



Mountain View
C O U N T Y

News Release

For immediate release

Cooperation between the County and Urban Neighbours

January 10, 2007 Didsbury, Alberta – Mountain View County Council is concerned that recent media reports on the relationship between the County and its five urban neighbours (Town of Carstairs, Village of Cremona, Town of Didsbury, Town of Olds and Town of Sundre) may lead County residents and businesses to misunderstand the current situation.

In 2004 the Councils of all six municipalities approved the formation of the Intermunicipal Cooperation Steering Committee (ICSC) to be the working group for the six municipalities. This group has been very successful and, using grant funds obtained from the province, has implemented partnership efforts in the areas of:

- Adoption of a mission statement and principles for collaboration between the six municipalities
- Development of a new fire agreement between the County and each of the five urban municipalities.
- Development of a regional sustainability plan
- Sharing of a regional health and safety officer and obtaining a grant for the initiation of this position
- Hosting a Shared Services Review Workshop in December 2005 that reviewed current shared services and targeted opportunities to pursue further shared service opportunities
- Review of partnership agreements and governance options has led to a recent change in status from Intermunicipal Cooperation Steering Committee (ICSC) to a permanent Municipal Area Partnerships Committee (MAP) and governance terms of reference for the MAP Committee has been adopted by all six municipalities

An additional process initiated by the Intermunicipal Cooperation Steering Committee (ICSC) in June 2006 was the development of a consistent Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) negotiation procedure between the County and each of the urban communities looking to annex lands. The aim of this process was to reduce the time needed to negotiate IDPs between the County and each urban municipality, as the timeframe for separate negotiations could be as long as two years with each urban community, with delays where the County needed to negotiate with multiple urban communities at the same time. This process had two major elements:

- Development of a common template for an IDP Agreement. This IDP template has been reviewed and adopted by all six municipalities and will now be used as annexation negotiations between Mountain View County and the Town of Carstairs and the Village of Cremona have already begun. The template provides for each annexation to include land for 20 years of growth and to identify a fringe area reserved for future annexations that provides for a further 20 years of growth. This allows the urban communities and the County to plan for long term growth

More...

- Development of a template Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is also being drafted that addresses issues such as recreation and culture program funding, property tax sharing, and water and wastewater access by developments in the County. The template is complex and is still being negotiated, and is expected to be completed early in 2007.

Mountain View County has been asked by those urban communities reviewing Municipal Development Plans to provide comments and similarly, Mountain View County has asked for and received comments and has requested participation from urban communities on steering committees regarding Area Structure Plans adjacent to those communities. Individual MDPs, IDPs and ASPs will have to be adjusted to reflect the needs of the County and the urban community affected, and Mountain View County intends to work cooperatively with all communities on these complex planning processes.

These initiatives have been undertaken by Mountain View County and the five urban communities on the basis of benefiting all municipalities and the results to date have demonstrated that this has been achieved. Mountain View County Council intends to continue to work with its five urban neighbours on this basis of cooperation and mutual benefit for the region's residents and businesses while maintaining its own identity.

-30-

For more information:

Reeve Al Kemmere

alkemmere@airenet.com

Doug Plamping, Chief Administrative Officer

doug.plamping@mountainviewcounty.com

Mountain View County

Phone (403) 335-3311

www.mountainviewcounty.com