

MATTERS PERTAINING TO SARM

The following two resolutions involve changes to the SARM Bylaws and must have two-thirds of the votes cast in favor to be approved.

1-24A | SARM President & Vice President Elections

Rural Municipality of Val Marie No. 17 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Mankota No. 45

WHEREAS the SARM President and SARM Vice President are both elected in the same year.

WHEREAS having staggered terms for the President and Vice President positions would provide for more stable governance of the organization.

BE IT RESOLVED that the SARM bylaws be amended to provide for the President and Vice President to have staggered terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change take effect after the bylaw change is adopted by the members.

Resolution Background:

As stated in the whereas section, the top two executive positions should not be elected in the same year for governance continuity. Staggering the terms (like division directors) would provide greater stability for the organization.

2-24A | Frequent Repetitive Resolutions

Rural Municipality of Prince Albert No. 461

WHEREAS there are a number of recurring resolutions that come up at every SARM annual and midterm conventions.

WHEREAS a number of these resolutions are the same word for word, they do not change and are voted on at both resolution sessions.

WHEREAS these resolutions are frequent, take up valuable time and were previously determined at prior annual or midterm conventions.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM make a revision to the Resolutions Policy that resolutions defeated during any SARM resolution session be subject to a 2-year deferral before they can be resubmitted for consideration.

Resolution Background:

There are a number of resolutions that are presented at each SARM midterm and annual conventions. The majority of these resolutions have been defeated; the primary example of such is the "Resolution to Terminate the Midterm Convention".

These resolutions mirror prior resolutions and do not contain any new or additional facts and become repetitive, redundant and consume valuable time. In order to resolve this, we are putting forward a motion to change the Resolutions Policy to make it such that when a motion is defeated it must be subject to a 2-year deferral before it can be resubmitted for consideration.

3-24A | Mandatory Convention Lunch

Rural Municipality of Arlington No. 79, Rural Municipality of Coulee No. 136, Rural Municipality of Clinworth No. 230, Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Deer Forks No. 232, Rural Municipality of Orkney No. 244

WHEREAS RMs are required to prepay for lunches provided on site at all SARM conventions.

WHEREAS RMs are required to pre-register online for all SARM conventions.

WHEREAS the onsite lunches provided at SARM convention are costly and not always popular.

BE IT RESOLVED that when an RM is registering online for SARM convention there is an option to either have lunch onsite or not, so that lunch is not mandatory.

Resolution Background:

Lunch used to be optional and a fair number of RMs would find their own options. It is understood that for numbers sake it's required to know prior to convention who is planning to stay for lunch which can still be done. RMs would like the choice rather than pay for a lunch they aren't wanting.

4-24A | SARM to Extend an Invitation to APAS to Present in the Main Hall at all SARM Conventions Rural Municipality of Golden West No. 95, Rural Municipality of Fillmore No. 96 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Wellington No. 97

WHEREAS agriculture is one of rural Saskatchewan's primary industries and a significant contributor to the municipal tax base.

WHEREAS the success of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector is essential to municipalities, the province and the country.

WHEREAS the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is Saskatchewan's general farm organization.

WHEREAS the agricultural policy work of APAS is vital for farmers and ranchers.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan be invited to present an update at every SARM convention.

Resolution Background:

1. What prompted your RM to submit this resolution?
 - The submission of this resolution by our RM was prompted by the recognition of the critical role that agriculture plays in the economic and social fabric of rural Saskatchewan.
 - With agriculture being one of the primary industries and a significant contributor to the municipal tax base, our RM acknowledges the need to actively engage with organizations like the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) to ensure that the concerns and priorities of our farming community are effectively represented and addressed.
2. How would this resolution affect SARM members as a whole?
 - The resolution, if adopted, would have a positive impact on SARM members by fostering stronger collaboration and communication between rural municipalities and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.
 - The regular updates from APAS at SARM Conventions would ensure that SARM members are well-informed about the current issues, policies, and challenges facing the agricultural sector.
 - This increased awareness can lead to more informed decision-making and better representation of the interests of farmers and rural stakeholders in matters related to agriculture.
3. Has your RM taken any steps regarding this resolution?
 - Our RM has actively supported and endorsed this resolution, recognizing the importance of maintaining a close and collaborative relationship with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.
 - We have engaged in discussions with APAS representatives, communicated our intent to support the resolution at SARM Conventions, and sought input from local farmers to ensure that their perspectives are accurately reflected in our endorsement of the resolution.
4. What change are you looking to affect if this resolution is passed? What is the intended outcome?
 - The primary change we aim to effect through the passage of this resolution is the establishment of a consistent platform for the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan to provide updates at every SARM Convention.
 - The intended outcome is to create a more inclusive and informed decision-making process within rural municipalities.

- By staying abreast of the latest developments and challenges in the agricultural sector, SARM members can actively contribute to policies that better serve the needs of farmers and ranchers, ultimately enhancing the prosperity of rural Saskatchewan as a whole.

IMPACTING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Ministry of Environment

5-24A | Carbon Dioxide (CO2)

Rural Municipality of Lake Alma No. 8, Rural Municipality of Moose Creek No. 33, Rural Municipality of Browning No. 34, Rural Municipality of Hazelwood No. 94, Rural Municipality of Golden West No. 95, Rural Municipality of Fillmore No. 96, Rural Municipality of Wellington No. 97, Rural Municipality of Scott No. 98, Rural Municipality of Elmsthorpe No. 100, Rural Municipality of Chester No. 125, Rural Municipality of Francis No. 127, Rural Municipality of Lajord No. 128, Rural Municipality of Bratt’s Lake No. 129, Rural Municipality of Hillsborough No. 132, Rural Municipality of Rodgers No. 133, Rural Municipality of Pense No. 160, Rural Municipality of Caron No. 162, Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt No. 183, Rural Municipality of Grayson No. 184, Rural Municipality of McLeod No. 185, Rural Municipality of Abernethy No. 186, Rural Municipality of Tullymet No. 216 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Lipton No. 217, Rural Municipality of Cupar No. 218, Rural Municipality of Longlaketon No. 219, Rural Municipality of Sarnia No. 221, Rural Municipality of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246, Rural Municipality of Touchwood No. 248, Rural Municipality of Last Mountain Valley No. 250, Rural Municipality of Mount Hope No. 279

WHEREAS CO2 is the building block of life and fuels. Photosynthesis CO2 is not a pollutant and to call it a pollutant is disingenuous.

WHEREAS any policies that are designed to punish the critical natural CO2 cycle are not only illogical but dangerous to the balance of natural food production.

WHEREAS Saskatchewan’s forests, grasslands and crop production zones rely on this critical CO2 but also sequesters more CO2 than any illogically created CO2 Reduction Strategy.

WHEREAS policies that vilify CO2 are illogical and unpredictable and will undoubtedly create an uncertain amount of negative impact to our existing crop production systems and economy.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM will ensure that any policies that unduly target naturally occurring CO2 will be deemed as illogical and dangerous. We move that Saskatchewan remove itself from any national or international agreements that reference net zero.

Resolution Background:

Council wants to raise awareness of the unfair potential downfalls passed onto agricultural producers. This resolution affects all agricultural producers in this province and country.

6-24A | Wolf Reduction Program

Rural Municipality of Keys No. 303 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Livingston No. 331, Rural Municipality of Clayton No. 333, Rural Municipality of Preeceville No. 334

WHEREAS there has been an increase in the wolf population in certain areas of Saskatchewan.

WHEREAS the increase in wolf population is causing financial hardship to farmers due to the loss of livestock to wolves.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to establish a Wolf Reduction Bounty Program.

Resolution Background:

The increase in wolf population is having a damaging effect on livestock losses due to predation. We would like to see a wolf bounty established in certain hot spot areas to help control the population to decrease the number of wolves, especially around community pastures and areas with more cattle farms and ranches as well as other livestock at risk.

Ministry of Agriculture

7-24A | Livestock Loss Due to Wolves Compensation

Rural Municipality of Calder No. 241, Rural Municipality of Keys No. 303 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Livingston No. 331, Rural Municipality of Clayton No. 333, Rural Municipality of Preeceville No. 334

WHEREAS an increase in wolf population in certain areas of Saskatchewan is causing financial hardship to farmers due to the loss of livestock from wolves.

WHEREAS the claim assessments through Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Predation Compensation Claims are based on evidence of a carcass.

WHEREAS wolves often drag away their kill so carcasses are often not found when livestock is missing.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance to review the criteria of the claim on how farmers are paid out for livestock losses through Predation Compensation Claims can better compensate claimants for missing livestock due to predation.

Resolution Background:

Area farmers and community pastures have been losing more and more calves and other livestock to wolves due to the increase in population, causing financial loss and hardship. Wolves often drag away their kill. Farmers are most often not eligible for compensation with no carcass as proof of the loss.

8-24A | Aerial Spraying Boundaries

Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt No. 183

WHEREAS aerial herbicide application can result in damage to road allowances and private property due to chemical overspray and drift.

WHEREAS aerial application regulations are not adequate to regulate required boundaries for said road allowances and private property.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the federal and provincial governments to mandate applicable boundaries on all sides of said road allowances and private properties where aerial applications could be performed.

Resolution Background:

This situation happened in this RM in the fall of 2022 and the damage was not evident until the spring of 2023. Several kms of trees and vegetation in road allowances were damaged or killed.

9-24A | Aerial Spraying Regulatory Enforcement

Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt No. 183

WHEREAS The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act states:

15(1) A person who is dissatisfied with a decision of the minister under this Act may within thirty days after the date of the decision request the minister in writing sent by registered mail to arrange a hearing of an appeal against the decision.

WHEREAS the 30-day limitation as per the Saskatchewan Pest Control Products Act and the associated Pest Control Products Regulations (2015) for submitting a complaint is too restrictive as damage in the case of fall applications may take several months to become evident.

BE IT RESOLVED that the timeline to submit a claim be extended from 30 days to 12 months.

Resolution Background:

This situation happened in this RM in the fall of 2022 and the damage was not evident until the spring of 2023. Several kms of trees and vegetation in road allowances were damaged or killed.

**10-24A | Regulations and Policies regarding Chemical Spray Drift
Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493**

WHEREAS shelterbelts are dying, as well as road allowance trees are dying or are at risk of dying.

WHEREAS spray drift and over spraying is killing trees and crops in adjacent fields and affecting organic farmers and bee operations.

WHEREAS aerial spraying at night and flying at low heights over farmyards is causing concerns with ratepayers.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Agriculture to review and update regulations and policies regarding agricultural or other chemical spray drift and publicize the Act/Regulations adequately to inform the public and businesses of regulations related to organic farming and bee operations involving aerial spray, spraying at night (both ground and air), and to strengthen penalties for violations, including suspension of licenses.

Resolution Background:

The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 has heard concerns from ratepayers.

SARM members, as a whole, would benefit from this resolution with increased public education and a conformity to the regulations would decrease concerns and complaints.

Some of the negative effects of over spray would be alleviated.

MUNICIPAL IN NATURE

Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

**11-24A | Local Emergency Declaration Removal of 7-day Renewal Process
Rural Municipality of Loreburn No. 254**

WHEREAS municipalities are the first line of defense in an emergency and are responsible under legislation to respond when events threaten the safety of people, property, and the environment.

WHEREAS only council, or a member of in the absence of a quorum, can officially declare a state of local emergency in a municipality and exercise the special powers the legislation confers on council.

WHEREAS under the Emergency Planning Act, Section 22(1) states: "A local emergency declaration expires at the end of seven days from the time the declaration was made unless it is earlier renewed pursuant to subsection (2)".

WHEREAS under the Emergency Planning Act, Section 23(1) states:

"When, in the opinion of the local authority:

- a) an emergency no longer exists in an area with respect to which a local emergency declaration was made; or
- b) it is in the public interest that a local emergency declaration be terminated in an area with respect to which a local emergency declaration was made;

the local authority shall terminate the local emergency declaration with respect to that area.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to amend the renewal term of a local emergency declaration so it doesn't need to be renewed at the end of seven days as the local authority determines if an emergency no longer exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to amend the local emergency declaration so that it is in effect until the local authority determines that the emergency no longer exists.

Resolution Background:

The reason that this resolution was put forth by our council is because we declared a local state of emergency in 2023 for an agricultural disaster and grasshopper infestation, as did many RM's in 2023. This was our first experience with having to declare an emergency and found it very strange that it had to be renewed every 7 days when the local authority can terminate the declaration, when they determine, if the emergency no longer exists. There are many things going on when there is an emergency happening with a flood, fire, etc. and the last thing on everyone's minds is having to renew the local emergency declaration. This creates more paperwork for the issuer and the one receiving it as well. If you declare the emergency at the start and then terminate the declaration when the emergency no longer exists, it seems more efficient and productive for all parties.

12-24A | Rural Crime

Rural Municipality of Deer Forks No. 232

WHEREAS rural crime is on the rise, and police response time is between 30 minutes to 1 hour, making rural areas a prime target.

WHEREAS penalties for crimes especially theft and vandalism are not harsh enough to deter criminals from re-offending and the RCMP dedicate multiple hours to get a criminal before a judge.

WHEREAS due to the rise in crimes like theft and vandalism, the cost of insurance premiums has increased substantially.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial and federal governments to impose harsher and longer penalties on those convicted to deter criminals from re-offending.

Resolution Background:

This RM has been victim to multiple break-ins over the past 2 years. The combined losses have totalled around \$47,000. We have installed a security system now and hope it will deter criminals but footage from around the province proves it may not. In conversations with RCMP officers, they do a lot of work to find and charge people for these crimes just to have the judge let them go or give them a minimal sentence resulting in arresting them over and over for the same crimes.

Ministry of Highways

13-24A | Rail Crossing Apportionment of Costs

Rural Municipality of Key West No. 70

WHEREAS the Province has not provided clear guidance on the apportionment of costs for surface crossing maintenance.

WHEREAS many municipalities and rail lines have agreements for a 50/50 cost share for these expenses.

WHEREAS rail line operators have no incentive to maintain these crossings economically if they are not required to share in a portion of the repairs.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to update Provincial Railway Guides, 2007 with clear direction that a 50/50 cost share between municipalities and rail line operators be the apportionment of costs for surface crossing maintenance.

Resolution Background:

Our municipality has a short-line railway running through the boundaries of our municipality. We have been unable to come to an agreement with the operator regarding the apportionment of costs for surface crossing maintenance. In July of 2023 we had a hearing with the Highway Traffic Board regarding this matter and they ruled that the municipality shall be responsible for 100% of these costs. This is not in line with prior decisions of the Highway Traffic Board, nor industry standards.

**14-24A | Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Program
Rural Municipality of Corman Park No. 344**

WHEREAS the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program Policy Manual, Section 4, Policy 1: Project Eligibility, Point 1 states:

"The proposed project roadway shall:

- c) Have a Rural Road Classification of 3,4, or 5 or the roadway is designated as a Clearing the Path corridor."

WHEREAS the RIRG program Policy Manual, Section 4, Policy 2: Road Design Requirements, Point 3 states:

"The design of the roadway shall meet the following requirements:

- a) Minimum design speed of 90km/h;
- b) Minimum road top width of 8.6m, crowned with a cross slope of 3 to 4%;
- c) Minimum right-of-way of 42m;
 - i) The right-of-way shall be purchased and cleared;
 - ii) The roadway centreline shall be located on the centre of the 42m right-of-way;
- d) Maximum side slope steepness shall be determined as follows:
 - i) Locations with a maximum fill height less than or equal to 4.15 m;
 - Side slope steepness shall be 4:1;
 - ii) Locations with a maximum fill height greater than 4.15 m and less than or equal to 5.55m:
 - Side slope steepness shall be varied between 4:1 and 3:1;
 - The toe of the fill shall be at 21 m from road centerline; andAny other present or eminent characteristics of the location that would adversely affect the safety of the location shall be identified and suitably mitigated, and the Engineer may request advice from the Program Administrator;
 - iii) Locations with maximum fill heights greater than 5.55 m in height;
 - Proposed side slope steepness shall be approved by the PMB.
 - The Road Authority shall contact the Program Administrator to receive information regarding the approval process.
- e) Minimum ditch width of 4 m;
 - i) Maximum ditch backslope steepness of 3:1 inside property line;
 - ii) Maximum ditch backslope steepness of 6:1 to 10:1 outside the property line, or required by any easement agreement;
- f) Maximum gradient of 8%;
- g) For curves:
 - i) Maximum super elevation of 0.08 m/m;
 - ii) Minimum curve radius of 300 m; and
 - iii) Spiral Transitions shall be required for curve radius of 400 m or less."

WHEREAS rural municipalities would rarely meet these requirements for funding.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to expand project eligibility under the RIRG program by revisiting the Road Design Requirements so that more rural municipalities qualify for funding.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Corman Park (RM) has more than 800 miles of gravel roads to maintain and is seeking funding sources to assist with regular maintenance operations. The RIRG program is prohibitive to most of the RM's gravel roads, as the design requirements exceed the design of the existing RM's gravel roads.

The RM of Corman Park is one of the largest RM's in the province, however the network of roads are consistent with other SARM members. Other SARM members would be able to apply for funding for maintaining the roads with a lower design requirement.

The RM of Corman Park has not taken any further steps regarding this resolution.

Although a thorough engineering review has not been completed, the RM of Corman Park would like the minimum design speed lowered, the minimum road top width lowered, the minimum right-of-way lowered, the side slope steepness (as identified in Section 4, Policy 2, Point 3)d)i), the toe of the fill from road centerline lowered, the minimum ditch width lowered, and the spiral transition for curve radius lowered.

Ministry of Highways and Crown Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan

15-24A | Commercial & Farming 5 Axle Vehicle Requirement Rural Municipality of Lake Lenore No. 399

WHEREAS one of the biggest responsibilities of a rural municipality is to build and maintain municipal roads so that ratepayers and haulers are provided with a smooth and safe commute.

WHEREAS part of this process includes collecting fees as per road maintenance agreements with haulers, providing speed limits and permitting overweight loads during different seasons.

WHEREAS haulers transport goods further than ever through various municipal jurisdictions and municipalities have no mechanisms to identify which vehicles are operating without an agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government and Saskatchewan Government Insurance to require any commercial or farming vehicles 5 axles and over, to have a company name, address and phone number provided in clear view on the doors of the vehicle in the event they need to be contacted by an official of the municipality.

Resolution Background:

Compliance with obtaining road maintenance agreements has been very low and with new buyers purchasing land throughout the municipality, it can be a lengthy process to discover who is hauling. There are times where trucks are hauling overweight loads without a permit and the municipality has no authority to pull trucks over. This is an ongoing issue that could potentially be resolved by being able to contact a hauler and provide them the accurate information they may not be aware of.

Crown Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan

16-24A | Fair and Reasonable Taxation of SaskPower Property Rural Municipality of Estevan No. 5

WHEREAS SaskPower is the registered owner and lessee of approximately 47,000 acres of land within the Rural Municipality of Estevan No. 5 (RM), most of which is not directly used for the extraction of coal and typically is marginal or substandard land that is leased out for grazing and forage production to local area ranchers.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 4 of The Power Corporation Act (the Act) of Saskatchewan, SaskPower "...shall be exempt from taxation of whatever nature and description." on its real property although some property is eligible for a payment to the RM of a minimal "grant in lieu" (GIL) of taxes through the Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) policy.

WHEREAS through the above noted policy, land acquired with the "intent" to be used for coal mining is not eligible for GIL and as a result of both the exemptions created through legislation and the policy, the RM is losing an estimated \$1,400,000 in annual tax revenue based on the approximate assessment of the lands owned by SaskPower within the RM.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby SaskPower to have The Power Corporation Act and the policy amended or repealed, to the extent necessary, to allow the RM the ability to tax and/or receive GIL for the real property owned by SaskPower within the RM, particularly as it relates to current real property not utilized for the mining of coal.

Resolution Background:

As stated above, the RM receives very little by way of GIL from SaskPower (approximately \$29,000, most of which is derived from a SaskPower substation) while it controls a vast land base within the RM. It has been made well known that the federal government intends on shuttering all active coal plants by 2030 in Saskatchewan, including the Boundary Dam and Shand Power Generating Stations located within the RM, and as such, the lands owned and/or leased by SaskPower will no longer be required for the mining of coal. The shutting of these plants will have a devastating impact on the RM tax base (reducing it by up to one-third) and it will not have the ability to recoup this tax base from the non-mined lands if all SaskPower land remains exempt from taxation or GIL pursuant to legislation or the Policy respectively.

Ministry of Government Relations

17-24A | Deterrent for Breaches of Bylaws

Rural Municipality of Golden West No. 95, Rural Municipality of Orkney No. 244, Rural Municipality of Emerald No. 277 (submitting RM)

WHEREAS there are insufficient deterrents for individuals and landowners who alter RM roadways without permits or permission.

WHEREAS there are limited avenues of restitution for damages such as tree removal, cultivation and/or spraying to these specific areas.

WHEREAS the cost of obtaining a court order to collect a fine/liability notice would be substantial.

BE IT RESOLVED that The Municipalities Act be amended to allow RMs, by official motion, to levy fines/liability notices against individuals and landowners who have breached bylaws which prevent alteration to road allowances without a permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if such a fine is not paid that it be added legally to the taxes of the landowner without securing a court order.

Resolution Background:

The RM has had many violations to their bylaw regarding road allowances. These incidents include tree removal, piling stones, cultivating road allowances and sometimes roads usually without permission. This affects all SARM members as it is happening everywhere. The RM has sent Notice of Violations but the problem continues. The change in legislation so that RM's can fine ratepayers and have it added on to their taxes without a lengthy legal battle in court.

18-24A | Canada Community Building Fund Program

Rural Municipality of Vanscoy No. 345

WHEREAS by expanding the scope of eligible projects to encompass raw water initiatives, we can address pressing water-related challenges and enhance the overall resilience and well-being of our community. This resolution seeks to foster collaboration between local authorities and the federal and provincial government to promote the responsible use and conservation of raw water resources.

WHEREAS this adjustment aims to facilitate community-led initiatives focused on sustained water management and infrastructure development.

BE IT RESOLVED that due to the critical importance of water resources and the potential benefits to the community, SARM lobby the federal and provincial government to include raw water projects under the eligible project categories for the Canada Community Building Fund Program (CCBF).

Resolution Background:

Drought conditions provincewide has prompted our RM to submit this resolution. We have been discussing building a new raw water facility for our ratepayers to have access to the water they need for farming. We have reached out to the CCBF funding through SARM and the federal government for an explanation as to why raw water is not included in the program. We are looking for the federal and provincial government to re-evaluate the program eligibility to include raw water projects.

19-24A | Abandoned Buildings and Yard Sites
Rural Municipality of Newcombe No. 260

WHEREAS there is an increasing number of abandoned buildings and yard sites in municipalities, particularly in unorganized hamlets that have become part of the jurisdiction and responsibility of the rural municipality in which they are situated. Many of these properties have safety and liability concerns such as wells, cisterns, septic tanks, and derelict buildings.

WHEREAS tax enforcement and nuisance abatement orders on these properties are costly, time-consuming, and quite often an effort in futility.

WHEREAS environmental regulations have become increasingly costly and difficult to manage for municipalities.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to provide funding and/or relax environmental regulations specifically to help alleviate the costs to municipalities and ratepayers in cleaning up abandoned or derelict buildings and yard sites.

Resolution Background:

Recently, the RM received a letter from executors of an estate stating that they were not going to pay any more property taxes and that they were releasing the property back to the municipality, rather than it being subjected to tax enforcement proceedings. This resolution is intended to assist all municipal governments, as many are faced with similar challenges. The intended outcome is increased funding or relaxed regulations to allow the cleanup of these hazardous yard sites and buildings.

20-24A | Revision of Section 369 of *The Municipalities Act* to allow for more Bylaw Infractions to be added to Tax Roll

Rural Municipality of Bayne No. 371

WHEREAS RMs struggle to collect bylaw infraction fines from ratepayers and are unable to put the bylaw fine on the taxes at the end of the year.

WHEREAS Section 369 of *The Municipalities Act* allows for very few items to be added to the tax roll.

WHEREAS RMs incur the expense of hiring a Bylaw Enforcement Officer but often do not get the money from the ratepayer. In order to collect outstanding bylaw infractions, RMs must then enlist the help of a lawyer and end up in court to collect the fine or write it off. This is a costly and timely process for municipalities.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to allow municipalities to put all unpaid bylaw infractions, belonging to RM ratepayers, on the municipal tax roll as of December 31st of the year in which the infraction occurred.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to revise section 369 of *The Municipalities Act*. This change will allow municipalities to better enforce compliance with respect to municipal bylaws.

Resolution Background:

Council feels that the collection of fines for infractions of municipal bylaw's is a lengthy, expensive and ineffective process for local governments. Section 369 of *The Municipalities Act* is restrictive to municipalities when it comes to adding items onto the tax roll. These restrictions cripple municipalities with expenses, time and lost revenue.

If local governments had the option on putting the outstanding bylaw infraction penalty onto the tax roll at year end, local governments would have better success with compliance and actually be able to collect outstanding fines, much like we do with outstanding fire invoices. This would also reduce the costs of going to court. RM's would also see an increase in revenues.

21-24A | Bridge Infrastructure Funding Rural Municipality of Val Marie No. 17

WHEREAS the cost of replacing any bridge that meets funding criteria through the current funding programs will likely be over a million dollars.

WHEREAS the current funding caps at \$500,000 based on 50% of project cost, leaving the municipal portion to be 50% or more.

WHEREAS other types of municipal infrastructure (ie: wastewater or water) are typically funded with lower municipal cost ratios (such as: 1/3 provincial, 1/3 federal, 1/3 municipal).

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial and federal governments for funding of bridge infrastructure to have similar funding ratios (1/3 provincial, 1/3 federal, 1/3 municipal) that is consistent with other types of municipal infrastructure funding.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Val Marie has replaced 2 bridges in 2023. One was approximately \$1.2 million, the other \$1.7 million. \$500,000 from Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding for each bridge was received. Combined, the municipality covered 65% of the project costs. If this was a different type of infrastructure project, it would have been eligible to be covered with a higher funding ratio. The municipal share of funding for bridges disproportionately higher than other types of municipal infrastructure.

22-24A | Unwarranted Annexations

Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158, Rural Municipality of Sherwood No. 159 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Moose Jaw No. 161

WHEREAS the Guide for Municipal Boundary Alterations (Annexation), November 2015 states that the Official Community Plan is the recognized statutory document guiding and identifying the growth management strategy for a municipality. Community growth should be orderly and beneficial not only to municipalities but also to the region and its residents.

WHEREAS the statement implies that a mutual growth strategy is established and respected through the boundary alteration (annexation) process and the RM's needs and the needs of its ratepayers should not be disregarded by the will of another municipality and/or the province of Saskatchewan where Community Plans are ignored, and where the province takes on a role in "picking winners and losers".

WHEREAS when statutory planning documents are ignored, this leaves Rural Municipalities (RMs) at a significant disadvantage when boundary issues including annexations, are disputed.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government for a review of the Guide for Municipal Boundary Alterations (Annexation), November 2015 and related legislation to clearly define the requirements for a municipal boundary alteration (Annexation), to avoid unwarranted and baseless applications where the applicant municipality cannot meet a minimum threshold of the demonstrated need of land for growth purposes as stated in a mutually accepted statutory planning document and recognized growth strategy.

Resolution Background:

This resolution is being submitted in response to a recent annexation process where the City used adverse tactics to force an annexation through without consideration for existing Official Community Plan (OCP) policies and associated development agreements and growth management strategies that were in place between the RM and the City. This resolution would provide additional support to all RM's when an urban makes a boundary alteration (annexation) application that does not meet the requirements of existing growth management policies and strategies that the RM and the urban have entered into. The intended outcome is improved and clarified guiding documents and legislation that remove the possibility of an urban to annex lands without adhering to the existing OCP, growth management policies and strategies that the RM and the urban have entered into.

23-24A | Annexation Application Timelines

Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of Sherwood No. 159

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) supports local authorities, to help build a strong economy by providing advice and regulatory approval on a variety of issues impacting rural municipalities; in particular around municipal boundary alterations, amalgamations and annexation.

WHEREAS if one of the involved municipalities does not consent to the proposal and the mediation fails to resolve a dispute, an application must be submitted to the Municipal Boundary Committee of the SMB which will review the proposal, hold a hearing and makes a decision regarding the proposal. This process is intensive in both the information gathering that occurs and, in the attempt, to find a mutually beneficial resolution between municipalities. Once a review of an application is complete, the decision stands, even if an attempt to withdraw an application is made by a municipality.

WHEREAS if an application or portion of an application is rejected in the decision by the Municipal Boundary Committee, no subsequent application that is substantially similar may be made for one year. This applies to all municipalities.

WHEREAS this process is very thorough, takes time, resources and has financial implications for participating municipalities.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to expand the "cooling off period" on when similar applications can be heard from one year to three years. Thus, preventing a cycle of continuous applications going to the SMB on issues that already have a decision rendered and preventing additional administrative, financial burdens and legal fees incurred by the municipality and the SMB.

Resolution Background:

1. What prompted your RM to submit this resolution?

The RM of Edenwold has been embroiled in 8 annexation attempts over the last 30 years.

While the RM of Edenwold has shown a consistent pattern and dedication to working cooperatively with the municipalities in proximity to itself, the strain on the RM defending itself against flawed and frivolous applications is a financial burden for all parties involved.

The RM of Edenwold accepted and signed a 2015 annexation agreement with the neighbouring municipality for land that went undeveloped, only to be subjected to a new annexation attempt in 2018. As a majority of the lands being sought were already developed and serviced by the RM of Edenwold, this attempt was contentious, and the matter was eventually brought before the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB). While the application was eventually denied in January 2023, this legal matter is still being fought in the courts over a year later.

Under the current legislation, another annexation attempt could still be initiated as the one-year period to submit again, has passed. Potentially, this could have the RM involved in multiple annexation attempts at the same time.

2. How would this resolution affect SARM members as a whole?

The annexation process can affect any RMs across Saskatchewan and the impacts on the responding municipality and the surrounding communities are substantial. As the time frame to evaluate, negotiate and facilitate an annexation application can be lengthy, we submit that the one-year time frame to re-submit any new annexation application is not realistic.

The Province of Saskatchewan has developed a political and legal framework that encourages cooperation between municipalities. The expanded time frame from one year to three years allows for all parties' time to reassess and reevaluate. A three-year time period would allow for better strategic long-term planning for sustainability and financial health.

3. Has your RM taken any steps regarding this resolution?

The RM of Edenwold fought a 2018 annexation attempt and it was brought before the SMB. In January 2023, the SMB rejected the application by the neighbouring municipality for almost 4,000 acres of RM land, including mostly developed land. An annexation application is considered when there is an evidence-based need for territory for growth. In the decision, the SMB noted that the neighbouring municipality "has not demonstrated a need to annex land."

In February 2023, the neighbouring municipality filed an application to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal the SMB's decision to reject their annexation application. The leave for appeal was granted and the appeal was heard at the end of October, 2023. As of the drafting of this resolution, the Court of Appeal has not yet ruled on this annexation matter.

4. What change are you looking to affect if this resolution is passed? What is the intended outcome?

To have the provincial government amend subsection 60(9) of The Municipalities Act to extend the time frame for subsequent annexation applications from one year to three years to minimize the impacts on each municipality and that any annexation application is not detrimental to the functioning of either municipality.

24-24A | Administrative Best Practices Manual

Rural Municipality of Mount Hope No. 279, Rural Municipality of Montrose No. 315, Rural Municipality of Viscount No. 341, Rural Municipality of Vanscoy No. 345, Rural Municipality of St. Peter No. 369, Rural Municipality of Lake Lenore No. 399, Rural Municipality of Hoodoo No. 401, Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403, Rural Municipality of Invergordon No. 430 (submitting RM), Rural Municipality of St. Louis No. 431, Rural Municipality of Birch Hills No. 460, Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, District of Lakeland No. 521, Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

WHEREAS higher demands are being placed on Administrators year over year leaving less time for mentors to be able to address every detail of the job. A lot of tasks are done "how it's always been done" or not as efficient as possible ("re-inventing the wheel") and furthermore, there is currently no on-boarding protocol established for Administrators in a new office.

WHEREAS Administrators (both rural and urban) are subject to professional certification requirements which include office inspections of various documentation and procedures by their respective Association's Board of Examiners and the interpretation of the particular inspector on what is considered to be best practice varies.

WHEREAS matters to be included in the Administrative Best Practices Manual would be on-boarding protocol, minutes, bylaws, bylaw registry, resolution requirements, financial statements, general ledgers, accounts payable, budgets, insurance required, basic asset management, provincial and federal requirements/filings and assessment and taxation rolls.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM see to the creation of an Administrative Best Practices Manual for utilization by both rural and urban municipal administrators, prepared in conjunction with SUMA, UMAAS and RMAA (and their respective Board of Examiners), Ministry of Government Relations and legal departments.

Resolution Background:

Administrators of the Rural Municipal Administrator's Association (RMAA) Division 5 applied to the RMAA Board for the creation of an Administrative Best Practices Manual – one that could be utilized in both rural and urban settings as a lot of work done is very similar from office to office. RMAA did not approve the request as they indicated available resources were deemed to be sufficient, and if any manual were to be created, it should be done by Government Relations (i.e. legislation based). The request for a manual would be beyond legislated requirements but would encompass as much as possible on the role of Administrator. This would benefit all municipal Councils in operational efficiency, transitions of new Administrators, confidence of legislative compliance and an overall sense of governing excellence. We would recommend SARM and SUMA jointly apply for Targeted Sector Support funding for the creation of the manual and the 25% balance could be charged to all municipalities. The intended outcome would be reduced Administrator turnover and an increase in the available support and resources in administering a municipality.

Ministry of Health

25-24A | Nurse Practitioners and Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) Trained Physicians in Rural Communities

Rural Municipality of Oakdale No. 320, Rural Municipality of Prairiedale No. 321, Rural Municipality of Grandview No. 349, Rural Municipality of Turtle River No. 469, Rural Municipality of Paynton No. 470, Rural Municipality of Wilton No. 472, Rural Municipality of Frenchman Butte No. 501, Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502 (submitting RM)

WHEREAS there is a critical shortage of family physicians in the northwest region and other rural regions in Saskatchewan.

WHEREAS the assignment of SIPPA physicians in return-of-service agreements or in post-graduate residencies could help alleviate this critical shortage of primary care health care workers in the rural Saskatchewan regions.

WHEREAS the assignment of nurse practitioners to communities underserved by family physicians could also help to alleviate this critical shortage of primary health care workers in all rural Saskatchewan regions.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government, specifically the Ministry of Health, to expand the utilization of SIPPA trained physicians and nurse practitioners to serve a greater number of rural communities and regions facing critical shortages of family physicians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM advocate for these services to be provided in a greater number of regional hospitals away from major urban centres.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Britannia and surrounding communities have an extreme shortage of family physicians and lack utilization of nurse practitioners. Not all residents of the RM of Britannia and the surrounding area are able to find a family physician to deal with their medical issues and routine proactive medical appointments. Of the 23 family physicians practicing in Lloydminster as of January 2024, only one is currently accepting new patients. As a result of this shortage, it is common for residents who have relocated to our region from larger urban centres to travel back to the community in which they moved from for general medical care and/ or seek non-emergency care in regional hospital emergency rooms, thus increasing healthcare costs for the government and taxpayers. This situation is not unique to the RM of Britannia and surrounding region as it is being experienced across rural Saskatchewan.

The recruitment of physicians, including SIPPA physicians under return-of-service agreements or in post-graduate residency, to the RM of Britannia and surrounding communities and other rural communities experiencing similar shortages would help address this situation and lessen the burden on local emergency departments.

The RM of Britannia is submitting this resolution with input from the Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, a not-for-profit community organization focused on supporting and improving healthcare in Lloydminster and the surrounding region, including the RM of Britannia, the RM of Wilton, the RM of Frenchman Butte, and Onion Lake Cree Nation.

The intended outcome of this resolution is to have SARM advocate for underserved rural regions and their regional hospitals that could benefit from an increased number of SIPPA physicians and nurse practitioners. Further, the RM of Britannia would like to see SARM advocate for the all rural populations served by regional hospitals by ensuring that if an increased number of SIPPA trained physicians and nurse practitioners are made available to rural communities, that they be made available in the communities and regional hospitals of the people that need them, not larger urban centres such as Regina and Saskatoon.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

26-24A | Environment Canada Regulation

Rural Municipality of Val Marie No. 17

WHEREAS Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has broad reaching authority through a variety of Acts and Regulations that affect municipalities; and many times projects are stopped by Environment & Climate Change Canada without a site visit or consultation with the municipality.

WHEREAS these work stoppages have fiscal and environmental impacts. Common sense is rarely applied to the situation & the species that is supposedly being protected.

WHEREAS most Acts and Regulations in place under the administration of Environment and Climate Change Canada apply to all of Canada and the effects of applying that Act to every region of Canada has not been considered.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the federal government for changes to all Acts, administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, to require local government consultation regarding all Acts, Regulations, and permitting processes that may affect municipal operations or projects.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Val Marie had a bridge project stopped because of the remnants of a barn swallow nest on the bridge that was being replaced. The nest was found on a Friday before a long weekend and the project was stopped without a site visit or any discussions with the RM. The RM asked to meet with ECCC multiple times regarding this matter and they refused stating they only will consider written correspondence. ECCC needs to be mandated to meet with municipal governments as required.

Crown- Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

27-24A | Tax Loss Compensation Fund

Rural Municipality of Fish Creek No. 402

WHEREAS the Rural Municipal Tax Loss Compensation Trust Fund was established by the federal and provincial governments to compensate rural municipalities for lost tax revenues resulting from lands situated within a rural municipality being set apart as reserve under the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Specific Land Claims order.

WHEREAS the Tax Loss Compensation Trust Fund final payments to some rural municipalities occurred in 2023.

WHEREAS these rural municipalities continue to maintain existing infrastructure with ZERO compensation for wages, equipment or aggregate.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM enter into negotiations with the provincial and federal governments to create a sustainable compensation fund for which rural municipalities may receive the funds they require.

Resolution Background:

We received the final payment in 2023 for our portion of the Tax Loss Fund. Council is concerned as to how they will manage to maintain the infrastructure without this specific funding. With the sandy soil in the region, the road to One Arrow Reserve needs to be reconstructed. Without further funding, the burden of maintaining this road will be on the entire RM ratepayers. As of Aug 30, 2017, there were 96 RM's that were beneficiaries of the TLE Trust Fund.