

POLICY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SARM Annual Convention

March 2014



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AGENDA

- ▶ Committee Updates
 - ▶ SARM R&EDC
 - ▶ SARM Agriculture Committee
- ▶ Recent Legislation Review
 - ▶ *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*
 - ▶ *The Local Government Elections Act*
 - ▶ *Saskatchewan Environmental Code*
 - ▶ *The Municipalities Act*
- ▶ Other Policy Projects
 - ▶ Rurals Bordering Urbans
 - ▶ Fire Protection Working Group
 - ▶ Water Management
 - ▶ Bylaw Enforcement
 - ▶ DFAA & PDAP
 - ▶ Rural Broadband

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

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SARM RESOURCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- ▶ Established in 2011
- ▶ Mandate
- ▶ Standing-advisory Committee
- ▶ Representation – SARM
 - David Marit, President
 - Don Taylor, Director – Division 1
 - Doug Steele, Director – Division 3
 - Dale Harvey, Executive Director
 - Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy and Research

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R&EDC PROJECTS

- ▶ Oil & Gas – RM Issues
 - Upfront fees
 - Property Classes
 - Road Maintenance Agreement (RMA) Rates
 - Issuing and Enforcing RMAs
 - Cost to Maintain and Construct Road Infrastructure
 - Lack of Communication

R&EDC PROJECTS

- ▶ Oil & Gas - Recommendations
 - Upfront fees to cover upfront costs
 - Allow for sub-classing
 - Increase Road Maintenance Agreement (RMA) Rates
 - Better system for issuing and enforcing RMAs
 - Increase funding for road infrastructure
 - Facilitate on-going dialogue
 - Fees for Pipeline Installation
 - Fees for Drilling of Additional Legs

R&EDC PROJECTS

- ▶ SARM/CAPP Working Group
- ▶ Upcoming Consultations with RMs
 - July or August 2014
 - RMs with oil and/or gas development
 - Goals:
 - Better understand real impact of development;
 - Assess means available to address impacts;
 - Identify alternative methods;
 - Establish good practices;
 - Develop further recommendations.

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R&EDC PROJECTS

- ▶ Potash Development
- ▶ Building Inspections
- ▶ Overweight Permitting

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R&EDC PROJECTS

- ▶ Crown Utility Policies on Road Crossings
 - ▶ Traffic Speeds
 - ▶ Road Maintenance Agreement Rates
- ...among others!

SARM AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

- ▶ Ray Orb, Chair
- ▶ Harvey Malanowich
- ▶ Norm Nordgulen
- ▶ Laurel Feltin
- ▶ Dana Schmalz

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AG COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Key Topics:

- ▶ Canadian Grain Commission – Producer Payment Protection Program
- ▶ Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- ▶ Price Insurance Program for Western Livestock Producers
- ▶ Level of Rail Service Delivery
- ▶ Growing Forward II

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CANADIAN GRAIN COMMISSION – PRODUCER PAYMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- ▶ Amendment to the Canada Grain Act
- ▶ Purpose is to streamline the operations of the CGC and enable the CGC to prescribe by regulation to be maintained by licensees.
- ▶ The insurance based producer payment model will reduce the risk of licensee security shortfalls with a streamlined and more efficient administrative structure.
- ▶ Comments SARM provided:
 - ▶ CGC currently regulates the handling of 21 grains grown in Canada- confirmation that the same list of grain be offered the same financial protection
 - ▶ Liabilities fall within the \$100M aggregate protection limit
 - ▶ Non- Canadian companies purchasing Canadian product be included in the new model as well
- ▶ Moving forward:
 - ▶ CGC will report input received to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - ▶ CGC will continue to communicate with stakeholders as future developments unfold

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COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

- ▶ In October 2013 Canada and the European Union reached the agreement in principle
- ▶ The agreement will allow Saskatchewan livestock and crop producers access to new markets based in the European Union, which are estimated at \$1.3 billion, and allow them to ship more agricultural products like beef, pork, bison, and grains. Tariffs will also be eliminated on grains, pulses and processed pulses. It will also open the market for other Canadian based businesses providing them preferential access to a market of approximately 500 million people.
- ▶ The agreement was welcomed news by SARM as it will open new markets for Saskatchewan agriculture; an industry that will be a key driver in the continued economic growth Saskatchewan is experiencing.

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PRICE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR WESTERN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

- ▶ Earlier this year, the New Price Insurance Program was unveiled.
- ▶ Collaborative arrangement between the Federal Government and Western Provinces to enhance risk management options available to the livestock industry.
- ▶ Purpose is to protect livestock producers

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LEVEL OF RAIL SERVICE DELIVERY

- ▶ Current level of rail service is poor and is affecting grain profitability across Saskatchewan
- ▶ Industry stakeholders have been experiencing difficulties receiving railway cars and are undergoing extremely long railway car cycle times.
- ▶ What we've been doing:
 - ▶ Met with Quorum
 - ▶ Letters outlining our concerns

GROWING FORWARD II

- ▶ Business Risk Management Program (BRM)
- ▶ Non – Business Risk Management Programming

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RECENT LEGISLATION REVIEW

- ▶ *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*
- ▶ *Local Government Elections Act*
- ▶ *Saskatchewan Environmental Code*
- ▶ *The Municipalities Act*

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THE SURFACE RIGHTS ACQUISITION AND COMPENSATION ACT

- ▶ The Government of Saskatchewan held a public review on *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*.
- ▶ SARM reviewed the current legislation and requested input from our Members; the information gathered was used to inform our requests for revisions to the following areas:
 - ▶ Timeline for Review of Compensation
 - ▶ Notification for Review of Compensation
 - ▶ Entry Fees
 - ▶ Compensation Factors
 - ▶ Security Deposit
 - ▶ Termination of Right of Entry Order
 - ▶ Powers of the Surface Rights Board

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ACT

- ▶ Ministry of Government Relations contacted us regarding some of the potential changes to the Local Government Election Act (LGEA)
- ▶ SARM met with Ministry Staff and discussed with the RMAA
- ▶ Some of the topics that SARM provided preliminary recommendations on included:
 - ▶ Nomination paper provisions;
 - ▶ Disqualification of Candidates for Arrears;
 - ▶ Non-residents and assessment notices;
 - ▶ Form of ballot provisions; and
 - ▶ Online/electronic voting
- ▶ Formal consultations to begin this spring?

SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

- ▶ Code has NOT been implemented
- ▶ Current regulatory regime still applies
- ▶ Landfills
- ▶ Domestic Liquid Waste
- ▶ Other Code Chapters?

THE MUNICIPALITIES ACT

- ▶ In 2013, SARM provided comments on proposed amendments to *The Municipalities Act* on four separate occasions.
- ▶ SARM provided comments on a number of areas, including but not limited to:
 - Assessment rules;
 - Village/resort village incorporation;
 - Municipal Districts;
 - Petitions for financial or management audits;
 - Cancellation, reductions, refunds and tax deferrals;
 - Minimum and base tax.

OTHER POLICY PROJECTS

- ▶ Rurals Bordering Urbans
- ▶ Fire Protection Working Group
- ▶ Water Management
- ▶ Bylaw Enforcement
- ▶ DFAA & PDAP
- ▶ Rural Broadband

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RURALS BORDERING URBANS

- ▶ In 2013, SARM committed their involvement with RBU
 - ▶ RBU Committees: Annexation and Planning
 - ▶ Resolutions put forth at the 2013 Midterm Convention
 - ▶ Annexation Compensation Guideline

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ANNEXATION COMPENSATION GUIDELINE

- ▶ October 2013, Ministry of Government Relations put forward a draft Municipal Annexation Compensation Guideline
- ▶ According to the Ministry, the purpose is to provide principles and comprehensive parameters the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) could use to resolve disputes over annexation compensation
- ▶ One of the proposals included a formula to calculate the amount of compensations and length of compensation

FIRE PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

- ▶ Established in 2013
- ▶ Consists of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Government Relations (Emergency Management and Fire Safety Branch), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and SARM
- ▶ Meet throughout the year to discuss the different projects and initiatives that each department is working on
- ▶ Overall goal is to work together to build and share common messaging across the province with respect to fire prevention

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WATER MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Water Strategy Consultations
- Roles of Watershed Association and C&D Authorities
- Water management planning
- Approvals and monitoring
- Enforcement and fines
- Compensation
- ▶ POE and POU Systems
- ▶ Raw Water Pipelines
- ▶ Funding

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BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Bylaw Officers
- ▶ Special Constables
- ▶ Enhanced RCMP
- ▶ RCMP – Fine Revenue

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DFAA & PDAP

- ▶ Heavy equipment and operator costs
- ▶ Duplicate deductibles
- ▶ Deductible levels
- ▶ Mitigation measures
 - Property improvements
 - Structural projects
 - Non-structural projects

RURAL BROADBAND

- ▶ SARM recommended that:
 - ▶ Any rural spectrum left unused by a service provider after 2 years of them acquiring it be able to be accessed by service providers who are indeed willing to bring service to rural Canada.
 - ▶ “use it or lose it” principal
- ▶ 700 MHz spectrum auction – January 2014
- ▶ BCF funding
- ▶ 2.5 GHz auction – April 2015

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Thank You!

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