

Matters Pertaining to SARM

1-17A

Firefighting Costs

RM of McLeod No. 185

WHEREAS rural municipalities often incur firefighting costs on behalf of their ratepayers; and

WHEREAS these expenses are often large and uncollectable;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM establish a policy and a fund through a levy on the rural municipalities (RM), on which RMs can draw upon to help defray these fire-fighting costs should the need arise. The RM could raise their portion of the levy with a special tax on their ratepayers.

2-17A

SARM Enhanced Legal Services

RM of Livingston No. 331

WHEREAS it is not always convenient to wait for a meeting to pass a resolution requiring legal advice; and

WHEREAS matters come up unexpectedly, which require legal advice immediately; and

WHEREAS the services provided to date are not adequate, note the Sherwood Park example;

BE IT RESOLVED the legal position at SARM be reviewed to see how the legal services can be enhanced to aid rural municipal (RM) council members individually, as well as a resolution of council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RM council members are able to access legal services on an individual basis to request information, as well as through a resolution of council.

3-17A

Transformational Change of Local Government

RM of Lipton No. 217

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has identified transformational change as a more effective means of delivery of services to Saskatchewan citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM support the Provincial Government's transformational change effort and immediately put a plan of action in place province-wide to direct

local governments to consolidate in a similar manner as other Saskatchewan service industries are doing.

Ministry of Agriculture

4-17A

Grain Dumping

RM of Willow Bunch No. 42

WHEREAS truckers are cleaning grain trailers on municipal roads, provincial highways and approaches; and

WHEREAS materials being dumped contain weed seeds and crop residue from out of province and other areas of the province;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to include grain dumping as an offence subject to fines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to legislate all grain companies to establish dumping sites at their respective terminals.

5-17A

Livestock Losses Due to Coyote Over-Population

RM of Prince Albert No. 461

WHEREAS coyote population numbers in Saskatchewan are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS coyote attacks on livestock are steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS livestock producers cannot afford these ever increasing losses;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SARM Board lobby the Provincial Government to reinstate a bounty on coyotes in Saskatchewan to reduce their numbers and protect the province's livestock.

6-17A

Saskatchewan Agricultural Health and Safety Network

SARM Board of Directors

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Agricultural Health and Safety Network (AHSN) currently provides services to at least 27,000 Saskatchewan Farm Families including the delivery of farm health and safety workshops and clinics as well as providing educational information; and

WHEREAS these services are invaluable to the health and safety of farm families and rural citizens; and

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan AHSN is running a funding deficit;

BE IT RESOLVED that that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to continue to support the Ag Health and Safety Network (AHSN) and to provide the necessary funding to properly address the needs of AHSN.

7-17A

Weed Control for Government Ministries and Crown Corporations RM of Chaplin No. 164

WHEREAS *The Weed Control Act* (the Act) and regulations govern the prevention of the spread of prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds; and

WHEREAS the Act states that any owner or occupant of land within a municipality shall comply with orders of a Weed Inspector to eradicate, contain, and/or control prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds respecting the owner's land or the land on which the person is an occupant;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to update *The Weed Control Act* to include all government ministries and crown corporations to move from 'acting within the spirit' of the Act to being 'bound' by the Act.

8-17A

Chronic Wasting Disease Management SARM Board of Directors

WHEREAS Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that affects deer, moose and elk populations; and

WHEREAS CWD will continue to spread in Saskatchewan if proper management plans are not enacted; and

WHEREAS there are agricultural practices that may help contribute to the spread of CWD such as wild animals congregating which has the potential to impact agriculture through contamination of grain and grain screenings; and

WHEREAS a proper holistic management plan must be developed through the existing Saskatchewan CWD working group (which includes SARM) and the province;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to support the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) working group with a mandate to develop a proper

management plan and an effective communications plan that will help reduce the spread of CWD and other wildlife diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CWD management plan and communications plan be implemented by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Ministry of the Economy

9-17A

Consultation with Residents

RM of Cambria No. 6

WHEREAS under *The Oil & Gas Conservations Regulations, 2012* well sites cannot be within 125 metres (0.0777 miles) of an occupied dwelling; and

WHEREAS there are no regulations in place to require consultation with the occupant and/or owner of an occupied dwelling within a more reasonable distance;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM request the Ministry of the Economy to include in *The Oil & Gas Conservations Regulations, 2012* a duty to consult with the occupant and/or owner of occupied dwellings within a 500 meter (0.3107 miles) radius.

Ministry of Environment

10-17A

Bill 44, *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act*

RM of Churchbridge No. 211

RM of Langenburg No. 181

RM of Lakeside No. 338

RM of Spalding No. 368

WHEREAS Bill 44 to amend *The Water Security Agency Act* was introduced and given first reading to the Legislative Assembly in November, 2016, with plans for obtaining third reading and royal assent in the spring of 2017; and

WHEREAS Bill 44 was not referred to a committee with the option to conduct public hearings on its subject matter; and

WHEREAS Bill 44 is designed to help the Water Security Agency (WSA) bring all drainage into compliance over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS Bill 44 will grant the WSA significantly more power including the ability to issue orders to close or alter any pre-1981 drainage works without compensation to the

owner, eliminating the existing requirement to work through a formal complaint process before making an order, the power to enforce drainage orders by directly closing work, and increasing maximum fines for offenses under the Act up to \$1 million per day for non-compliance; and

WHEREAS failure to comply to an order by the corporation, the corporation may register an “interest” based on the order against the title to or abstract record for the land on which the drainage works are located and that shall apply to any subsequent owner of the land; and

WHEREAS the appeal process is abolished under Bill 44 to deal with disputes;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Province on behalf of all rural municipalities to rescind Bill 44.

11-17A

The Water Security Agency Regulations **RM of Invermay No. 305**

WHEREAS the new Water Security Agency regulations may lead to a loss of land, increased costs to producers and loss of tax money to municipalities; and

WHEREAS these consequences have an overall negative economic impact;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Saskatchewan repeal the Water Security Agency's new regulations concerning rural land drainage as well as Bill 44.

12-17A

Increase Assistance from Water Security Agency **RM of Parkdale No. 498**

WHEREAS some rural municipalities are experiencing flooding of land and roads near lakes, due to the natural flow being impeded by obstructions, such as beaver dams and/or natural obstructions, on private lands, where the land owner refuses to remove the obstruction or allow access and these obstructions are causing hardship to farmers due to lost acres as well as threatening the integrity of the RM infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency’s purpose is to manage water, watersheds and related land resources in Saskatchewan, has been contacted to assess and assist municipalities in dealing with these issues, is only advising municipalities to deal with it, on their own, by enacting their own local bylaws; and

WHEREAS *The Water Security Agency Act* states, in Section 93(1) the corporation, (being that Agency) or any person acting under the corporation’s instructions, has the power to enter on any land, to remove or destroy any beaver dam or natural obstruction;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Environment to ensure the Water Security Agency fulfills its legislated duties by supporting the municipalities that are faced with the natural flow of water being impeded by obstructions and take the lead role in ensuring obstructions are dealt with in a safe and effective manner.

13-17A

Property Rights and Trespassing RM of Moose Range No. 486

WHEREAS in 1988 the Province passed *The Wildlife Act* that specifies lands where hunters can go and regulates how land owners are to sign their land and what hunters must do to abide by these regulations; and

WHEREAS hunters are the major cause of concern for damage to property, livestock and crops causing financial hardships to property owners; and

WHEREAS requiring hunters to seek permission prior to entering private land would alleviate many of the concerns facing private land owners;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SARM board meet with the Ministry of Environment to lobby for legislative changes to *The Wildlife Act* to include the requirement of the public to obtain permission from private land owners, excluding commercial properties, prior to entering privately owned land.

14-17A

Damages Caused by Hunters RM of Loon Lake No. 561

WHEREAS more and more people are entering into rural municipalities to hunt; and

WHEREAS these hunters are not ratepayers and will travel on any road, in any weather without any concern for the damages they make to these roads;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Environment to add an additional fee to each hunting license sold to provide the rural municipalities in each zone with money to help with damages to roads caused by hunters.

15-17A

Hunting with Written Permission Only RM of Loon Lake No. 561

WHEREAS each year hunters enter onto deed land without permission of any kind; and

WHEREAS the owner can only call the RCMP to have the hunter charged under the trespassing laws; and

WHEREAS charging the hunter under the trespassing laws requires the land owner to take the hunter to a Court of Law;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Environment to change legislation to require hunters to have written permission to hunt on deeded land.

16-17A
Regular Mule Deer Season
Parkland Association of Rural Municipalities

WHEREAS the population of mule deer has increased significantly in zone 44 and 54; and

WHEREAS presently mule deer licenses are granted only by hunting draw applications; and

BE IT RESOLVED that licenses be granted over the counter the same as whitetail deer in zone 44 and 54.

17-17A
Regular Elk Season
Parkland Association of Rural Municipalities

WHEREAS the population of elk has increased significantly in zone 54; and

WHEREAS presently elk licenses are granted only by hunting draw applications;

BE IT RESOLVED that licenses be granted over the counter the same as whitetail deer in zone 54.

18-17A
Regular Moose Season
Parkland Association of Rural Municipalities

WHEREAS the population of moose has increased significantly in zone 54; and

WHEREAS presently moose licenses are granted only by hunting draw applications;

BE IT RESOLVED licenses be granted over the counter the same as whitetail deer in zone 54.

Ministry of Government Relations

19-17A

Property Assessment Accountability – SAMA RM of Prince Albert No. 461

WHEREAS municipalities are required to manage balanced budgets and value the role the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) in this process; and

WHEREAS there is a quality assurance requirement and responsibility for SAMA to provide accurate data to municipalities to use for the purpose of setting municipal tax rates; and

WHEREAS recent examples exist (year 2016) where SAMA has significantly erred on their valuations of commercial properties within municipal jurisdictions that negatively impact municipal budgets, services and resources of both rural and urban municipalities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SARM Board lobby the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) to become financially accountable to their municipal clients for the financial losses municipalities incur, resulting from quantified errors that are discovered during assessment appeal processes in any year that such appeals are initiated, by asking SAMA to carry insurance to cover such losses that exceed \$10,000.00 for a municipality in any given year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this financial accountability be included in the Quality Assurance language for SAMA publications.

20-17A

Adding Building & Development Fees to the Tax Roll RM of Lumsden No. 189

WHEREAS section 369 of *The Municipalities Act* allows municipalities to add specific unpaid charges to tax rolls and section 370 of *The Municipalities Act* allows municipalities to apply to the courts for an injunction or other order for specific bylaw contraventions; and

WHEREAS the addition of building permit fees, including development fees, Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency fees and building inspection fees to the tax roll is currently not allowed; and

WHEREAS some ratepayers will start and finish a building project without first informing the municipality, or obtaining a permit; and

WHEREAS some ratepayers who obtain a building permit will take so long to complete a building project that extra building inspections are required, above and beyond what the initial building permit fees covered, resulting in the municipality being responsible for payment of those extra fees without guarantee of recuperation; and

WHEREAS stop work orders are not an effective solution to the problem if the project has already been completed or for projects that are on-going with small deficiencies outstanding; and

WHEREAS municipalities have limited resources to allocate towards any legal costs related to section 370 of *The Municipalities Act* and those legal costs would generally far outweigh the outstanding building permit fees, making this manner of collection unfeasible;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM advocate to the Provincial Government to amend section 369 of *The Municipalities Act* to allow municipalities to add the cost of unpaid building permit fees, development fees, Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency fees, and building inspection fees to the tax roll.

21-17A

Tax Enforcement for Oil and Gas Properties

Northwest Municipalities Association

WHEREAS there are oil and gas companies with arrears of taxes in municipalities; and

WHEREAS recently, with respect to the sale of assets of certain oil and gas companies, the Sale Approval and Vesting Orders issued by the Courts have ordered that the well shall be transferred to the purchaser “...free and clear of all security interests, claim, estate, security, right, title, interest and liens, including but not limited to, claims, hypothecs, mortgages, charges, liens (whether contractual, statutory or otherwise), security interests, assignments, actions, levies, taxes...”

WHEREAS this causes undo hardship to the other tax payers in the municipality;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to amend section 27 of *The Tax Enforcement Act* to specifically give municipalities a legislative right to a preferential lien on oil and gas properties.

22-17A

Gates on Municipal Roadways

RM of Mervin No. 499

WHEREAS it is presently illegal to have a gate placed on a municipal roadway entering into a hamlet; and

WHEREAS there are many resort hamlets throughout the province that have a large seasonal population base with little or no permanent population; and

WHEREAS these communities are susceptible to break and enters causing financial hardship for property owners as well as increased insurance rates; and

WHEREAS these communities are susceptible to break and enters causing financial hardship for property owners as well as increased insurance rates; and

WHEREAS a locked gate is beneficial in controlling persons entering into the hamlet during off-peak hours/days thereby reducing break and enters; and

WHEREAS there are radio frequency controlled gates available ensuring emergency services have access at all times in the event that they are called out;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to make it legal to place a gate on a municipal roadway entering into a hamlet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government place certain parameters around obtaining approval and installing a gate to ensure emergency vehicles have access at all times.

23-17A

Council Eligibility of Property Tax Arrears

RM of Corman Park No. 344

WHEREAS members of municipal council are responsible for managing the governance and financial affairs of the municipality, including implementation of municipal tax mill rates and enforcement of municipal tax payments; and

WHEREAS members of municipal council must be held to a high standard as community leaders when running for office, including provision of payment of annual property taxes;

WHEREAS *The Tax Enforcement Act* of the Province of Saskatchewan defines arrears of taxes as meaning “taxes unpaid and outstanding after the expiry of the year in which they were imposed, and included penalties for default in payment; and

WHEREAS *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* of the Province of Saskatchewan does not currently restrict a person from running for municipal office if they are in tax arrears; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has in place legislation within section 22 of their *Local Authorities Election Act* making a person ineligible for nomination for municipal office if on nomination day that person is indebted to the municipality for tax arrears or other defaulted debts;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Province of Saskatchewan to modify *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* to make a person ineligible for nomination for municipal office if on nomination day that person is indebted to the municipality of which the person is an elector for tax arrears exceeding \$50.00.

24-17A

911 Calls

RM of Longlaketon No. 219

WHEREAS emergency response personnel in rural areas experience difficulty in locating fires and victims requiring medical care; and

WHEREAS emergency response personnel are not able to communicate with the persons at the scene;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM request that 911 conduct a three-way call between themselves, the persons at the scene and the emergency response personnel.

25-17A

Rescue Services

RM of Laurier No. 38

RM of Lake Alma No. 8

WHEREAS the implementation of 911 services has raised the expectation of citizens of the province that when a call is placed through the 911 call centre, an emergency service will be dispatched to assist them and since many rural municipalities depend on urban centres to supply emergency services such as fire and rescue;

WHEREAS in some case urban centres are demanding large standby fees from neighbouring rural municipalities for fire and rescue services, not based on service delivery or population but rather based on their own budgetary needs thus forcing small centres to make an ethical choice between supplying the services and balancing their budgets, which could lead to many areas being unable to supply fire and rescue services;

WHEREAS the majority of rescue services are required for highway collisions and often involve individuals who are passing through rural municipalities;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to work to develop and regulate a province-wide system of fire and rescue services that is affordable, sustainable and available to all Saskatchewan citizens.

26-17A

RM's Responsible for Rescue/Extrication Services of Provincial Highways

RM of Brokenshell No. 68

RM of Laurier No. 38

RM of Lake Alma No. 8

RM of Wellington No. 97

WHEREAS the Emergency Management and Fire Safety Branch advises that municipalities are not required to provide rescue/extrication services within their boundaries but does advise that municipalities should have a plan in place on how to deal with a rescue/extrication incident if it occurs;

WHEREAS municipalities are not responsible for providing rescue/extrication services to the provincial highways that are within their boundaries but 911 dispatch will dispatch whoever the municipality has identified as the responding agency within their boundary;

WHEREAS this can prove costly to both municipalities and fire departments that must pay for and provide the equipment and manpower for these services as well as the cost where the SGI rate does not cover the entire cost of a call;

WHEREAS many of the calls in a rural municipality would be the result of accidents on provincial highways which may or may not involve ratepayers of the responding municipality;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to negotiate agreements directly with local fire departments for providing rescue/extrication services to their provincial highways.

27-17A

Provincial Disaster Assistance Program Deductible

RM of Moose Range No. 486

WHEREAS the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) provides financial assistance to municipalities to restore local community services or any property of the municipality that is damaged or lost because of a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS PDAP currently requires a municipality to pay the deductible at 0.10% of the assessment;

WHEREAS private individuals including conservation and development boards only pay 5% of the damage therefore not creating a level playing field requiring the municipality to have the brunt of the cost who is already carrying a financial burden with all of the damages;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to change the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program where the rural municipality pays 5% of eligible expenses per claim up to 0.10% of its most recent taxable assessment to help relieve some of the financial burden.

28-17A

Government Relations Municipal Advisors

RM of Livingston No. 331

WHEREAS council members and the administrator need accurate and up to date information on a timely basis and in many cases in unexpected events; and

WHEREAS sometimes it is not possible to speak to a municipal advisor for a couple of days, due to meetings, conferences, etc.;

BE IT RESOLVED that at least one municipal advisor be reachable on a daily basis and that a minimum response time be established.

Ministry of Health

29-17A

Amalgamation of Healthcare Regions

RM of Walpole No. 92

WHEREAS the government has decided to reduce excessive administration costs by amalgamating 10 health districts into one;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to ensure that local health care facilities and rural ratepayers benefit from this amalgamation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the numbers of surgeries carried out locally are increased where possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that money raised locally stays in the area that it was raised in to continue to improve local healthcare.

Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure

30-17A

Vehicle Management

RM of Pleasantdale No. 398

RM of Lake Lenore No. 399

RM of Flett's Spring No. 429

RM of Kinistino No. 459

WHEREAS the number of trucks hauling not only gravel and other road building materials, but also grain and livestock has increased substantially over the past years, and the distances of the hauls are becoming greater due to the limited gravel resources and fewer grain elevators in the province; and

WHEREAS heavy vehicles travelling at high speeds greatly wear and damage municipal roads in a faster manner than small passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS municipal roads are valuable infrastructure that are very costly to rebuild;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Provincial Government to have the maximum speed on all municipal roads reduced from 80 km/hr to 60 km/hr for all vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight that exceeds four tonnes.

Ministry of Justice

31-17A

Rural Crime - Drug Related

RM of Prince Albert No. 461

WHEREAS crime related to the illicit drug trade is increasing to alarming levels in Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS local RCMP advise that up to 75% of total crimes in some rural municipalities is directly related to illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS illicit drug use is causing severe problems in all rural municipalities and spread into many of our schools;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SARM Board lobby the Provincial Government to implement a province-wide plan with zero tolerance on the sale and use of all illicit drugs and implement much higher fines and longer mandatory jail sentences for anyone caught selling drugs in Saskatchewan.

32-17A

Fine Collection and Retention

RM of Corman Park No. 344

WHEREAS crime in rural areas is currently a focus in the Province of Saskatchewan, with the Province having created the Caucus Committee on Crime Reduction to investigate and determine potential solutions; and

WHEREAS municipalities in Saskatchewan have the legislated ability to create municipal police forces and/or employ Community Safety Officers within *The Police Act* to provide supplementary law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS with the exception of the Cities of Regina and Saskatoon, provincial statute offenses written by municipal police forces and/or Community Safety Officers are subject to retention of 25% of fine revenue by the Province under section 19 of *The Summary Offences Procedure Regulations, 1991* for the purpose of administering summary offence proceedings and enforcing payment of fines; and

WHEREAS the Cities of Regina and Saskatoon pay a flat rate annually for the provision of the same service, amounting to approximately 4% of annual fine revenues for those communities; and

WHEREAS more proportionate fine revenue retention legislation for municipalities would keep more resources within rural communities for crime prevention and provision of law enforcement services;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Province of Saskatchewan to modify section 19 of *The Summary Offences Procedure Regulations, 1991* for a 10% fine retention policy for all municipalities in the Province, excluding the Cities of Regina and Saskatoon.

SaskPower

33-17A

SaskPower Plans

RM of Laurier No. 38

WHEREAS by virtue of section 31 of *The Power Corporation Act* SaskPower has the right to access a municipal road allowance without approval to construct, place or remove poles, structures, wires, conduits or pipes; and

WHEREAS under *The Power Corporation Act*, SaskPower is required to submit a copy of a plan showing the location of the proposed power line to the rural municipality;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the government to amend section 31(2) of *The Power Corporation Act* to state “the corporation shall submit a copy of the construction plan showing the location of the proposed power line or pipeline, and clearly indicating the burial depth of any power line or pipeline, and the height of any overhead lines, and allow two weeks for commenting; to each of the following:

a) the member of the Executive Council responsible for the administration of *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*;

(b) the member of the Executive Council responsible for the administration of *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Act*;

(c) the secretary or treasurer of any rural municipality or the administrator of any municipal district within which all or any part of the power line or pipeline is to be constructed.

Department of Justice Canada

34-17A

Rural Crime

RM of Kindersley No. 290

WHEREAS crime has increased substantially in rural communities and whereas individuals do not have sufficient rights to protect themselves and property;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Federal Government to expand the rights and justification for an individual to defend or protect himself, herself, and person under their care and their property.

Department of Public Safety

35-17A

Agricultural Thefts

RM of Whiska Creek No. 106

WHEREAS agriculture thefts on farms and ranches have been an ongoing issue across rural Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS cases of agriculture theft often go without resolution due to a lack of RCMP resources;

WHEREAS more needs to be done to appropriately respond to these types of thefts;

WHEREAS this is a multi-stakeholder issue;

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lead a joint lobby effort, along with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and Livestock Services of Saskatchewan, to lobby the RCMP to dedicate resources to deal with agricultural related thefts.