



Peace River Regional District REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Date: March 1, 2016

From: Jo-Anne Frank, Corporate Officer

Subject: 2016 Interprovincial / Intermunicipal Meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Board identify any topics they wish to include on the Interprovincial / Intermunicipal Meeting agenda.
- (2) That those Directors who wish to attend the Interprovincial / Intermunicipal meeting on April 13, in Wembley (County of Grande Prairie), Alberta, be authorized to do so.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The County of Grande Prairie is hosting the 2016 Interprovincial / Intermunicipal meeting. They have forwarded the attached email confirming that the meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum facility in Wembley, Alberta. Lunch will be provided.

The County is seeking agenda items from all participants. Once received, they will prepare and distribute an agenda for the meeting. The County Council has identified the following proposed agenda items:

- status of softwood lumber agreement
- cross border crime
- Grande Prairie new Regional Hospital update.

For reference, a copy of the Minutes of the 2015 Meeting are attached.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

None

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Costs for attending the meeting are allocated in the 2016 Financial Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

Joanne Frank

CAO:

Chris Birk

Page 1 of 1

March 10, 2016

From: [Shannon Baird](#)
To: [Jo-Anne Frank](#); tlapping@saddlehills.ab.ca; bonnie@clearhillscounty.ab.ca
Subject: Intermunicipal Interprovincial Meeting - April 13, 2016
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 11:25:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good morning,

I apologize for the delay in confirming the details. I just had this item on yesterday's County Council meeting for location confirmation, etc.

I can now confirm that the start time will be 11:00 a.m. (Alberta time) on Wednesday, April 13th. The meeting will adjourn approximately 4:00 p.m.

The location will be at the new Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum facility. The Museum location is right off Highway 43 and the address is 9301 – 112 Wembley, AB

County Council has proposed some Agenda items below and if you could check with your members and provide me with any items your groups would like to discuss. Once I have items I will provide a final Agenda for everyone.

Proposed Agenda items:

1. Status of softwood lumber agreement
2. Cross border crime
3. Grande Prairie new Regional Hospital update

Lunch will be provided, so for catering purposes if I could get an approximate number from you guys as early as you can and then confirm numbers by April 1st. Please include any food allergies.

I hope I have covered everything, please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks for your help!

Shannon Baird

Executive Assistant to CAO and County Council

County of Grande Prairie

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"The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 focuses on people, their quality of life and diversity of opportunity while enabling success through cooperation and progressive leadership."

March 10, 2016

**INTERPROVINCIAL/INTERMUNICIPAL
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 22, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Savanna Agricultural Society Rec Plex, Silver Valley, Alberta

Present:

Saddle Hills County (SHC)

Alvin Hubert, Reeve and Ward 2 Councillor

Ken Titford, Ward 1 Councillor

Willis Fitzsimmons, Ward 5 Councillor

Lawrence Andruchiw, Ward 6 Councillor

John Moen, Ward 7 Councillor

Robert (Bob) Cardwell, Chief Administrative Officer

Leah Millar, Executive Assistant and Legislative Officer

Laurie Jackson, Director of Planning and Community Development

Ed Gades, Community Development Coordinator

Kristen Smith, Community Development Coordinator

Brian Ballard, Manager of Protective Services

Clear Hills County (CHC)

Charles Johnson, Reeve and Division 7 Councillor

Peter Frixel, Division 2 Councillor

Allan Rowe, Chief Administrative Officer

County of Grande Prairie (CGP)

Ross Sutherland, Division 4 Councillor

Bob Marshall, Division 5 Councillor

Corey Beck, Division 9 Councillor

Daryl Beeston, Division 2 Councillor

Peace River Regional District (PRRD)

Karen Goodings, Chair, Electoral Area "B"

Leonard Hiebert, Electoral Area "D"

Dan Rose, Electoral Area "E"

Shannon Anderson, Deputy CAO

Jo-Anne Frank, Corporate Officer

Call To Order:

Chairman Hubert called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The attendees introduced themselves.

Adoption of Agenda:

MOVED by John Moen, SHC, that the Interprovincial/Intermunicipal agenda for April 22, 2015 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

March 10, 2016

Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by Dan Rose, PRRD, that the Interprovincial/Intermunicipal minutes from the April 4, 2014 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Previous Minutes:*Chronic Wasting*

To be discussed later in the meeting when the Delegation has arrived.

Clear Hills County:*Time Change Signage*

Clear Hills County addressed the issue of obtaining and erecting signage between Alberta and B.C. in respect to the Time Zone Change and difference at different times of the year. It would be nice if all of the Peace River Area was on the same Time Zone. Odds of getting this to happen are low. Many merchants in Dawson stay on the Alberta Time Zone Schedule.

Road Bans and Clayhurst Crossing Upgrades

Clear Hills County and B.C. are having some issues still regarding the border crossing and road bans. Many farmers hauling grain are experiencing issues getting into B.C. Could a bond be posted on behalf of residents? The road is also in need of repair and stabilization.

New Business:**Saddle Hills County and Peace River Regional District***Alberta Watershed Initiative*

The water in the Smoky comes from B.C. and affects us all. A study is being done regarding the water table and should be taking this into account. If the PRRD is not part of the study, they would still like to be involved. The PRRD has completed a baseline study, looking for underground aquifers and water sheds, water quantity and quality and who's using it. The PRRD wants to look at waste too. We all have issues with water plan operators and succession planning. Plus a smaller population presents more challenges. For all, the biggest problem is water.

Business Arising from the Previous Minutes, cont'd:*Chronic Wasting Disease*

Margo Pybus, Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist, AESRD, attended by phone.
Chris Addison, Director of Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations, B.C. , attended in person.

Margo gave a brief overview of the history of Chronic Wasting Disease. It is not native to Canada and was first introduced by farmed deer in Saskatchewan in the late 1980's and then spread into the wild. It is easier to prevent rather than control. There are signs on the Manitoba and Saskatchewan border as well as the B.C. an Alberta Border. There are fines associated with this as well. There is currently no known Chronic Wasting Disease in B.C.

Karen Goodings, PRRD, noted that we know that meat is crossing the border and that we need far more education and possibly a partnership between the two provinces.

Margo noted that the two provinces work closely together on the technical side with veterinarians etc...

The Alberta perspective has been to do press releases on summaries and post it on a webpage. Maybe we need to focus more on the primary wildlife stakeholders yet? There has been speakers at annual meetings and such.

Ken Titford, SHC, noted that the borders just re-opened from BSE and Chronic Wasting Disease is causing some confusion and could close borders to the beef industry. Hunters Regulations information on the topic had successful uptake.

Margo noted that in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Risk Zone it is mandatory for hunters to turn in heads, but they will accept them from anywhere. Hunter surveillance is the best resource. The scientific community has tried to distinguish CWD from BSE. CWD does not infect bovines or humans.

Ken Titford noted that the people reading the sign may not be scientifically up to date.

Margo noted that she was not aware of anyone who had complained about the sign to date. Maybe going to social media and talking to the public involved would be helpful.

Chris Addison, Director of Resource Management, B.C., noted that the signs are in a partnership with the PRRD, advertising the regulations the same as we do for other things such as Palm Fruits and Firewood.

Alvin Hubert, SHC, asked if the signs were effective, as there are only two on the B.C. Alberta border? Chris Addison replied that although it is a voluntary program, several hundred have been tested.

Karen Goodings, PRRD, asked if there was a better way to educate people and that the sign is offensive. Chris Addison noted that the sign is not the only thing they do and that it reinforces the law. The Dept. has no interest in taking the sign down. Chris noted he struggles with the offensive part; it is not meant to be offensive.

New Business, cont'd:

Quagga Muscles, Freshwater

The County of Grande Prairie asked Chris Addison what B.C. is doing for this?

Chris Addison noted that he had not heard anything about this.

Woodland Caribou and Wolf Control

Chris Addison was asked to comment on the success of the program and if it would be continuing.

Chris Addison noted that they did initiate an aerial wolf cull to protect the South Peace Caribou herds under SARA. The little Smokey range is the same as Alberta. In the end, 73 wolves were culled. They were hoping for more. They will continue this winter in October. They have collars on the wolf packs; they kill all non-collared wolves within the pack. In 5 years they hope to kill about 700 wolves. They are also employing a maternal penning program for caribou, to protect them from bears and wolves.

Grizzly Bears

Chris Addison noted that they had used a multiple regression model to predict Grizzly populations, however the model is based on data that does not translate well to the Peace Country; the model estimates that there are 0 bears and we kill about 35 each year in conflict with camps. The effect on other wildlife is underestimated. Vancouver is used as the global benchmark for bear habitat.

Natural Gas

Saddle Hills County asked if other municipalities had access to natural gas for their residents and commented that it used to be subsidized by the Province, and still is, but is no longer like the same program it was as much less money is available. The County of Grande Prairie and Clear Hills noted this is not a problem for them and they have gas to all residents.

Clayhurst Hill

Maria from the Ministry of Transportation attended by phone.

Karen Goodings from the PRRD noted that Clayhurst hill is a key connection. Maria noted that the Ministry has had meetings with contractors, but does not have specifics. She noted the Rolla to Cecil Lake route is the 100% route. The Ministry deals with truckers on a case by case basis, based on number of loads and timing. The ministry has an exception process in place for 100% loads over a short distance.

Maria asked that her contact information be included in the minutes:

Maria Butts
 District Manager, Transportation, Organization Unit: FTSTJOHN - Peace District Office
 Telephone: 250 787-3279
 Facsimile: 250 787-3238
 Email: Maria.Butts@gov.bc.ca
 Cellular: 250 793-4982

Lunch at 12:15-1:00 p.m.

Tour of the Savanna Rec Plex Facility

Given by Kristen Smith, Community Development Coordinator for Saddle Hills County, at 1:00 p.m.

Saddle Hills County, update on issues and projects

Wild Boar

Presented by Brian Ballard, Manager of Protective Services

Saddle Hills County has had issues with Wild Boar in the Doe River Area since November. Five pairs of ears were brought into the County by the Hutterite Colony in the area, as there is a \$50 bounty per animal. There is an estimate of about 30-50 animals in the Doe River area. They are nocturnal and tough to hunt. Trapping may be an option. They are dangerous and a huge nuisance. The one CO Officer the area has is not able to deal with the problem. We need a plan to eradicate, as the bounty will not solve the problem.

What are other areas doing?

Karen Gooding commented for the PRRD, she said they are doing nothing.

The County of Grande Prairie said there has been no known instances; they have two Wildlife officers full time, but they mostly deal with wolves and beavers. However, they do not have a bounty, if they did it may be a trigger for people to report them.

It also seems that the MD of Smokey River has a large issue with boars and the MD of Spirit River has a large herd.

Water Projects

Presented by Bob Cardwell, CAO

The County is building three potable water points for now, built for potential co-ops. The intent is for residential and light commercial. There are no wells in the County, only surface water catchment. They will be built to serve 1,500 people per plant, with a fob pre-pay system. They will be SCADA with remote access. There will be no fire flow out of plants. The hope is that coops will develop; the County will encourage this, but not put in capital. Water for Life grant program does not apply, as we are too small. This zeroed budget line in the provincial budget may be topped up in the future. The price charged by the County per cubic metre is not calculated to pick up capital costs. It is estimated that 250 people will use the truck fill, and as a dual system, complementing their dugout.

Clear Hills County commented that they built 67km of pipeline and had to replace a water treatment plant, from a drilled well. Eighty residents could apply into the line, in two years since the line was built, they have only had one sign-up. Their advice would be to get people signed up first. Also, the water plant may be applicable under the Building Canada fund. Their operator runs Hines Creek plant

too.

The County of Grande Prairie commented that new developments must join their pipeline and there has been 40% sign up. They are trying to protect wells for people that already have them, to control the ground water pressure. Significant costs for rate-payers, \$18,000.00 - \$25,000.00. The trickle system is not great. Fifty gallons per person per day, on average.

Utility Towers

Presented by Laurie Jackson, Director of Planning and Community Development

A brief PowerPoint presentation was shown, highlighting the lack of current capacity, not just coverage and the nine Tier 2 towers the County is erecting. The towers will be for internet and mobility. Interest is increasing from providers. Is a risk to build towers first, but tenants first was not practical. The total cost of the project is about \$3.8 M, including land, licensing and everything else. Lessons learned: importance of utility grade towers, CSA approved, scalable for future, they need to be monitored 24 hours a day with a back-up, expect change and risk. The County is not intending to affect market services. Oil and gas industry has been very interested. Ten municipalities in Alberta have adopted this model. ARCA has been the provincial lobby and network group.

Community Development

Presented by Kristen Smith and Ed Gades, Community Development Coordinators

The County has now run the Childcare subsidy program for one year. \$2.50 per hour per child under the age of six, to a monthly max of \$420.00 per month per child. Applicants apply to the County, who ensure both parents are working or attending school. The applications are reviewed once a year. The County now boasts four day homes, however, the day home does not have to be in the County to be eligible to take your kids to. There are 51 children and 32 families on the program; \$100,000.00 budget. We do not endorse the day homes, which is up to the parents to choose. The customer satisfaction survey indicated parents appreciated not having to only rely on family for child care services.

Karen Gooding of the PRRD asked for a list of things that Community Development works on. Krisen Smith replied, schools and triple grading, FCSS and the Childcare program.

Ed Gades, Community Development Coordinator, noted they facilitate and promote economic development. Ed highlighted the project in Woking with Jandel homes, to provide fully serviced lots with turn-key homes. The Woking Area Structure Plan is midstream and the Bay Tree one is on the way. They are working on improving life for residents, such as improving the waste and recycle options, potable water, utility towers, childcare and new website.

Karen Goodings, PRRD, asked about seniors, where do they go?

Coffe Break 2:37 – 2:40 p.m.

Other Discussion Topics

Sewer Disposal/Pump Out Services/ Fields

Ft. St. John has a treatment facility, received from work camps as well, \$10 cubic metre for residents, \$20 for industry. This is not taxed and it is paying for itself.

Ed Gades, Community Development Coordinator noted that a discharge system in a forested area, with filtration and aeration, results in the maintenance being not difficult.

The PRRD noted that the Ministry of Health in B.C. requires maintenance, but has no way to monitor or inspect. One can hire a sewer practitioner in AB or B.C.

Wolves and Elk

The regional cattleman pay \$200,000.00 a year to hunt wolves and this is helping.

Saddle Hills County noted they modified their wolf program to trap, which is more efficient and have run three courses through Trapper Gord. We also have too many elk, this needs to be a target for us, we can't just keep running around and shooting the odd one.

PRRD noted that most wolf problems occur on grazing leases, so one can't just trap, you need permission for a trap line. Wolves also learn where the pressure is and respond. People have to be dedicated.

Cougar and Grizzly Problems

Sightings but not a lot of predation.

Next Meeting Host/Location:

The County of Grande Prairie was volunteered to host next year's Interprovincial/ Intermunicipal Meeting in April 2016.

Adjournment:

Alvin Hubert, Saddle Hills County, thanked everyone for travelling to Savanna and for the productive discussions. He adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

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March 10, 2016