdivision and/or development in the Municipality.
- 10.4 The Municipality may forward any application for subdivision and/or development to the appropriate government department or agency for pertinent comments.
- 10.5 The Municipality shall discourage any subdivision or development activity that will result in the loss of habitat through the removal of riparian vegetation, especially around stream margins or which may lead to exposure of underlying soils and increased erosion, thereby increasing sediment into waterways.
- 10.6 As all agricultural endeavors depend on water, the MD of Ranchland is committed to working with the greater watershed community to ensure landowners and the greater public interests are supported in helping to maintain and protect the headwaters and source waters in the Oldman River watershed.
- 10.7 The MD supports the action plan of the *Oldman Integrated Watershed Management Plan* to manage and protect the integrity of headwaters and source waters to initiate collaborative stewardship work that will address key issues to headwater health over time, and within the capacity of participating stakeholders and the watershed community.
- 10.8 Through the implementation of criteria, standards and land use regulations in the municipal land use bylaw, the MD shall manage land use and development activities related to recreational development or use to ensure it is compatible with the environment, adjacent or existing area land uses, municipal infrastructure such as roads, and ranching and grazing operations.
- 10.9 Industrial, mining, aggregate and resource extraction related development activity should not be approved if it will negatively impact ranching and grazing operations, the watershed they are dependent on for self-sustainment and healthy grasslands, or the watersheds and associated ecosystems and riparian habitat.

- 10.10 In support of the strategic plan of Council, it is the goal of the municipality to ensure any/all development is environmentally balanced and Council and the Development Authority shall consider such in its decision making on land use matters.
- 10.11 All land use decision making on lands within the MD of Ranchland require consideration for cumulative effects and species at risk, and in particular, any critical habitat for threatened species that may exist and potentially impacted by development activities. Decision makers shall consider whether an activity will impact a species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* and any critical habitat related to that species.
- 10.12 The developer of lands identified to contain an environmentally significant site shall contact Alberta Environment and shall be required to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) when requested.
- 10.13 The municipality through its policy decisions shall work at preserving Alberta native grassland ecosystems and protecting the rolling fescue grassland of the foothills that ranchers rely on for providing the continued diversity and production of native grasses that sustain ranching.
- 10.14 The MD of Ranchland should continue to play a critical role in the Green Zone (Forest Reserve) assisting the GOA in meeting it's own management goals for those same lands both in well-established roles like enforcing the Weed Control Act, Emergency Services, road network and bridges, and less tangible services supplied to help the Province in maintaining habitat integrity and limit cumulative effects from human footprint, as these have direct impacts to the landowners of the MD.
- 10.15 The MD of Ranchland is concerned with public access to Porcupine Hills and the forest reserve north of Highway 3 and land use planning is required to consider the impact of recent activity, especially coal, in the vicinity. The MD of Ranchland is supportive of policies requiring access management that need and required following any land exploration or other types of coal development.
- 10.16 The MD of Ranchland is not supportive of coal related activities in the headwaters of the entire South Saskatchewan River Basin due to lack of water resources, conflict with current uses, and biodiversity and environmental concerns.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

The Municipal Development Plan is a statutory plan identified in the hierarchy of planning in the Municipal Government Act. It has been prepared for the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 in accordance with the

provisions of the Act, the Provincial Land Use Polices and the Subdivision and Development Regulation. The Act requires all local plans and bylaws to be consistent with the provincial legislation and adopted by bylaw.

The Act also establishes a public participation component, which requires providing opportunities for input, referrals to adjacent municipality and a mandatory public hearing prior to second reading of the bylaw. By the time this Municipal Development Plan has received its third and final reading it will have been refined and rewritten based on the comments of ratepayers, municipal administration and elected officials.

With the final revisions made, the Municipal Development Plan will ultimately become the long-range philosophical document for the Municipal District to which the Land Use Bylaw will provide guidance and implement the day-to-day decisions on subdivision and development matters and land use decisions.

OBJECTIVES:

- To adopt a plan which provides guidance for future land use decisions in the Municipal District of Ranchland.
- To meet the legislative requirements established in the Municipal Government Act.
- To establish a mechanism whereby the Municipal Development Plan may be revisited, refined and amended to accommodate changes in the Municipality.

POLICIES:

- 11.1 The Municipal Development Plan shall be adopted and subsequently amended if required pursuant to sections 230, 606 and 692 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 11.2 Prior to the adoption of this document, the plan should be sent to adjacent municipalities for their comments and concurrence.
- 11.3 In order to achieve consistency, the Land Use Bylaw shall be amended to comply with any policies to the contrary in this plan.
- 11.4 Strict adherence to minimum parcel size and measurable standards may be waived to a certain extent if:
 - (a) the applicant has proven the existence of some special or isolated circumstance;
 - (b) the effect of the variance would not, in the Council's or Subdivision and Development Authority's opinion, harm the agricultural potential, environment or adjacent land uses in the area;

(c) reasons for the variance are stated in the minutes of the meeting when the variance was contemplated and subsequently granted.

- 11.5 Any amendments or changes to this plan shall be forwarded to the Municipal District of Ranchland's planning advisor for review and comment.
- 11.6 This plan shall be reviewed, amended or replaced by a new bylaw from time to time in order to achieve consistency and reflect the wishes of the Municipal District and its ratepayers.

TABLE 1
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANGLAND
NUMBER OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE (20% SAMPLE)

Household Size	Number
1 person	0
2 person	10
3 person	10
4 - 5 person	0
6 or more	10
TOTAL	35

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences will occur.

TABLE 2
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANGLAND
OCCUPIED DWELLINGS BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Dwellings	1996
Owned	15
Rented	20

TABLE 3
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANGLAND
PRIVATE DWELLINGS – PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION

Period of Construction	Number
Before 1946	0
1946 – 1960	10
1961 – 1970	10
1971 – 1980	10
1981 – 1990	10
1991 – 1996	0

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences will occur.

TABLE 4
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANGLAND
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT LABOUR FORCE BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employed labour force 15 years and over by place of work status (20% sample)	Males	Females
TOTAL 65	40	25
Usual place of work	35	0
In CSD of residence	0	0
In different CSD	35	0
In same CSD	0	0
At home	10	20
Outside Canada	0	0
No fixed workplace	0	10

CSD refers to Census Subdivision

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences will occur.

TABLE 5
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANGLAND SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY
10-YEAR OVERVIEW

Year	No. of Applications	Total Lots
1999	0	
1998	0	
1997	0	
1996*	0	
1995/96	0	
1994/95	1	2 - Agricultural
1993/94	0	
1992/93	0	
1991/92	0	
1990/91	0	
1989/90	0	
TOTAL	1	

**Nine month period April 1 to December 31, 1996.*

TABLE 6
EDUCATION STATISTICS COMPARISON BETWEEN THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND AND ALBERTA 1996

Characteristics	Municipal District of Ranchland			ALBERTA		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Highest level of schooling for the population age 15 years and over						
Total – All persons age 15 and over	85	40	45	2,055,020	1,021,435	1,033,585
Persons without a high school certificate	10	0	0	689,225	343,280	345,285
Persons with a high school certificate	45	10	30	243,075	106,785	136,285
Persons with some post secondary education (post secondary not completed)	10	0	10	255,620	119,690	135,925
Persons with trades or non-university certificate or diploma	25	25	0	555,915	293,235	262,680
Person who have completed university	0	0	0	311,180	158,435	152,750
Percent of the population 25 years of age and over with less than grade nine	0%	0%	0%	8.6%	8.6%	8.7%
Percent of the population 25 years of age and over with a high school certificate or higher	91.7%	83.3%	100.0%	69.8%	70.4%	69.2%
Percent of the population 25 years of age and over with trades or non-university certificate or diploma	41.7%	83.3%	0.0%	48.1%	51.4%	44.8%
Percent of the population 25 years of age and over who have completed university	0%	0%	0%	17.4%	18.2%	16.6%

Note: Census information is rounded to the nearest unit of 5 to protect the privacy of the individuals completing the census. Therefore some differences will occur.

TABLE 7
TRAFFIC VOLUMES 1993 TO 2001

LOCATION	AADT 1993	AADT 1997	AADT 2001	ASDT 2001	% Change over the last 10 years
HIGHWAY 22					
S of 520 W of Claresholm	880	1330	1730	2250	42.8
N of 520 W of Claresholm	840	1450	1680	2190	43.5
S of 533 at Chain Lakes PP	760	1450	1730	2250	50.9
N of 533 at Chain Lakes PP	750	1430	1720	2240	54.7
S of 532 of Chain Lakes PP	750	1430	1780	2320	57.9
N of 532 of Chain Lakes PP	720	1460	1810	2360	60.2
S of Nanton Rd 9-16-2-515000000	720	1460	1790	2330	59.8
N of Nanton Rd 9-16-2-515000000	740	1440	1770	2310	59.3
HIGHWAY 520					
E of 22 W of Claresholm	70	160	70	90	-28.6
HIGHWAY 532					
E of FTR N of M of Crowsnest Pass	40	70	80	100	50.0
4km W 22 and 532 Chain Lakes	90	70	90	110	11.1
W of 22 at Chain Lakes PP	120	70	170	220	35.3
HIGHWAY 533					
E of 22 at Chain Lakes PP	140	270	250	330	48.0

AADT Annual Average Daily Traffic is an average daily two-way traffic expressed as vehicles per day.
Source: Alberta Infrastructure 2001

TABLE 8
TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND VEHICLE CLASSIFICATIONS (2001)

		Length in Km	WAAD T	WASD T	% PV	% RV	% BU	% SU	% TT	% CM
HIGHWAY 22										
FROM	TO									
Oldman River	S of 520 W of Claresholm	19.62	1730	2250	76.1	8.9	0.6	1.8	12.6	15.0
N of 520W of Claresholm	S of 533 at Chain Lakes	27.19	1710	2220	80.6	7.9	0.7	1.6	9.2	11.5
Oldman River	S of 533 at Chain Lakes	47.15	1720	2230	78.7	8.3	0.7	1.7	10.6	13.0
N of 533 at Chain Lakes	S of 532 N of Chain Lakes	10.91	1710	2230	82.7	10.3	0.7	0.8	15.5	17.0
HIGHWAY 520										
FROM	TO									
E of 22 W of Claresholm	Claresholm Airport	38.73	350	380	88.6	3.2	0.0	2.4	5.8	8.2
HIGHWAY 532										
FROM	TO									
E of FTR N of CNP	W of 22 N of Chain Lakes	25.94	90	110	96.9	1.6	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.5
HIGHWAY 533										
FROM	TO									
E of 22 at Chain Lakes	W of 2 & 533 SJ	37.43	340	400	76.1	10.9	2.5	4.1	6.5	13.1

WAADT Weighted Average Annual Daily Traffic is the average daily two-way traffic, expressed as vehicles per day for the period of January 1 to December 31 (365 or 366 days).

WASDT Weighted Average Summer Daily Traffic is the average daily two-way traffic, expressed as vehicles per day for the period of May 1 to September 30 (153 days).

PV: Passenger Vehicles

RV: Recreation Vehicles

BU: Buses

SU: Single Unit Trucks

TT: Tractor Trailer Combinations

CM: Commercial Vehicles (BU + SU + TT)

Source: Alberta Infrastructure 2001

TABLE 9
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND
FUNCTION OF THE LOCAL ROAD SYSTEM (2001)

Road Name	Description		Length (km)	AADT 2000	Primary Function
	From	To			
Forestry Truck Road (F.T.R)	Coleman	Maycroft Rd	28.2	155	recreation/logging/regional continuity
Forestry Truck Road	Maycroft Rd	Dutch Creek Rd	6.4	171	recreation/logging/regional continuity
Forestry Truck Road	Dutch Creek Rd	Oldman River Rd	6.9	183	recreation/logging/gas/ regional continuity
Forestry Truck Road	Oldman River Rd	S.H. 532	29.0	124	recreation/logging/gas
Dutch Creek Road	F.T.R.	West	18.0	90	recreation/logging/gas
Oldman River Road	F.T.R.	West	18.0	126	recreation/local access
Bob's Creek Road	MD S Boundary	West	4.9	19	local access/regional continuity
Stavely Road	S.H. 533	MD E Boundary	13.0	18	local access
Riley Road	Hwy. 22	Stavely Rd	11.8	4	local access
Chimney Rock Road	Hwy. 22	West	8.8	14	local access
Saddle Mountain Road	Chimney Rock Rd	West	8.2	10 (est)	recreation
East Trout Road	S.H. 520	Trout Creek	12.9	6	recreation
Skyline Road	S.H. 520	Heath Creek Rd	11.3	6	recreation
West Sharples Creek Road	MD S Boundary	Skyline	9.6	4	recreation
Health Creek Road	MD S Boundary	Skyline	6.8	4 (est)	recreation
Maycroft Road	F.T.R	MD E Boundary	4.0	40 (est)	recreation/logging/regional continuity

Source: MD of Ranchland Rural Road Study 2001 prepared by AMEC Infrastructure Limited (formerly AGRA Torchinsky)

Figure 1 – MINIMUM SETBACK DISTANCES

