

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

9:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - A. Regular County Meeting April 3, 2024
4. PUBLIC HEARING
Public Hearing regarding Bylaw 716-23 Land Use Bylaw Rezoning amendment 1:00 P.M.
5. DELEGATIONS
 - A. Ascend LLP – Audited 2023 Financial Statements
 - B. Village of Halkirk (Closed Session)
6. BUSINESS
 - A. Coronation Golf Club re: In-Kind Donation Request
7. BYLAWS
 - A. Bylaw 721-24 Mill Rate Bylaw (Closed Session)
8. COUNCILLOR REPORTS
 - A. Verbal Reports.
9. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS
 - A. Chief Administrative Officer Report
 - B. Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Report

- C. Public Works Director Report
 - D. Community Services Director Report
 - E. Bylaw Officer Report (Closed Session)
10. FINANCIAL
- A. Budget Report ending March 31, 2024.
11. CORRESPONDENCE
- A. RMA Member Bulletin re: Bill 18
12. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
- A. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter F-25: Part 1, Div. 2, Sec 23(1)(a)*
13. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates – May 7, May 22, June 4, June 18, 2024. Council Meeting dates are subject to individual change and commence at 9:00 a.m.

3a)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2024

COUNTY OF PAINEARTH NO. 18
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Council of the County of Paintearth No. 18 held in Council chambers in the municipal office on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Reeve:	Stan Schulmeister
Councillors:	Dale Norton, Terry Vockeroth, Maurice Wiart, Sandy Shipton, Diane Elliott, George Glazier
Chief Administrative Officer:	Michael Simpson
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer:	Lana Roth
Public Works Director:	Bryce Cooke
Strategic Initiatives Manager:	Kaitlyn Kenney
Bylaw Officer	Colm Fitz-Gerald

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Schulmeister called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

04.03.24.569

Regular Council Meeting Agenda – April 3, 2024 - MOVED by Councillor Glazier for adoption of the Regular Council Meeting Agenda of April 3, 2024, as amended with the following additional item:

6.C RFD: Allocation of 2023 Unrestricted Surplus to Restricted Reserves

Carried

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

04.03.24.570

Regular County Council Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2024 – MOVED by Councillor Elliott that the Regular County Council Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried

PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

BUSINESS:

04.03.24.571

County of Paintearth Assessment Services Agreement Extension Contract Amendment - MOVED by Deputy Reeve Wiart that the County extend the industrial assessment services contract with Accurate Assessment Group in accordance with the proposed terms and conditions including a term date of April 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027.

Carried

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2024

04.03.24.572

Coronation District 4H Beef Show June 4-5 Sponsorship Request - MOVED by Councillor Shipton that Council sponsor the Coronation District 4H Beef Show in the amount of \$500 payable to the Coronation District 4H Beef Club.

Carried

04.03.24.573

Unrestricted Surplus 2023 Reserve Allocations – MOVED by Councillor Vockeroth that the 2023 unrestricted surplus as of Dec 31, 2023 be allocated to the following restricted reserves in the following amounts:

\$45,000 in restricted surplus to admin buildings reserve
\$45,000 in restricted surplus to admin equipment & furniture reserve
\$30,000 in restricted surplus to fire vehicle reserve
\$10,000 in restricted surplus to bylaw vehicle reserve
\$500,000 in restricted surplus to PW buildings reserve
\$200,000 in restricted surplus to PW road development reserve
\$300,000 in restricted surplus to PW machinery and equipment reserve
\$300,000 in restricted surplus to PW vehicles reserve
\$50,000 in restricted surplus to Brownfield Water reserve
\$1,652,059 in restricted surplus to water projects reserve
\$25,000 in restricted surplus to ASB vehicles reserve
\$20,000 in restricted surplus to ASB machinery & equipment reserve
\$15,000 in restricted surplus to ASB buildings reserve
\$45,000 in restricted surplus to land development reserve
\$15,000 in restricted surplus to parks and recreation reserve
\$2,000,000 in restricted surplus to Broadband capital reserve

Total transfer to reserves: \$5,252,059

Carried

BYLAWS:

None.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

04.03.24.574

Councillor Reports – MOVED by Deputy Reeve Wiart to adopt the verbal Councillor Reports as information.

Carried

DELEGATIONS:

Kaye Hauck, Paintearth Adult Learning Manager, entered chambers at 10:02 a.m. to discuss the topic of program supports for the next round of Norquest Health Care Aide delivery at the Castor Battle River Innovation Center to encourage uptake in the educational programming by local residents.

04.03.24.575

MOVED by Councillor Norton that the presentation from Kaye Hauck be accepted as information.

Carried

Kaye Hauck exited chambers at 10:17 a.m.

Recess: The meeting recessed at 10:18 a.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2024

Reconvene: *The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.*

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

- 04.03.24.576 Chief Administrative Officer Report – MOVED by Councillor Norton to approve the Chief Administrative Officer’s Report as presented. Carried
- 04.03.24.577 Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Report – MOVED by Councillor Glazier to approve the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer’s Report as presented. Carried
- 04.03.24.578 Public Works Director Report – MOVED by Deputy Reeve Wiat to approve the Public Works Director Report as presented. Carried
- 04.03.24.579 Strategic Initiatives Manager Report – MOVED by Councillor Glazier to approve the Strategic Initiatives Manager Report as presented. Carried
- 04.03.24.580 Bylaw Officer Report – MOVED by Councillor Norton to approve the Bylaw Officer Report as presented. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 04.03.24.581 Town of Castor re: Paintearth Regional Waste Management Budget Approval – MOVED by Councillor Elliott that the correspondence from Castor Town Council be received and filed, and further that the correspondence be forwarded to Paintearth Regional Waste Management for board discussion at their next meeting in April. Carried
- 04.03.24.582 Town of Castor re: County proposal re: Intermunicipal Water Servicing Agreement – MOVED by Councillor Norton that the correspondence from the Town of Castor be received and filed as information, and further that Administration re-engage the subject during ICF discussions at a future date. Carried
- 04.03.24.583 Brownlee LLP Municipal Law Bulletin re: AUC Renewables Inquiry and Municipal Considerations – MOVED by Councillor Shipton that the Brownlee Municipal Law Bulletin be received as information. Carried
- 04.03.24.584 Municipal Affairs Letter to Council re: PERC Program Extension – MOVED by Councillor Elliott that correspondence from Municipal Affairs regarding the Provincial Education Requisition Program Extension be received as information, and further that the County continue to apply for PERC funding on eligible accounts. Carried

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
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04.03.24.585 Municipal Affairs re: Assessment Model Review Process Overview Bulletin – MOVED by Deputy Reeve Wiart that correspondence from Municipal Affairs regarding the Assessment Model Review be received and filed as information. Carried

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS:

04.03.24.586 Closed Session - MOVED by Councillor Norton that Council move to Closed-Session at 11:05 a.m. to discuss items under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter F-25: Part 1, Div. 2, Sec. 16(1)(c)(i) Carried

04.03.24.587 Open Meeting - MOVED by Councillor Norton that Council return to an Open Session at 12:06 p.m. Carried

Recess – the meeting recessed at 12:08 p.m. to allow return of the public.

Reconvene – the meeting reconvened at 12:09 p.m. with no public present.

04.03.24.588 NRED Agriclass Grant Matching Fund Amendment– MOVED by Councillor Elliott that the County increase the County funding component by \$21,000 to a total matching contribution of \$71,000 for the Agriclass Northern Regional Economic Development grant application. Carried

04.03.24.589 Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital Foundation Real Property Matter – MOVED by Councillor Glazier that the County collaborate with the Town of Castor to secure the real property interest of the Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital Foundation at *Plan 7365AA, Block 7, East Half of Lot 3* in Castor, to the benefit of the Town and County at a total cumulative cost of \$29,166.67 plus associated transfer costs to be paid by the County of Paintearth. Carried

Upcoming meetings - Upcoming Council Meetings will be scheduled for April 16, May 7, May 22, June 4, June 18, 2024 commencing at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment – Reeve Schulmeister adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

These minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

4a)

**BYLAW NUMBER 716-23
OF THE COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**A BYLAW OF THE COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING BYLAW 698-21,
THE LAND USE BYLAW OF THE COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18.**

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 692 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26 a municipality may amend its Land Use Bylaw.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the County of Paintearth No. 18, duly assembled, hereby enact as follows:

- 1. That the changes to the Land Use Bylaw for the County of Paintearth No. 18, being Bylaw 698-21 be amended as set out in the attached Schedule "A" for the purpose of general updates within the County.

Received First Reading this 28 Day of Nov, 2023 on a motion of Councillor Glazier. Carried.

Received Second Reading this _____ Day of _____, 2024 on a motion of Councillor _____. Carried.

Read a Third Time and Finally Passed this _____ Day of _____, 2024 on a motion of Councillor _____ . Carried.

Signed by the Chief Elected Official and Chief Administrative Officer this _____ Day of _____, 2024.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

SCHEDULE A – GENERAL UPDATES FOR THE LUB 698-21

7. Application for a Development Permit

- (1) Only the owner of a lot or their agent may make an application for a development permit.
 - (a) An agent must provide an owner authorization form or have the owner's signature on the application form provided
 - i) Current copy of title may be requested to be submitted with application
- (2) An application for a development permit shall be made to the Development Officer using the approved form and shall be accompanied by, including but not limited to, the following:
 - (a) a site plan showing the legal description and the front, rear and side yards, if any, and any provisions for off-street loading and vehicle parking and access and egress points to the site.
 - (b) floor plans, elevations and sections of any proposed buildings.
 - (c) any other reasonable information that the Development Officer/Municipal Planning Commission deems is necessary to render a decision on the application such as:
 - i) Geotechnical or engineering reports;
 - ii) Location of proximate buried services or AER approved facilities;
 - iii) other required provincial, federal, or trade association approvals specific to the particular development application;
 - (d) a development permit fee as established by Council which receipt – or lack of - does not impact the determination of the application's completeness.
 - (e) Where an industrial permit application requires a review from any outside authority of relevant expertise, the cost of such review will be due from the applicant prior to the issuance of the development permit.
- (3) The Development Officer / Municipal Planning Commission may request as part of an application for a development permit for an intensive livestock operation that the applicant provide the following:
 - (a) Details on the type of sewage system proposed for the development, including geotechnical information for sites where lagoon construction is proposed.
 - (b) Calculations on the quantity of surface runoff from the development, site drainage flow patterns and site runoff storage retention.
 - (c) Tests on subsurface soil structures to determine if the site is suitable for the proposed development.
 - (d) Information as to the location of land for manure disposal and soil tests to determine its suitability for manure disposal.
 - (e) Tests on the availability of ground water to determine if quantities are sufficient to meet the needs of the development.
- (4) The Development Authority may require the applicant for a development permit to advertise and conduct a public meeting for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the proposed development with the community. Further, the Development Authority may specify the date, time, and/or location of such a public meeting. The costs of advertising and conducting such a public meeting shall be born by the applicant for the development permit.
- (5) If a public meeting as specified in subsection (4) is required, the application for the development permit shall not be deemed complete until the conclusion of the public meeting.
- (6) Upon submitting an application for a development permit, the Development Authority must indicate within 20 days:

- (a) the completeness of the application by processing the fee payment and issuing receipt for such either in person or by mail; or
- (b) the incompleteness of the application and request for missing or incomplete information required, along with any required circulation responses that the application may be "subject to" by either mail or email to the applicant's addresses given on the application;
- (c) If an applicant fails to provide the information requested in (b) above within the specified time frame as provided in the notice communicated, the application will be refused, and returned to the applicant by mail stating such.
- (d) The Development Officer as the Development Authority will make the determination of whether an application is complete or incomplete.

Rationale: Updates to Sec 7 are recommended by legal as a result of our last two appeals where more information was required, incomplete information was received, and who makes the completeness determination as in the DiGirolamo appeal the MPC made the determination when in actuality the DO should have. Also, a best practice is define whether the receipt of the application fee is a part of the application documents or just a fee charged for the service.

8. Deciding on Development Permit Applications

- (1) The Development Officer shall:
 - (a) receive, consider and decide on an application for a development permit for those uses listed as a permitted use for the relevant land use district and comply with the minimum standards for that district, or as allowed by Bylaw 650-17 a maximum 10% variance of such standards;
 - (b) refer, with his/her recommendations to the Municipal Planning Commission, any application for a development permit for those uses listed as a permitted use for the relevant land use district and which do not comply with the minimum standards for that district;
 - (c) refer, at his/her discretion, a permit application for any development for comments to those authorities (provincial, regional and municipal) whose interest or jurisdiction may be affected, for comments on the proposed development;
 - (d) refer with his/her recommendations, to the Municipal Planning Commission for its consideration and decision, applications for a development permit for those uses which constitute discretionary uses and which have been assigned to it for consideration and decision;
 - (e) refer to the Municipal Planning Commission at his discretion any application which in his opinion should be decided by the Commission.
- (2) The Municipal Planning Commission shall:
 - (a) decide on applications for a development permit for those uses listed as discretionary uses for the relevant district;
 - (b) decide on any application referred to it by the Development Officer;
 - (c) approve the application unconditionally or impose conditions considered appropriate, permanently or for a limited period of time or refuse the application.
- (3) The Development Authority may approve an application for a development permit even though the proposed development does not comply with the regulations of this Bylaw, or if the development is to be a rebuilding, an enlargement, an addition, or a structural alteration of a non-conforming building, if, in the opinion of the Development Authority:
 - (a) The proposed development would not:
 - (i) Unduly interfere with the amenities of the neighborhood, or
 - (ii) Materially interfere with or affect the use, enjoyment or value of neighboring lots, and

- (b) The proposed development conforms to the use prescribed for that land or building in this Bylaw.
- (4) Where the proposed use is not listed in a land use district, the Municipal Planning Commission may consider it to be so listed if, in its opinion, it is sufficiently similar in character and purpose to a listed use.
- (5) The Development Authority may impose as a part of the approval of a development permit, such conditions as are deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to the following:
 - (a) that the applicant to enter into an agreement to construct or pay for:
 - i) public roadways or parking facilities
 - ii) the installation of utilities or to pay an off-site levy or redevelopment levy imposed by Bylaw.
 - (b) that the applicant enter into and abide by an agreement for:
 - i) road use, accesses/approaches and damage repair to such
 - ii) weed or vegetation management
 - iii) reclamation or damages security and/or bonding
- (6) If a development permit application is refused, the Development Officer need not accept another application for the same or similar use on the same parcel for six months after the date of refusal.
- (7) If a decision is not made on a development permit applications within 40 days after its receipt by the Development Officer, the applicant may deem it to be refused at the end of the 40 day period.
- (8) The Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission may issue a temporary Development Permit, for a period not exceeding one year.

Rationale: Updates to Sec 8 are housekeeping items and better define as recommended by legal the various conditions and requirements for conditions within an agreement with the developers of projects such as what we have been doing with the renewables industry.

49. WECS and SECS regulations

(5) Solar Energy Conversion Systems - Macrogeneration - LUB requirements

- a) Solar power plants shall be considered a discretionary use in the Agricultural Land Use District only.
- b) An application for a development permit to support a solar farm's application to the AUC will follow the same process and regulations (where applicable) as a WECS as outlined in sections 1, 2, and 3 above.
- c) Lands suitable and preferred for use:
 - i) lands with soil classification of AB Soil Classes 3 to 4 or lower. No solar installations shall be permitted to occupy lands with soil classifications of 2 or higher
 - ii) lands not currently being cropped or in production of hay. Grazing lands would be preferred lands for minimal soil disturbance or erosion issues

d) Emergency Response Planning & Access

i) A site-specific ERP is to be submitted which identifies preliminary emergency response measures during construction and operation. Such an ERP shall outline site monitoring and communication protocols. Local responders and authorities are to be provided a copy of the ERP

ii) Layout considerations - internal access roads shall be shown on a layout of the solar arrays and shall include space for:

- 1) perimeter access of the arrays for adequate fire fighting apparatus; and
- 2) internal access roads spaced at intervals within the arrays for adequate fire fighting apparatus;
- 3) separation distance of at least 50 m from a property line for any substation or inverter collection points.

e) Reclamation – all soil conservation and post-facility operation reclamation plans shall:

i) meet the AEP Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations, or as alternatively required by the Provincial Government, and;

ii) provide an overview of how sufficient funds are secured and available at the project end of life to cover the cost of decommissioning and reclamation

iii) the Development Authority may require the establishment of a security trust to be held for decommissioning purposes at a value determined by its discretion.

f) Glare and reflectivity – all macro solar installations shall use an anti-reflective coating on the project solar panels.

g) Setbacks and Separation Distances will aid in the access of property by emergency vehicles and keep hazards at a distance from County residences, ditches and roads. All developments must meet the minimum standards:

i) from any provincial highway – as per Alberta Transportation

ii) from any County road – 75 m from the centerline of the road

iii) from any property line – 50 m from the edge of the boundary

iv) from any dwelling – the greater of 200 m or as meets AUC rule 12 permitted sound levels

Whereas in the opinion of the Development Authority, the setbacks are not sufficient to reduce the impact of a solar plant from any road, boundary or dwelling, the Dev Authority may increase the requirement.

h) Screening or Visual Landscaping – at its discretion the Development Authority may require all or any portion of the project to be screened from view or to prevent interference with sightlines of intersections, roadways, or residences by use of vegetation or privacy fencing.

i) Site security – all lands hosting macro solar farm installations shall be perimeter fenced with a minimum of 4' high barbed wire fence (4 wire) and all equipment collection points and substation facilities are to be enclosed with a chain link security fence of at least 6'.

j) Collaborative agricultural use – where possible all macro solar installations are encouraged to allow grazing or animal access use.

k) Vegetation management plans are to be submitted as part of the application detailing procedures for weed control, and fire hazard mitigation of dead vegetation.

(6) Battery Storage for both Wind and Solar Energy Conversion Systems

All BSS – battery storage systems – for any renewable energy power plant shall meet the following requirements at a minimum to ensure safety of the surroundings and emergency response access:

- a) Location selected shall be developed in such a manner that the grounds on and around the BSS facilities shall be of a fire retardant, non-combustible material such as rock, concrete or other similar material for at least 30m and no flammable structures are contained within that surface;
- b) Any BSS shall be set back from any residence a minimum of 300 m;
- c) All BSS facilities shall have a means of direct access to/from a County road and shall be constructed in such a manner as to allow heavy truck traffic to convey across unimpeded;
- d) All BSS facilities shall be perimeter fenced with at least a 6' high security chain link fence with barbed wire overhang;
- e) All BSS facilities shall be signed on the perimeter fence gate or side nearest the access road with a sign indicating:
 - i) the danger of stored energy/electricity
 - ii) access is restricted
 - iii) Emergency response number of company
 - iv) any other pertinent information specific to stored energy or the batteries' chemical composition which would aid first responders

(7) Waste Management Plans

All applications for WECS or SECS shall include a detailed plan of how industrial waste management practices will be part of the construction operations, for both the power generator and temporary laydown yard sites. Plans to address the following must be included with the application:

- a) All transport bracings, dunnage, crating or wrapping/packing material to be identified for removal (or recycling where possible)
- b) Temporary office site produced materials of paper products, office general garbage, or any compostable or biodegradable products
- c) All wastes are required to be removed offsite and disposed of at the sanitary landfill located north west of the Town of Coronation.
- d) Applicants/Developers/Operators will all be responsible for the cleanup of any litter escaping the lands being used or developed within an approved Development Permit

Rationale: Sec 49 updates for macro solar – otherwise referred to commonly as solar farms – are the result of review of AUC decisions where common developer commitments were identified, research of County and MD LUB's with solar farm applications, and also with neighbouring similar Counties/MD's to get their input on their own LUB details pertaining to solar macro.

55. Landfill Sites, and Landfill Cell Developments within Landfill Sites, Waste Handling & Recycling Centers:

- (1) Each new site, cell, or handling & recycling center will be defined as a new development and require a new development permit application.
 - a) Only allowed in Ag District as discretionary uses
 - b) Shall not be allowed within any referenced circulation proximity to an urban municipality as per any Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) requirements.

- (2) The following setbacks will be defined and observed:
 - a) 150' setbacks from county ROW centerlines to peak of cell berm or site structures
 - b) Water retention or collection areas – shall be treated as dugouts and follow the regulations pertaining to, with no variances granted
 - c) side yard setback as per Ag District – 50' from property line
 - d) buffer area within setback may require to be treed along length of property or landscape plan submitted as the use of trees and shelter belts on perimeter of property enhances buffer area and may be encouraged and or directed

- (3) Fencing requirements are desired in order to facilitate the efficient retention of litter from escaping the property and shall be:
 - a) litter catchment fences minimum 10' high on both sides of tipping/unloading areas
 - b) 30' high litter screens will be required on all sides of active cell or outdoor unloading location.
 - i) Upon cell or facility completion and closure, screens may be removed
 - c) other fencing or litter catchment methods as the Development Authority may deem necessary
 - d) In the event that high winds exceed or reduce the effectiveness and ability of the tipping, cell perimeter, or other fencing to retain litter from escaping, the tipping and unloading operations shall either cease or be relocated to ground level so that litter is prevented from leaving the facility.

- (4) Operations and Construction:
 - a) Operations are expected to observe the following requirements to minimize negative impacts on surrounding neighbour properties:
 - i) Hours of tipping or unloading operations to commence no earlier than 5 am and conclude by 11 pm or reasonably thereafter to complete the day's received loads;
 - ii) Hours of dozing operations to cease upon completion of covering daily tippage as soon as possible thereafter;
 - iii) low decibel back-up alarms shall be used on equipment
 - iv) lighting to be directed into site and not neighbouring lands
 - v) odour suppression systems be deployed on a regular basis
 - vi) access road to county roads must have rumble strips or other cleaning methods for cleaning off mud and tracking material, otherwise staging area must be included for cleaning vehicles
 - vii) pest controls must be engaged to attempt to reduce or limit the flies, gulls or other pests
 - b) Construction of landfill cells are expected to observe the following requirements to minimize the negative impacts on surrounding neighbour properties:
 - i) Hours of construction allowed between 5 am and 11 pm

- ii) 24 hr construction must first be approved by the County following a written request by the operator stating reasons for such;
- iii) Low decibel back up alarms shall be on all equipment
- iv) Lighting to be directed into site and not neighbouring lands
- c) Facility Operators may be required to enter into and abide by the terms of a Road Use Agreement to the satisfaction of the County.
 - i) The use of County roads for staging of vehicles is strictly prohibited

(5) Litter picking:

- a) Property boundaries and neighbouring properties must be kept clear and agreements to enter for cleaning maintained. Should access be not granted then that property should be noted and the County informed for future cell applications.
- b) Regular picking crews shall be cleaning the surrounding county roads and ditches;
- c) Litter fences and screens shall be kept clean on regular basis

(6) Public notification process:

- a) Prior to development permit applications being submitted, all new cell developments must first undergo a public notification process that shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - i) Notice of cell or facility construction and operation plans and timelines mailed to all directly adjacent landowners within 1 mile (2 quarter sections) of the property;
 - ii) Publicly advertised for a minimum of 2 consecutive weeks in local paper;
 - iii) An open house shall be held and results forwarded to County with development permit application.
- b) Upon approval of development permits the following notifications shall be made by the County but not limited to:
 - i) notice as per MGA requirements for public notification in local papers
 - ii) Posting on website and within latest issue of County bulletin or newsletter
 - iii) a mailed notice to all landowners within 1 mile (2 quarter sections) of the property

(7) Alberta Environment Regulations - all provincial approvals, and licenses, certifications and notifications are to be in place at time of development permit application.

(8) Solid Waste Recycling and Handling Centers:

- a) shall be required to provide the following information in addition to any information as requested by the Development Authority:
 - i) Hazardous materials plan detailing how hazardous materials may be handled, contained, and disposed of should they unintentionally arrive or be received on site;
 - ii) Fire and emergency plan and procedures in the event of a fire, environmental, biological, or other emergency situation requiring response or evacuation;
 - iii) Expected volumes received and to be removed from the premises on a daily and weekly basis
- b) shall be required to abide by the following requirements in addition to any other conditions as directed by the Development Authority:
 - i) All unloading and processing of waste for recycling shall be contained within an indoor or sheltered from elements unloading and processing center;
 - ii) Temporary storage of all recycled/unrecyclable materials is not to exceed 14 days;

iii) All unrecyclable materials are to be disposed of by transport to a sanitary landfill;

iv) All temporary site storage of recyclable materials are to be indoor, or sheltered in secure containers or storage areas not subject to exposure to elements;

v) No organic or hazardous (ie asbestos) materials are to be accepted on site;

vi) Applicants may be required to enter into and abide by the terms of a Development Agreement which includes the following terms but not limited to:

- remediation plan and possible security bond requirements
- continual neighbourhood community litter clean up commitments of unsightly premises notifications
- groundwater assessment for both pre-development and post-development
- other conditions as determined by the Development Authority

6a)

Michael Simpson

From:
Sent: April-08-24 3:30 PM
To: Michael Simpson
Cc:
Subject: Coronation Golf Club Request

Hello Michael, the Coronation Golf Club would like to see if the County could help our club out by hauling a load of sand from Guytech industries (Pine Lake) for us? Please let us know if you're able to pass this on to council or if we need to go another route for this request, thank you

Blaine Brigley



CAO Report

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

1. April 4 – Present

- a. Review amended draft budget, discussions with Asst. CAO regarding expenditures and revenues for 2024 fiscal year, mill rate requirements and subsequent mill rate bylaw drafts.
- b. Negotiations with Network Operating Partner on behalf of MCC alongside RDC, Rural Connect Ltd. and Delburne. Agreement in principle has been reached, moving ahead with finalizing those documents alongside RCL.
- c. Participation and hosting of Zone 2 ARMAA (Alberta Rural Administrators Association) at Castor BRIC on April 11.
- d. Pre-construction meeting with MPE and United Utilities regarding the CCTI-IF funded Crowfoot directional bore sanitary forcemain project. Construction start date is April 15th. County has granted permission for work crews to reside on-site at Crowfoot Industrial Subdivision for the project, expected to take between 6-8 weeks. Part of the benefit in allowing this is a presence onsite where materials are being stored to discourage theft by way of having multiple workers present at all times. With respect to our contributing partner, Prairies Canada, discussions are being had with respect to amending our agreement with the Crown for any unspent funds on other BREOC regional projects.
- e. Conversations with Paintearth Adult Learning regarding bursaries for adult learners undertaking course offerings via Norquest. Further deliberations on if, and how a County offering on the subject will take place in closed session.
- f. Final review and logging of compiled video footage for spring/summer Rodeo tourism campaign has been completed. Much of this work has taken place outside of normal working hours in order to sift all the footage, which totals half a terabyte worth of data, beginning on March 31st and winding up on April 9. Next steps will be to prepare production scripts for voice work and video editing, confirm dates with all event organizers and then to book studio time with Flux Media in Edmonton to sit and produce 2-3 spots for social media broadcast and the Paintearthab.ca website. County staff are working to update the tourism website with this year's events as information is beginning to roll in from organizers. If Council has any additional information on local events happening in the region this summer, please contact the CAO or the Strategic Initiatives Manager by email with your thoughts, information or questions. This website was created in 2023 and requires annual updates as new events are planned each year.
- g. Meeting with Michelle Normand and Katrina Bluetchen of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation in conjunction with the Reeve to discuss investment attraction tools and

opportunities offered through Minister Sigurdson's team. Topics included the Tax Credit program for value-added Ag processing available to investors, site selection information via the recently launched site selection tool on the AB Ag website, grants for value-added processing and on-farm processing available to investors and producers respectively, as well as the ministry's wayfinding role with out-of-province investors. Trends would indicate companies from Vancouver and Toronto are currently the most active, seeking expansion opportunities in producer-provinces such as Alberta and Saskatchewan for value-ag. It's noted by the ministry that Alberta suffers from a lack of shovel-ready sites and in consideration of this, Administration will begin work in the near future to ensure Paintearth and region sites available for purchase are properly listed on the Alberta Site Selection tool used frequently by the ministry staff when responding to investor inquiries. Rail access continues to be of major importance to new development attraction, and as such Paintearth would be well advised to attach itself to regional efforts to develop rail, notably the Oyen Rail Development Corp, which is working in the background on assessing feasibility for future rail projects. During the meeting the Reeve was able to raise the profile of a local producer who is seeking program assistance from the ministry, which was an added bonus. Paintearth's broadband project continues to score high marks with investment attraction staff who note that aside from rail, broadband connectivity is another essential ingredient for investment success. The ag-representatives also suggested a renewed focus on "telling the Paintearth story" with emphasis on social brand to accompany the economic indicators of success for a more rounded presentation. Further work with RDAR on seeking grant funding to support a pilot project with an additional producer in the County was also highlighted, and administration will be following up with that later this spring.

- h. Meeting with MLA Nate Horner, Reeve Schulmeister to highlight awareness of various issues affecting the County ranging from healthcare, broadband, labour challenges and economic development. Horner was responsive to the conversation and advised he would make efforts to put Paintearth representatives in touch with appropriate members of the government to have further conversation on the issues.**
- i. Update on solar project is as follows: PEG system racking for ground mount array has arrived at Terralta yard for the Crowfoot site. Terralta is going to do a fresh line locate and once this done a surveyor will be by to set pins to mark the site. The first shipment of panels for the Public Works Building has also been received at the Terralta shop, and the full shipment of Crowfoot panels are expected to be within Terralta's possession in approximately two weeks. Once all the panels are in Terralta's possession, solar crews will be mobilized and rooftop installation at the Public Works site near Castor will begin, with an estimated install time of under two weeks. Once the roof mounts are complete, Terralta will shift focus to the Crowfoot ground-mount work, where it is estimated the install time on the ground mount rack and panel will take 3-4 weeks weather depending. A few electrical service components are also expected to arrive around the same time as installation work begins at the PW site, after which time the electricians will begin working on the electrical install. It is anticipated that there will need to be a few power shutdowns at the PW site as the systems are connected into various buildings. Each building connection is expected to take about 4 hours, and Terralta's electrical foreman will coordinate with County personnel to minimize downtime and operational impacts. The service upgrade at the PW site is also likely going to be a full day shutdown on power to the site, and Terralta will coordinate with ATCO on this, with a two-week notice to schedule the transformer swap and new service tie-in. Electrical connections at Crowfoot are expected to require a 4-6 hour shutdown to tie in solar. ATCO will be engaged for this process also.**

Prepared By: Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer





Assistant CAO Report

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

1. April 3 – meeting with EDO, PEPs Chair Schulmiester, Cnclr Elliott and Glazier and KPMG to discuss the strategy for the NRED grant
2. April 5 – meeting with EDO, BREOC Chair Glazier and Prairie Research Associates regarding final interview for the CCTI and CCTI-IF funded projects.
3. Received amending agreement for the CCTI-IF project (Crowfoot Crossing Sewer Project). They have shifted cashflows from fiscal 23/24 to fiscal 24/25 to accommodate the project schedule.
4. Letter of Support for Coronation Handi-bus Society application for Healthy Aging for Albertans Provincial Transportation Grant
5. April 10 – attended BREOC board meeting in Castor
6. April 11 – County of Paintearth hosted ARMAA Spring Zone at the Castor BRIC centre. Big thanks to Kaitlyn for organizing this event!
7. April 12 – meeting with PEPs County Reps, EDO and KPMG to discuss Investment Co-op
8. Work has started at the County office to remove and replace the shingles on the main building, the siding on the garage will also be replaced by insurance.
9. Completed final changes to the 2024 operating and capital budgets (presented to Council April 16/24). We have received all requisitions now (lodge, ASFF, DIP) so work will commence on the 2024 mill rate bylaw. This will be presented to Council at the May 7 council meeting.
10. Finished and submitted final assignment for Municipal Law 2 course, which is my first course in my Level 2 of National Advanced Certificate in Local Authority Administration.

Prepared By: Lana Roth, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



Director's Report

Department: Public Works

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Date: April 16, 2024

1. Hauling gravel Meonch to Pals. Brockrock hauling to Roland on going.
2. Graders were out blading, grader training with DK Blading Service completed one week of three that we have booked.
3. Summer works has started slowly, Back sloping along with fence line brushing, getting culverts first called to replace, approaches, and summer gravel program will be starting before the end of April.
4. Safety our internal audit completed with a 93% mark still room to improve. External audit will be completed this year. SDS (Safety Data Sheets) app is working well. This was new this year to our safety program.

Prepared By: Bryce Cooke

Director's Report

Department: Community Services

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

1. Planning and Development

- i) Please see the attached reports for Dev Permits and Subdivision apps thus far.
- ii) Renewables LUB Update – our LUB update in regards to renewable energy projects – primarily macro solar projects – is slated for this afternoon at 1 pm.
- iii) Craig Lake Wind project - Held a meeting here with the proponents of the wind project on March 18. Slide show for your information and they've slated an open house in Castor for April 25 at the Legion.
- iv) Continued work with H2 on various items pertaining to collector lines, ROW usage and of course the entertaining emails that occasionally arrive in the office.
- v) Continued work with Mannix solar project proponents and they're hosting an open house in Forestburg on the Saturday May 4th from 1-3 at the community hall.

2. Industry Report

- i) YTD report of industrial activity is presented for your info.

3. Emergency Management

- i) Held a joint table top exercise with the Village of Halkirk on March 6th and the Towns of Castor and Coronation have also completed their table top exercises, we're moving that regional EM plan further along, fall is now the timetable for larger exercise and wrap up the new docs preparation and complete the process.
- ii) Tomorrow on the 17th participating with Karve Energy on their functional exercise.

4. Parks

- i) Prepping for parks opening May long weekend, caretakers are in place
- ii) Attending the RFP conference and trade show in Lethbridge next Sun – Wed.

Prepared By: Todd Pawsey, Director of Community Services

2024 Development Report

As of April 10

2024

DP #	Applicant	Location	Particulars	Value	District	Perm/Disc	Class	Date
2401	Loren Rodvang	SW5-36-9	placement of mobile home	\$50,000	Ag	Perm	Res	12-Feb
2402	Cam & Candy Brown	SE7-39-11	new residence/cabin	\$150,000	Ag	Perm	Res	11-Mar
2403	Capital Power H2 Project	SE11-40-15	ADLS Tower - radar lighting	\$900,000	Ag	Perm	Ind	12-Feb
2404	Stan & Lorie Schulmeister	SW24-37-14	replacement of residence	\$550,000	Ag	Perm	Res	28-Mar
2405	Erin & Graham Collier	SE15-39-13	replacement of residence	\$400,000	Ag	Perm	Res	
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			Totals	\$2,050,000				

CRAIG LAKE WIND PROJECT



43 Wind Turbines

Total output capacity
of 246 MW

Spread across
7,952 hectares

Acquired in
January 2023

ATCO EnPower

Project Overview

ATCO EnPower and ATCO Renewables Ltd. (ATCO) are pleased to introduce our proposed Craig Lake Wind Project (the Project). ATCO acquired the lease agreements for the Project lands from Suncor Energy Inc. in January 2023 and we are continuing with the planning and development of the Project. The Project is proposed as an estimated 246-megawatt (MW) wind power project with up to 43 wind turbines.

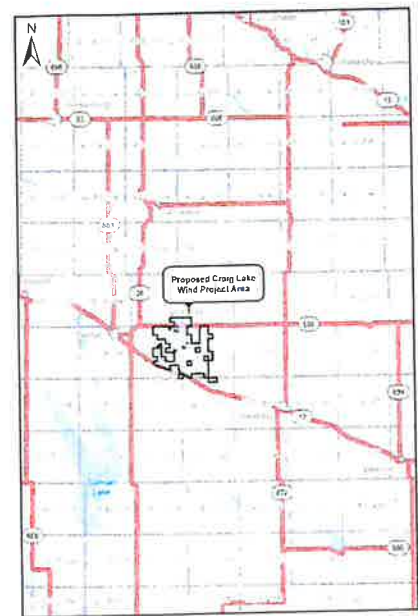
The Project is located approximately 70 km north of the town of Hanna, Alberta and approximately 6.3 km east of the town of Castor in the County of Paintearth No. 18. ATCO holds lease options on approximately 7,952 hectares (ha) (124 quarter sections) that the Project will be developed on, but the construction and operating areas will occupy a much smaller area within Project area once the footprint and land agreements are finalized. The Project construction footprint will be approximately 186.4 ha and the Project Operation footprint will be 98.4 ha. The Project is on privately owned land used for agricultural activities and oil and gas production.

ATCO has developed a preliminary site design for the Project (see Preliminary Site Layout map) and are seeking input on the design and the Project from stakeholders, landowners, occupants, Indigenous communities, regulatory agencies, and other members of the public.

Who is ATCO EnPower?

ATCO EnPower is the branding for ATCO Renewables Ltd. which is an affiliate of ATCO Ltd., a diversified corporation with investments all over the globe. With approximately 19,000 people throughout ATCO and all subsidiary and affiliate companies and assets totalling over \$24 billion, ATCO has been "Always there. Anywhere" for 75 years.

As a leading global producer of sustainable energy, ATCO EnPower is at the forefront of the energy transition. Uniquely positioned within the industry, the business develops innovative energy solutions in energy storage, industrial water, renewable power generation, hydrogen, and ammonia export. As part of the ATCO group of companies, ATCO EnPower is a critical business line for ATCO's commitment to sustainability. ATCO EnPower has a dedicated team that manages our operating renewable energy assets and is supporting development of new wind and solar projects, supporting ATCO's target of owning, managing, or actively developing 3,000 MW of renewable energy by 2030. The development of the Craig Lake Wind Project supports our goal of reducing customer greenhouse gas emissions by two million tonnes, meeting demand with low-carbon supply.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact us:

Toll free at: **1 866 344 0178** or
Email: ATCORenewablesLTD@ATCO.com. Please include "Craig Lake Wind" in the email subject line.

Landowner enquiries:

Julia Chavez, Surface Land Lead
Phone: 403-969-8580

General Project Information, questions, concerns:

Medina Hansen, Environmental + Regulatory Lead
Phone: 403-305-8659

For more information about ATCO EnPower or the ATCO Craig Lake Wind Project, please visit:

ATCO.com

Next Steps

ATCO is asking for input, questions, concerns, and other information that will help us with detailed design of the Project. ATCO will be including the detailed design in the AUC Rule 007 application for approval to construct, own and operate the Project. ATCO plans to submit the AUC Rule 007 application in the third quarter (Q3) of this year. Depending on regulatory approvals, construction is planned to start in Q2 2026 and be complete with the Project commissioned and the start of operations in Q2 2027.

Project Components

The Project will consist of wind turbines, a collector system, substation, access roads and a transmission line interconnection. The Project will include up to 43 wind turbines that will each generate more than 6 MW electricity for a total output capacity of 246 MW. ATCO is currently in the process of choosing a wind turbine manufacturer and model. Details on equipment selected for the Project will be provided on the project website when available (<http://www.atco.com/craiglake-wind>).

Electricity generated by the wind turbines is carried from the turbines to the electrical substation through an electricity network which is a system of medium voltage cables, or collector lines, that are buried underground. The Project substation will transform the electricity from the turbines (34.5 kilovolt) or step up the electricity from 34.5 kv to the voltage required to connect to the Alberta Integrated Electricity System or "transmission grid". A new transmission line or interconnection line approximately 3 km long will be required to connect the Project substation to the transmission grid and will be constructed by ATCO Electric who is the transmission facility owner in the project area.



Project Schedule

Activity/Milestone	Anticipated Date*
Stakeholder engagement begins	February 2024
Stakeholder Information Session and Open House	April 25, 2024
Stakeholder feedback received to incorporate into Project layout	July 1, 2024
AUC Application submitted	October 2024
AUC Decision	Q2 2025
Development Permit Application submitted	Q2 2025
Construction starts	Q2 2026
Operation starts	Q2 2027

2024 Industry & Utilities Report

As of Mar 27

2024

Approaches and Access						
# Applicant	Land Location	Date Applied	Existing	New Constr.	Culvert?	Date Approved
1	Karve Energy NW28-38-12	20-Feb		y		06-Mar
2	Karve Energy SW3-38-12	20-Feb		y		06-Mar
3	Karve Energy NE24-38-13	27-Feb	y			06-Mar
4	Karve Energy NE12-38-12	29-Feb	y			06-Mar
5	Karve Energy SE26-38-13	05-Mar	y			27-Mar
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Pipeline Crossings						
Applicant	Land Location	Date Applied	Open/Bored	Weed Ctrl?	Profile Rec'd	Date Approved
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Proximity Requests		Land Location	Date Applied	Date Approved
1	Karve Energy	SW3-38-12	20-Feb	06-Mar
2	Karve Energy	SW8-39-11	27-Feb	27-Mar
3	Karve Energy	NE24-38-13	27-Feb	06-Mar
4	Karve Energy	SE26-38-13	05-Mar	27-Mar
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Utility Applications		Land Location	Project	Notified	Approved
1	ATCO Electric	NE34-39-15	Temp laydown yard service	17-Jan	30-Jan
2	ATCO Electric	SE23-39-10	site service, lease road not cou	21-Mar	25-Mar
3	ATCO Electric	SW14-37-15	salvage material Paintearth Wir	18-Mar	25-Mar
4	ATCO Electric	NE24-38-13	new lease site service	22-Mar	25-Mar
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RUA Projects	Land Location	Roads	Date Entered
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

D56 & Other Notices

Exploration/Development Applicant	Notices of Intent Land Location	Intent Notice	Compl. Notice	Purpose
1 Terrene Environmental	NW26-36-13	17-Jan	17-Jan	approach release - OWA
2 Karve Energy	NE7-39-10		10-Jan	rec certificate issued
3 NGTL	SW3-38-13	24-Jan		blowdown notice
4 Axiom Oil and Gas	NE16-36-11	30-Jan		Multi well oil battery
5 Crescent Point Energy	NW16-39-15	13-Feb		wellsite abandonment
6 Crescent Point Energy	NW16-39-15	13-Feb		pipeline abandonment
7 Karve Energy	SW14-37-12	20-Feb		approach release
8 Karve Energy	SW3-38-12	21-Feb		new multiwell padsite
9 Karve Energy	NW28-38-12	21-Feb		new multiwell padsite
10 Battle River Energy	SW26-38-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
11 Battle River Energy	SE24-38-11	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
12 Battle River Energy	NE24-35-14	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
13 Battle River Energy	SW8-39-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
14 Battle River Energy	NW29-38-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
15 Battle River Energy	NW28-38-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
16 Battle River Energy	NW23-37-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
17 Battle River Energy	NW26-38-10	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
18 Battle River Energy	SE34-37-9	23-Feb		wellsite abandonment
19 Karve Energy	NW15-39-11	22-Feb		approach release
20 Karve Energy	SW8-39-11	27-Feb		add'l wells on existing padsite
21 Crescent Point Energy	SE2-40-15	27-Feb		wellsite abandonment
22 Karve Energy	NE24-38-13	28-Feb		add'l wells on existing padsite
23 Karve Energy	NE5-38-12	05-Mar		Multi well oil battery
24 Karve Energy	SE26-38-13	05-Mar		new multiwell padsite
25 Karve Energy	NE12-38-12	29-Feb		new oil well
26 Battle River Energy	SE24-38-11	19-Mar		wellsite abandonment
27 Battle River Energy	SE15-37-10	19-Mar		wellsite abandonment
28 Battle River Energy	SE26-37-10	19-Mar		wellsite abandonment
29 Bay Oil and Gas	NW8-39-10	27-Mar		add'l wells on existing padsite
30 Crescent Point Energy	NW11-40-15	08-Apr		wellsite abandonment
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COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO 18

For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Difference	% Remaining
Revenue					
Sales to Other Governments	\$67,880.97	\$44,500.00	\$7,646.16	\$36,853.84	\$0.83
Sales & User Charges	297,525.47	445,154.00	42,892.62	402,261.38	0.90
Licenses & Permits	46,465.52	16,000.00	4,101.73	11,898.27	0.74
Government Transfers	602,766.10	419,247.00	18,957.89	400,289.11	0.95
Rental Revenue	345.00	200.00	75.00	125.00	0.63
Lease & Royalties	16,086.81	15,000.00	309.88	14,690.12	0.98
Return on Investment	1,816,662.51	950,450.00	50.39	950,399.61	1.00
Penalties & Costs	100,195.42	100,000.00	443.00	99,557.00	1.00
Other Revenue	18,064.63	61,000.00	1,837.19	59,162.81	0.97
Gain on Sale	183,274.33	10,000.00		10,000.00	1.00
Total Revenue	<u>3,149,266.76</u>	<u>2,061,551.00</u>	<u>76,313.86</u>	<u>1,985,237.14</u>	<u>0.96</u>
Expenses					
General	299,128.55	321,500.00	167,172.21	154,327.79	0.48
Legislative	627,601.84	1,073,500.00	112,918.38	960,581.62	0.89
Administration	1,705,999.18	2,054,250.00	410,212.05	1,644,037.95	0.80
Fire Protective Services	208,625.57	216,500.00	106,469.75	110,030.25	0.51
Disaster & Emergency Services	44,125.29	65,250.00	9,449.41	55,800.59	0.86
Ambulance Services	10,495.00	12,500.00	5,879.50	6,620.50	0.53
Bylaw Enforcement	370,497.89	495,000.00	253,432.68	241,567.32	0.49
Public Works	5,997,258.27	8,519,286.00	1,768,352.72	6,750,933.28	0.79
Water Supply	444,980.65	460,900.00	87,369.67	373,530.33	0.81
Waste Water	38,895.00	13,500.00	8,920.00	4,580.00	0.34
Family & Community Support Services	101,768.88	105,000.00	45,915.77	59,084.23	0.56
Municipal Planning & Development	149,759.98	214,800.00	48,697.90	166,102.10	0.77
Subdivision		85,000.00		85,000.00	1.00
Agricultural Service Board	505,996.84	648,200.00	91,958.19	556,241.81	0.86
Recreation Board	453,212.20	550,000.00	136,650.00	413,350.00	0.75
Parks & Recreation	83,936.57	92,700.00	1,260.32	91,439.68	0.99
Culture	40,840.00	42,000.00	27,406.71	14,593.29	0.35
Requisitions	114,625.00	149,000.00	121,825.00	27,175.00	0.18
Total Expenses	<u>11,197,746.71</u>	<u>15,118,886.00</u>	<u>3,403,890.26</u>	<u>11,714,995.74</u>	<u>0.77</u>

RMA Backgrounder - Bill 18: *Provincial Priorities Act*

April 2024

What is Bill 18?

Bill 18: *Provincial Priorities Act* was introduced to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on April 10, 2024. Bill 18 is intended to ensure the Government of Alberta reviews and approves any funding agreements made between the federal government and “provincial entities” (including municipalities) to ensure that the funding aligns with provincial priorities. If passed, Bill 18 will apply to all public bodies in Alberta, including public agencies, municipalities, crown-controlled organizations, post-secondary institutions, schools boards, regional health authorities and Covenant Health.

The Government of Alberta has stated that Bill is intended to ensure any federal agreements with municipalities do not contradict provincial priorities or infringe on provincial jurisdiction. Bill 18’s intent is similar to Quebec’s [Act Respecting the Ministère Du Conseil Exécutif](#), which also requires any federal funding agreements with municipalities to be approved by the provincial government.

Based on RMA’s interpretation of Bill 18, it is unlikely to impact federal funding administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, or federal grant programs that include the province as the co-funder or initial receiver of the grant funding. RMA is seeking confirmation of this from Alberta Municipal Affairs.

RMA Initial Reaction:

The RMA has several concerns regarding with Bill 18. The requirement for provincial approval of all funding agreements reduces municipal autonomy, increases red tape, and could delay or even exclude Alberta municipalities from receiving federal funding support for local events and projects. At a time when municipalities of all types across Alberta face growing infrastructure deficits, heightened expectations to accommodate residential and industrial growth, and downloaded responsibilities from other levels of government, adding more red tape to funding access is the last thing Alberta’s municipalities need.

While the RMA is hopeful that there will be an opportunity to work with the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs to develop exemptions and design a streamlined provincial approval process, engagement with municipalities on this issue prior to Bill 18 being drafted may have led to an alternative approach to harmonizing provincial and federal priorities without introducing further risks to municipal sustainability.

Key Messages on Bill 18:

As Bill 18 is attracting significant media attention, RMA members may be contacted by media for comment. The messages below can be used, if needed, to help shape individual municipal responses to Bill 18.

- ◆ Bill 18 places additional red tape around federal-municipal funding agreements. Municipalities are reliant on provincial and federal grant funding to support local priorities. Any legislative or regulatory changes that make funding more difficult to access are concerning and contradict the province’s priority of reducing red tape.

- ◆ From a municipal perspective, Bill 18 implies that municipalities are unable to determine what is best for their residents. Although the Government of Alberta is responsible for advocating for what is best for the province as a whole, municipalities are closest to their residents and are in the best position to determine how to support their communities.
- ◆ Most federal-municipal agreements are small scale, supporting local community events and projects. RMA is concerned about politics interfering with these opportunities.
- ◆ The high-level nature of the legislation creates uncertainty for municipalities in terms of how current funding opportunities will be impacted. It is unknown whether regulations will be developed to exempt certain projects.
- ◆ Municipalities view themselves as partners of the provincial and federal government. Bill 18 instead further isolates municipalities from collaborating with other levels of government to support community needs.

Questions on Bill 18 Process:

RMA has several questions related to the Bill 18's implementation. Members are encouraged to seek answers to these questions from government contacts or local MLAs. RMA will share more information on Bill 18 as it becomes available.

- ◆ In what circumstances will exemptions be given by ministers?
 - ◇ Will exemptions be linked to a threshold, such as population, total funding amounts, or project type?
- ◆ How will the government approval process work to support applications and prevent additional red tape?
- ◆ How will the province ensure funding opportunities are not taken away from municipalities with the new legislation?
 - ◇ If provincial actions prevent federal funding from reaching municipalities, will the Government of Alberta commit to providing municipalities with an equal amount of funding for projects or initiatives aligned with provincial priorities?
- ◆ For non-municipal entities impacted by Bill 18 (such as housing management bodies) will the province commit to ensuring that municipalities are not required to off-set lost provincial funding through changes to requisitioning requirements, etc.?

What is RMA Doing to Support Members?

- ◆ As this bill is in the early stages of development, there are still many unknowns. RMA will continue to advocate to the Government of Alberta to reconsider this approach to intergovernmental relations.
- ◆ If the Bill is passed, RMA is hopeful that there will be an opportunity to work with the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs to develop regulations related to exemptions for certain projects and to design a provincial approval process that is as simple and streamlined as possible.
- ◆ RMA is continuing to monitor this bill as it moves through the Legislative Assembly and will provide updates to members as necessary.

Have Questions?

Contact Policy Advisor Karrina Jung at Karrina@RMAAlberta.com.