SARM Policy Update

2017 June Division Meetings

SARM Policy Department

- Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy & Research
- Kelsay Reimer, Acting Director of Policy & Research
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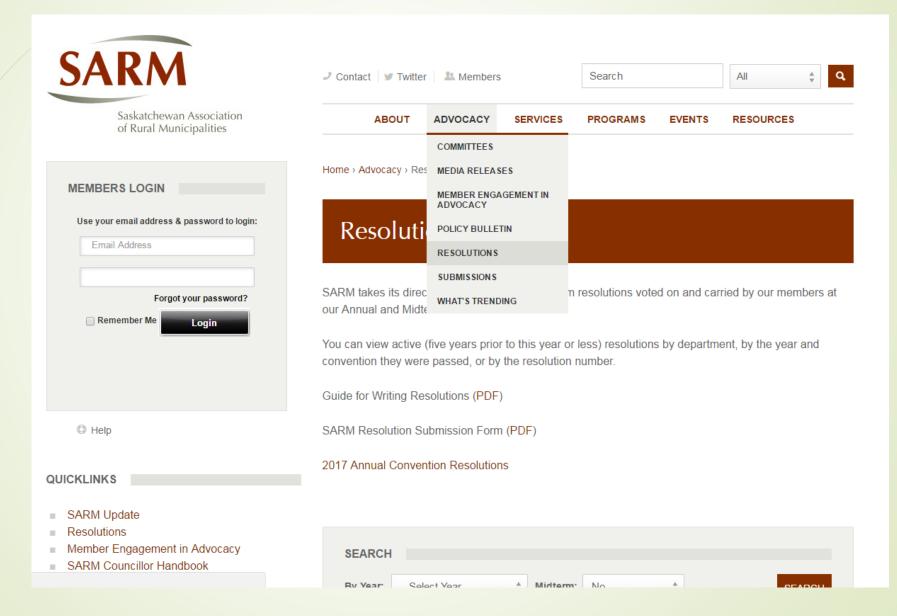Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities

Agenda

- Resolutions
- Future Resolution Policy
- Provincial Lobby
- Federal Lobby
- SARM Wins Document
- RM Policy Manual
- MHI Aggregate Survey
- NEB Landowners Guide
- Rural Crime Watch

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Resolutions

Resolutions

Resolution Responses

More responses have come in from Ministers regarding resolutions passed at the 2016 Midterm Convention.

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure Dave Marit:

- **23-16M Bridge Funding**
- **24-16M Destruction of Grass along Roadsides**
- **25-16M Short Line Rail Crossings**
- **26-16M Widening Crossbucks**
- **27-16M Weed Concerns**
- **28-16M Road Closure by Department of National Defence**

Minister of Justice Gord Wyant:

- **29-16M Property Rights and Trespassing**

Federal Minister of Transport Marc Garneau:

- **26-16M Widening Crossbucks**

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Future Resolution Policy

- History of Resolutions
- SARM's Expanding Role
- Current Concerns
- Updates
- Suggestions to SARM Bear Pit

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Advocacy Efforts

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- ➡ Provincial Advocacy Efforts

Advocacy Efforts

➤ Federal Advocacy Efforts

SARM WINS Report

SARM WINS Report

ADVOCACY
AGRICULTURE

Photo credit: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP)

ISSUE 1: Rats eradication is the objective of PREP, and sustained funding is needed to meet that goal.

RESULT: PREP has secured funding of $1.4 million in the 2016-17 provincial budget.

ISSUE 2: Communicating the value of PREP to encourage all RMs in the province to participate.

RESULT: PREP Board has been working with RM councils, and 2015-16 saw the highest participation rate yet.

ISSUE 3: Reducing the rat infestation rate across the province.

RESULT: Communication and consistency in shared knowledge has proven a key component in the effectiveness of this program. Rates of infestation are recorded at an all-time low.

Beaver Control Program (BCP)

ISSUE: Problem beavers cause infrastructure damage and flooding issues to agricultural land and other infrastructure.

RESULT: The BCP has secured funding of $500,000 in the 2016-17 provincial budget for RMs to remove problem beavers.

Beaver Control – Resolution 13-12M

ISSUE: The resolution requested that SARM work with the province to find a way to control the beaver population and that young trappers be given the opportunity to participate.

RESULT: The Beaver Control Program is administered by SARM and allows RMs and First Nations Bands to designate individuals authorized to remove beavers.

Beaver Management in Provincial Parks (BMPP)

ISSUE: Problem beavers cause many issues on watersheds within provincial parks and agricultural lands adjacent to park land.

RESULT: Funding for the BMPP is jointly provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport up to a combined maximum of $66,000 to be distributed to participating RMs for problem beaver removal in five designated provincial parks.

Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP)

ISSUE 1: Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is the first line of defense to identify, assess and respond to invasive plant species. The cost of herbicides to control prohibited and certain noxious weeds is exuberant, and funding is needed to meet that goal.

RESULT: The IPCP has secured funding of $800,000 in the 2016-17 provincial budget to provide financial assistance to RMs, First Nations Bands, producers and other stakeholders with costs incurred to undertake and coordinate the control of specific weeds that are persistent and problematic invasive plants.

ISSUE 2: All weeds designated as Prohibited Weeds under *The Weed Control Act*, as well as the four noxious weeds identified by the Ministry of Agriculture in the first years of the program, did not represent the scope of the problem throughout the province.

RESULT: In 2015-16, an additional eight noxious weed species were added to the previous eligible noxious weeds.

Country of Origin Labelling (COOL)

ISSUE: COOL was a US requirement that required retailers to provide country of origin labelling for fresh meat products. SARM, along with other stakeholders including the Government of Canada, have long lobbied against this requirement. COOL was estimated to cost Canadian producers and the Canadian economy about $3 billion annually. The World Trade Organization ruled against the law as it was discriminatory and provided no benefits.

RESULT: COOL was repealed in December 2015.

Grain Bag Recycling –
Resolution POP 7-09A, 22-11A, 19-12A, 8-15A, 37-16A

ISSUE: Grain bags are a massive plastic storage device available for producers to store their grain products. They are a more affordable option and are increasing in use. The downside is that landfills do not accept them and there is currently no recycling options or incentives in place. The result is that many producers leave the grain bags out in fields and ditches or burn them. SARM members have passed resolutions requesting a recycling program, and SARM has lobbied for this over the years.

RESULT: *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations* came into effect on July 28, 2016. The regulations require stewards to create a stewardship plan for grain bag recycling. Currently, there is no deposit system.

WIN: SARM has lobbied for years on behalf of its members for a grain bag recycling program.

On July 28, 2016 *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations came into effect, requiring stewards to create a stewardship plan for grain bag recycling in the province.*

Saskatchewan Farm Security Act

ISSUE: Questions and concerns over pension funds and other large institutions purchasing Saskatchewan farmland came into question recently. The Government of Saskatchewan held an online consultation over the summer of 2015 to gather information from stakeholders and the public on large institutions

SARM WINS Report

➡ What is a WIN for your association?

Any amendment that is legislative or regulatory, program changes and /or milestones that advance the objectives of SARM and the interests of RMs.

SARM WINS Report

- **Advocacy**
  - Agriculture
  - Municipal Governance
  - Infrastructure & Development
  - Environment
- **Insurance Department**
- **Bridge Services**

SARM WINS Report 2016

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OUR **VISION**
By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

OUR **MISSION**
SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.

Official publication of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

Published annually by:
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SARM WINS Report

60+ Wins in 2016!

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Saskatchewan Farm Security Act

- **Issue:** In 2015, the Government of Saskatchewan consulted about pension funds and other large institutions purchasing SK farmland. SARM's position is that SK farmland should be for individuals and families who want to live in rural SK and farm.

- **Result:** Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act* were effective on January 4, 2016. The amendments tightened rules around farmland ownership in SK, banning institutional investors, such as pension funds, from buying farmland in SK.

SARM WINS Report

Level 1 Investigator Course - SaskPolytech

➡ **Issue:** Municipal enforcement officers require training and education to effectively carry out their duties.

➡ **Result:** The Saskatchewan Association of Municipal Enforcement Officers (SAMEO) and Sask Polytech partnered to create a Level 1 investigator course, which first took place in May 2016. SARM provided funding assistance to assist with the creation of the course's curriculum.

SARM WINS Report

Multi-Material Recycling Program

- **Issue:** Recycling programs are needed in rural Saskatchewan, but they are expensive to operate and require a consistent stream of recyclable waste.

- **Result:** The MMRP launched on January 1, 2016. It is a cost-sharing program between businesses and municipalities to help pay for the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper materials. This includes household printed paper, newspaper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass packaging material. Businesses that distribute or sell packaging and paper products in SK are required under *The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Regulations* to participate in the MMRP.

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SARM WINS Report

Environmental Code Development Committee

▶ **Issue:** The Ministry of Environment is creating environmental codes to manage different areas of environmental policy and regulation.

▶ **Result:** SARM's staff and board have been invited to participate in the discussions and provide feedback before the environmental code is finalized.

SARM WINS Report

Wild Boar

- **Issue:** Wild boars are a nuisance to ag producers as they destroy crops and damage property. Members have passed a number of resolutions on this issue.

- **Result:** The Ministry of Environment amended legislation and regulations to allow for hunting of wild boar without a license. Normal safety and gun regulations still apply.
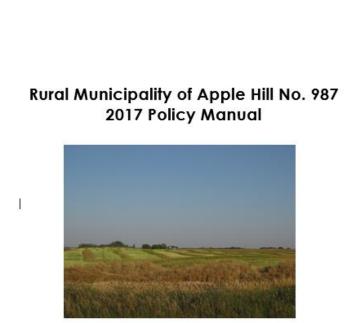
Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP)

- **Issue:** Flooding damages agricultural land and municipal infrastructure and is cost intensive.

- **Result:** The EFDRP was granted for 2016. The program provides cost-sharing assistance for flood protection measures.

Upcoming: RM Policy Manual

- Comprehensive policy manual template shared with members in 2013

- Intended as customizable template for RMs to utilize

- Updated Spring 2017

Rural Municipality of Apple Hill No. 987
2017 Policy Manual

Upcoming: MHI Aggregate Survey

- MHI Survey – KPMG
- Purpose
- Benefits to RMs
- SARM Engagement
- Confidentiality

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Upcoming: NEB Landowner Guide

- The National Energy Board recently produced a Landowner Guide to help landowners navigate a number of questions when they hear a pipeline is planned nearby, including:
  - Where will the pipeline be?
  - Will it be safe?
  - What kind of pipeline will it be?
  - How will the pipeline affect me?
  - How do I get involved in the planning process?
  - What are my rights and responsibilities?
  - Will I be compensated?

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Rural Crime Watch

Rural Crime Watch Do's	Rural Crime Watch Don't's
Keep track of suspicious behaviour	Do not take enforcement action
Make notes + write everything down	Do not carry weapons
Contact the police	Do not keep information to yourself, the sooner someone else knows the better
Share information with group members	

Rural Crime Watch

- Order directly through ATS Traffic
- 2' x 2' for $40
- 12" x 12" for $26.97

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Questions?