



Municipal Development Plans

RESIDENT/RATEPAYER SURVEY

Saddle Hills County, the Municipal District of Spirit River and the Town of Spirit River are each preparing new Municipal Development Plans. The municipalities are undertaking this project as a joint venture to maximize efficiencies; however, three separate plans will be created to address the unique issues of each.

The purpose of a Municipal Development Plan is to provide a "big picture" land use planning framework to guide long term development decisions. Public input is critical to the process as it ensures that future policies reflect the interests and needs of the community.

The project team has put together a survey for M.D. and County residents/ratepayers to complete regarding Municipal Development Plan issues or concerns. The survey will be mailed out to M.D. and County residents, and is also available online on the municipalities' respective web sites (in online and PDF versions).

- www.saddlehills.ab.ca
- www.mdspiriteriver.ab.ca

M.D. and County residents are encouraged to watch their mailbox for their copy of the survey or are invited to visit the County or M.D. web sites to complete the survey. Alternatively, residents/ratepayers can pick up the survey at the municipal offices. The survey will not apply to Town of Spirit River residents, as the Town has conducted its own recent community consultations regarding their vision for future growth and development. The survey results and information gathered will be a key aspect in developing the draft Municipal Development Plans for each municipality. All information collected will be kept confidential.

The input received will be used to help formulate the plans, and the public will be invited to attend open houses in early 2010 to view the draft Municipal Development Plans. The open houses will be advertised in the Central Peace Signal and on the municipalities' web sites prior to each open house.

Thank you for your assistance and input. We look forward to hearing your views! For information contact Laurie Jackson, Manager of Planning and IT Services at 780-864-3760.

Council Declares County an Agricultural Disaster Area

At their November 10th, 2009 meeting, Saddle Hills County Council declared the municipality as an Agricultural Disaster Area. Based on the new information presented by the County's Agricultural Services Board in relation to poor harvest conditions for the month of October; the lack of quality hay; the prices being charged for bales and the poor pasture conditions causing producers to begin their feeding operations earlier than usual, County Council agreed to bring the matter back for further discussion.

Council received information relating to growing season precipitation, forage production potential, forage supply and the local crop conditions. The weather that occurred across the municipality as a whole during the month of October has been viewed as detrimental to an already shaky year for agricultural producers. All agricultural producers have experienced financial hardship due to the recent weather developments. Excessive amounts of crops remain unharvested and cattle producers who had previously experienced a cold spring and dry

summer, now are faced with further feed supply shortages where grains would be used as supplemental feeds. Also shortages of straw further hinder beef producers ability to adjust to forage shortages. The Agricultural Disaster Area declaration puts agricultural producers in line for any Agricultural relief that could be announced by the Provincial or Federal Governments.

Reeve Tim Stone has stated "I can't recall ever having seen a more challenging October for harvesting which has added to the total overall condition in our County for all farmers."

Council will now be presenting this information to MLA Hon. Hector Goudreau with the desire to have him bring the information forward to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, George Groeneveld in hope of taking Alberta's disaster situation forward to the Federal Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food. For further information, please contact Dianne Nellis, Chief Administrative Officer at 780-864-3760.

Wildlife Damaging Stacked Hay

COMPENSATION OPTIONS FOR PRODUCERS



With winter on its way, livestock producers are thinking about their options to keep wildlife out of their stack yards. The best solution is prevention, through fencing, dogs and hunting. However, if depredation is occurring, producers may be eligible for the Wildlife Damage Compensation on Stacked Hay program, which is facilitated by both AFSC and Fish & Wildlife. There is no premium paid in order to be eligible for this program; however, only stacked hay that is being protected will be considered for compensation. Compensation is determined by multiplying the quantity of damaged feed by the crop insurance high price option.

In order to file a claim under this program, contact your local Fish & Wildlife office as soon as possible after depredation has occurred. A Conservation Officer will inspect the damage and provide recommendations to prevent further damage.

If the stacked hay is sufficiently protected and monitored, the claimant may then contact AFSC to be considered for compensation.

For more information on this or other compensation programs, contact your local AFSC office at 780-864-3896 or Fish & Wildlife at 780-864-4101.

Big Bins

FOR FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

Between November 16 and 21 Saddle Hills County will be providing two extra large bins at each of the transfer sites located in Happy Valley, Westmark, Blueberry Mountain, and Fourth Creek. All major appliances and furniture will be accepted. Feel free to contact the Engineering & Public Works Department with any questions or concerns.

First Aid/CPR/AED Training

Free training seminars for First Aid, CPR, and AED will be taking place at the dates below.

Nov 26 & 27 7:00 PM - 10:00PM
Nov 28 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AED training is taking place only during the seminar on Saturday the 28th. For more info including locations of seminars or to register, contact Bill Mortland at 780-864-0782.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following development permits have been conditionally approved by Saddle Hills County, subject to the right of appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal against these developments must do so in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal by 4:30 p.m. on the appeal deadline accompanied by \$50.00 non-refundable fee. Letters of appeal should be addressed to: Secretary, Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Box 69, Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0.

APPLICATION	36-DP-09
LOCATION	15-15-76-13-W6M
DEVELOPMENT	Compressor Station
OWNER/DEVELOPER	Advantage Oil & Gas Ltd.
APPEAL DEADLINE	November 24, 2009
APPLICATION	38-DP-09
LOCATION	SE 22/NE 15 76-13-W6M
DEVELOPMENT	Compressor Station
OWNER/DEVELOPER	Talisman Energy Inc.
APPEAL DEADLINE	November 24, 2009