

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

Municipal Building
Chain Lakes Provincial Park

February 6, 2024
at 1:00 PM

1. *CALL TO ORDER*

2. *ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

- A. Council Meeting of January 16, 2024
- B.

4. *DELEGATION'S SCHEDULE*

- A. Greg Graves – Nanton School Enhancement Committee @ 1:00 p.m.
- B.

5. *EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE – (for information)*

- A. Administration/ Finance
- B. Public Works
- C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation
- D. Emergency/ Protective Services
- E. Legislative / Planning /Development
- F. Other Business

6. *BUSINESS – (action items)*

A. Administration/ Finance

- i. Action List – To be distributed at meeting
- ii. MSI/ LGFF update

B. Public Works

- i. Public Works Update – To be distributed at meeting.
- ii. Potential Meeting with:
 - D. Davidson, Regional Director (AB.T&EC) - Discussion items

C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation

- i. 2024-01 Agriculture Service Board Bylaw
- ii. 2023 ASB Year-end Report

D. Emergency/Protective Services

- i. .

E. Legislative/& Planning/Development

- i. Foothills Little Bow - Jan 19, 2024 Meeting minutes and summary.
- ii. Bylaw 2023-03 Road Closure 2nd/3rd Readings
- iii. Speers Creek Fish Crossing

F. Other Business

- i. Provincial Update re: R.E.D.A.'s
- ii. Nanton School Enhancement Committee- Greg Graves

7. IN-CAMERA (closed session)

- A. L.O Report to Council

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

- A. Administration/ Finance
- B. Public Works
- C. Agriculture/ Parks & Recreation
- D. Emergency/Protective Services
- E. Legislative /& Planning /Development
 - Council Liaison Update
- F. Other Business

9. ADJOURNMENT

M.D. of Ranchland No. 66
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 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, January 16, 2024, commencing at 10:30 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Sheldon Steinke, Council Liaison (Acting CAO)
Greg Brkich, Accountant
Nikki Funk, Recording Clerk

Steve Harty, Planner, ORRSC
Kelly Starling, Director of Emergency Services

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Davis called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion No. 24/01/16/015 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the agenda as amended with the addition of item:

5.D.i – Engagement Regarding Policing Governance

CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion No. 24/01/16/016 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter that the minutes of the January 5th, 2024, meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS

Motion No. 24/01/16/017 6.A.i – Dec. 2023 Bank Rec and Vendor Payments
MOVED by Reeve Davis to accept the December 2023 Bank Rec and Vendor Payment report for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Gardner joined the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

EXTERNAL CORRESPONDANCE

Motion No. 24/01/16/018 5.D.i – Engagement for Improving Policing Governance
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept the correspondence regarding Community Engagement for Improving Policing Governance for information.

CARRIED

Steve Harty joined the meeting at 11:03 a.m.
Greg Brkich left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Motion No. 24/01/16/019 6.E.i – MD of Ranchland MDP Updates
MOVED by Reeve Davis to accept the draft Municipal Development
Plan presented by Steve Harty for information. CARRIED

Steve Harty left the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Reeve Davis recessed the meeting at 12:43 p.m.
Reeve Davis resumed the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Kelly Starling joined the meeting at 1:14 p.m.
Kelly Starling left the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Motion No. 24/01/16/020 6.D.i – DEM Report to Council
6.D.ii – Wildfire Survey
MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter to accept items 6.D.i, and 6.D.ii,
for information. CARRIED

Motion No. 24/01/16/021 6.E.i – Foothills Little Bow Meeting
MOVED by Councillor Gardner to accept the information regarding
the January 19, 2024, Foothills Little Bow Meeting, for information. CARRIED

Motion No. 24/01/16/022 6.F.i – Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs at RMA
MOVED by Reeve Davis to accept the for information. CARRIED

Motion No. 24/01/16/023 6.F.ii – February Council Meeting Dates
MOVED by Councillor Gardner to approve the proposed meeting
schedule as presented. CARRIED

IN-CAMERA

Motion No. 24/01/16/024 MOVED by Reeve Davis that, in accordance with Section 197 of the
Municipal Government Act, Council moves into a closed meeting at
2:25 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

Motion No. 24/01/16/025 MOVED by Reeve Davis that Council return to an open meeting at
2:55 p.m. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

7.A. – Liaison Officer’s Report to Council

Motion No. 24/01/16/026

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Streeter that the MD grant SLS an extension to sign the Road Use Agreement until the 26th of February 2024.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/01/16/027

MOVED by Councillor Gardner that Council agrees to initiate an application for Intervener Status to the appeal of Northback Holdings Corporation to the Court of Kings Bench concerning the order to strike or dismiss the originating application by Northback Holding Corporation for the Judicial Review of the decision of the Alberta Energy Regulator and the Joint Review Panel into the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

CARRIED

Motion No. 24/01/16/028

MOVED by Reeve Davis that the Liaison Officer’s report to Council be accepted for information.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Being that the agenda matters have concluded, the Reeve declared the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

These minutes approved this 6th day of February, 2024.

Ron Davis, Reeve

Robert Strauss, Chief Administrative Officer

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

Title: MSI Capital Grant/LGFF Grant
(Municipal Sustainability Initiative – Capital Grant transition to Local Government Fiscal Framework Grant Program)

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Originated By: Greg Brkich, Municipal Accountant

Background: The MSI Grant Program has been a long-standing Alberta Provincial Government grant program for many years, however 2023 was the last year that the MSI grant program was allocated any money. The legacy of the MSI – capital component, will carry on until Dec. 31, 2028 because municipalities have up to 5 years to expend each year's allocation. If a year's allocation is not expended by the 5 year time limit, the Municipality will forfeit that year's allocation, and if the funds had been advanced to the Municipality in trust; the funds will have to be returned.

The M.D. of Ranchland's specific situation is as follows:

2019 allocation – \$0 remaining
2020 allocation - \$172,971 remaining (must be expended by Dec. 31, 2025)
2021 allocation - \$347,147 remaining (must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026)
2022 allocation - \$140,774 remaining (must be expended by Dec. 31, 2027)
2023 allocation - \$140,774 remaining (must be expended by Dec. 31, 2028)

This is a total available amount of **\$801,666** as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Of this amount, **\$660,892** has been received in cash and is sitting in a bank account in the M.D.'s name making interest at a variable rate, currently at 5.4%. So, the generated interest revenue will be credited to the M.D. of Ranchland's MSI Capital grant allocation as well. \$30,000 is the projected interest revenue in 2024.

Commencing in 2024, the LGFF Grant Program will take the place of MSI. The LGFF will have a capital and operating component just like the MSI program had. However, LGFF does not have the Basic Municipal Transportation Grant component like the MSI program had.

Preliminary allocations for the M.D. of Ranchland No. 66 (subject to 2024-25 Alberta Provincial Government budget approval) are:

Capital - \$215,534

Operating - \$43,368

At this point in time, a completed and fully functional Asset Management Plan is not required in order to be eligible for LGFF funding, however, a minimum 5 year capital budget is required.

Next steps:

- administration is to attend a webinar on LGFF.
- formulation of a 5-year capital budget.

Options for Action: For information – no action required by Council at this time.

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:**

This analysis outlines the remaining life of the MSI funds as allocated to the MD of Ranchland and supports the need for a formalized 5-year capital budget.

The first draft of the 5-year capital budget will likely contain a longer-term component as well that goes beyond 5 years. This document is being prepared and will likely be presented, in draft form, to Council sometime in the first quarter of 2024.

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

Title: Public Works Update

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Originated By: Robert Strauss, CAO

Background: Rick Lawson, Public Works Manager, will present an update on the Public Works activities

Strategic Pillar:

- 2. Infrastructure and Service Delivery
- 4. Financial Sustainability

Options for Action:

- 1.) Accept update for information and initiate any questions that Council may have.
- 2.) Other course of action.

CAO's Review/Comments/: A standard update that administration is attempting to provide Council on a regular basis. Rick Lawson has created a PowerPoint Presentation which is attached.

Attachments: PowerPoint Presentation

CAO's Initials _____

**M.D. OF RANCLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Guidance (RFG)**

Title: **Discussion Items for Potential Meeting with D. Davidson,
Regional Director (AB.T&EC)**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Originated By: **Robert Strauss, CAO**

Background: As per our annual meeting with Darren Davidson, Regional Director (AT&EC) we need to prepare a list of any concerns or items of note to discuss with Darren Davidson, when he will be attending Council on March 26, 2024 as a delegation.

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

Options for Action: 1.) Offer input to the list of transportation issues to be discussed at the March 26, 2024 meeting with Darren Davidson.

Financial Considerations: The Discussion is not directly a financial matter

CAO's Review/ Comments/: Rick Lawson, Public Works Manager will be present to assist in the discussion.

Attachments: None

CAO's Initials _____

**M.D. OF RANCLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO Council
Request for Decision (RFD)**

Title: ASB Bylaw

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Originated By: Rick Niwa, Agricultural Fieldman

Background: The provincial ASB Field Visit Report identified items in our current ASB bylaw that did not align with legislation and recommended revising the bylaw.

Recommendation: That Council adopt the ASB Bylaw as presented.

Benefits: Aligns our ASB bylaw with related legislation.

Disadvantages: None

Strategic Pillar: 2. Infrastructure and Service Delivery

Options for Action:

1. That Council ratify the revised ASB bylaw as attached.
2. That Council direct staff to amend the bylaw as discussed and present it at the next meeting of Council for their consideration.
3. Any other action that Council deems prudent.

Financial Considerations None

CAO's Review/

Comments/: The only minor amendments that I would propose be considered are as follows (in yellow highlight):

DUTIES OF THE SCRIBE

21. To assist the recording secretary by taking draft minutes at any regular or special meetings of the ASB. The Agriculture Fieldman may appoint any M.D. employee, that reports directly to the Agriculture Fieldman to fulfill the role of Scribe.
22. If the role of the scribe is to be fulfilled by staff members, other than any of those staff members reporting to the Agriculture Fieldman, then consent must first be sought from that staff member's immediate supervisor.

Attachments: Draft ASB Bylaw



M.D. OF RANCLAND No. 66

BYLAW 2024 ♦ 01

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD BYLAW



**A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND No. 66, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD.**

WHEREAS, the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-10 and amendments thereto, empowers a Council to establish an Agricultural Service Board; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 has determined that it is in the best interests of the municipal district to pass such a Bylaw,

THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 duly assembled hereby enacts as follows:

CITATION

1. This Bylaw shall be cited as the Agricultural Service Board Bylaw.

ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

2. This Bylaw hereby establishes and constitutes a Board to be known as the Municipal District of Ranchland Agricultural Service Board, hereinafter referred to as “the Board”, to exercise the duties and powers and to perform the functions prescribed by this Bylaw and outlined in the *Agricultural Service Board Act (ASB)*.

DEFINITIONS

3. In this Bylaw, including this section:
 - a) “M.D.” means the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66.
 - b) “Council” means the Municipal Council of the M.D.
 - c) “Board” or “ASB” means the M.D. of Ranchland Agricultural Service Board.
 - d) “Member at large” means a person who is not a member of Council, and who has been considered to meet the conditions in s 3(3) or the ASB Act appointment by Council to sit on the Board.



M.D. OF RANCLAND No. 66



- e) “Candidate” means a person who is not a current member of Council, and who is not a current employee of the M.D., and who has put their name forward to Council seeking to be considered as meeting the conditions in s 3(3) of the ASB Act for appointment to the Board as a Member at large.
- f) “Chair” means the position and title of Chairman, Chairwoman, Chairlady, or Chairperson of the Board; whichever one of these titles the appointed presider wishes to be addressed as.
- g) “Vice-Chair” means the position and title of Vice-Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman, Vice-Chairlady, or Vice-Chairperson of the Board; whichever one of these titles the appointed vice-presider wishes to be addressed as.
- h) “Agricultural Fieldman” means a qualified person appointed by council, in consultation with the board, to implement agricultural policies and programs and manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.
- i) “Department” means the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, or successive Ministry.
- j) “Minister” means the Minister determined under s. 16 of the *Government Organization Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. G-10, and amendments thereto, as the Minister responsible for the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.
- k) “Pecuniary interest” means pecuniary interest as defined by the *Municipal Government Act*.
- l) “Landowner” means a person or corporation that owns titled land or is the holder of a Government of Alberta grazing lease disposition within the boundaries of the M.D.
- m) “Resident” means a person who resides within the boundaries of the M.D.
- n) “Shareholder” means a person who is a shareholder of a corporation that is a landowner.
- o) “Scribe” means a person who assists the recording secretary by taking the draft minutes during a meeting.

ROLE AND DUTIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

- 4. The duties of the Board are listed in Section 2 of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* and at the time of the passing of this Bylaw those duties are:
 - a) to act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern,



M.D. OF RANCHLAND No. 66



- b) to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs,
 - c) to assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*,
 - d) to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
 - e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.
5. The Board shall represent the municipality regarding agricultural issues presented at Provincial and Regional ASB conferences and committee meetings.
 6. The Board shall also carry out all duties and responsibilities that may, from time to time, be assigned to it by Council.

AUTHORITY

7. The A.S.B. is a committee of Council, whose authority is limited to the ability to recommend action for Council's consideration.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

8. The Board shall be an independent committee consisting of up to eight (8) voting members as follows:
 - a) Up to five (5) Members at large, all of which shall be appointed by Council.
 - b) The three (3) elected Councillors of the M.D.

BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE APPOINTMENTS

9. The appointment of the Members at large shall occur annually at the organizational meeting of Council, and the term of the appointment shall automatically expire at the next organizational meeting of Council.
10. If a Member at large ceases to be a member for any reason, Council may appoint a new candidate at any time of the year to fill the vacancy, however, such appointment shall automatically expire at the next organizational meeting of Council.

CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

11. Council shall appoint the Chair at the annual organization meeting. At the first board meeting following the M.D. organizational meeting the board shall elect a Vice-Chair.



M.D. OF RANCLAND No. 66



12. The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Board.
13. The Vice-Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Board when the Chair is absent.
14. Only the Chair or the Vice-Chair can preside at a special Board meeting.
15. Council may revoke the appointment of a Board member as Chair or Vice-Chair and name a new Chair or Vice-Chair at any time should they believe it prudent to do so.

QUORUM

17. One Council member and two Members at large, or two Council members and one Member at large constitutes a quorum.

VOTING

18. A majority of votes is required to pass any resolution.
19. A Board member who has a pecuniary interest in the matter at hand must:
 - a) Disclose that they have a pecuniary interest and its general nature.
 - b) Abstain from any discussion of the matter and from voting.
 - c) Leave the room until the matter has been dealt with and ensure that their abstention is recorded in the minutes.
21. For any Board member(s) who is present and eligible to vote on a resolution, has not declared a pecuniary interest, and abstains from voting or otherwise refuses to vote, the voting allocation of that Board member(s) shall be considered a vote(s) against the resolution.
22. If an equal number of votes are cast for and against a resolution, the resolution shall be considered defeated.

DUTIES OF THE SCRIBE

23. To assist the recording secretary by taking draft minutes at any regular or special meetings of the ASB.

DUTIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

24. The Agricultural Fieldman shall:
 - c) Implement agricultural policies and programs and manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.



M.D. OF RANCLAND No. 66



- d) Be the recording secretary of the board. The Agricultural Fieldman may appoint a designate to act on their behalf in their absence from any regular meeting of the board.
- e) Only the Agricultural Fieldman may act as the recording secretary of any special meeting of the board.
- f) Arrange for a date, time, and place for the regular and/or special meetings of the Board
- g) Notify the ASB of all regular and/or special Board meetings a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting. A special Board meeting may be held with less than 72 hours prior notice if all members waive notice of the special meeting.
- h) Any other duty as outlined in section. 8 of the Agricultural Service Board Act

25. The Agricultural Fieldman, appointed by Council 8(1), shall act as a designated officer of the Municipality;

- a) in carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of the municipality under any Act relating to agriculture and;
- b) in implementing projects respecting agricultural agreed on between the council and the Minister

RESCINDING CLAUSE

26. BYLAW No. 2022-02 is hereby rescinded. This Bylaw shall have force and take effect on the third and final reading thereof.

Read a first time on this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Read a second time on this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Read a third time and passed on this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Reeve

C.A.O.

**M.D. OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO Council
Request for Decision (RFD)**

Title: 2023 ASB Year End Report to Council

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Originated By: Rick Niwa, Agricultural Fieldman

Recommendation: That Council accept the 2023 ASB Year End Report as presented.

Background: As per Section 4 of the ASB act,
Summary of activities
4 A board must present a summary of its activities for the preceding year to the council in a form acceptable to the council containing the information required by the council.

Staff has prepared a report of activities for the previous year for the ASB & Councils consideration.

Benefits: Fulfills a legislative requirement and increases awareness.

Disadvantages: Draw on staff time to prepare the report.

Strategic Pillar: n/a

Options for Action: 1. Accept the report as presented.
2. Request revisions to the report.

Financial Considerations None

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** No comments, as presented.

Attachments: 2023 ASB Year End Report to Council

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

Title: **Foothills Little Bow - Jan 19, 2024 Meeting minutes and summary**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Originated By: **Robert Strauss, CAO**

Background: Attached are the minutes from the Foothills Little Bow Municipal Association 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.) Inquiry on any issues and accept for information.

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** 1.) The CAO was in attendance at the meeting.

Attachments: FLBMA draft Minutes

CAO's Initials _____

**M.D. OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Decision (RFD)**

Title: Road Closure Bylaw 2023-03: Undeveloped Road Allowance between SE 29-10-2-5 and SW 28-10-2-5

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Originated By: Robert Strauss, CAO

Background: This Bylaw was drafted at the direction of Council in relation to an outstanding issue whereby adjacent landowner's (the Nelsons) would ultimately agree to purchase the property from the MD of Ranchland. The section of Road allowance is not used and it is determined that it will not be needed in the future.

The reason for the delay was the linking of this issue to the consolidation of parcels adjacent to the river to the south whereby the fragmentation of parcels would be avoided. However, due to unforeseen delays in the consolidation of the referenced parcel, Council directed administration to proceed with the Road Closure bylaw.

As with all road closure bylaws, once first reading is given, it is required to be approved by Provincial Transportation Department, prior to proceeding for consideration of 2nd and 3rd readings of the bylaw.

Approval by the Provincial Department of Transportation and Economic Corridors has been received.

Strategic Pillar: 2. Infrastructure and Service Delivery

Options for Action: 1.) Give Bylaw 2023-03 Second and third Reading
2.) Do not give Bylaw 2023-03 2nd/3rd Reading and defeat the Bylaw.

CAO's Review/
Comments/: This issue has had a high amount of discussion previously over the years.

CAO's Initials _____

Attachments:

Bylaw 2023-03, AB Transportation Approval



TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS
TECHNICAL STANDARDS BRANCH
2ND FLOOR, TWIN ATRIA BUILDING
4999-98 AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
T6B 2X3

TELEPHONE NO: 780-638-3505
Toll Free Connection Dial 310-0000

January 18, 2024

Oldman River Regional Services Commission
3105 – 16th Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5E8

Attention: Kattie Schlamp

RE: ROAD CLOSURE – BYLAW 2023-03 MD of Ranchland (RPATH0036105)

Enclosed is the above noted bylaw which was approved by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors for closure and disposal on January 18, 2024.

Following the second and third readings by Council, the bylaw may be registered at Land Titles.

Please notify me when registration is complete.

Yours truly,

Grace.Saina

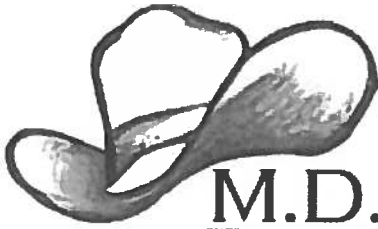
Digitally signed by Grace.Saina

Date: 2024.01.18 15:31:00 -07'00'

Road Closure Lead

cc: Leah Olsen
Development and Planning Technologist
Lethbridge, Alberta

Enclosures



M.D. OF RANCHLAND No. 66

BYLAW 2023 ♦ 03

ROAD CLOSING UNDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCE BETWEEN SE 29-10-2 AND SW 28-10-2



A Bylaw of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 in the Province of Alberta for the purpose of closing to public travel a portion of public roadway to create title in the name of the municipality for subsequent disposal of the land through sale and consolidation with an adjacent piece of land in accordance with Section 22 of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended.

WHEREAS the lands hereafter described, and as illustrated in attached Schedule 'A' have not been developed for public travel; and

WHEREAS application has been made to Council to have the roadway closed; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 deems it expedient to provide for a bylaw for the purpose of closing to public travel certain roads, or portions thereof, situated in the said municipality, and thereafter creating title to same and disposing of same through sale and consolidation with an adjacent piece of land; and

WHEREAS notice of the intention of Council to pass a bylaw has been given in accordance with Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act; and

WHEREAS Council was not petitioned for an opportunity to be heard by any person claiming to be prejudicially affected by the bylaw.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 in the Province of Alberta does hereby close to public travel for the purpose of creating title to the following described roadway for sale and consolidation, subject to rights of access granted by other legislation:

THAT PORTION OF ROAD ALLOWANCE LYING BETWEEN SE 29-10-2-5 AND LOT 1, BLOCK 1, PLAN 161 0186 AND SOUTH OF ROAD PLAN 4246JK


EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

Received first reading this 28th day of March 2023

Ron Davis, Reeve
<seal>

Robert Strauss,
Municipal Administrator

APPROVED this 13 day of January 2024



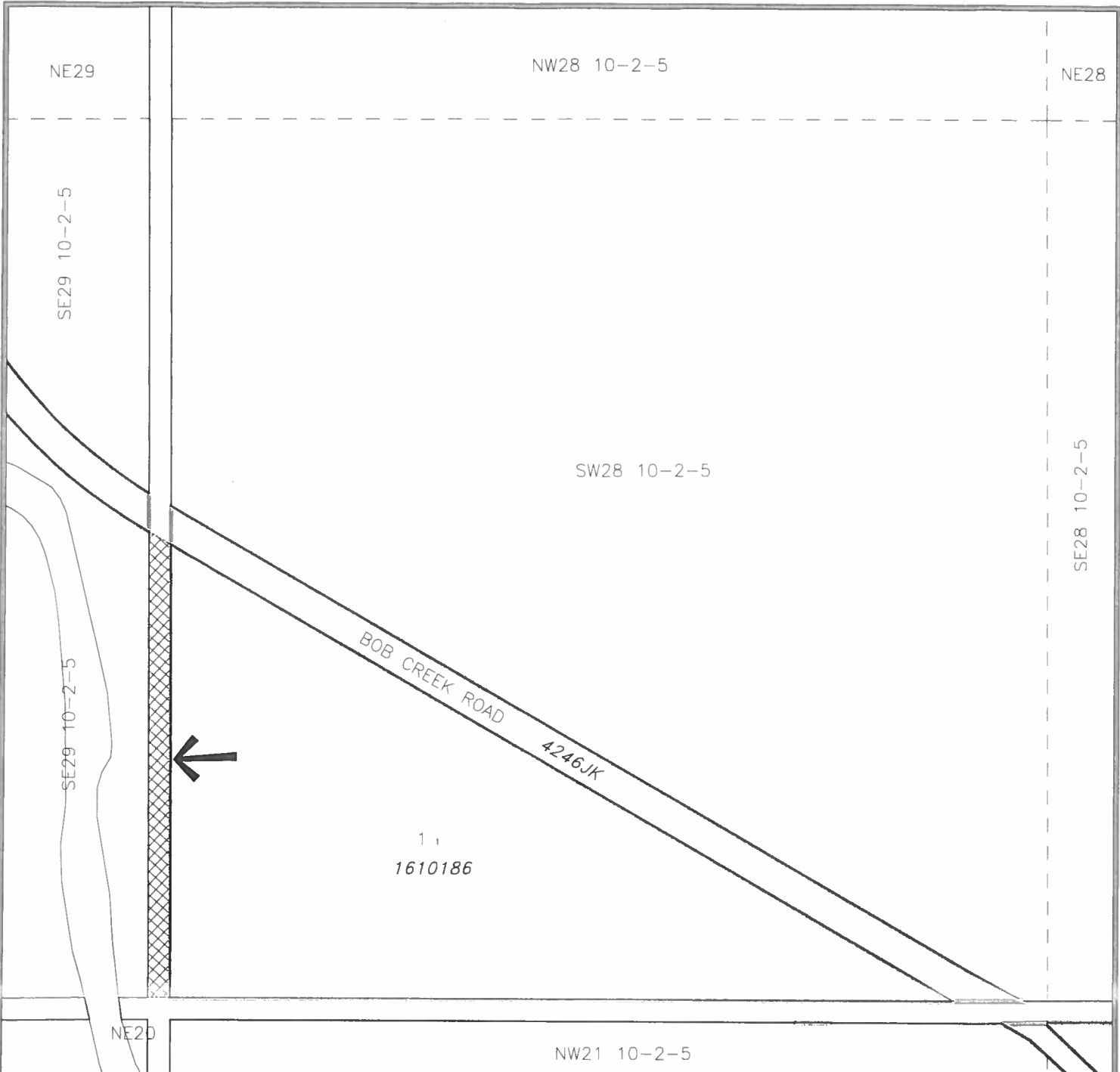
Minister of Transportation
and Economic Corridors <seal>

Received second reading this _____ day of _____ 20__.

Received third reading this _____ day of _____ 20__.

Ron Davis, Reeve
<seal>

Robert Strauss,
Chief Administrative Officer



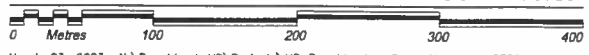
**PROPOSE ROAD CLOSURE
SCHEDULE 'A'**

Bylaw #: 2023-03
Date: _____



THAT PORTION OF ROAD ALLOWANCE LYING BETWEEN
SE 1/4 SEC 29, TWP 10, RGE 2, W 5 M AND LOT 1, BLOCK 1
PLAN 1610186 AND SOUTH OF ROAD PLAN 4246JK

MUNICIPALITY: M.D. OF RANCLAND
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2023



MAP PREPARED BY:
OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
3105 16th AVENUE NORTH, LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA T1H 5E8
TEL. 403-329-1344
"NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS"

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

Title: Speers Creek Fish Crossing

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Originated By: Robert Strauss, CAO

Background: The email correspondence represents government follow up subsequent to the completion of the Speers Creek Bridge Project.

Strategic Pillar:

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

Options for Action: 1.) Accept for information

Financial Considerations: Unknown at this time.

CAO's Review/ Comments/: This is intended as an information follow up item, as further information becomes available, it will be brought to Council's attention.

Attachments: email correspondence

CAO's Initials _____

Nikki Funk

From: Robert Strauss
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Rick Lawson
Cc: Rick Niwa; Nikki Funk
Subject: FW: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Levi,

We will have a discussion at our end and we can get back to you.

What additional permits to do we require to complete any of the minor mitigation work?

Thanks,

Robert Strauss
Chief Administrative Officer
M.D. of Ranchland No. 66
P.O. Box 1060, Nanton, AB.
TOL 1R0
Email: (cao@ranchland66.com)
403-646-3131 (work)
403-646-3141 (Fax)

From: Levi Ober <levi.ober@roseke.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Robert Strauss <CAO@ranchland66.com>
Subject: FW: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Robert,

Just circling back to this email sent by DFO in December regarding the Spears Creek Bridge. There is a drop in the channel at the downstream end of BF 84546 at Speers Creek that DFO believes is acting as a barrier to fish movement upstream. The small drop was included as part of the design and was maintained at the time of construction. This was due to the presence of a scour hole downstream that provided overwintering habitat for sensitive fish species. The conditions appear to have changed since the past few years, due to the crossing, and natural flow of the waterbody. The drop is now more prominent and DFO suddenly has concerns.

My biologist and I have discussed it and we have decided to inform DFO to wait and see what the conditions are like after this spring when the road is open, and after runoff, at which time we could do a check for fish upstream and/or develop a plan to address it if needed. The plan would likely involve the replacement of a couple large rocks, and/or the addition of some rocks to make the slope more gradual. I think the MD could do this themselves if needed, but I think step 1 would be to confirm it is acting as a barrier after runoff and then make a plan if required.

Just wanted to make sure you're in the loop and see if you had any concerns with the proposed strategy.

If you want to discuss – you can reach me at (4)3 315-4223.

Thanks,

Levi.

From: Conway, Amanda <Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:06 AM
To: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>
Cc: cao@ranchland66.com; Levi Ober <levi.ober@roseke.com>; Wyn, Brianna (she, her / elle, la) (DFO/MPO) <Brianna.Wyn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Scott,

DFO has had time to discuss this site and we have concerns that this scour pool and drop may become more pronounced and turn into a barrier to fish during spring and summer/fall migratory periods. It appears that currently it may act as a barrier for Bull Trout migration in the summer/fall. As you are aware, the areas upstream are mapped as Critical Habitat for both Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. Are there any ways to ensure connectivity is maintained during both migratory periods? Some of the Class 3 riprap in the wetted width of the channel could be moved out of the way, but ways of easing the transition from the scour pool to upstream habitat would be the main priority.

If you'd like to set up a call to discuss further, please let me know.

Amanda Conway (she/her/elle)

A/Senior Biologist | A/Biologiste Principale

Ontario and Prairie Region | Région de l'Ontario et des Prairies

Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program | Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat

(289) 556-8651 | Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

From: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Conway, Amanda <Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: cao@ranchland66.com; ! LEVI.OBER <levi.ober@roseke.com>
Subject: RE: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Amanda,

No post-construction audit has been completed to my knowledge (at least from a fisheries perspective). Design drawings for the project were included with the initial RfR submission and are attached for ease of reference. In addition, some photos of a bridge inspection completed in June 2023 are attached. These show a higher water level, however, the region experienced an abnormal freshet this year, so flows were actually quite low for June compared to typical levels. A hydrograph for a nearby system is attached to illustrate this.

The design included a fairly abrupt drop at the end of the design streambed. The intent of this was to try to maintain a scour pool that was present at the downstream of the perched culvert. This scour pool was identified as viable holding, rearing, and potentially overwintering habitat during initial field assessments. It is tough to tell from the photos, but it appears as though the scour pool characteristics may have changed, which could have resulted in this drop becoming more pronounced (i.e., less inundation of the feature). Unfortunately, I'm not aware of any photos showing this crossing under high flows.

Hope this helps,

Scott Taylor, B.Sc., P.Biol., R.P.Bio.

Senior Aquatic Biologist

Tel: (403) 650-8792

Email: staylor@green-plan.com

Website: www.green-plan.com

GREENPLAN+

From: Conway, Amanda <Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:51 AM

To: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>

Cc: cao@ranchland66.com; ! LEVI.OBER <levi.ober@roseke.com>

Subject: RE: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Scott,

As a follow-up, I wanted to see if there was a post construction audit completed of the bridge installation. DFO completed a site visit recently and reports that rock has either slumped into the channel or was placed in a way that may be blocking fish passage under low flows. There is a drop under the bridge into the scour pool that appears to be a barrier.

This is a photo of the site as of October 12, 2023:



Was this the intended design? Have you observed the channel under high flows to assess connectivity?

Thanks for any additional information.

Amanda Conway (she/her/elle)

A/Senior Biologist | A/Biologiste Principal

Ontario and Prairie Region | Région de l'Ontario et des Prairies

From: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 11:12 AM
To: Conway, Amanda <Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: cao@ranchland66.com; ! LEVI.OBER <levi.ober@roseke.com>
Subject: RE: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Amanda,

Please find the attached DFO loadform and fish capture and release report as requested.

Hope this helps,

Scott Taylor, B.Sc., P.Biol., R.P.Bio.

Senior Aquatic Biologist

Tel: (403) 650-8792

Email: staylor@green-plan.com

Website: www.green-plan.com

GREENPLAN+

From: Conway, Amanda <Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>
Cc: cao@ranchland66.com
Subject: 20-HCAA-01910 -Bridge Replacement, Speers Creek, MD of Ranchland No.66

Hi Scott,

I am following up on this file from 2020/2021 where DFO issued a SARA permit (20-HCAA-01910). The DFO assessor on this file no longer works with us and I am trying to track down the results of the fish rescue. It looks like there is a sampling event from Hallstrom Associates on March 25, 2021 in the FWIMT database which I assume is associated with this permit.

If you have a copy of the excel sheet and final report associated with this SARA Permit and could forward my way I want to add it to our file.

Thank you,

Amanda Conway (she/her/elle)

A/Senior Biologist | A/Biologiste Principale

Ontario and Prairie Region | Région de l'Ontario et des Prairies

Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program | Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat

(289) 556-8651 | Amanda.Conway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

From: Scott Taylor <staylor@green-plan.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 4:02 PM
To: FPP.CA / PPP.CA (DFO/MPO) <fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: Levi Ober <levi.ober@roseke.com>
Subject: 20-HCAA-01910 - Request for Review - BF 84546 Culvert to Bridge Replacement

To whom it may concern,

Please find the attached Request for Review Form and associated Aquatic Environmental Assessment Report pertaining to a planned culvert to bridge replacement project on Speers Creek north of Coleman, AB. These documents are intended to provide the necessary information required to support a DFO Project Review. Construction is scheduled to take place winter 2020/2021, during a seasonal road closure and while the stream is expect to be at base flows.

If additional details are required to facilitate your review, please feel free to contact me at you convenience.

Kind Regards,

Scott Taylor, B.Sc., P.Biol., R.P.Bio.

Senior Aquatic Biologist

Tel: (403) 650-8792

Email: staylor@green-plan.com

Website: www.green-plan.com



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

Title: **GoA intention to end Partnership for Regional Economic Development**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Originated By: **Robert Strauss, CAO**

Background: We have received information via Alberta SouthWest regarding the future of provincial funding for REDA's

Strategic Pillar: 5: Collaborative Partnership
6: Community

Options for Action: 1.) Determine if there is further action required. Accept for information.

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** Awaiting Council's guidance

Attachments: correspondence

CAO's Initials _____

January 25, 2024

RE: Minister Jones' Memo to Government MLAs



Dear Premier Smith and Government MLAs,

You will have received a memo dated January 24th from the Hon. Minister Jones regarding a meeting to discuss Regional Economic Development Alliance Funding. We were dismayed to see in this memo that the truth surrounding the conversation has been distorted and we are not confident you will receive an accurate briefing on the nature of our decades long partnership with the Government of Alberta nor the true impact of the ministry's current proposal. Please allow me to offer a few clarifying points, for which I am happy to produce receipts and supporting evidence from the careful records our association has preserved since our founding in 2004.

What is the nature and purpose of the partnership between the GOA and the REDAs?

The partnership between the Government of Alberta and the municipalities on regional economic development work was started by the Ministry in the early 2000's to set up a model *for realizing Provincial economic development priorities*. The idea was that the government could get a lot more value for their money if they partnered with collections of municipalities within economic regions where communities had common interest. Government realized that opportunities within the rural regions were best understood and pursued by the people who live in those regions. The GOA's role has been to enable the partnerships, set the overall strategic direction, and provide support so that the regions can execute projects and programs which are specific to that region.

The result has been that most of rural Alberta is part of one of these partnerships wherein they routinely collaborate to deliver projects that unlock new opportunities. The collaborations themselves have been drivers of increased cooperation amongst municipalities and between various levels of government, and the projects tend to have very high leveraging ratios and included funding from municipalities, businesses, and the federal government which are applied to provincial priorities and outcomes that the Province has an interest in.

What has the partnership looked like in the past?

Minister Jones has said in his letter to caucus that the proposal he has put forward constitutes 'record direct operational support' for the REDAs leading up to the cutoff. **This is false.**

Up until 2011, most of the REDAs were staffed and managed by Government employees from regional offices. They each had multiple employees and budgets that ranged between \$400 – \$500k.

In 2011 funding for the REDAs was cancelled, and the offices closed. The Municipalities at that time chose to carry on supporting the organizations and received project specific funding from the GOA. The

outcomes were not great and the REDAs struggled along until 2014 in which the regions collaborated with the GOA on an exploratory process called the 'REDA Renewal'. This process involved both a research project to profile the potential economic opportunity from renewing the partnership and conversations between the regions and the Government to set the direction for a re-invigorated partnership. Both parties were convinced that re-engaging as partners would be a wise course of action and agreements were signed that provided the REDAs with \$100,000 per year in operational support. As part of this agreement, the Government could dictate alignment with their own strategic plans and mandate reporting and certain outcomes from the regional organizations.

In 2016-2018, an additional project specific stream of funding called the REDA-CARES stream was created. The REDAs had to submit project plans to secure this additional funding. During the two fiscal years in this period, each REDA received \$200,000 in operational and project funding and returned significant value to the province for that investment.

In 2019-2020, Minister Fir moved to end the partnership with the regions under the sweeping budget cuts of that era. Our organizations reminded government of the recorded value and outcomes from our work and they backed down from completely ending the partnership, instead reducing their commitment to \$50,000 per year for 3 years. Our organizations continued their work during this period, demonstrating value and the situation rapidly turned around. In 2022 the GOA returned additional project funding to the REDAs with a one-time top up of \$25,000 for projects. **In 2023, Minister Brian Jean refunded the REDAs to \$125,000 per year in operational support and expressed strong government support for the value of the partnership.**

"Nobody knows their local economy better than REDAs, which bring awareness of provincial and municipal initiatives," said Jean. "Each area has its own specific needs and goals, and this additional support will increase their ability to develop local solutions to economic needs while supporting the improvements that their region needs." – Minister Brian Jean

In 2022 and 2023 Minister Nate Horner also worked to develop the Economic Development in Rural Alberta Plan after extensive consultations with REDAs on effective strategies that should be pursued in rural Alberta. This is an excellent document. This document extensively cites the need for regional collaboration to increase rural outcomes and puts the need to support regional collaborations as a primary focus.

"...the EDRAP is not a plan for community development. Instead, the EDRAP focusses on strategies for sustainable economic development which emphasize regional collaboration and enhancing economic development capacity. Communities that work together can more optimally pool resources to pursue common issues and opportunities. Regional collaboration enables communities and other stakeholders to work together to achieve more strategic outcomes. Participating in a regional partnership mitigates a rural community's "grow on your own" challenge and maximizes the benefits of a collective experience." (EDRAP 7)

The strategy has an entire Strategic Pillar (#5) dedicated to Rural Economic Development Capacity Building, which includes outcomes that are actively being supported by the REDAs, and **it specifically recommends "Continued collaboration and investment in Regional Economic Development Alliances." (EDRAP 14)**

Minster Jones was also given a mandate letter in the spring of 2023 that instructed him to ***“collaborate with partner organizations, including the REDAs, to enhance wayfinding services and other business-attraction initiatives for investments under approximately \$50 million.”***

The current 1-year partnership agreement with the Government of Alberta ends on March 31st, 2024. With all the above considerations in mind, the REDAs collectively submitted a proposal to the Minister suggesting that we enter into a 5-year continued agreement with the Government of Alberta which would include at least \$125,000 per year in direct operational support from the Government of Alberta and up to \$100,000 per year in investment attraction support to assist with the fulfillment of his mandate. We met with the Minister in Edmonton on September 26, 2023, to discuss these issues. The meeting was very positive, and **we were strongly led, by both the Minister and his staff, to expect a favorable negotiation and a satisfactory outcome so that we could get back to work.**

On Friday January 19th, without any further conversation for consultation or feedback, we received the Minister’s proposal with a demand to sign by February 9th.

The Ministry’s proposal is NOT the most generous funding model that the REDAs have ever been offered. The funding itself is the third highest level of funding in our 20-year history and is functionally a long walk off a short dock.

What is being proposed by the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade?

I have attached the proposal from the Ministry for your consideration. They are looking to sustain funding for operational support for up to \$125,000 for three years, but with an accelerating matching requirement from the Municipal partners which caps out at 1:1 in year 3, after which there is no additional partnership. He has also offered an ‘independent consultant’ to work with our organizations to find a path to sustainability and has promised some shiny new tools from Edmonton to support our regional work.

So why is this all a problem?

1. The Ministry has indicated that the GOA is going to stop partnering with the REDAs.

Ministerial staff communicated this proposal to our organizations as a process to help us get off dependency on Government Funding. **Let me make it painfully clear.** We are not dependents of the government; we are in partnership with the government. Regional economic development IS in the best interests of the local municipalities, but the mandate to realize regional priorities rests with the Government of Alberta. We are in a partnership with the Government of Alberta, where they came to us and asked us to partner to realize outcomes for which they have a mandate. That mandate exists today not only in the Ministers own mandate letter, but also in the Economic Development in Rural Alberta Plan, and within the Governments general mandate to support economic development throughout the Province of Alberta without leaving the smallest and most rural and remote areas behind.

The Ministry is proposing to exit this partnership and justify that his mandate has been fulfilled by working with the REDAs over the subsequent three years.

2. The Small REDAs will be unable to meet the matching requirements and are likely to die.

REDAs like Alberta SouthWest have only 35,000 people. Under this formula, the REDA would move from having just shy of \$200,000 in base predictable funding from all sources, to less than \$100,000 from all sources in year 3. Subsequent to that they would go down to ~\$50,000 with which to carry on. The implication of course is another major downloading of costs onto municipalities to keep funding work for which the Government is supposed to be a partner. Our municipalities showed staunch support for the REDAs during the reduced funding from 2019 to 2022. In the case of SouthGrow, our municipalities doubled their commitment in the face of generational reductions to the funding they receive from Edmonton. ***They cannot and should not be asked to assume additional downloaded costs when the Government has such a plain mandate to continue partnering and support regional work in rural Alberta.***

3. The Ministry has justified this move by claiming that the changes will ‘make local economic development funding more equitable and competitive project-based’. This is very mystifying to us. Our organizations represent the smallest communities and most rural and remote locations in the province. Village staff members often turn to our supporting services to help them with grant applications or to build and design local programs. We are their resource and by the fact that we exist, there is more equitable access from the smallest and most underserved areas of the province. The entire REDA program currently costs the Ministry \$1,125,000 to provide support and service to almost 250 communities. The Cities do not need access to that \$1,125,000 in order to continue their economic development work, but our small communities do need the supports and expertise that our organizations bring to them.

4. We do not need ‘exciting tools’, we need a fully invested provincial partner, and the proposal from the Ministry has not identified any of these mentioned ‘incentives’. The REDAs themselves have created many of our own exciting tools over the past number of years. We’ve already heard that some of these tools duplicate what we ourselves have already invested in. We are unlikely to need any help from a 3rd party consultant to tell us how to sustain our organizations as this is a problem we’ve grappled with for decades. Whomever the poor consultant is will likely be paid very well to come and learn from us how to sustain a nonprofit in rural Alberta without contributing anything which we don’t already know. Unless the Ministry has something new to offer that was not communicated to us already, this is all just sugar to try and make a bitter bill taste better.

5. The Ministry has also cited that not all municipalities are part of REDAs as a major problem with the model. We see the solution to this issue not as the cancellation of the REDAs, but as an argument to further support them. There are several ‘holes in the map’ but only two of them constitute an actual gap. Wood Buffalo is not part of a REDA, but they have one of the best funded economic development associations in the entire province due to their particular circumstances. There used to be REDAs around Edmonton and Calgary. Over the years they have evolved into Edmonton Global, and the informal partnership between the communities around Calgary. They are well funded and receive substantial funding from the GOA through other mechanisms. There is a legitimate gap along the West Yellowhead corridor where the idea of collaboration has never taken root despite efforts to try. There is another legitimate gap in the Lesser Slave Lake region

where a former REDA closed for a variety of unfortunate reasons. The Peace Region Economic Development Alliance has expanded to serve some of the communities in this area, and the Grizzly Regional Economic Alliance Society is well positioned to expand north and assist. Strong support for REDAs from the Government would help us to extend the benefits of collaboration to these communities and a very reasonable goal of the partnership could be to close these holes in the map so that all regions of the province have equitable support from a REDA in partnership with the Government.

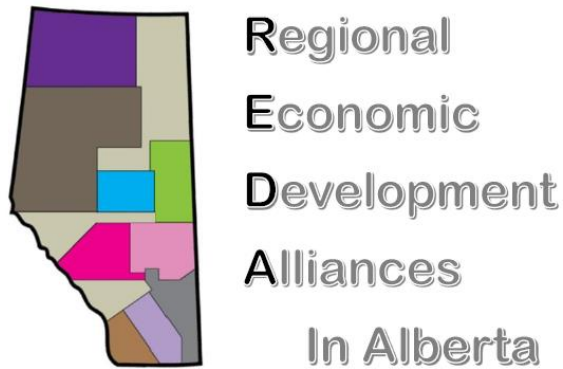
So where do we go from here?

1. The Ministry's proposal to exit the partnership with the rural regions is off mission for the GOA and the mandate that they themselves have adopted. Exiting the partnership should simply not be an option given that the mandate exists, and the program is producing favorable outcomes.
2. The Ministry HAS in fact committed to funding up to \$125,000 per REDA for 3 years (with an unrealistic matching requirement for the smaller regions), so maybe that is somewhere we can start.
3. **The Ministry should amend their proposal so that it is inclusive and provides equitable support for both the small and large REDAs.** Our large REDAs have never indicated a problem with proportionally more support being given to our smaller friends out of the belief that the province's contribution sets the floor, and our municipal contributions account for differences in regional size and economic weight. **Translation:** The matching requirement should allow for small regions to participate at the same level as the larger ones.
4. **The Ministry should amend their proposal so that it provides multi-year certainty without a path to exiting the partnership.** Economic Development is a marathon, and regional projects are often multi-year. This kind of planning requires long-term certainty. To unlock and support our work, a 5-year agreement that spans provincial elections would be preferred. Our Municipalities need to know that the province is in this as a partner for the long term so that they can justify sustaining their own investment in the face of increasing financial pressures.
5. **The Ministry's proposal to provide a consultant should focus on helping REDA's achieve their potential.** There is room for growth and improving of outcomes in the REDA model. A qualified consultant could work with and analyze the opportunities present in each region and assist with identifying and realizing better outcomes. In a REDA like GROWTH Alberta to the north of Edmonton, the consultant could assist the REDA in expanding and communicating their value proposition to the communities formerly served by the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Association. In a place like SouthGrow, the consultant could help our team identify future opportunity forecasts and help us implement projects that set us up for the kind of success that we saw after we started working on renewable energy investment attraction in 2007.

6. **The Ministry should consult with the REDAs on what kind of tools would be useful for our regional work before investing significantly in their purchase or creation.** We have not been consulted in this way, we have many ideas on what would be useful, and talking about it would only make sense.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the REDAs with whom you have contact for more information. It would be our pleasure to bring a detailed presentation to you on our organizations and to specifically present to you the value that the Government of Alberta gets for their investment. It is significant and we would be happy to show you the outcomes that you have received through this partnership. We encourage you to attend the meeting between the REDAs and Minister Jones as per his invitation.

Prepared on behalf of the Regional Economic Development Alliances by Peter Casurella, Executive Director of the SouthGrow Regional Initiative



**Fostering broad based economic prosperity
through regional collaboration across rural Alberta**



Memorandum

From: Honourable Matt Jones
Minister

Our File Reference: AR 85593

Your File Reference:

To: Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

Date: January 24, 2024

Telephone: 780-638-9400

All Government MLAs

Subject: **Meeting to Discuss Regional Economic Development Alliance Funding**

Alberta's government is committed to economic growth and values the regional economic development efforts led by important stakeholders across the province, including Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs).

As you know, my mandate letter instructed me to collaborate with partner organizations, including REDAs, to enhance wayfinding services and other business-attraction initiatives for investments under approximately \$50 million.

As representatives of your communities, I wanted to personally invite you to a presentation on the enhanced range of supports and resources that will be made available to REDAs in advance of my presentation to them directly. This meeting will include a brief demonstration of exciting new tools, resources, and incentives that will be provided to REDAs as well as a discussion on changes that will make local economic development funding more equitable and competitive project-based. During this transition, three years of record direct operational support will be available to REDAs on a matched basis.

My office will be in touch shortly to invite you to a virtual presentation on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. In addition, I will be meeting with the REDA Chairs on Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, and extend an invitation to each of you to attend that meeting as well.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions or comments.



Honourable Matt Jones



ALBERTA

JOBS, ECONOMY AND TRADE

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-South East

AR 85105

January 19, 2024

His Worship Jim Willett
Mayor, Village of Coutts
Chair, SouthGrow Regional Initiative
jimwillett@couttsalberta.com

Mr. Peter Casurella
Executive Director, SouthGrow Regional Initiative
PO Box 27068
Lethbridge, AB T1K 6Z8
peter.casurella@southgrow.com

Dear Mayor Willett and Mr. Casurella:

Thank you for your August 2, 2023, letter outlining a proposed funding approach for Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDA) and for meeting with me and your fellow REDAs on September 26, 2023. As Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, I appreciate the work that your organization does on behalf of your membership. By working together, communities can seize opportunities and pursue a shared economic vision.

Alberta's government is committed to regional economic development and values the work of many stakeholders involved in this important work, including REDAs. To help optimize the use of provincial and local resources and create more targeted investments, my ministry is shifting to competitive, project-based economic development initiatives that recognize all actors in the regional economic development ecosystem. In the future, impactful projects delivered by collaborative partnerships will be a key aspect of our approach.

In recognition of the valued historical relationship with SouthGrow Regional Initiative, my ministry is offering a funding approach that will support your transition to becoming operationally self-sustaining. Over the next three fiscal years, transitional funding will be available to your organization for predictability, stability and support.

.../2

The funding will have the following conditions to ensure prudent use of public funds:

- for fiscal years 2024/2025 to 2026/2027, your organization may receive up to \$125,000 per year;
- annual funding will be based on membership revenues raised by your organization;
- for 2024/2025, funding will be based on the peak membership revenue collected by your organization in any of 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 fiscal years for your organization to receive the maximum potential funding;
- funding will match membership revenues using a ratio of grant funding to membership revenue of 2:1 in 2024/2025, 1.5:1 in 2025/2026 and 1:1 in 2026/2027; and
- the proportion of annual grant funds used for project-based activities must represent at a minimum 25 per cent in 2025/2026 and 50 per cent in 2026/2027. There are no restrictions on use of the funds in 2024/2025.

In addition to this funding, an independent consultant will be available to work with your organization to help you plan and prepare for this transition away from operational support. Your organization may continue to apply for funding through available regional economic development initiatives or other Alberta government grant programs; however, further operational or direct funding to REDAs will not be available at the end of this three-year funding agreement.

Department staff will be in contact with you shortly to schedule a meeting that provides additional information on how to apply for this funding and access the consultant services. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Ms. Merry Turtiak, Executive Director, Regional and Northern Economic Development, at 780-619-8311.

On behalf of Alberta's government, thank you for your important work. I wish you all the best in your future economic development efforts and continued success in supporting regional collaboration.

Sincerely,



Honourable Matt Jones
Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade

cc: Chris McPherson, Deputy Minister, Jobs, Economy and Trade
Sylvia Lepki, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Business Supports
Merry Turtiak, Executive Director, Regional and Northern Economic Development
Tammy Powell, Director, Regional Economic Development Services

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

Title: **Delegation: Nanton School Enhancement Committee –
Greg Graves**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Originated By: **Robert Strauss, CAO**

Background: As Council is aware, Livingstone Range School Division is in the midst of an approval process whereby they are attempting to building new School Infrastructure in Nanton.

Mr. Greg Graves, Chair of the Nanton School Enhancement Committee, has made a request to attend a MD of Ranchland Council meeting to speak to Council regarding the nature of the committee and their intent to get the support of the MD of Ranchland.

Strategic Pillar:

- 4. Financial Sustainability
- 5: Collaborative Partnership
- 6: Community

Options for Action: 1.) Unknown until the delegation presents their position.

**Financial
Considerations:** Unknown at this time

**CAO's Review/
Comments/:** Once we hear what he position of the delegation is, the MD of Ranchland will be in a better position to respond.

Attachments: Email from Mr. Greg Graves

CAO's Initials _____

Nikki Funk

From: Greg Graves <cggraves@telus.net>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Robert Strauss
Subject: Nanton School Enhancement Committee

Good day Robert,

My name is Greg and I am the Chair of The Nanton school enhancement committee, we are a new group that has come together to raise funds to increase the size of the Learning commons with in the new build of the AB Daley Community School as well as to work with the JT Foster High school to help with a variety of needs in their transition into the Modernized AB Daley school,(new JT Foster High School).

We would like to request to be included in the agenda of your next board meeting to present the nature of our committee with the intent of getting the MD of Ranchlands support. We will provide you with a copy of our presentation before hand and if you have any questions please contact me anytime.

Thank you for your time.

Greg Graves
403.813.7923



Virus-free. www.avast.com