

MMSA Monitor



MACKENZIE MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGENCY

Volume 18, Issue 12/11

DECEMBER 2011



LAND USE PLANNING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

On October 24, the Minister of Municipal Affairs approved an application submitted by the MMSA to participate in the Municipal Internship Program. The program is sponsored by Alberta Municipal Affairs under the Regional Collaboration Program and offers municipalities and planning agencies funding to hire and train an intern for a two-year period. The main objective of the internship program is to assist municipalities and planning agencies in their efforts to recruit,

train, and retain competent employees who can progress into leadership positions. Further, the program is set up to offer recent graduates who are interested in a career in municipal planning, the opportunity to have first-hand, real life, practical experience and training in the Alberta municipal environment.

During the first year of the program, the intern will be exposed to many different aspects of municipal planning and administration. They will

be mentored by a senior planner, based on a broad scope so as to have the opportunity to explore the many key functions of municipal governments and to understand them from a planning perspective. The second year of the program will allow for the intern to take on more responsibility and gain further experience through the involvement in specific planning projects.

Now that the application has been approved, the next step

in the process will be the selection of candidates to interview and the subsequent hiring of an intern. This is expected to take place in early spring, with the intern actually joining the Agency shortly thereafter. The Agency is looking forward to being a part of this program as it has certainly proven to be successful in other parts of the province.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



By Ron Longtin

Another year has passed and as thoughts of the holiday season are upon us, it is also the time to give thanks to all those who have assisted in ensuring another successful year for the Agency. The support of our member municipalities is vital to the continued operation of the Agency and the assurance that land use planning services will be available to all communities in the region – for this support

thank you to all the Members. Also, a thank you to the Municipal Managers and administrative staff – your co-operation and assistance provided throughout the year is very much appreciated. Last, but not least, a thank you to the Agency Staff for their dedication and many efforts in providing a professional, efficient and effective service to all of our members.

As we move into 2012, the Agency is looking forward to our participation in the Land

Use Planning Internship program and to the completion of the Land Use Framework Initiative Position Paper. Both of these programs are funded in part by provincial grants.

In closing, thank you again for your continued support. Best Wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



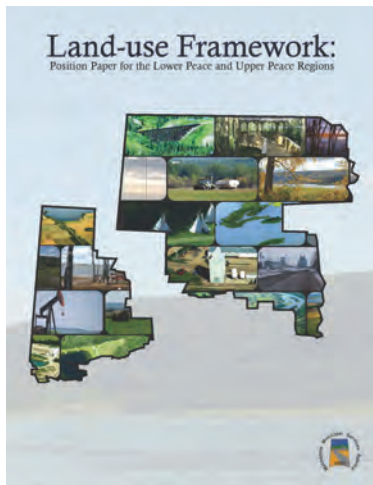
Inside this issue:

LAND USE FRAMEWORK: PROJECT UPDATE	2
RAINBOW LAKE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A RESOURCE TOWN	2
VILLAGE OF BERWYN: WALKING THE WALK AND TALK- ING THE TALK: A YOUTH PERSPEC- TIVE	3
INTERNET MAPPING ON THE MMSA WEBSITE	3
AROUND THE REGION	4



LAND USE FRAMEWORK - PROJECT UPDATE

By Elise Willison



As reported in the June 2011 MMSA Monitor newsletter, the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency is working with our 12 member municipalities and additional municipal project partners within the Upper and Lower Peace Regions in developing a position paper. This is a proactive approach in providing municipal input into the Land Use Framework process and Regional Plans to be developed before the process begins for these two Regions.

MMSA Agency staff met with

project partners over the summer to discuss their input through filling out a questionnaire, which is the basis of formulating the position paper. The Agency is now in the process of reviewing the questionnaire responses and developing the draft paper. This draft position paper will be completed by January 2012 and sent to the project partners for review and comment. A meeting will be held with the project partners in March 2012 to discuss the paper. The completion of the position paper is planned for June 1, 2012.

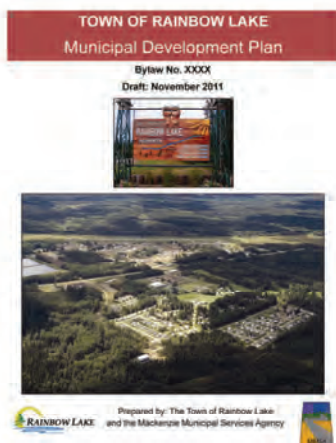
Agency staff are also working with a number of Métis and First Nation groups in developing a questionnaire that will address their concerns in providing input to the Regional Plan advisory board, under the Land Use Framework for the Upper and Lower Peace Regions.

These two processes are exciting initiatives in providing input into this important provincial initiative that will guide development in north-western Alberta in the next 10 years and beyond.



TOWN OF RAINBOW LAKE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A RESOURCE BASED TOWN

By Elise Willison



Each municipality is unique, with its own strengths and challenges, but the updating of a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) for a remote, single-industry, resource community such as Rainbow Lake brings very unique challenges. When developing and updating policies that will guide development into the future for Rainbow Lake, an important question is: "What will happen to our Town when the oil and gas reserves are depleted?"

In the summer of 2011, the MDP Steering Committee met with local businesses to discuss their current and future plans for the development of the Town. The main theme was that the fortunes of the remaining oil companies in Town, Husky Oil and Flint, largely determine the Town's growth. With this in mind, the MDP's focus is on creating a community that meets the needs of the residents for the foreseeable future, by striving to strengthen the social networks in the community, im-

proving communication between businesses, and providing excellent education and services for the residents. Improvements to the Town's standard of living and quality of life are exactly the types of development that residents really want. Rainbow Lake provides many excellent recreational pursuits and boasts many activities that are usually found only in larger centres. That's pretty good development for a population of 1,000.

VILLAGE OF BERWYN WALKING THE WALK AND TALKING THE TALK: A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

By Kemi Apanisile

The youth walking tour is part of a comprehensive process that includes the review and rewrite of Berwyn's Municipal Development Plan (MDP), a statutory document that that will provide a framework for future growth and development in Berwyn. Obtaining information from young people is an important part of this process and will broaden the scope of the MDP by ensuring all demographics are heard throughout the development of the Plan.

Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency conducted a youth walking tour on October 6th, 2011 with students

from Lloyd Garrison Public School in Berwyn. A first of its kind for the Agency, planners guided the grade 6,7,8 and 9 students through a pre-planned route of Berwyn and asked them to comment on specific sites and areas along the route. The exercise was a huge success and some of the findings were quite interesting. Young people have a good sense of their community, they understand what's lacking and where improvements can be made. Many students enjoy the small town feeling that Berwyn has to offer but also feel more could be done to keep youth occupied during their time out of school. All in all the experience was an

eye opener for us the planners, and the students as well. Far too often youth are neglected when public engagement is conducted. This exercise not only addressed that issue, but gave the planners an opportunity to delve into the minds of young peo-

ple and more importantly, to get a sense of what their thoughts were of Berwyn now and in the future. The information gathered from the exercise will be reviewed and used to help form the basis of some of the policies that will make up the MDP.



INTERNET MAPPING ON THE MMSA WEBSITE

By Ali Taghavi

Access to spatial data as well as advanced mapping and spatial analysis over the internet are becoming more common. The Agency GIS department has created our first internet application to give access to Land Use Bylaw information for the Town of Peace River.

This Peace River internet application is available on the Agency website at www.mmsa.ca. Click on OUR SERVICES, then on MAPPING AND TECHNICAL. WEB APPLICATIONS holds the link to the Peace River Land Use Bylaw map. By clicking on the link, a new browser will open with

the Town of Peace River Land Use Bylaw (LUB) map.

After opening the application, zoom in on the map to access more information such as LUB codes, street names and numbers. The left side of the map shows the legend and options which may be turned on and off.

This application provides the most up to date information for municipal Staff and Officials, as well as developers, and the public. Additional layers and information will be added to this application. In the New Year, additional maps will be created for all member municipalities of the MMSA.



Planning Today for Your Community's Tomorrow

Contact Us:



5109 - 51 St
Box 450
Berwyn AB T0H 0E0

Phone: 780-338-3862
Fax: 780-338-3811
E-mail: info@mmsa.ca
Website: www.mmsa.ca



The Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency provides land use planning and subdivision services for a large area in northwest Alberta. In a region stretching from Northern Sunrise County in the south and east to the Town of Rainbow Lake in the north, we provide municipal planning services to 12 member municipalities, pursuant to Section 625 of the Municipal Government Act. We also provide a full range of services on a contract fee-for-service basis.

Karen Diebert, Manager
karen.diebert@mmsa.ca

Howard Pinnock, Director of Planning
howard@mmsa.ca

Elise Willison, Municipal Planner
elise@mmsa.ca

Kemi Apanisile, Municipal Planner
kemi@mmsa.ca

Jesse Auspitz, Junior Municipal Planner
jesse@mmsa.ca

Matthew Konowalchuk, Junior Municipal Planner
matthew@mmsa.ca

Ron Rauckman, Senior Graphics Technologist
ron.rauckman@mmsa.ca

Ali Taghavi, Senior GIS Technologist
ali@mmsa.ca

Audra Lindsey, GIS Technologist
audra@mmsa.ca

Brenda Taylor, Administrative Assistant
info@mmsa.ca

MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE	MUNICIPALITY	REPRESENTATIVE
Village of Berwyn	Ron Longtin	M. D. of Fairview #136	Terri Wyness
Clear Hills County	Bonnie Bigam	M. D. of Peace #135	Veronica Bliska
Town of Fairview	Larry Chorney	Village of Nampa	Ed Skrlík
Town of Grimshaw	Brian Allen	Northern Sunrise County	Carolyn Kolebaba
Village of Hines Creek	Jim MacKenzie	Town of Peace River	North Darling
Town of Manning	Sunni Walker	Town of Rainbow Lake	Boyd Langford

AROUND THE REGION



On December 2, the MMSA Board of Directors held their annual Organizational meeting. Elected to the Executive Committee are:

- Carolyn Kolebaba (Northern Sunrise County)
- Veronica Bliska, Vice-Chair (MD of Peace No. 135)
- Ron Longtin, Chair (Village of Berwyn)
- Sunni Jean Walker (Town of Manning)
- Brian Allen (Town of Grimshaw)

FAREWELL TO A LONG TIME FRIEND:

A. C. "Sandy" MacLeod, a founding member of the Mackenzie Regional Planning Commission representing the Town of Fairview, passed away August 7, 2011.

MMSA PLANNERS MAKE THE NEWS

Jesse Auspitz and Matthew Konowalchuk, Junior Municipal Planners, have been writing a series of Municipal Planning opinion articles that have appeared recently in local newspapers. Grimshaw's Mile Zero News, Manning's Banner Post and the Peace River Record Gazette have published the articles through October and November. You can also find these articles on the "NEWS" page of our website at www.mmsa.ca.

CAO CHANGES:

Welcome

Larry Davidson to the Town of Fairview
Mike Rudkin to the Village of Berwyn



Happy Holidays to Everyone!!!

