

A photograph of a snow-covered road winding through a winter landscape. The road is covered in a thick layer of snow, with faint tire tracks visible. On the left side of the road, there are large, dense evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. On the right side, there are bare deciduous trees with snow clinging to their branches. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The overall scene is peaceful and serene, capturing a typical winter day in a rural area.

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 54 number 4
Winter 2021 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Governance

Tackling Rural Issues on Your Behalf; Learning What it Takes to Be a Great Leader; How FCM's WEST Taskforce Shaped the National Agenda; Strong Cattle Industry Supports Healthy Habitat and Economy; Building Resiliency Through Partnerships, Resources and Practical Tools; The RM's Role Under the Weed and Pest Control Act

RECYCLE MY ELECTRONICS



The future is in your hands.
Don't let it go to waste.™

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?



Display Devices



Non-Cellular
Telephones



Home Audio/
Video Systems



Desktop
Computers



Portable
Computers



Computer
Peripherals



Vehicle Audio/
Video Systems
(aftermarket)



Personal/Portable
Audio/Video
Systems



Desktop
Printers/
Multi-Function
Devices



Home Theatre
In-A-Box (HTB)
Systems



E-Book
Readers



Floor-Standing
Photocopiers/Multi-
Function Devices



External
Storage Drives
& Modems



Countertop
Microwave
Ovens



Desktop &
Portable
Scanners



Global Positioning
System (GPS) Personal
Portable & Vehicle
(aftermarket)



Video Gaming
Systems &
Peripherals

To find out what and where to recycle, visit
recycleMYelectronics.ca/SK



Killdeer Badlands, Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR



VOLUME 54 Number 4
Winter 2021 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Official publication of the
Saskatchewan Association of Rural
Municipalities and the Rural Municipal
Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan.

Published four times per year by:

Benchmark Public Relations

2260 McIntyre Street
Regina, SK S4P 2R9

T (306) 522-9326

F (306) 522-0923

E info@benchmarkpr.ca

W www.benchmarkpr.ca

Editor
Pat Rediger

Associate Editor
Corette Mihalcea

Layout & Design
Nicole Williams

Advertising
Warren Nerby/
Don Shalley

SARM Board

President, Ray Orb, Cupar
Vice President, Bill Huber, Lipton

Directors

Bob Moulding, Abernethy
Norm Nordgulen, Assiniboia
Larry Grant, Val Marie
Harvey Malanowich, Canora
Judy Harwood, Saskatoon
Darwin Whitfield, Coalville
Guy Lagrandeur, Redburn (ex-Officio)

Rural Councillor is online at:

www.sarm.ca

@SARM_Voice

Views are those of the contributors and are not
necessarily the views of SARM.

Return undelivered copies to:
Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities
2301 Windsor Park Road
Regina, SK S4V 3A4

Contents

COVER PHOTO © LF Photography (www.LFphotography.ca)

inside

- 4** Minister of Government Relations Message
- 11** Municipal Governance and the Word 'No'
- 12** How FCM's WEST Taskforce Shaped the National Agenda
- 13** Who Governs Us – Who Governs the Land?
- 14** Governance Lessons Learned While Rowing Together
- 16** Passiveness Cannot Be Tolerated at Rural Rail Crossings
- 18** Good Governance – A Journey or a Destination?
- 20** Building Resiliency Through Partnerships, Resources and Practical Tools
- 21** Forming a Municipal District
- 24** Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan

regular features

- 6** Bill Huber, SARM President
Strong Cattle Industry Supports Healthy Habitat and Economy
- 7** Jay Meyer, SARM Executive Director
Rural People, the Pandemic and the Glue Bottle
- 8** Darwin Whitfield, SARM Director, Division 6
Best Practices for Governance and Procurement
- 9** Harvey Malanowich, SARM Director, Division 4
Tackling Rural Issues on Your Behalf
- 10** Dustin Resch, SARM Manager, Programs
Learning What it Takes to Be a Great Leader
- 19** Laurel Feltin, SARM Director,
Strategic Engagement & Advocacy
Getting Our Message Out There
- 22** Lynne Roszell, SARM Division 4 Plant Health Officer
The RM's Role Under the Weed and Pest Control Acts
- 25** Member News
- 27** New Faces at SARM

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.



Minister's Message

By the Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations

I WANT TO thank the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) for providing an opportunity to communicate directly with its membership.

As Saskatchewan's Minister of Government Relations, I understand and value the contributions of rural council members. They are as resilient as the people they represent and put in long hours to fulfill their councillor duties outside of their regular jobs.

To support rural decision makers and their communities, our provincial government continues to fund important local infrastructure.

In 2021, the Ministry of Government Relations has announced more than 180 new projects across Saskatchewan under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This represents more than \$202 million of provincial investment.

In 2021, the Ministry of Government Relations has announced more than 180 new projects across Saskatchewan under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This represents more than \$202 million of provincial investment.

These ongoing investments will help protect the economy and improve quality of life. Once the work is completed, these projects will leave a lasting and positive legacy. This includes enhanced water and wastewater systems, better cultural and recreational opportunities, decommissioned landfills for a cleaner environment, along with new local bridges and culverts to better support the transportation of agricultural products and other commodities. Some recent ICIP projects include:

- More than \$1.18 million in provincial funding to support landfill decommissioning for the Boreal Area Regional Waste Authority in the Nipawin area.
- More than \$174,000 in provincial funding to support the RM of Monet's Uniplex project to overhaul the hockey arena roof and improve accessibility, along with associated works.
- More than \$299,000 in provincial funding toward the RM of Porcupine's Copeau Bridge project to replace the existing timber structure with a new precast concrete and steel one.

We've also made other investments to strengthen municipalities and support councils.

Since 2020, more than \$1.9 million of provincial funding has supported 56 municipal-lead projects aimed at building capacity, fostering good governance and encouraging inter-community co-operation under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) initiative. Some recent TSS projects include:

- The Town of Willow Bunch received more than \$14,000 to support a combined asset management review and system update in collaboration with the RM of Willow Bunch.
- The City of Meadow Lake received more than \$37,000 to conduct a regional fire and emergency services feasibility study with the neighbouring RM of Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation.
- The RM of Frenchman Butte received \$13,000 to provide municipal governance training to their elected officials, along with the surrounding municipalities of the Village of Paradise Hill, Town of St. Walburg, RM of Mervin and RM of Britannia.

The initiative is administered by the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee. It consists of representatives from SUMA, SARM, the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North), and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Additional application intakes for both TSS and ICIP will occur in the near future.

Our provincial government will continue to support rural Saskatchewan by making sound investments to protect local economy. Thanks again.



SaskWater

Want peak performance from your
water supply system?

Wish you had a knowledgeable, certified
operator backed by a diverse team of experts?

Does rain fall?

We have the answers.
Visit **saskwater.com/municipal**



Strong Cattle Industry Supports Healthy Habitat and Economy

By Bill Huber
SARM Vice President

I WAS ASKED to write an article in the Winter Edition of the *Rural Councillor*, and I thought it would be appropriate to include the livestock industry; specifically, the beef cattle which are dear to me. Ever since I was a young guy, I have always had a keen interest and been extensively involved in the beef cattle business.

As I write this, we are at the end of September and harvesting and haying operations are wrapping up in most parts of the province. It's been quite a challenging year. The fourth wave of COVID-19 hit when we were thinking the worst of the pandemic was over. We experienced an extreme drought that not only affected us in most parts of Saskatchewan, but covered an area from northern Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, to as far south as California, and as far east as northern Ontario.

During the months of June and July, the temperatures continued to be in high 20's to mid-30's (celsius) every day with virtually no rain for some 60 plus days. Although there were a few areas in Saskatchewan that did receive the odd thunderstorm, which certainly helped the top soil moisture, they were generally few and far between.

As the drought continued to get worse, there were rising concerns of feed shortages across the province. The Ministry of Agriculture initiated meetings every second week with the livestock and crop sectors. I participated in the livestock industry calls, and President Orb reported for SARM on the crop side of the discussions.

I would personally like to thank Minister Marit, and the staff in the Livestock Branch, for hosting the meetings. During some of the discussions, it was apparent that the cattle numbers in this province could be reduced by as much as 30 per cent. As early as mid-May, producers were shipping cows and receiving excellent prices; with good D-1, D-2 cows selling for \$1.02/lb live to \$1.05/lb. However, as the days and weeks moved on, the numbers at sale barns increased and cull cows were under pressure; prices dropped nearly .30 cents/lb by the end of August.

Early in the summer the Ministry knew that the timing was crucial; therefore, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) changed the yield formula and started to write crops off for producers to cut and bale crops that were written off.

In review, in fall 2019 the Premier announced a new *Growth Plan for Saskatchewan*, and the livestock industry was included in that plan. The Livestock Branch with the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the various livestock organizations in the province, were challenged with growing the livestock industry.



Who knew then that we would be in one of the worst droughts in nearly 30 years, faced with feed shortages, and be losing a big part of the cattle numbers? Due to the severity of the drought in such a vast part of Western Canada, the Agri-Recovery Program was triggered. Eligible producers could apply for financial assistance to help maintain numbers for purchasing feed.

It's important to maintain and grow the livestock industry in Saskatchewan. In the new growth plan, we need to increase livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion by 2030. Doing so will create jobs to support this sector, which will also keep our young farmers and ranchers involved in the industry and help feed an ever-growing world population. Every year we see hundreds of acres of native grassland get plowed up and turned into crop production, and this isn't good for the environment or wildlife habitat. Native grasslands are home to dozens of different species, and they will not survive without their natural habitat.

Beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison and sheep, to mention a few, contribute a large portion of the global value of agriculture output and support the livelihoods of almost a billion people. The livestock sector should be one of the fastest growing parts in the agriculture economy, yet it's struggling to hold its own. It's important for us as producers to support our livestock organizations, such as the Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Branch. These organizations have hired staff to assist in developing and promoting positive changes to the industry for it to grow and be profitable.

The cow business is a tough business, and we need strong individuals to be a part of it! The drought made for challenging times for ranchers, and it could have a drastic impact on the livestock industry in Saskatchewan. We can't give up just because mother nature wasn't good to us. We must start planning for 2022 because things will improve, and I strongly believe we could be headed for prosperous times ahead. We, as farmers and ranchers, must be optimistic or we wouldn't be in this business!



Rural People, the Pandemic and the Glue Bottle

By Jay Meyer

SARM Executive Director

TRYING TO balance your personal and professional life while governing a municipality is difficult at the best of times. Being on this precarious balancing beam during a pandemic makes it even more difficult. Since March of 2020, we have received different information from different sources regarding what to expect next with COVID-19. Inconsistency and speculation often lead to additional stress and conflict at home as well as in the workplace. This conflict could lead to long-term stress, a loss of trust or even the breakdown of relationships. This, all the result of a situation that is out of our control. Many are doing what they feel is the best thing for themselves and their families, and what that is, is different to everyone.

When the pandemic hit, signs and radio ads appeared stating “We Are In This Together” and to “Stick It to COVID.” I believe in both sentiments. But as we now pass the year-and-a-half point of the pandemic, it is starting to feel like the glue that was holding us together and sticking it to COVID is starting to

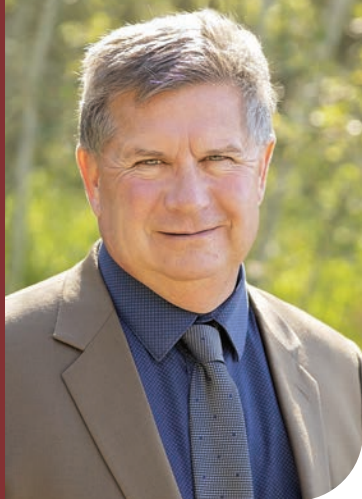
separate. As rural people, this is not what we do, this is not who we are. In difficult times, there is no better place to be than rural Saskatchewan, as “togetherness” is our culture. We all grew up with this ingrained in us and have seen many examples of it. There is a metaphorical “glue bottle” on every farm gate and street corner in rural Saskatchewan, just waiting to be shared with a neighbour in need.

It is a daily battle for every single one of us, but I am asking you all to be kind and stick to our roots. Please support each other, have each other’s backs, be patient, be understanding and keep each other safe. Remember what we were taught growing up: no matter who you are or what you think, help is only a door or call away. Let’s set our beliefs and differences aside and battle this pandemic together. Fill up those glue bottles, friends! There is a light at the end of this tunnel, and every race does have a finish line. We need to stick together to stick it to COVID!



SARM Board of Directors (pictured left to right above): Ray Orb, President; William Huber, Vice President; Bob Moulding, Division 1 Director; Norm Nordgulen, Division 2 Director; Larry Grant, Division 3 Director; Harvey Malanowich, Division 4 Director; Judy Harwood, Division 5 Director; Darwin Whitfield, Division 6 Director; Guy Lagrandeur, Ex-Officio Director





Best Practices for Governance and Procurement

By Darwin Whitfield
SARM Director, Division 6

WHILE MOST rural municipalities agree that governance is critical for their everyday operations, many organizations don't know what governance means. Governance is a process that deals with the structure of the rural municipality; it is directed, it is controlled, and it is held accountable for its actions by the ratepayers and government. Governance also includes tendering for the municipality, which is the process of procurement and how it works.

It is extremely important that tenders or Request for Proposals (RFPs) state clearly, and up front, the criteria by which bids and proposals will be evaluated.

Rural roads and bridges are vital for the sustainability of rural Saskatchewan. Industries and people living and working in rural areas depend on a well-designed infrastructure for exporting key commodities from the energy, agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The cost of maintaining and developing rural transportation infrastructure is high. Therefore, municipalities can receive great benefit from the programs offered through federal and provincial governments to help offset the costs.

SARM administers the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program in partnership with the Ministry of Highways. The typical annual RIRG budget is \$15 million. However, in recent years the program has had a temporary influx of stimulus funds of over a whopping \$45.5 million over two to three years... for roads alone! The bridge and large culvert initiative stimulus funds were also increased to \$31.5 million over four years. The RIRG program is a 50/50 cost sharing grant (up to \$500,000) between governments and municipalities for the development and upgrading of roads.

So, what are the principles or best practices of procurement?

- **Transparency** - must be fair and transparent to all bidders.
- **Integrity** - making packages available in advance of the competition, and including a closing time, permits bidders adequate time to prepare the bid.
- **Economy** - packages shall be complete with reasonable estimates of all quantities and include all relevant specifications.
- **Openness** - results shall be publicly released in a timely matter.

- **Competition and Accountability** - it is extremely important that tenders or Request for Proposals (RFPs) state clearly, and up front, the criteria by which bids and proposals will be evaluated. This allows vendors to compete on an even playing field and ensures accountability when RMs evaluate the proposals/bids that have been submitted.

There are so many aspects that governance covers within the municipality's policy making that we could discuss this for a very long time; however, these are a few tips that I try to follow as a reeve and SARM director.

Procurement can be a tricky and risky business. SARM staff are always happy to provide support to rural municipalities trying to navigate this arena. For RIRG procurement support, contact info@rirc.ca. For general RM procurement guidance, please reach out to trading@sarm.ca. The Knowledge Centre at sasktenders.ca also has some great resources for learning more about procurement.

RAISING A HEALTHY FAMILY
IS ALL ANYONE WANTS.
WHEN YOU RECYCLE,
YOU HELP US DO THAT.



When you recycle used oil, filters, antifreeze, their plastic containers and DEF containers, you help keep Saskatchewan's land, water and air, clean and safe.

Mother Nature Thanks You for using our recycling network, one of the best in the country.

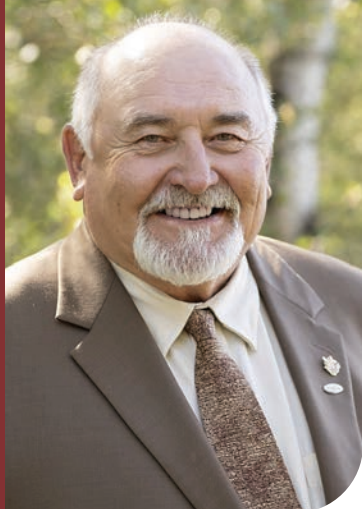
We have 37 EcoCentres and nearly 150 drop-off points province wide.



Saskatchewan Association for
Resource Recovery Corp.

usedoilrecyclingsk.com
Toll free (SK only) 1.877.645.7275





Tackling Rural Issues on Your Behalf

By Harvey Malanowich
SARM Director, Division 4

AS WE CLOSE OUT another year of turmoil with the fourth wave of COVID-19, drought conditions throughout the prairies are severe, and the latest federal election could not have come at a worse time.

Broadband should be accessible to all, the same as clean drinking water, health care and education is being provided.

At a time such as this, we all must become strong leaders who bring forward and deal with issues that improve rural life.

The first issue that has been at the forefront of SARM's priorities is affordable and accessible rural broadband access. It is essential to the economic and social wellbeing of our businesses, residents and farmers to ensure their future sustainability. Broadband should be accessible to all, the same as clean drinking water, health care and education is being provided.

Another issue hurting farmers, who provide a source of local and reliable food to this planet, is the carbon tax. It's increasing the cost of the bottom line of all farming operations and their ability to compete in the marketplace. Agriculture is the number one economic driver in the prairie provinces affecting all residents, both rural and urban. If this continues, many farm, business and personal bankruptcies will occur, putting everyone in dire straits. This will have a snowball effect if it is not dealt with.

We all must work together to fix these problems. It starts at a local level with good leadership accompanied by provincial government action.

Other issues SARM is dealing with are:

1. Trespassing legislation and the slow passage to enact it.
2. The Water Security Agency's lack of mandate for the province.
3. Safety nets for farmers to develop their 2023 framework. The government must work with farmers to develop effective risk management tools and programs to increase coverage after this year's drought.
4. Of great concern, the *Emergency Measures Act* passed on September 13, 2021 which is no different than the *War Measures Act* from the past. Everyone must read the bill as it affects our livelihood. Take a look!

In closing, I would like to thank the staff at the SARM office, who have been working from their homes due to COVID-19, for all of their hard work in bringing membership concerns to the Board and working on solutions; a great job!

Wishing you all – reeves, councilors and employees – a very Merry Christmas and the best of all for years to come!



Your source for
**COMPACTION
EQUIPMENT**

548 BOURQUIN ROAD,
ESTEVAN, SK S4A 2A7
TF 855.483.2500
conquestequipment.net



**RENT
or
BUY**



Learning what it takes to be **A Great Leader**

By Dustin Resch
SARM Manager, Programs

IF YOU'VE BEEN part of a board, council or committee, you know that effective governance is both an art and a science. It requires both soft skills and technical skills. Leaders who thrive at governance were not typically born that way – they had to learn their skills through experience and intentional training. In what follows, I'd like to share with you a little about SARM's governance-related programing and how members might access it to become more effective in their governance responsibilities.

SARM partners with SUMA and Southeast College to offer the Municipal Essentials program. (Check out the program site here: www.southeastcollege.org/courses/municipal-essentials). This program offers short courses, priced at an exceptionally accessible rate, to hone several governance skills. Municipal leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds will garner numerous insights in the areas of conflict resolution, communication strategies, meeting management and leadership. In addition to the new learning to be gained from completing these courses, Southeast College also offers three levels of certificates upon completion of a set number of modules.

In collaboration with other municipal organizations (including SUMA, RMAA, New North, etc.) SARM offers the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP). Each of the six modules in the MLDP contribute to the broad knowledge required to exercise sound governance at the municipal level. These modules span a range of topics – including human resources, public relations, strategic and financial planning, community and land use, and economic development – all with a focus on the municipal context. Check out the MLDP website (www.mldp.ca) for more information.

One module in the MLDP that is explicitly focused on governance is the Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities (MLRR) module. Though the MLRR is initially directed toward individuals new to municipal leadership, many established leaders have found re-taking this module to be extremely helpful. The specific topics of the MLRR are regularly being updated and refined to stay on the cutting edge of both emerging issues and essential knowledge in municipal leadership. The MLRR module has traditionally been offered in person the day prior to SARM's midterm convention. This year, however, the module will take place via webinar on the afternoon of November 18, 2021. If you cannot make that time work, don't worry! The webinar will be recorded and posted on the SARM website for viewing at a later date. The MLDP website contains more information about registration for this exciting module (www.mldp.ca/modules/municipal-leaders-roles-and-responsibilities).

It is well-established that effective governance requires close collaboration between administrators and elected councils. For this reason, the recruitment and training of strong RM administra-

tors is an essential element of the future of municipal health. To support the education and training of aspiring RM administrators, SARM partners with the Rural Municipality Administrator's Association to offer the Rural Municipal Administrator Internship Program (MAIP). By supplying added funding to RMs, the MAIP program supports host RMs to offer paid internships to promising individuals to complete the year of experience to help meet their certification requirements. Host RMs gain an enthusiastic learner in their midst and interns gain both a salary and mentorship from an experienced administrator – it's a win-win! More information is available on the SARM website (www.sarm.ca/programs/maip).

There is no doubt that the challenge of effective governance takes grit and continuous learning. Programs like those described above are intended to equip leaders in the municipal sector to engage in the work of governance with the wisdom and skills they need to go the distance.



With a continued emphasis on the safety of our staff and the public, SAMA has been hard at work in the field safely completing inspections for our client municipalities.

The Agency is finalizing agricultural land reinspections in 20 RMs for use in 2022. If your RM has any maintenance changes to include with the reinspection, please continue to use the MySAMA portal for submission of maintenance changes to your regional SAMA office. If you are unfamiliar with accessing MySAMA or logging your maintenance list, please contact your local SAMA office.

The priority for SAMA continues to be the timely delivery of maintenance to our municipal clients.

Thank you for your continued support as we look to provide service for our municipal clients while being mindful of the health and safety of our staff and the public.

For more information visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262,
or by email: info.request@sama.sk.ca.

Municipal Governance and the Word 'No'

By **Doran Scott**

RMAA Director Division 5

MANY YEARS AGO, when I took on the position of Administrator for the RM of Edenwold No. 158 (nearly 15 years now) the retiring administrator, Donna Strudwick, said something that has resonated with me ever since. Council was considering a development application that had a fair number of complexities and did not really align with what was contained in the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw at that time. As councillors debated back and forth about the proposal and just how the municipality may be able to accommodate it, Donna made a single comment that stopped everyone dead in their tracks. "It is hard to say no." Having known Donna for well over a decade at that time, I knew I should take some time and chew on that statement that sounds so simple but is anything but.

As elected and appointed officials we are so often tasked with making decisions which directly affect not only ratepayers, but friends, family, neighbours, tenants and landlords. No one wants to be the bad guy that turns down a proposal from a friend or a request from a renter of land. No one wants to appear to be the one that is hard to work with or that never does anything positive and is just that curmudgeonly person on council; it's hard to say no. This is one of the great challenges of municipal governance.

I'm not sure that provincial or federal politicians have their neighbours knocking on the door or phoning at 10 o'clock at night, but I would guess that they don't. None of what I just said should or would be a surprise to a rural municipal councillor or administrator as we frequently get called at odd hours, get hit up at the local sporting event and are even called on at functions like graduations or fundraisers for local charities. These are just some of the reasons why we as administrators and councillors have such a difficult time saying no.

We all come from different backgrounds and have different objectives and motivations. I do not envy councillors and Reeves who are tasked with satisfying the wants and needs of their ratepayers. What brings the elected council, administration, and employees together is the fact that we all represent the municipality and strive to do what's best for it.

In the midst of a pandemic, it is so hard to peer into the future. Right now, we are trying to plan only one or two months ahead. But we need to heed the long-term repercussions of decisions that are made at every council meeting. Jim wants this road built up. Great, that'll make Jim-Bob happy. But why wasn't it built up before? How many people use it? If we get another wet year, will it be underwater requiring us to do it again? What are the maintenance costs over the lifespan of the road? Is it really necessary and sustainable? Perhaps you should just say no.



Dan and Blair.

A person requests that a "kids at play" sign be erected at their yard to inform motorists. Are you going to put a sign at every yard where there are children? Are you going to open your municipality up to liability by placing all of these signs and potentially missing one? What are the initial costs associated with installing, maintaining and replacing the signs (target practice)? Perhaps no.

A developer approaches council with a grand idea for the next big thing that will benefit everyone and make the RM so much tax revenue. Does it meet municipal bylaws? Is it sustainable? Is the developer willing to finance infrastructure? Would approving this proposal be viewed as a good decision 20 years from now? Maybe the answer is no.

It is so easy to say yes. It literally gives us a shot of serotonin and dopamine that makes everyone feel good. But imagine if you said yes to every request that came before you. Much like bylaws and legislation "no" is a tool. Used judiciously and appropriately it is an effective method of governance. We say no all the time in our personal lives, perhaps we should use it in our professional lives as well.



How FCM's WEST taskforce SHAPED THE NATIONAL AGENDA

By Randy Goulden

Chair, FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce

WHEN I WAS ASKED to chair the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST) nearly two years ago, I sensed a real opportunity for municipal leaders to come together and deliver concrete support for hard-hit western communities.

Now, as our taskforce wraps up its mandate, I'm proud to say that's exactly what we've done.

FCM created WEST in response to the deep economic anxiety in western communities. As local leaders, we see the frustrations our residents face, brought on by significant challenges in crucial sectors like energy and agriculture. As problem solvers and bridge builders, we knew we had to help.

So our taskforce brought together rural and urban municipal leaders from Canada's four western provinces – including a strong contingent from Saskatchewan. Our goal was to propose concrete solutions that would help western communities protect and create jobs, while driving new growth and opportunities for workers and families.

Almost immediately, WEST kicked off an ambitious engagement strategy with key federal decision-makers – both in government and in opposition. We met regularly with cabinet ministers, MPs and senators from every major party. We brought forward western realities, along with strong policy recommendations. At every step of the way, our approach remained non-partisan and our focus remained clear: to be a strong advocate for western communities.

This approach worked. Not only did WEST's advocacy earn support from all parties on Parliament Hill, we secured important federal investments to create jobs, drive western economic development, boost trade and exports, support farmers, and more.

Those investments include \$1.7 billion to clean up orphaned and inactive oil and gas wells, creating 5,200 jobs. They include \$1.9 billion to expand the National Trade Corridors Fund to increase exports, protect jobs and get more Canadian goods to market. They include expanded funding for regional economic development in BC and the Prairies. And, they include new compensation for farmers for the cost of carbon pricing. While we're still waiting for details on how that funding will roll out, in the first year alone that compensation is expected to be \$100 million.

Every one of these federal investments responds directly to recommendations put forward by WEST. And, all of them will help communities throughout Saskatchewan and across western Canada.

Bringing Western Priorities to Ottawa: Next Steps

Of course, there's still more work to do. For decades, western communities and industries have helped lead the way in creating good jobs, driving national prosperity, and supporting entire generations of families. Now, as Canada gears up for an economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19, western innovation and resourcefulness will have a vital role to play.

That's why, in our final report, entitled *Opportunity and Prosperity: the Future of Western Canada*, WEST is outlining concrete recommendations for the federal government to further support western communities – everything from establishing national utility corridors to ensuring a place-based transition to net-zero GHG emissions. And, we lay out our bold vision for a thriving and prosperous western Canada for decades to come. You can read our report at fcm.ca/WEST.

Even though WEST has concluded its specific mandate, the important work we've started does not end here. As western municipal leaders, all of us must continue to come together – including through SARM and FCM – to build on WEST's progress and to realize our vision of thriving western communities. To help do that, FCM will continue to listen and work closely with western municipal leaders to ensure your voices are heard. With your support, we'll continue to bring western priorities to every federal party to drive a recovery that all communities and all regions can take part in.

I want to thank my fellow Saskatchewan municipal leaders who have devoted their time and energy to FCM's WEST taskforce. That includes SARM President Ray Orb and Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, who served as co-chair. I also want to thank all of you for your thoughtful feedback and ideas. It's been an honour to serve as WEST's chair.

The progress we've achieved together showcases the unique ability of municipal leaders to put politics aside and to work together to get things done. As the governments closest to Canadians, this is what we do every day. It's what you do at SARM, and it's what we do at FCM.

Canada works best when everyone has the opportunity to thrive. So let's continue working together to ensure a bright economic future for western communities and for the people who call them home.

Randy Goulden served as Chair of FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST). She is a councillor in the City of Yorkton, SK, and chairs FCM's Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus. FCM is the national voice of local governments. To learn more about FCM's WEST taskforce, visit fcm.ca/WEST.

Who Governs Us – Who Governs the Land?

Local Government Week – November 8-14, 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK is once again being proclaimed in Saskatchewan from November 8-14, 2021. Local Government Week was first proclaimed in 2018 at the request of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA).

Recognizing this week provides a formal opportunity for us to highlight the work and role of local governments. The call to recognize this week emerged through discussions between our organizations and local governments as an opportunity to increase awareness and engagement in our systems of democracy and governance.

We are very excited this year to be launching an educational component for students. For the past couple of years, the partner organizations have been working with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) Learning Centre, and a committee of representative teachers, to develop local government resources that support curriculum outcomes related to democracy, community and citizenship. The resource

package is titled *Who Governs Us – Who Governs the Land?* The resources are targeted for Grades 3 and 4, and they will be made available to all teachers in Saskatchewan to support learning about the roles and responsibilities of local governments; citizenship and engagement in local democracy; and local governments as pertains to Treaty Rights, First Nations jurisdiction and recognizing the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as a government. We are also planning to have the resources translated into French.

One additional component that the partners are also working on to complement the educational resource is a Speakers Bureau. The bureau would be made up of contacts within each organization, designed to connect teachers using the resources with local government representatives who would be willing and able to present and speak with the students and share first-hand accounts of their roles and responsibilities as locally elected representatives and leaders.

Watch for more information about Local Government Week and the educational resources that will be available.



REQUEST A LINE LOCATE

Contacting an underground utility line can be costly and dangerous. Plan ahead and stay safe.

Click Before You Dig.com

Governance Lessons Learned While Rowing Together

By **Dave Dextraze**

Manager of National Partnerships, Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

NO MATTER the organization, effective governance is critical. While this is certainly true for municipalities, I'd like to share some governance learnings from my experience collaborating with municipal associations and industry partners from across the country to form the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada. Canoe makes the cooperative procurement of essential municipal equipment and supplies available to municipalities and other non-profit and public sector entities in nearly all of Canada's provinces and territories. While Canoe is a great example of the power of collaboration, it also presents some interesting governance lessons.

Canoe makes the cooperative procurement of essential municipal equipment and supplies available to municipalities and other non-profit and public sector entities in nearly all of Canada's provinces and territories.

The first lesson learned through Canoe's formation was the importance of role clarity. While not all collaborating organizations play the same role within Canoe, they all understand what role they play. For example, while some of Canoe's municipal association members handle the administrative work, such as supporting municipal purchases and engaging with suppliers, others are focused on ensuring the group buying process is compliant with the various local and provincial/territorial procurement and trade rules. All of the partners understand where they fit within the group and how their work both contributes to the success of the organization and enhances value for members.

While establishing these roles was tricky in a Canada-wide organization, the challenges and benefits are similar for any organization, including municipalities. Ensuring that both the decision-makers and the implementers know where they fit, how they contribute, and why their role exists is crucial to ensuring organizational outcomes are achieved.

The second governance lesson learned through Canoe was not exciting but critically important: due diligence.

Another way to look at this concept is being proactive. For Canoe, due diligence means understanding and ensuring compliance with local and provincial trade and procurement requirements before expanding to a new jurisdiction. It also means taking the time to develop effective internal policies to operate effectively. For a Canada-wide member-based organization, this takes time; each Canoe member requires support to ensure their policies allow them to participate in group buying.

While working with members on policies and legal compliance beforehand can be tedious, it allows the organization to function much more effectively in the long-run. This would not happen without an organization-wide understanding that positive outcomes can only be realized by taking the time to do the hard work.

This idea can be applied to any organization. A municipal council can be tempted to focus on making big, splashy decisions quickly, but without a commitment to first understand their priorities, capacity and finances, those big decisions can turn bad quickly.

The final governance lesson learned through Canoe may sound obvious, but doing it right was not easy: communicating with partners and members across the country using language and terminology relevant to them cannot happen through a centralized approach.

Canoe has client relations managers based across the country providing grassroots support to members and dealing with the issues that matter to them. While scope may be smaller in other organizations, the same concept applies. To effectively govern, an organization must meet stakeholders (both internal and external) on their terms, using their language, and understanding their priorities. Not prioritizing this can lead to an echo chamber; if the same ten people are making all of the decisions based on their own views, it's not likely that these decisions will resonate or meet the needs of other stakeholders, partners or members.

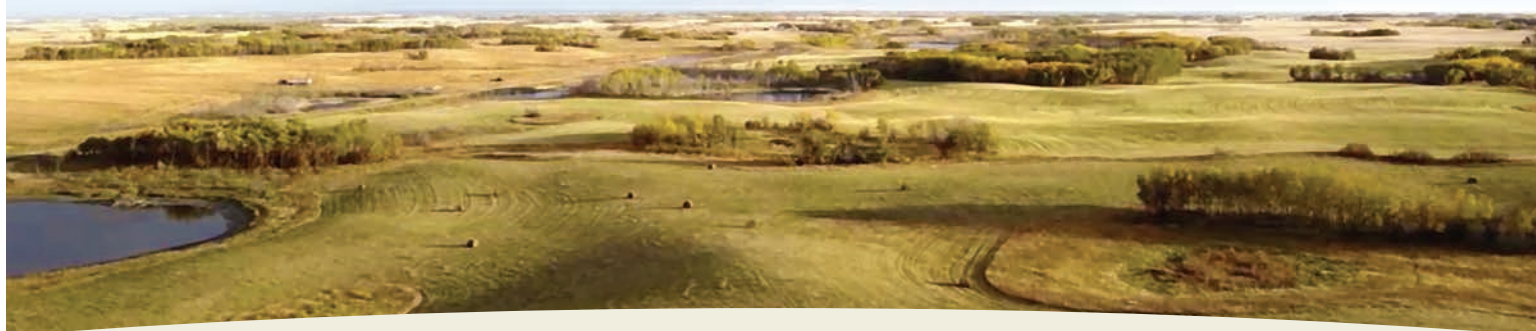
To effectively govern, an organization must meet stakeholders (both internal and external) on their terms, using their language, and understanding their priorities.

Governance will look different in every organization. However, my experience in supporting the creation of Canoe has shown that some of the most obvious governance priorities are often those most taken for granted or overlooked.

Ensuring that those throughout the organization understand and buy into their roles, generating an organization-wide commitment to doing the little things up front, and communicating with those throughout the organization in a language that they understand have all led to great outcomes for Canoe, and should not be overlooked in any municipality or organization.

“A Ducks Unlimited Canada conservation easement hits all cylinders for our beliefs in conservation and for how our operation runs, including soil health and grazing. It was also a huge financial boost for our operation!”

– CHRIS AND JENNA HUBICK, STRASBOURG AREA RANCHERS AND DUC PROGRAM PARTNERS



DUC Conservation Easements (CEs) pay approximately 30% of current land values, and have no restrictions on haying or grazing*. Contact us to find out how our CEs and other farm-gate programs increase your bottom line and put money back in your pocket: **Call 1-866-252-3825 or email du_regina@ducks.ca**

Proud to be your conservation partner

ag.ducks.ca

*Some conditions apply. Contact DUC for details.

Congratulations

To the 2021 Municipal Hail Scholarship recipients



JADEN TODD
Hometown: Hazlet, SK
University of Regina
Nursing



BRODIE GARRATT
Hometown: Milestone, SK
University of Saskatchewan
Agribusiness



BRYDEN TESSIER
Hometown: Bellevue, SK
University of Saskatchewan
Agribusiness



TERRAN THOMS
Hometown: Humboldt, SK
University of Saskatchewan
Agriculture



JACKSON GOUDY
Hometown: Stoughton, SK
University of Saskatchewan
Agriculture and Animal Science

Supporting the next generation of smart minds in the farming community.

Storms are unpredictable. We aren't. | municipalhail.ca



**MUNICIPAL HAIL
INSURANCE**



Passiveness cannot be tolerated at **Rural Rail Crossings**

Photo: Shutterstock.com

ALMOST HALF of all railway-related deaths and injuries happen at railway crossings. Many of these incidents occur at “passive” rail crossings, which are common in rural Canada. These crossings don’t have gates, lights or bells to warn of approaching trains, so drivers need to be extra vigilant. Rural crossings can also have uneven grades, or humps, which can cause cars or trucks to bottom out – putting them at risk of being hit by an oncoming train.

This summer, there have already been a number of tragic train-vehicle collisions at rural crossings across Canada. On the July long weekend, two young men were killed near Woodstock, ON when their car was hit by a train and pushed down the track.

Preventing tragedies at rural crossings

The following are some basic rules that can help prevent these tragedies from happening.

As you approach a rural railway crossing:

- Slow down;
- Look both ways and listen for oncoming trains before crossing the tracks;
- Turn off your radio and roll down your windows so you can hear better; and
- Make sure you can clear the tracks on the other side before crossing.

If a train is coming:

- Don’t race a train to the crossing;
- Stop at least five metres from the nearest rail or gate; and
- Don’t cross the track until you’re sure all trains have passed in both directions and on all tracks.

Remember, trains can’t swerve or stop quickly – so keep yourself safe and out of their path.

You can find more rail safety tips on our website: www.operationlifesaver.ca/resources.

For more details or to arrange a presentation in your community, contact Jenelle Saskiw at jsaskiw@railcan.ca.



The right equipment for every job

Whether you are looking for new or used equipment, we have the right machine

Contact your local branch today

Saskatoon Branch
2907 Millar Avenue
Saskatoon, SK
306 931 0044

Regina Branch
296 Industrial Drive
Regina, SK
306 359 3121

smsequipment.com

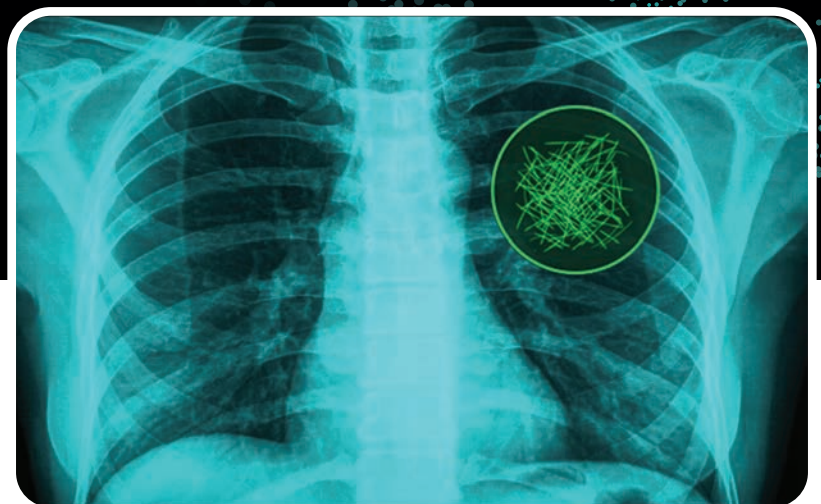


Asbestos kills. It's best to test.

Asbestos exposure is the number one cause of work-related deaths in Saskatchewan.

Before 1990, asbestos was commonly used in more than 3,000 building materials and other products, such as vinyl floor tiles, window putty and duct coverings. When tiny asbestos fibres are airborne, they can get into the lungs and cause severe damage over many years.

If you think there is a risk of asbestos, test for it to protect yourself and your co-workers.



Questions? Go to
worksafesask.ca/asbestos

WorkSafe
SASKATCHEWAN

Work to live.

Good Governance – A Journey or a Destination?

By Keith Comstock, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy



THE LAST ARTICLE we wrote for the *Rural Councillor* came out shortly after last fall's municipal elections, and it focused on how individual councillors can prepare themselves for the challenges of serving on council. We mentioned things like taking time to review the relevant legislation, understanding your responsibilities as a councillor, committing to becoming an effective member of the council team – and, perhaps most importantly, paying close attention to your own attitude and approach.

This time we want to look at council's governance responsibilities as a whole and share with you a conceptual framework or system that you may find helpful to ensure your council has all the bases covered. This framework has, as its foundation, just two primary governance functions for council:

1. **Setting Direction**, and
2. **Monitoring and Reporting**.

About now you are probably thinking, "Well thanks, but those seem like rather generic functions for the many and varied tasks council is called upon to complete," so let's drill down into both and see what they consist of.

In the framework we use at Johnson Shoyama Graduate School (JSGS), Setting Direction has four main components:

1. **Clarity of Purpose** – this involves being familiar with the legal (legislation) and operational framework (plans, budgets) that your municipality operates within.
2. **Governance Framework** – the policies, procedures and other documents outlining how the council will operate.
3. **Human Resource Stewardship** – ensuring your employees, volunteers and council members are set up for success.
4. **Financial Stewardship** – accounting for and safeguarding the assets of the municipality.

As you may expect, the specifics of what your municipality may already have in place or may need to work on in these components can vary significantly. The type of municipality you are can have an affect, as can the geographic size, population and demographic characteristics of the municipality.

In the same manner, the JSGS conceptual framework assigns four components to the Monitoring and Reporting function.

1. **Establishing Performance Measures and Monitoring Results** – simply put, this means defining what success looks like for your municipality.

2. **Compliance Monitoring** – are we following the rules and requirements set for us by others?
3. **Evaluation of Governance** – what do we do to make sure we stay efficient and effective? How can council implement performance management and continuous improvement principles in a meaningful and helpful way?
4. **Reporting** – how and when do we give info to those who want or need it?

Municipalities exist (from a legal perspective) to fulfill several important functions:

- to provide good government;
- to provide needed services and facilities;
- to develop and maintain a safe and viable community;
- to foster economic, social and environmental well-being; and
- to provide wise stewardship of public assets

The conceptual framework we've set out above can help council carefully consider what needs to be done to fulfill these important functions and to ensure that nothing gets ignored or put on the back burner for too long as council works to handle issues that crop up.

So, is good governance a journey or a destination? From a very practical perspective it is BOTH. If you are interested in exploring these topics more fully, JSGS has developed the Municipal Sector Governance Program that will give you the insights, knowledge and understanding to govern your municipality, or (if you work for a municipality) provide support and advice to your elected with confidence.

The Municipal Sector Governance Program is delivered through a combination of online study, including engaging videos and interactive activities that you can work through at your own pace, as well as live webinar sessions that connect you to experienced facilitators and your peers to explore the training topics as they relate to your governance experience.

This program is certified by both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. Individuals that successfully challenge the exam earn the designation of Municipal Sector Governor (MSGov). More information can be found here: www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/executive-education/municipal-sector-governance-program.php.



Getting our message out there

By Laurel Feltn

SARM Director, Strategic Engagement & Advocacy

SARM HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING history of working hard behind the scenes to make sure the views of rural Saskatchewan are known and their needs are being met. Most commonly, SARM takes the approach of meeting with provincial and federal government officials and sending out the odd news release stating our views on the biggest issues of the day impacting rural Saskatchewan.

The news and issues impacting rural Saskatchewan is the story SARM wants to tell the world, so please keep your feedback and questions coming to our SARM Board and staff, so we can keep getting our message out there!

Because SARM stems from rural Saskatchewan, I sometimes think it's entrenched in us to lead, but to lead quietly so our voice is not only heard but respected and trusted. With the evolution of communication avenues over the years, SARM is exploring and dabbles more regularly in television, radio, our website and social media platforms to get our message out there. Not only to our members but to all stakeholders interested in rural issues.

In September, SARM surveyed its members to find out their social media habits. We had 190 responses, and of those who responded, 70.5 per cent said they use Facebook, 21 per cent said they use Instagram, 11.6 per cent said they use Twitter, and 21 per cent don't use social media at all. The results of this survey signal to SARM our members' preferences and that perhaps we need to make a shift from Twitter to Facebook in the coming months. We also know that 21

per cent don't use social media at all, so we need to think about how best to make sure those members are engaged, too. A big thank you to all our members who filled out the survey. This kind of information is so critical.

One of the ways, outside of social media, that SARM engages its member and other stakeholders is through the media. President Ray Orb is our spokesperson, and we reach out to various media outlets across the province to ensure the voice of rural Saskatchewan is heard. Did you know that from July 30 to September 14 SARM President Ray Orb was in the media a total of 22 times? He interviewed with Global TV, Fort Saskatchewan Online, *paNOW*, the *Western Producer*, CKRM, Talk of the Town and *Swift Current Online*, to name a few,

radio campaigns. From August 30 to September 19, SARM ran a pre-recorded ad on CJWW telling federal election candidates about what matters in rural



reaching vast audiences from north to south! And, what did he talk about you ask? Well, many key issues including fire bans, the hay bale heist near Hazenmore, support for agriculture producers, drought, bridges and culverts, federal election asks, firearms law and broadband were all covered.

Outside of these media outlets we have also been trying our hand at a few

Saskatchewan. These ads ran 30 seconds a day, seven times each day during the federal election. The purpose was to make sure those seeking election knew that reliable and affordable broadband, the negative impacts of the carbon tax and how offsets must work for farmers and that reliable and predictable funding to support both municipalities and agriculture producers in their times of need were critical issues in rural Saskatchewan.

SARM will always continue to find new and innovative ways to communicate. We know not all of them reach everyone, so trying our hand at different mediums is an approach you will see more of in the future. The news and issues impacting rural Saskatchewan is the story SARM wants to tell the world, so please keep your feedback and questions coming to our SARM Board and staff, so we can keep getting our message out there!

Building Resiliency

Through partnerships, resources and practical tools

By Marlo Pritchard President, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency



ONE OF THE biggest challenges a municipal leader can face is ensuring their community is prepared for any emergency. Unfortunately, this can be an even bigger challenge for leaders who may not have the resources or expertise to complete a preparedness plan.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is responsible for emergency management in Saskatchewan, and it is committed to partnering with SARM to help its members become better prepared.

At times it certainly seems like our province experiences severe weather, flooding and wildfires more often than other provinces. When these types of events affect a community, responding to those emergencies is typically handled at the community level.

When an emergency begins to affect the safety of a community's residents or the community's ability to provide critical services, residents will look to their leaders for response and guidance. Understanding potential risks and developing even a simple emergency plan can go a long way to reducing risk to your community and ensuring your legislative responsibilities are met.

Although the SPSA encourages each community to be prepared, the SPSA will be there when overwhelming situations happen in municipalities, with or without a declaration of an emergency.

We are ready to support you with knowledgeable and experienced incident commanders and specialized equipment. A Declaration of Emergency is a formal activation of specific legal authorities, but often that is not necessary. Communities can obtain advice from their regional SPSA emergency services officer (ESO) as situations evolve to determine what support is available and if formal activation is necessary.

History proves, and most community leaders I have spoken with agree, that it makes more sense to take action to reduce the effects of an emergency and increase resiliency before something happens. A notable example of disaster mitigation was demonstrated by a Saskatchewan community who knew

it had an issue with flash flooding every spring. One winter, it analyzed insurance data to identify the neighborhoods most at risk. Using this information, the community pushed out targeted communication in the spring to residents to encourage them to remove snow from around their homes, extend downspouts far away from their homes, and consider installing a backwater valve to prevent sewer backups. Those efforts paid off by helping to reduce the impact of flooding for those residents.

Disasters can happen even in communities that have great plans in place. However, there is no doubt that a prepared community reacts better during the emergency – and often recovers more quickly after the emergency.

If an emergency were to occur in your community, an emergency plan provides the starting point to organize your response. If needed, our ESOs can help you prioritize actions and mobilize all the services and resources needed to respond, cope and recover.

The SPSA has a new website, saskpublicsafety.ca, with a whole section dedicated to communities, including resources for municipalities to develop their emergency response plans.

I encourage every municipality to contact the SPSA to start the process of developing an emergency plan or testing an existing plan. We can even help you set up regional meetings to discuss mutual aid agreements between the municipalities in your area. These services are free. All it takes is a phone call to **1-866-667-9660** to arrange a time.

Everyone has a responsibility to create safer communities, and that includes local officials, emergency planners, first responders and the SPSA. Working together, we can build resiliency and better integrate emergency plans across the province, so we can all meet the needs of Saskatchewan citizens.

Of course, I would be remiss not to mention that your municipality should consider implementing a fire ban bylaw as part of its emergency planning process, but I will save that for a future article.

Forming a Municipal District

Two Saskatchewan councils consider the benefits of working together as one municipality

THE COUNCILS of the RM of Edenwold and Village of Edenwold have decided to work together on exploring the idea of forming a “Municipal District.” What does this mean from a practical perspective and how might this initiative affect the lives of citizens?

First – what is a municipal district anyway? A municipal district is formed when two (or more) municipalities (at least one urban and one rural) decide to consolidate and apply to the Minister of Government Relations to be incorporated as one entity. A municipal district is just another type of municipality along with cities, RM’s, towns and villages. The legislative provisions allowing the formation of a municipal district were added about eight years ago, but to date, there are no official municipal districts in Saskatchewan, although there are a couple communities that use the word “district” in their name.

Why would two (or more) functioning municipalities decide to join forces and become one? There is no one imperative, and the decision is highly dependent on local circumstances, but in general, the following benefits can potentially be realized through a municipal district:

- Harmonized bylaws creating a simpler and more streamlined local regulatory environment;
- Administrative efficiencies and more flexibility and/or chance for advancement for employees;
- Consistent planning and development goals and requirements for economic opportunities;
- Savings through economies of scale;
- Service level improvements gained by sharing equipment and assets;
- Opportunities to explore options to broaden and enhance services and operations;
- Flexibility to operate in a way that meets both local regional interests more efficiently; and
- Prominence and visibility – being part of a strong, reputable, and distinct entity.

The decision to form a municipal district is very important – participating councils and administrations must work diligently to ensure these benefits are realized. The planning must also take into account other questions and issues of importance to citizens. For example:

- Will property taxes go up/down? Stay about the same? Many proponents of amalgamation use the potential for reduced expenditures as a key reason to take action. However, in jurisdictions where large scale municipal amalgamation initiatives have occurred, huge cost savings haven’t materialized. Theoretically, there are savings to be had, but decision makers and citizens should concentrate on getting better value for the money they spend instead of pinning their hopes on big cost reductions. On the tax side, legislation allows for different tax rates for different areas of a municipal district, allowing council to structure the property tax levy accordingly.
- What about representation? Who do we go to if we don’t like how things are going? Luckily, the legislation for municipal districts leaves decisions about how the council will be structured and what electoral system to use (rural vs urban) up to the municipalities forming the district. This allows for careful consideration and the opportunity to “custom design” a

council that will ensure fair and equitable representation and decision making.

- What about community identity? We’ve worked long and hard to make this community what it is! This is often a red-herring argument that never seems to be an issue. First, the agreement between the municipalities can include whatever measures they feel are necessary to ensure people feel a sense of community and belonging. Second, a community’s governance/administrative structure has little to do with where people feel they are from. I grew up on a farm south of Moose Jaw. The little town close by hasn’t been around for decades, but when asked where I am from, I always answer “Mitchellton.” That community is still alive, despite not being a stand alone municipality.
- What about their/our debt and outstanding projects and obligations? Assets, liabilities and other financial or infrastructure project-related discussions are a key part of the planning process for a municipal district. Councils have the responsibility and flexibility to ensure a fair and reasonable approach is taken. Part of the province’s approval process includes an analysis of this area, and the Minister can appoint someone to resolve any issues that may appear or be outstanding.

There is potentially a sort of “if you build it, they will come” aspect to the idea of forming a municipal district. If you take the Hollywood out of it, when looking at the benefits and risks of any proposition like this, there are three sorts of considerations that decision makers can keep in mind:

1. If we do this – what are the IMMEDIATE benefits and risks that must be considered?
2. If we do this – what are the MIDTERM or INCREMENTAL benefits and risks we should work towards and mitigate?
3. If we do this – how can we ensure that we are well positioned to attract and take advantage of other opportunities that may be out there but aren’t part of our current thinking – whether they be economic, social or otherwise.

To their credit, the two councils have approached this initiative with a practical and pragmatic attitude. Municipal officials have developed a comprehensive plan with various task groups looking at all aspects of the RMs’ operations to design a new structure that will offer the best of both worlds. The councils have also made a commitment to taking training in governance essentials and following that up with collaborative work to establish a governance framework that will serve the municipal district and its citizens very well. There are two final points I need to make:

First, public input and engagement are critical to the success of the project. I encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with the project and to raise issues, ideas, questions and suggestions to the council and planning team.

Second, the councils of the RM of Edenwold and the Village of Edenwold have decided to take this project on because they care about the future of their community. They have demonstrated a willingness to think about new ways of doing things and to not let fear of the unknown or comfort with the status quo hamper their vision. All involved are doing the right work to enable an informed final decision is made. This is what local government and governance is all about, and I commend them for their resolve and commitment.

The RM's Role Under the Weed and Pest Control Acts



By Lynne Roszell

SARM Division 4 Plant Health Officer

IN SASKATCHEWAN, RMs are responsible for the regulation of designated nuisance, noxious and prohibited weeds under *The Weed Control Act* and the regulation of designated agricultural pests under *The Pest Control Act*. Under each of these Acts, the RM is responsible for appointing an officer to carry out the duties defined in the Act. If the RM does not, the minister may appoint someone to the role and determine the remuneration for the role to be paid by the municipality (Section 13 (2), *The Pest Control Act*; and Section 9, *The Weed Control Act*).

Why does the RM need to appoint weed inspectors and pest control officers?

Aside from the duty of the RM to appoint these officers under each of the respective Acts, there are other benefits to ensuring your RM has a weed inspector and a pest control officer. If a ratepayer brings forward a concern about an invasive weed on a neighboring property, having an appointed weed inspector will allow the RM to immediately look into the concern. Having an annually appointed Pest control officer ensures that the RM can carry out regular rat control programs. If your RM does not have appointed officers to fill these roles, the RM remains responsible to regulate and enforce these Acts. The RM would be doing so without the support of an appointed officer to carry out the duties assigned to them under each of the Acts, significantly limiting the RM's ability to monitor for designated pests or weeds, collect samples, perform investigations, enter into management agreements, or issue an order.

It is also important to note that members of the RM council should not be appointed to the role of weed inspector or pest control officer as this can be considered a conflict of interest.

If your RM does not have appointed officers to fill these roles, the RM remains responsible to regulate and enforce these Acts. The RM would be doing so without the support of an appointed officer to carry out the duties assigned to them under each of the Acts.

Why are RMs asked to appoint plant health officers as pest control officers for clubroot?

The plant health officers are working under contract to SARM as part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Pest Biosecurity Program. In this role, the plant health officers do not have any authority under *The Pest Control Act* unless appointed as a pest control officer. Clubroot is designated under *The Pest Control Act*. For the purposes of clubroot and the provincial clubroot survey, RMs are asked to appoint the six plant health officers as pest control officers for clubroot so that we can collect samples and carry out the provincial clubroot survey. This annual appointment will also allow the plant health officers to immediately be available to the RM and ratepayers

Sign up and allow access to your land to Support Pest Surveys

Pest monitoring programs provide valuable information and are used to create forecast maps, be part of research provincially and nationally, guide research decisions, detect and track new or emerging pests, and support management decisions.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture needs a producer's permission to access their land for pest monitoring surveys. More detailed information on pest surveys can be accessed on [Saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](https://saskatchewan.ca/agriculture).

You can use the QR code here to sign up and allow the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and survey partners access to your land for pest monitoring.

If you have any questions, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



should clubroot be found in the RM. They will then be able to assist with and sign clubroot management agreements, perform clubroot scouting, and collect plant and/or soil samples for clubroot testing, when needed.

The RM should ensure that their appointed weed inspector(s) and pest control officer(s) have access to, have read, and understand the respective Acts that they will be working with.

How often do RMs need to make these appointments?

The appointment of WIs and pest control officers expires annually on December 31. The RM council is required to reappoint and submit appointment letters to the Ministry of Agriculture for these roles every year. Even if the person being appointed has not changed, the appointment expires and must be resubmitted each year. This annual appointment ensures that the weed inspectors and pest control officers have the legal authority under their respective Act to carry out their role. It is also good practice to check in with the person that you are appointing annually to ensure they are still interested in filling the role. Your appointed weed inspector and pest control officer should also provide an annual report to your RM council. This annual report is important to ensure that the RM is aware of the activities of their appointed officers and to address any concerns that may arise.

How can RMs find someone to take on the role of weed inspector or pest control officer?

If your RM does not currently have a weed inspector or pest control officer, it might be a good idea to check in with your neighboring RMs to see if they have someone in that role. Perhaps this person would be willing to take on another RM, so this can be a good starting point. Advertising in the local media or on RM social media can also be helpful. Another option, particularly with finding weed inspectors, is to speak with local agronomists to see if they are interested in taking on some contract work as a weed inspector. Retired farmers and ranchers that have an interest in pest and weed control may also be an avenue to finding someone to fill these roles.

What tools can the RM provide to their weed inspector and pest control officer?

The RM should ensure that their appointed weed inspector(s) and pest control officer(s) have access to, have read, and understand the respective Acts that they will be working with. Connecting these appointed officers with your local plant health officer will also assist the plant health officers in providing support and sharing technical knowledge, sharing information on training opportunities and communicating directly with the appointed officers. Part of the role of the pest control officers is to provide support directly to these appointed officers. Specifically for pest control officers, there are also the rat control technical advisors that are available to assist as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your local plant health officer.



YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THIS CASE AND EARN CASH REWARDS IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVICTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED.

(Calls are not traced or recorded and callers can choose to remain anonymous.)

If you have any information regarding this case or other violations:
Call the Toll-Free Turn In Poachers & Polluters Line **1-800-667-7561**
Call **#5555** from a Sasktel Cellphone (no text messages)
Report online at **www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp**




Your SaskTIP call recently led to the discovery of 12 deer left to waste, and \$15,000 in fines!

On January 7th, 2021, Melfort conservation officers received a TIP call regarding a deer that was found dead in a laneway. The investigation led to the discovery of 12 dead White-tailed deer on a rural property that had been shot and left to waste. An interview with the land owner revealed that he had killed the deer because they were causing damage to his garden.

If not for the caller reporting the dead animal, this violation would have continued and its possible the responsible person never caught.



Visit **www.sasktip.com** for all of the latest cases.

Follow @sasktip   

Lieutenant Governor's Award *for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan*

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan is awarded to a reeve, councillor or administrator for his or her lifetime contribution to rural Saskatchewan (both retired and/or actively working individuals).

The selection committee reviews all nominations and selects one individual who has not yet been formally recognized for his or her exemplary contributions in making rural Saskatchewan a better place to live.

The award is presented to the successful candidate at the Opening Ceremonies of the SARM Annual Convention. This forum provides an excellent opportunity to publicly recognize the recipient of this prestigious award.

The selection committee reviews all nominations and selects one individual who has not yet been formally recognized for his or her exemplary contributions in making rural Saskatchewan a better place to live. The committee includes representatives from the following organizations: The Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan's Office, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Ministry of Government Relations, and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association.

Rural municipalities may nominate a reeve, councillor or administrator for this award. Nominations should be sent to the SARM office by **January 3, 2022**.

To obtain a copy of the nomination form and guidelines, please reach out to Committee Secretary, Kathleen Israel at executivecoordinator@sarm.ca.



Wishing you a safe & **happy** **holiday season**

From the Board, management
& staff of Municipal Hail

Storms are
unpredictable.
We aren't.



**MUNICIPAL HAIL
INSURANCE**

Member news



Raymond Mann
RM of Chaplin No. 164
In Memoriam

With heavy hearts, we sadly share the loss of our beloved family member, Raymond Leonard Mann, who passed away on March 17, 2021. Raymond was predeceased by his father, Valentine Mann; mother, Ella Mann; brother, James Mann; and nephew, Lance Mann. He is survived by his spouse, Velma Mann; niece, Diane Hanson (Darrell); nephews, Gordon and Alin (Lisa - Ella, Jessica) Mann; great-niece Lisa (Keaton, Alisha) Hanson; and great-nephews, Curtis (Charla - Dylan, Piper) Hanson and Adam Hanson.

Raymond was born on April 19, 1934 in Morse, SK. He began farming as a teenager in the Kelster/Droxford area with his parents and later alongside his brother, Jim, in the Uren area. He will be remembered as an honest, friendly and helpful man that would always greet you with a smile on his face. He was soft-spoken with a big heart. Raymond loved farming, raising and caring for animals. He started the local RM Pest Control in the 1970's, and he continued doing it for 35 years. He also loved spending time with friends, family and neighbours.

Raymond served as the pest control officer for the RM of Chaplin No. 164 for 35 years.



Terry Keating
RM of Estevan No. 5
Retirement

Terry served as reeve for the RM of Estevan from 2016 until his retirement in April 2021. Terry also served as councillor for Division 6 from 2010-2014, and he sat on various committees and boards throughout the years. Terry was presented with an engraved Bryon Fichter Photography art print for his years of service to the RM of Estevan. The RM would like to thank Terry for his knowledge, dedication and commitment. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Pictured (L-R) is Councillor James Trobert, Terry Keating and Councillor Steve Smith.



Mervin Kryzanowski
RM of Lakeview No. 337
Retirement

An era of leadership closed out with the retirement of our long-serving reeve Mervin Kryzanowski. Mervin served as reeve from 1995 to 2020, an astounding 25 years. During his time in municipal service, Mervin witnessed many changes in staff, council, legislative requirements,

meeting practices and technologies. He was instrumental in the development of such organizations as the Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

Merv was a dedicated RM representative on countless boards, most notably the North East Area Transportation and Planning Committee, of which he still serves as chairman today. He also stood on many council sub-committees. During his time, Mervin attended over 300 council meetings, countless committee meetings, and dozens of SARM conventions. There weren't many SARM delegates who hadn't met and spoken with Mervin over the years. There also weren't many provincial cabinet ministers who hadn't heard him bring municipal and ratepayers' issues to the forefront during the Bear Pit Sessions.

Mervin was dedicated to serving in municipal government, and the best interest of municipal ratepayers and farmers was what drove his service. He was enthusiastic in his opinions, and there weren't many issues that didn't bring out an impassioned response from him at the table. The RM council and staff would like to thank Mervin for his years of unwavering dedication in his role as reeve, as well as thank his wife, Arleen, for her years of patience and support through it all.



Stephen Paul
RM of Grandview No. 349
Retirement

The RM of Grandview would like to recognize Stephen Paul for his years of service as a public works employee from

2012 to 2020. Reeve Steven Suter presented him with a monetary gift of appreciation at a luncheon held on July 7 at the municipal shop. The RM wishes to thank Stephen for his service, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Russell Sanders
RM of Grandview No. 349
Retirement

Russell Sanders served as councillor for Division 1 in the RM of Grandview from November 1989 to November 2020. Pictured is Reeve Steven Suter presenting Russell with a plaque and Public Service Award for his years of dedication to the municipality. The RM wants to thank Russell for his years of service to the municipality, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Garry Taylor
RM of Eldon No. 471
Retirement

Garry Taylor served the RM of Eldon as Division 1 councillor from 1983 to 1989 and as reeve from 2001 to 2020. Pictured (L-R) is Reeve Larry Lundquist presenting Garry with an inscribed watch, engraved plaque and a gift certificate during a staff BBQ held this past summer at Silver Lake Regional Park. Garry's long-time commitment to the RM of Eldon and his knowledge and experience was a great value to the municipality for many years. Congratulations on your retirement.



Ken Reiter
RM of Eldon No. 471
Retirement

Ken Reiter served as administrator for the RM of Eldon from 2005 until his retirement in 2020. He had earlier worked for the municipality in the same capacity from 1997 to 2000. Pictured (L-R) is Reeve Larry Lundquist presenting Ken with an inscribed watch, engraved plaque and a gift certificate during a staff BBQ held this past summer at Silver Lake Regional Park. The RM of Eldon wishes to acknowledge Ken's many years of service and the contribution he made to the municipality. Congratulations on your retirement.

**FIND YOUR
PERFECT TRUCK &
TRAILER PAIRING
TODAY.**

Trucks & Trailers that **GET THE JOB DONE.**



MACK PINNACLE DAY CAB is a versatile workhorse for all your on-road & off-road jobs. It delivers power, fuel economy & maneuverability throughout the day & across all of your diverse business needs.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
REDHEAD EQUIPMENT
TERRITORY MANAGER OR**

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN:
» **RON DUDA | 306.721.2666**
CORPORATE SALES MANAGER, TRUCKS & TRAILERS

Manufactured in Saskatchewan, **DECAP BELLY DUMPS** are your trusted trailers for hauling & distributing aggregates.



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN:
» **NATHAN YELLAND | 306.934.3555**
NORTHERN SALES MANAGER, TRUCKS & TRAILERS

AGRICULTURAL | CONSTRUCTION | TRUCKS & TRAILERS
redheadequipment.ca

Redhead EQUIPMENT

New Faces at SARM



Dustin Resch
Manager, Programs

dresch@sarm.ca

Dustin will oversee and support the strong team that develops and delivers SARM-administered programs, as well as programs that are funded through Strategic Initiatives. He'll also be supporting Craig Williams, Director, Members Services, by representing SARM on various committees.

Dustin brings to this role over 15 years of experience in administrative leadership from the post-secondary and non-profit sectors. He has a special interest in governance, leadership coaching, and change management.



Colin Warnecke
Manager, Risk Management

cwarnecke@sarm.ca

Colin is responsible for the Insurance and Group Benefits areas of SARM, working closely with Lisa Shordee, Insurance Program Administrator, and Jodi Hughes, Employee Benefit Administrator, while handling the day to day operations of the Liability Self Insurance Program. He will also be overseeing SARM's legal department, which consists of Michael Morris, General Counsel, Andrew Svenson, and Courtney Riviere, Legal Counsels.

Colin brings 25 years of insurance experience in various capacities to SARM, and he looks forward to working with the membership on their insurance needs.



Deanna Nichols
Policy Administrator

dnichols@sarm.ca

Deanna will be working closely with Brian Rakochy, SARM's Policy Manager, and Aaron Holmes-Binns, SARM's Senior Policy Analyst, in the Policy department and will assist with the administration of advocacy efforts at the provincial and federal levels on a wide range of Policy issues. Deanna's skills in multi-tasking, research, analytical thinking and attention to detail will help the Policy department stay organized and on top of all the issues.

Deanna brings with her an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree (Political Science Major) and four years in the legal field, with three of them as a paralegal with MLT Aikins LLP.



BETTER GRADES WITHOUT A TUTOR.

Whether you're loading trucks, digging trenches, demolishing structures, or placing pipe, the 350G LC can make easy work out of your toughest tasks.

More Power

Customer-inspired upgrades like Powerwise Plus™ technology delivers fuel-efficient power on demand.

More Precision

Integrated SmartGrade™ technology ensures ultimate accuracy and better grades for operators of all skill levels.

More Productivity

The 350G LC delivers a combination of efficiency, power & precision that ensures the job gets done right the first time.

brandt.ca | 1-888-227-2638



Brandt