



Village of Hill Spring
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - DRAFT
Hill Spring Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ACCEPTANCE/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - a) 2023.02.21
4. DELEGATION
 - a) Jim Bester & Angela Tabak – representing “Riplinger Wind Concerned Citizens”
5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
 - a)
6. FINANCIAL REPORTS:
 - a) Cheque Listing for February 2023
7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:
 - a) TransAlta Riplinger Wind Project – Councillor Barfuss
 - b) IBD - Community Hall
 - c) IBD – Technology Assessment
 - d) IBD – Marketing Content
 - e) RFD – Cheque Signing Authority
 - f) RFD – Credit Card Policy
 - g) Proposal for Administrative Support – Town of Raymond
8. ADMINISTRATORS & COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - a) Admin Report
 - b) Council Report
9. CORRESPONDENCE:
 - a) COR 01 Neighbourhood News – Hill Spring

- b) COR 01 2022-12-01 ORRSC Board of Directors Meeting
- c) COR 01 2023 Alberta SW Board Minutes 02-01 approved
- d) COR 01 2023-03 Bulletin AlbertaSW
- e) COR 01 Budget 2023_Municipal Affairs
- f) COR 01 CCES minutes Feb 2 2023
- g) COR 01 cmrswsc minutes Feb 2023
- h) COR 01 ma-2023-msi-ccbf-allocations
- i) COR 01 READI Fort Macleod Workshop
- j) COR 01 03.14.2023 Alberta Ombudsman
- k) Riplinger Wind Farm Letters
 - i) COR 02.15.2023 Celie French_Redacted
 - ii) COR 02.15.2023 Andrea Hebert_Redacted
 - iii) COR 02.21.2023 LaRee Barfuss_Redacted
 - iv) COR 02.21.2023 Liesl Steiner_Redacted
 - v) COR 02.21.2023 Sasha Montagu_Redacted
 - vi) COR 02.22.2023 Bree Mason_Redacted
 - vii) COR 02.22.2023 Charley Bouffard_Redacted
 - viii) COR 02.22.2023 Craig Boland_Redacted
 - ix) COR 02.22.2023 Holly Lausher_Redacted
 - x) COR 02.22.2023 Jackie Evans_Redacted
 - xi) COR 02.22.2023 Shannon Palmer_Redacted
 - xii) COR 02.22.2023 Shirae Riehs_Redacted
 - xiii) COR 02.23.2023 Tim Lauscher_Redacted
 - xiv) COR 02.23.2023 Vaughn Smith_Redacted
 - xv) COR 02.23.2023 Neil Evans_Redacted
 - xvi) COR 03.10.2023 Kelly Young
 - xvii) COR 03.10.2023 Young
 - xviii) COR 03.13.2023 Kim & Lori Schnoor_Redacted
 - xix) COR 03.15.2023 Kim Schnoor_Redacted
 - xx) COR 03.15.2023 Scott Henrie_Redacted

10. CLOSED MEETING: if needed or when required by council per FOIP Act Division 2 of Part 1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Municipal Government Act, Section 197)*

- a) 2023 Land Matter – as per Sec 16 & 24 of the FOIP Act
- b) 2023 Village Office and Administration – as per Sec 17 & 24 of the FOIP Act

11. ADJOURNMENT:

VILLAGE OF HILL SPRING

February 21, 2023

The Village of Hill Spring Regular Council Meeting was held at the Hill Spring Council Chambers on February 21, 2023 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Mayor Davis, and Councillors, Christensen, French, and Nish.

Officials: Interim CAO Patrick Roach, Kurtis Pratt.

Absent: Councillor Barfuss.

CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Davis called the **Regular** Council Meeting to Order at 6:59 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2023.02.016

Discussion Item "Snow Removal" was added to the agenda. Councillor Nish **MOVED** to accept the agenda as amended.

Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2022.11.15 REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

2023.02.017

Councillor French **MOVED** that the 2023.01.17 regular council meeting minutes be approved.

Carried

COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

2023.02.018

Mayor Davis **MOVED** to excuse Councillor Barfuss from the meeting.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

ORRSC LUB

Administration presented on ORRSC's proposal for future meetings to finalize the content for the new Land Use Bylaw. Council discussed dates and administration will coordinate with ORRSC.

BARBARA BAXTER

Barbara Baxter expressed concerns of the potential negative impacts of the proposed Ripliner Wind Power Project and answered council's questions about these concerns.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor French inquired about certain matters.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CHEQUE LISTING FOR
JANUARY 2023

2023.02.019

Mayor Davis **MOVED** to accept cheque listings 20230001-20230049.

Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

JOINT FIRE SERVICES
AGREEMENT – PROPOSED
CHANGES

2023.02.020

Councillor Nish **MOVED** to accept the proposed changes to the Joint Fire Services Agreement as presented.

Carried

SNOW PLOUGHING

2023.02.021

Mayor Davis **MOVED** to direct administration to develop a Request For Services proposal for council to review during the March council meeting.

Carried

**ADMINISTRATOR AND
COUNCIL REPORTS AND
CORRESPONDANCE**

2023.02.022

Councillor French **MOVED** to accept all reports and correspondence as information.

Carried

CLOSED MEETING

2023.02.023

Councillor Nish **MOVED** to go into closed meeting at 8:11pm as per sections 16, 17, and 24 of the FOIP Act.

Carried

OPEN MEETING

2023.02.024

Councillor Nish **MOVED** to resume the open meeting at 9:30pm.

Carried

2023.02.025

Councillor Nish **MOVED** for administration to gather a cost estimate for upgrading the electrical at the Post Office.

Carried

2023.02.026

Councillor Nish **MOVED** to direct administration to place a cigarette disposal receptacle at the Community Centre.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

2023.02.027

Councillor Nish **MOVED** to adjourn the February 21, 2023 Council Meeting at 9:38pm.

Carried

Mayor Dwight Davis

Interim CAO Patrick Roach

Village Of Hill Spring

Cheque Listing For Council

2023-Mar-16
1:47:23PM

Cheque		Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount	Cheque Amount
Cheque #	Date					
20230055	2023-03-07	BECK'S EXCAVATING & TRUCKING	3140	PAYMENT SNOW REMOVAL	2,446.50	2,446.50
20230056	2023-03-07	CARDSTON COUNTY	22564 22565	PAYMENT REGIONAL DEM CONTRACT WATER OP FEES	66.70 2,666.67	2,733.37
20230057	2023-03-07	CARDSTON HOME HARDWARE	82928 82993 83113	PAYMENT LIGHT DOOR HOLDER - CH ICE MELT	25.19 24.05 50.38	99.62
20230058	2023-03-07	DAVIS, DWIGHT	FEB 2023	PAYMENT TRAVEL	364.48	364.48
20230059	2023-03-07	HENRIE, SCOTT	MAR 2023	PAYMENT TRAVEL & FAUCET PART	226.06	226.06
20230060	2023-03-07	TOWN OF RAYMOND	20230079 20230106	PAYMENT POSTAGE & ENVELOPES MARCH CONTRACT & TRAVEL	29.32 3,683.12	3,712.44

Total 9,582.47

*** End of Report ***

INFORMATION BRIEFING DOCUMENT



MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

MEETING TYPE: Council Committee Meeting

SUBJECT: Community Hall

RECOMMENDATION:

1. To create a policy for the Community Hall bookings to include which community user groups are no fee.
2. To increase budget allocations for additional cleaning of the hall and maintenance needs.
3. To establish regular cleanings of carpets and repainting as required.
4. To purchase new vacuum cleaners, have two out for use with back up in storage, which can be cycled for repair as needed.
5. Installation of commercial odor eliminator.
6. Determine who should be managing facility bookings. I might suggest we see if there is reasonable automation (online booking) that could be integrated with the website.

BACKGROUND:

- I have noticed much time is spent by administration in facilitating Community Hall bookings. Many times community is contacting myself and Patti after hours to arrange bookings, move bookings, arrange payments, pick up keys etc.
- I have also noticed the cleanliness of the Hall is not meeting current community expectations.
- The current vacuums continue to not function properly, and I have spent several hours repairing them myself to ensure the facility can continue to operate.
- I have also noticed lingering body odors from fitness user groups and listened to complaints from others entering the facility after these user groups have finished.
- There seems to be a lack of understanding in administration as to which user groups are charged and which have no fees.

SERVICE LEVEL/STAFF RESOURCE IMPLICATION: Improved use of Administration time and resources, better knowledge for administration and user groups, and regular facility maintenance.

Originated by:	Patrick Roach
Submitted by:	Patrick Roach
CAO or Designate:	Patrick Roach

INFORMATION BRIEFING DOCUMENT



MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

MEETING TYPE: Council Committee Meeting

SUBJECT: Technology Assessment

RECOMMENDATION: To stream/record Council meetings, enabling more ease of community consumption and to potentially reduce numbers of community members attending in person, enabling Council to return to its regular setting.

With increased reliance on technology, systems can become obsolete over a period of a few years and its recommended to have planned budgeting for technology. I would suggest creating an administrative technology policy, with planned budgets in upcoming years.

BACKGROUND:

- In late 2022, Council meetings relocated to Community Hall to facilitate increased numbers of gallery attendees. (Average attendance in past 3 Council meetings about 17 attendees)
- December 2022 to present community members have complained regarding inability to hear and process information at Council Meetings.
- February 21, 2023 – CAO Report I noted hearing concerns for the Gallery and recommended technology options.
- March 6, 2023 - Town of Raymond Director of Corporate and Community Development evaluated the Villages current technology usage and projected needs.

SERVICE LEVEL/STAFF RESOURCE IMPLICATION: Administrative needs, faster computing response time, easier programing updating, more effective remote access.

CONSULTATION: Town of Raymond

ATTACHMENTS: Hill Spring Tech Memo from Town of Raymond

Originated by:	Patrick Roach
Submitted by:	Patrick Roach
CAO or Designate:	Patrick Roach



March 16, 2023
Patrick Roach

CC: Village of Hillspring Council

Patrick,

After a site visit on March 6th, I have reviewed the current state of technology for the Village as well as council needs. The computers in the office are largely more than 5 years old. I recommend administration cycle through office computers at least every 5 years. And that is dependent on the quality of these computers at time of purchase. This will keep hardware and software up to date and current. If the Village decided to live stream meetings, they will need a computer that is more advanced than a traditional office PC.

For a streaming setup, the cost is about \$4000-\$5000. This can be used in the office or the community room. I tested internet speeds and they were roughly 40 mbp/s down and 10 mbp/s up. This would be sufficient for streaming although it only meets minimum requirements. If there are lots of users on the network simultaneous to streaming, you may encounter challenges.

I recommend replacement of the office computers in 2024 and this would run approx. \$2500-\$3000 per station. We have a corporate Dell account and can source this out for the village when this is decided.

I can review this in more detail with Council or admin if needed. Streaming or posting Council meetings may have positive outcomes to community engagement and may even reduce in-person attendance as the office space is very limited.





March 16, 2023

Additionally, after reviewing the new website changes there seems to be a shortage of updated content, pictures etc. This is a critical component to communications and marketing the Village. This budget can vary, and I would suggest a variety of still & video. My suggestion for this year is to set a budget for \$3000 and bring someone in to the Village during upcoming events to capture this content.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Greg Robinson

Director of Community & Corporate Development

Town of Raymond

robinson@raymond.ca

403-752-3322 Ext. 1001



INFORMATION BRIEFING DOCUMENT



MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

MEETING TYPE: Council Committee Meeting

SUBJECT: Marketing Content

RECOMMEDATION: To allocate funds for professional imaging for Village website and Marketing materials.

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2022 Website contract for new website entered.
- Requests from developer for quality imaging for site development.
- Reviewed all known imaging locations and no professional images, or high-resolution imaging/logos located. (over 875 images viewed)

SERVICE LEVEL/STAFF RESOURCE IMPLICATION: Having a quality amount of source material would enable Administration to better market the community for investment, community highlights, targeted marketing, and web development etc.

CONSULTATION: Town of Raymond – Director of Community & Corporate Development

ATTACHMENTS: Refer to letter below

Originated by:	Patrick Roach
Submitted by:	Patrick Roach
CAO or Designate:	Patrick Roach



March 16, 2023
Patrick Roach

CC: Village of Hillspring Council

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Sincerely,

Greg Robinson

Director of Community & Corporate Development

Town of Raymond

robinson@raymond.ca

403-752-3322 Ext. 1001



REQUEST FOR DECISION



MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

MEETING TYPE: Council Committee Meeting

SUBJECT: Cheque Signing Authority

RECOMENDATION: For all Village Councillors to be added as signing Authority on the Villages ATB account.

PROPOSED MOTION: ATB requests the motion state “all Village Councillors should have signing authority”

BACKGROUND: During the last few months it has taken a fair bit of time to have my name added for signing authority, during the process it was discovered that there are currently listed on the account names of past Council members which need to be removed.

As I am in the Village usually only one day per week, we had an occasion before I was added that only one Councillor was available for signing, requiring admin to reach out to the CAO on Leave to assist.

Our recommendation for best practice is for all members of Council to have signing authority, as all Council members are responsible for the financial wellbeing of the Village.

LEGISLATION/AUTHORITY: Section 213(4) of the MGA (see image below)

- (4) Agreements and cheques and other negotiable instruments must be signed or authorized**
- (a) by the chief elected official or by another person authorized by council to sign them, and
 - (b) by a designated officer,
- or by a designated officer acting alone if so authorized by council.

SERVICE LEVEL/STAFF RESOURCE IMPLICATION: This will enable quicker execution of payables for the Village Administration.

CONSULTATION: Town of Raymond, Alberta Treasury Bank

Originated by:	Patrick Roach
Submitted by:	Patrick Roach

REQUEST FOR DECISION



MEETING DATE: March 21, 2023

MEETING TYPE: Council Committee Meeting

SUBJECT: Credit Card Policy

RECOMENDATION: The Village create an administrative policy for credit card(s) usage. After administrative policy is created, with appropriate financial safeguards in place, those identified as authorized users will submit applications through administration to ATB.

PROPOSED MOTION: Motion to authorize administration to create policy and submit applications for use.

BACKGROUND: Recently, when seeking to make purchases for Village items, it was troublesome to find available and cost saving options. I spoke with Janet Edwards who indicated Council had challenges with misuse in the past and she wanted to do this previously but was informed “no”. She then conveyed that she sets up corporate accounts with entities that will invoice as a work around.

As the purchasing is still occurring with limited choice and higher pricing it would be of value to the Village to have corporate card(s). The advantage of card use is to have auto payments for some accounts, reducing administrative time and costs, and enable the Village to accumulate points which can then be redeemed for items of value to the Village.

An effective Corporate Credit Card policy establishes proper checks and balances to protect municipal credit cards from misuse.

Many municipalities use corporate credit cards including, but not limited to, the following:

- Town of Raymond
- City of Calgary
- City of Lethbridge
- Town of Cardston
- Village of Hussar

SERVICE LEVEL/STAFF RESOURCE IMPLICATION: This will enable quicker execution of purchasing need of Village Administration, and would enable authorized users to purchase items directly instead of waiting for reimbursements. Ex. Items needed for maintenance repairs, light bulbs etc.

Originated by:	Patrick Roach
Submitted by:	Patrick Roach

March 17, 2023

Mayor Dwight Davis
Box 40
Hill Spring, AB, T0K1E0



PROPOSED - Raymond Administrative Service Contract

Mayor Davis,

During a recent Hill Spring Council Meeting, comments were made that the Village may require additional administrative support to assist the Village CAO in carrying out the day-to-day operations of the Village. As such, the Town of Raymond is interested in providing a proposal for the Council's consideration that would help us both address some of our existing challenges.

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW:

1. Raymond would provide up to 30hrs per month of administrative support from members of the Town of Raymond's organization to your CAO.
2. The Town would ensure that all accounting, development, human resource, and legislative requirements of the Village are met, as directed by your CAO.
3. This proposal does not currently consider the Town providing a CAO for the Village, as further conversations with the Village and internally will occur during the months of April and May to determine what next steps are best for the Village.
4. The annual contract amount would be \$35,000/year.
5. On January 1st of each year, the contract amount will increase by 2% annually.

Pros for the Village:

1. Increase the Administrative capacity of the Village so that no matter who the Village CAO is, they will have the support needed to be successful in their capacity.
2. Access to a team of professionals (when needed) who are experts in their fields and at a price that is manageable for the Village's current approved 2023 Operating Budget.
3. Ability to work remotely to reduce travel costs. When physical presence is required, mileage costs will be charged to the Village as per the Canadian Revenue Agencies approved mileage rate.
4. Further supports the broader integration between our two organizations.

Pros for the Town:

1. Assists with the experience and development of our existing employees.
2. Subsidizes our overall wage costs and provides relief to our taxpayers.

If Budget 2023 is passed, the province has indicated that they will be doubling the MSI Operating Grant that municipalities receive and that this doubling will be sustained through the new LGFF grant program. In 2023, Hill Spring is proposed to receive an



additional \$22,716 of MSI Operating funding, that is over and above the \$22,716 that it currently receives. If this additional revenue, is added to the \$13,600 that the Village currently pays to its current finance consultant annually, the Village will be able to fund this proposal at no additional cost to its taxpayers, and the Town of Raymond will become the sole provider of administrative support for the Village. If the budget is not passed, then the Village would have to come up with the \$22,716 expense.

Summation:

The Town of Raymond values the relationship we have developed with the Village of Hill Spring. Our purpose is to:

1. Provide sufficient support so that the Village can meet its regulatory requirements, and to assist whomever the Village appoints as its CAO.
2. Leave fiscal flexibility within your approved 2023 operating budget to allow Village Council to determine if the Village hires a new, independent CAO, or if the Town determines to provide an employee to fill this role, and the Village accepts it as part of an expanded Administrative Service Contract.
3. Provide support for the Village to identify what the hours of operation and staffing needs of the Village office are.

We see this as an additional opportunity to further collaborate and strengthen our relationship by providing additional resources to the Village at an affordable price.

Sincerely,



Kurtis Pratt
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Raymond

CAO Report

COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 21, 2023

The following report is designed to provide Council with an update on the activities and projects of the Village. The report is not intended to provide an all encompassing review of Village activities. The intent is to provide Council with a brief update on some of the more note worthy activities and events.

Administration office

Reviewed technology challenges, information briefing provided to Council, still recommend layout changes for the Administration office, but have not had the time to draft layout recommendations for Council. Having spoken with Janet regarding workflow and office hours, and to reduce unnecessary milage, I would suggest I come out to the Village on Tuesdays instead of Monday. Meetings can be had privately without community interruptions and better workflow can be achieved.

Website

Web-site development continues to move forward. Administration has now gained administrative access to the current site and is working towards updating its content.

Marketing Materials

Having reviewed current available marketing materials, we would recommend the Village to invest in professional photos and video, for web-site, and marketing use.

MAP Review

Have reviewed information left by Janet and reviewed past email exchanges. My understanding is an extension was previously provided to June 30, 2023. One of the outstanding items is the LUB. Due to the staffing challenge with ORRSC in December and the draft plan to complete the LUB, it will not meet the extended deadline. I have phoned and emailed MA several times to discuss further, to date I haven't had a response back. As more information is learned I will communicate out to Council.

MSI

Reviewing proposed changes to MSI and assessing Village needs, present and ongoing.

Community Relations

Connecting and responding to internal and external queries. Primary focus over the past month have been inquiries relating to the Wind Project, land inquiries, and general inquiries. Several interested parties have submitted letters for Council (enclosed).

Municipal Enforcement

As directed by Council, we are looking into ongoing contract options to support the municipality as needed. We have received one submission to date. Will follow up with requests for service and present options to Council for consideration in April.

Village Manager return

As noted, Janet will return to office and her role as Village Manager as of April 18, 2023. Working on a plan to facilitate knowledge transfer, to ensure Janet's success.

Dog licences

Working on an updated listing, application and renewal procedure. New tags have been ordered and sure be in next week. Once everything is in place we will start community engagement around licensing, tags and renewals.

Viability Report

As Janet transitions back to the Village next Month we will provide her assistance towards the Villages final submission to MA.

Easements

I have reviewed Village documentation and reached out to parties for follow-up, and will provide more information to Council as known.

Dust Control

The County is working on calcium chloride pricing and will communicate this to the Village late Spring. Additionally I have connected with several additional municipalities regarding additional options for consideration, when information is fully compiled I will present to Council.

Road evaluations

We have reached out to the County to provide a

Hill Spring Neighbourhood News

Email: hill.spring.newsletter@gmail.com

Blog: Hillspringnewsletter.blogspot.com

If you find inaccurate information in this newsletter, please notify us by email at hill.spring.newsletter@gmail.com. Valid concerns will be addressed and corrections made in a subsequent edition.

February 28, 2023 Issue No.3 Rev 0

General Information

Spotlight on Business

DEMES ART STUDIO

Small town, Highest Degree of Excellence

What treasures we have in Hill Spring, living at Heinz and Patricia's Demes Stained Glass Studio in their home at the big old Schoolhouse on First. Do yourselves the great favour of visiting or revisiting their website, www.demesstainedglass.com.

This is not just coloured glass, it is stained glass design and painting on glass involving many layered intricate and complex processes of painting, etching, kiln firing and construction.

Looking through their online galleries, one marvels at the wonderful range and quality of their art and craft that can be found in these pages and in their storefront studio, the beauty of the glass, detail of the painting, unique design and the great variety of subject matter, from Christian representations to antique trains, planes and automobiles, and animals, and plants, a plethora of flora and fauna.

Their Cowboy Collection features various western-themed window hangings. The Custom Glass page shows many new designs available at their studio, any one a great addition to your home or business. This gallery welcomes commissions to produce your particular vision in paint, coloured glass, stained glass, painted glass, metal and other forms of artistic expression. Check out the site to find what these artists can produce.

Heinz and Patricia are working hard to increase their inventory. They hope to have their studio open to walk-in customers this summer, May to September. Until then please call (403) 626-3257 during business hours, 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday, or email demes.stainedglass@outlook.com to order from the catalogue or book an appointment.

Post Office:

Hours: MTWF 10:30-1,2-4
Th 2-5
Tel: 403-626-3092

Village Office:

Hours: M 8:30-4:30 (closed for lunch)
W 10-3
Tel: 403-626-3876

Waste Transfer Station:

Hours: WSat 10-4:30

Glenwood Library:

Hours: MT12-4,W1-5,Th 3-7
Tel: 403-942-8033

RCMP Non-emergency line:

Tel: 403-653-4932

Regular Council Meetings:

3rd Tuesday of the month 7 pm

In and Around the Village

Glenwood Library

Introduction to Computers

Tuesday, March 7, 12:00 to 1:30

Free Movie Night

Friday, March 17th 6.30 pm

Riplinger Wind Power Project

Town Hall Meetings

at Hill Spring Community Hall:

Concerned Citizens Group

Thursday March 2nd, 7pm

MLA

Friday March 3rd 6-8 pm

Annual Seed Exchange

Mar.25th 9-5 Hill Spring
Community Hall

For more info. call Patti
Faulkner 403-999-9485

"A gossip is a person who creates the smoke in which other people assume there's fire" - Dan Bennett

The Waterton Biosphere Reserve and the Trumpeter Swan

The Waterton Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve encompassing Waterton Lakes National Park. There is a buffer zone around the WBR and, further out, a transition zone in which Hill Spring lies. (See map on WBR website via link on blog)

WBR Vision: A special place where people work together to build resilient landscapes and communities, and where natural and cultural diversity are valued and sustained for current and future generations.

WBR Mission: By working collaboratively with individuals, organizations, governments and others, the WBR strives to achieve a balance between conserving biological diversity, promoting sustainable use of resources, and building the capacity of local people and organizations to positively affect their communities and the environment.

The Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association brings together local community members with government, non-government and others in carrying out the mission of WBR.

The area proposed by TransAlta for the Riplinger Wind Power Project includes the "transition zone" of the WBR in which Hill Spring lies. This includes bodies of water such as Dipping Vat and Strawberry Lakes. It is not clear if it also encroaches on the more sensitive "buffer zone" which lies closer to Waterton Lakes National Park.

Trumpeter swans were a species at risk in the recent past, populations now rebounding in some areas. There is a unique breeding population of these swans which call the WBR home in the spring and summer months. This population is not increasing in the same way as others in northern Alberta and Montana. During spring and fall migration, these birds may be using wetlands and small water bodies in our area for feeding and resting. Research and data collection is underway to find out more.

Habitat loss is a serious threat to Trumpeter swans. This can result from agricultural or industrial activities, wetland drainage, water diversion, etc.

Ideas for collaborative action can be sent by email to info@watertonbiosphere.com or mail to WBRA, PO Box 7, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0. Go to watertonbiosphere.com and look for "Stewarding Trumpeter Swans Through the Seasons".

Council Notes

Despite the cold, snowy weather, the Council Meeting was well attended by both village and county residents. Councillor Barfuss was not in attendance.

Land Use Bylaw

ORRSC representatives were scheduled to give an update on the Land Use Bylaw but were unable to attend due to road conditions. A timeline for completion of this bylaw shows that a draft is expected to be ready to present to the public at an open house in May.

Riplinger Wind Power Project

Barbara Baxter made a presentation on the potential negative economic impacts of the proposed Riplinger Wind Power Project. She stated that the problem is not the windmills, it is the location of the project. She noted that many small businesses have invested heavily and

capitalize on our magnificent views and proximity to Waterton Park. She read a letter from a local business, and also questioned what impact the project will have on property values. She closed with a plea to "just say no" to the windmills in this location and plan for a harmonious future that caters to agriculture, wilderness preservation and tourism. Her plea received a round of applause from the gallery.

Council's response was muted. Mayor Davis explained that in conversation with a County Councillor there was nothing that municipalities could do to influence the course of events. Councillor Nish asked Barbara what percentage of the village opposed the project, but she did not know. Councillor French recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

Joint Fire Services Agreement

Proposed changes to an agreement with Cardston County for joint fire services were discussed. This agreement can be found on the village website as part of the agenda package for the February meeting.

Snow Plow

The mayor reported back to council on the value of the trailer, backhoe and snow plow. Larry Gibb has offered to clear snow at no cost. The CAO reminded council that, as pointed out at the previous meeting, due to liability issues this might not be an option. The CAO will look into it and report back at next month.

CAO Report in Brief

Sound quality at council meetings continues to be a problem. CAO Patrick Roach suggested that council look at getting an audio/visual system and continue to use the community hall for meetings. This would involve costs not included in the budget. He also suggested that the office be reconfigured so it can function more efficiently and offer some means of providing privacy for confidential conversations. Some residents have expressed a desire to be able to view council meetings online. There was no response from council on any of these suggestions.

Development of the website is moving forward with a view to enhancing content which would inspire new development and encourage families to move here.

Current village office hours have presented a problem for some residents. Mondays should be avoided due to the impact of statutory holidays.

The Post Office has experienced some vandalism. Installation of security cameras may be a solution, again not in this year's budget. Also, any monitoring that would be required would add to the workload of office staff. Air conditioning in the Post Office should be considered. Increased use of the Community Hall has resulted in parking issues in front of the Post Office door, making it difficult for the mail truck to access the office. Mayor Davis said that the Village has No Parking signs and will get them put up. There has also been an accumulation of cigarette butts outside the village office and the post office. The CAO recommends a designated smoking area with butt disposal and signage. The estimated cost is \$800.

The CAO is still looking into road evaluation, dust control and snow removal. No updates were given on production of a newsletter by the village.

The meeting was then closed to the public for discussions on employee and legal matters.

Riplinger Wind Power Project Update

February 15, 2023

A meeting was held at the Community Hall and was attended by over 50 people from Hill Spring and surrounding area. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify information and identify issues surrounding this project.

February 16, 2023

Global News interviewed several local people opposed to the project. The story is online at <https://globalnews.ca/news/9495912/southern-alberta-wind-farm-concerns/>

February 17, 2023

TransAlta held a Community Engagement Open House at the Hill Spring Community Hall. It was very well attended. The people in charge were very courteous in trying to answer the many questions the community has. Over 100 people signed a petition to oppose the project as they entered the hall.

Laurie Tritschler from Shootin the Breeze newspaper was in attendance and published an article in The Canadian Press and Penticton Herald. The article is online at <https://shootinthebreeze.ca/concerns-raised-over-transaltas-riplinger-project/>

February 21, 2023 Council Meeting

Barbara Baxter made a presentation on the potential negative economic impacts of the project.

See Facebook page "Riplinger Wind Project Concerned Citizens" for more information about the project. Two Town Hall Meetings are scheduled Mar. 2nd and 3rd at the Community Hall.

Update on Trails Study

No more information has been disclosed on the amount of the remaining Trails Study funds which village council says will now go towards a drainage study.

Update on Dust Control

There is currently one sensor installed in the village which is having some technical issues. More information will be provided in future editions.

Public Participation

Public participation is the process by which a governing body engages the public in decision-making. It cannot take place in the absence of communication and transparency.

If Hill Spring is to survive and thrive, we have to work together to make this a place we can all call home. It is our responsibility as citizens to be interested, informed and involved in council issues that affect our daily lives and to hold our elected officials accountable. They were elected to represent us and it is their duty to be open, transparent and fair.

Public participation works both ways. If you have a question or concern, contact one of the councillors, call the village office, attend a council meeting or make a presentation to council. Our council cannot work to make improvements if they are not informed.

This independently produced newsletter has been created for the benefit of residents of Hill Spring and its neighbours. We welcome your input. **If you have news, stories or announcements for our community or corrections to previously published information, please contact us at hill.spring.newsletter@gmail.com.**

All issues of the publication are accessible online at HillSpringnewsletter.blogspot.com where you can also read old newsletters from 2009, 10 and 11 as well as other items of interest.

As there is no funding available at this time for printing, distribution of hard copies will be limited. If you have friends or neighbours who do not have internet access, please consider printing off a copy for them.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, December 1, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

ORRSC Conference Room (3105 - 16 Avenue North, Lethbridge) or ZOOM Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Colin Bexte (Absent)Village of Arrowwood
 Kent Bullock (Absent) Village of Barnwell
 Dan Doell (In Person)..... Village of Barons
 Mike Wetzstein (Absent) Town of Bassano
 Ray Juska (Absent) City of Brooks
 Roger Houghton (In Person) Cardston County
 Allan Burton (In Person) Town of Cardston
 Sue Dahl (Virtual)..... Village of Carmangay
 James F. Smith (Absent) Village of Champion
 Brad Schlossberger (In Person)..... Town of Claresholm
 Jesse Potrie (Absent) Town of Coalhurst
 Tanya Smith (In Person)..... Village of Coutts
 Barbara Burnett (In Person) Village of Cowley
 Dave Filipuzzi (Virtual) Mun. Crowsnest Pass
 Dean Ward (Virtual)..... Mun. Crowsnest Pass
 Stephen Dortch (In Person) Village of Duchess
 Gordon Wolstenholme (In Person)Town of Fort Macleod
 Mark Peterson (In Person)..... Village of Glenwood
 Suzanne French (Virtual) Village of Hill Spring
 Morris Zeinstra (Absent)Lethbridge County

Brad Koch (Absent) Village of Lomond
 Gerry Baril (In Person) Town of Magrath
 Peggy Losey (In Person) Town of Milk River
 Dean Melnyk (Absent) Village of Milo
 Victor Czop (Virtual)..... Town of Nanton
 Marinus de Leeuw (Absent)..... Town of Nobleford
 Teresa Feist (Absent) Town of Picture Butte
 Tony Bruder (Absent)..... M.D. of Pincher Creek
 Don Anderberg (Virtual) Town Pincher Creek
 Ronald Davis (Absent)..... M.D. of Ranchland
 Neil Sieben (In Person)..... Town of Raymond
 Don Norby (In Person)Town of Stavely
 Matthew Foss (In Person) Village of Stirling
 John DeGroot (Absent) MD of Taber
 Raymond Coad (Absent) Town of Vauxhall
 Christopher Northcott (In Person)..... Vulcan County
 Richard DeBolt (In Person) Town of Vulcan
 David Cody (In Person)..... County of Warner
 Marty Kirby (In Person)..... Village of Warner
 Evan Berger (In Person) M.D. Willow Creek

STAFF:

Bonnie Brunner Senior Planner
 Mike Burla Senior Planner
 Ryan Dyck Planner
 Steve Harty Senior Planner
 Raeanne Keer Executive Assistant

Lenze Kuiper Chief Administrative Officer
 Kattie Schlamp Assistant Planner
 Gavin Scott Senior Planner
 Jaime Thomas GIS Analyst
 Hailey Winder Planner

Chair Gordon Wolstenholme called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Christopher Northcott

THAT the Board adopts the Agenda for December 1, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED

2. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR 2023

**a. Members and Alternates 2023
- 2023 Meeting Calendar**

The Board reviewed the list of Member and Alternate Members for 2023 and the 2023 meeting calendar.

3. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2023

a. Nomination Information

M. Burla, Senior Planner, presented the Executive Committee Election process to the Board.

L. Kuiper stated that 1 nomination was received for the position of Chair, Mr. Gordon Wolstenholme of the Town of Fort Macleod.

L. Kuiper inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Chair.

There were none.

L. Kuiper inquired a second and third time to if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Chair, and there were none.

Mr. Gordon Wolstenholme was proclaimed Chair of the Executive Committee of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission Board of Directors.

L. Kuiper stated that 1 nomination was received for the position of Vice Chair, Mr. Don Anderberg of the Town of Pincher Creek.

L. Kuiper inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair.

There were none.

L. Kuiper inquired a second and third time to if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair, and there were none.

Mr. Don Anderberg was proclaimed Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission Board of Directors.

L. Kuiper, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that Administration had received 5 nomination forms during the nomination period for the Executive Committee Members, 1 rural member and 4 urban members. L. Kuiper reviewed the list of candidates, Victor Czap of the Town of Nanton, Christopher Northcott of Vulcan County, Jesse Potrie of the Town of Coalhurst, Brad Schlossberger of the Town of Claresholm, and Neil Sieben of the Town of Raymond.

L. Kuiper stated that in accordance with Board of Directors and Executive Committee Bylaw 2021-01, Section 15.2 the Executive Committee is to be comprised of a minimum of 2 urban members and 2 rural members and noted that at this time only 1 nomination from a rural member had been received.

L. Kuiper stated that the Board could continue through acclamation to accept the nominations that were received notwithstanding Section 15.2 of Bylaw 2021-01, or nominations could be received from the floor.

The Board discussed Bylaw 2021-01 and the rural members present at the Organizational Meeting.

Allan Burton, Town of Cardston, nominated David Cody of the County of Warner as a member of the Executive Committee.

Roger Houghton, Cardston County, seconded the nomination of David Cody, County of Warner to the Executive Committee.

D. Cody accepted the nomination.

David Cody and Christopher Northcott were acclaimed to the Executive Committee to fulfill the rural membership requirements in accordance with Bylaw 2021-01, therefore they were not included on the election ballots.

ORRSC staff handed out ballots to eligible voting members of the Board, and completed ballots were collected.

The Board continued with the meeting as ORRSC Staff tallied the ballots.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: Brad Schlossberger

THAT the Board approves the meeting minutes of September 1, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. REPORTS

- a. Executive Committee Report**
 - **September 2022 – November 2022**

Chair Wolstenholme presented the Executive Committee Report to the Board

7. BUSINESS

- a. Proposed 2023 Budget**
- **Proposed Budget for Consideration**

L. Kuiper presented the proposed 2023 Budget, highlighting an increase to membership fees, subdivision fees, and a cost-of-living increase for staff salaries and wages.

L. Kuiper stated that the budget was reviewed by the Executive Committee at their October and November 2022 Meetings, and in November a resolution was passed to present the 2023 Budget to the Board of Directors and recommended that the Board approves the Budget as presented.

- b. Proposed 5 Year Capital Plan**
- **2023-2027**

L. Kuiper presented the proposed 5 Year Capital Plan to the Board, highlighting that a third vehicle will be purchased in 2023, from funds that were budgeted in 2020 but not spent as a third vehicle was not needed during the pandemic.

Moved by: Richard DeBolt

THAT the Board approves the 2023 Budget and 5 Year Capital Plan, as presented.

CARRIED

4. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2023 - continued

- a. Nomination Information – continued**

M. Burla announced that the votes for the Executive Committee Members had been tallied.

M. Burla stated that the following candidates, in no specific order, were elected to the Executive Committee:

- Jesse Potrie
- Brad Schlossberger
- Neil Sieben.

The Board congratulated the 2023 Executive Committee Members.

Moved by: Christopher Northcott

THAT the Board approves the destruction of the 2023 Executive Committee ballots.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS - continued

c. Subdivision Activity
- As of October 2022

L. Kuiper presented the subdivision statistics as of October 31, 2022, noting that they do vary from year to year depending on several economic factors.

d. Assessment Appeal Activity
- 2022 Assessment Appeal Board Statistics

L. Kuiper presented the 2022 Assessment Appeal Board statistics to the Board.

e. Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Statistics
- As of November 2022

L. Kuiper presented the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board statistics, as of November 2022 to the Board.

f. ORRSC Periodical & GIS Update

R. Dyck, Planner, presented the Winter 2022 edition of the ORRSC Periodical.

J. Thomas, GIS Analyst, presented an update on current and future GIS projects.

8. ACCOUNTS

a. Balance Sheet and Comparative Income Statement
- As of October 31, 2022

L. Kuiper presented the Balance Sheet and Comparative Income Statements as of October 31, 2022.

Moved by: Gerry Baril

THAT the Board approves Balance Sheet and Comparative Income State, as of October 31, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED

L. Kuiper presented 15 Year Service Awards to Bonnie Brunner and Gavin Scott.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

10. NEXT MEETING – March 2, 2023; 7:00 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further questions and nothing further to discuss, Chair Gordon Wolstenholme adjourned the meeting, the time being 8:20 pm.



Gordon Wolstenholme, Chair



Lenze Kulper, Chief Administrative Officer

Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 - Cardston County



Board Representatives

Brent Feyter, Fort Macleod
Brad Schlossberger, Claresholm
Barbara Burnett, Cowley
Cam Francis, Cardston County
Blair Painter, Crowsnest Pass
Tim Court, Cardston
John Van Driesten, MD Willow Creek

Victor Czop, Nanton (alt)
Rick Lemire, MD Pincher Creek (alt)
Dale Gugala, Stavelly
Keith Robinson, Waterton
Resource Staff and Guests
Linda Erickson, PrairiesCan
Tony Walker, CF Alberta Southwest
Bev Thornton, AlbertaSW

- 1 Call to Order/ Chair Brent Feyter called the meeting to order.
- 2 Approval of Agenda Moved by Cam Francis THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
Carried. [2023-02-835]
- 3 Approval of Minutes Moved by Blair Painter THAT the Minutes of December 7, 2022, be approved as presented.
Carried. [2023-02-836]
- 4 Approval of Cheque Register Moved by Dale Gugala THAT cheques #3149 to #3172 be approved as presented.
Carried. [2023-02-837]
- 5 Economic Development 101 for Elected Officials This training event will be held on February 10, 2023 in Fort Macleod. Reminders will follow up with each community to confirm attendance.
- 6 EDA Leaders' Summit and Conference Economic Developers Alberta Conference will be held April 12-14, 2023, in Kananaskis. www.edaalberta.ca for details
- 7 Blackfoot Signage Project AlbertaSW and Community Futures will take next steps to draft a proposed project plan for communications, research, scope and options.
- 8 On-line tools/resources AlbertaSW website platform and content will be updated. AlbertaSW and Community Futures have partnered to implement Connect4Commerce on-line tool for investment opportunities in all communities. AlbertaSW, SouthGrow and Economic Development Lethbridge have partnered to implement localintel tool that will have comprehensive regional data and offer capacity for any community to opt in and have its own data displayed. Further follow up with CAOs and EDOs.
- 9 Expression of Interest and Qualifications (EIQ) Board reviewed the draft of a request for Expressions of Interest from service providers in the region who can provide Research and Communication Services. Consensus: circulate the request and compile a Resource List for future projects.
- 10 NRED Grant Application An application has been submitted to the Northern and Regional Economic Development Grant program to develop an inventory of assets, products and services related to manufacturing, energy, construction, ag processing (MECAP).

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 11 | Operations Plan and Reporting | The 2023-2024 Operations Plan was submitted in mid-January, and the provincial funding contract for next fiscal year was signed on February 1, 2023. Operations Plan available by request to bev@albertasouthwest.com |
| 12 | Executive Director Report | Accepted as information. |
| 13 | Roundtable Reports | Accepted as information. |
| 14 | Upcoming Board Meeting | ➤Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Claresholm |
| 15 | Adjourn | Moved by Blair Painter THAT the meeting be adjourned.
Carried. [2023-02-838] Approved March 1, 2023 |

Executive Director Report February 2023

MEETINGS and PRESENTATIONS

- Feb 1: AlbertaSW Board meeting, Cardston
- Feb 2: Meeting with Alberta Ag Investment attraction team re: Glenwood facility, Teams
- Feb 3: Meeting with Pincher Creek EDO and Energy Manager, Zoom
- Feb 3: Meeting with Growth Alberta Chair re: REDA presentation at EDA, Zoom
- Feb 7: RINSA meeting, Lethbridge Chamber office
- Feb 7: Small Business Stakeholder Consultation, Minister Martin Long, Provincial Building, Lethbridge
- Feb 8: REDA Managers meeting re: EDA, Zoom
- Feb 8: Meeting with CF Highwood, Teams
- Feb 9: Meeting with Green Destinations re: 2023 audit, Zoom
- Feb 9: Meeting with ATCO and University of Lethbridge prof and students re: mapping project, Teams
- Feb 9: Webinar re: Alberta Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit, Teams
- Feb 10: EDA Economic Development 101 for Elected Officials, Fort Macleod
- Feb 13: Project Copper-Invest Alberta Partner information Session, Teams
- Feb 14: Ag Value Added Investments, Alberta Ag and JEND, Teams
- Feb 14: Green Destinations and Crown Geotourism Council, introductory meeting, Zoom
- Feb 15: Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL) Board meeting, Tecconnect
- Feb 15: AltaLink presentation to MD Pincher Creek [regrets]
- Feb 16: Meeting with ATCO and University of Lethbridge prof and students re: mapping project, Teams
- Feb 17: Meeting with REDA Managers re: presentation at EDA, Zoom
- Feb 17: H3TDA Board Meeting, Teams

Feb 22: Invest Alberta-Alberta Ag Investment Team meeting re: Saputo facility, Teams

Feb 23: Energy Forum, Claresholm (cancelled)

Feb 23: Planning meeting with RDN and InnoVisions, re: READI Employer workshop, Zoom

Feb 23: AEDO Committee meeting, Zoom

Feb 27: RINSA partners meeting with entrepreneur, Zoom

PROJECT MANAGEMENT and REPORTING

- Preparation for Elected Officials 101
- CARES final report submitted (Feb 28)
- Draft EDA Award submissions (due March 10)
- Responses to investor inquiries from Alberta Ag, JEND and Invest Alberta
- Provide additional documents to Travel Alberta consultations
- Compile regional and community profile information for Connect4Commerce
- Further planning for multi-regional localintel project with SouthGrow and EDL

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION and REGIONAL PROMOTION

- Develop details for REDA presentation at EDA 2023
- University of Lethbridge student mapping project based on ATCO Peaks to Prairies data
- Investment inquiries from Alberta Ag
- Investment inquiries from Invest Alberta
- Set up ongoing regular “Investment Opportunity Network” (ION) meetings
- Circulate call for expressions of interest for web and media services resource list

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ Tuesday March 7, 2023

Green Destinations Award presentations at ITB Berlin Conference.

❖ Monday, March 27, 2023

Newcomer Employment Workshop

10:30am-3:00pm, lunch included

REO Hall, 470- 17 St Fort Macleod

Details in separate document.

❖ March 30, 2023

SouthGrow Economic Summit – details coming soon.

Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge

Details in separate document.

Alberta SouthWest Bulletin February 2023

Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) Update

❖ Conversation with the MLA

Always a pleasure when Livingstone-Macleod MLA Roger Reid can join us. We appreciate his advocacy for the region, supporting initiatives in housing, education, and workforce development, representing Alberta interests as part of the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER).



❖ Education Innovation

Lori Hodges, Livingstone Range School Division trustee, reported on forward-thinking initiatives. Did you know?

➤ There are 64 students from Austria, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and Turkey attending high school in Nanton, Claresholm, Fort Macleod, Pincher Creek, and Crowsnest Pass. The goal is to have up to 15 international students in each school, and there is opportunity to be a host family for a student. This is an enriching experience, building international relationships and friendships.

➤ Students can earn high school AND post-secondary credit! Collaboration and partnership with southern Alberta post-secondary institutions provides students opportunities and choice to begin career pathways. At a limited charge to students, courses may be offered at a high school, at the University or College, online or a combination of both. High school students gain a deeper understanding of the college or university experience! <https://www.lrsd.ca/services/lrsd-pursuit/dual-credit>

❖ Connect4Commerce is underway

AlbertaSW, in partnership with Community Futures, is implementing a business-to-business platform to list and promote investment opportunities in all our communities. Each community has identified a municipal contact person to collaboratively learn how the system will work, and to create a system and process that will be an effective way to promote investment opportunities. More details to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ Monday, March 27, 2023

10:30am-3:00pm, lunch included - REO Hall, 470-17 St Fort Macleod.

Rural Development Network Pilot Project to add talent to our workforce!

Newcomer Workshop for Employers

➤ Contact bev@albertasouthwest.com for details and link to register.

This “speed learning” format is an opportunity to network with other local businesses and share key concepts such as:

- The needs of newcomers in the workplace
- Settlement, integration, and inclusion
- Best practices for employers from all industries

Alberta SouthWest Regional Economic Development Alliance

International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO)

2018-2022 Green Destinations Top 100 Sustainable Global Destinations and 2020 Top 3 Best of the Americas

Box 1041 Pincher Creek AB T0K 1W0

403-627-0244 (cell)

bev@albertasouthwest.com

www.albertasouthwest.com





ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

AR111005

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

My colleague, the Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, has tabled *Budget 2023* in the Alberta Legislature. I am writing to share information with you about how *Budget 2023* impacts municipalities.

Alberta's government is helping to secure Alberta's future by investing almost \$1 billion to build stronger communities across our province. The Municipal Affairs budget reflects an overall increase of \$45.2 million from the previous budget. These investments will continue to support municipalities in providing well-managed, collaborative, and accountable local government to Albertans.

We have heard frequently how important it is for Alberta municipalities to secure reliable, long-term funding for infrastructure and services in your communities. Through *Budget 2023*, capital support for municipalities is being maintained with \$485 million provided through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). In addition, we are doubling MSI operating funding to \$60 million. The estimated 2023 MSI allocations are available on the program website at www.alberta.ca/municipal-sustainability-initiative.aspx.

Next year, we will be introducing the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), an updated framework that ties funding to provincial revenue changes, which will ensure sustainable funding levels for the province and allow municipalities to plan more effectively for the future. The baseline funding amount for the LGFF will be \$722 million in 2024/25. Furthermore, we heard your feedback and, subject to approval by the Legislature, are updating the legislation so that this amount will increase or decrease at 100 per cent of the percentage change in provincial revenues from three years prior, rather than 50 per cent as legislated. Based on the most current financial data and subject to approval of the legislation, we anticipate funding for municipalities will increase by 12.6 per cent to approximately \$813 million for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

The federal Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which provides infrastructure funding to municipalities throughout the province, will see an increase of \$11.1 million to Alberta. The estimated 2023 CCBF allocations are available on the program website at www.alberta.ca/canada-community-building-fund.aspx.

MSI and CCBF program funding is subject to the Legislative Assembly's approval of *Budget 2023*. Individual allocations and 2023 funding are subject to ministerial authorization under the respective program guidelines. Federal CCBF funding is also subject to confirmation by the Government of Canada. Municipalities can anticipate receiving letters confirming MSI and CCBF funding commitments in April.

.../2

I am pleased to inform you that an additional \$3 million in grant funding is being committed in support of local public library boards, which means an increase of at least five per cent for all library boards. This funding increase will help maintain the delivery of critical literacy and skill-building resources to Albertans. There will also be an increase of \$800,000 in funding to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal to expand capacity for timely surface rights decisions.

Additionally, *Budget 2023* will provide an increase of \$500,000 to provide fire services training grants. Public safety is always a priority, and while we respect that fire services is a municipal responsibility, our government recognizes that a strong provincial-municipal partnership remains key to keeping Albertans safe.

As we all look forward to the year ahead, I want to re-iterate that Alberta municipalities remain our partners in economic prosperity and in delivering the critical public services and infrastructure that Albertans need and deserve. Municipal Affairs remains committed to providing sustainable levels of capital funding, promoting economic development, and supporting local governments in the provision of programs and services.

Alberta's economy has momentum, and we are focused on even more job creation and diversification as we continue to be the economic engine of Canada. At the same time, we recognize Albertans are dealing with the financial pressures of high inflation.

Budget 2023 will help grow our economy while also strengthening health care, improving public safety, and providing relief to Albertans through the inflation crisis. Alberta's government will do its part by remaining steadfastly committed to responsible management, paying down the debt, and saving for tomorrow.

With these priorities in mind, we will move forward together in fulfilling Alberta's promise and securing a bright and prosperous future for Alberta families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister

MINUTES OF THE CARDSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2023, AT THE CARDSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY BUILDING

Board Members Present:

Tom Nish – Cardston County
Cam Francis – Cardston County

Paula Brown – Town of Cardston
Sandy Lybbert – Village of Glenwood

Others Present:

Danny Melvin – Fire Chief
Spencer Olsen – Deputy Fire Chief

Suzanne Pierson - Secretary

Commenced at 5:15 p.m.

Paula Brown in the chair.

Opening Prayer: Paula Brown

AGENDA

Cam Francis moved to approve the agenda.

Carried

MINUTES

Tom Nish moved to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2023; meeting as presented.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Paula Brown advised that the Town of Cardston has paid their requisition. Danny Melvin is waiting for the payments from the other municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

Danny Melvin reported that the January Emergency Services statistics are as follows: 3 MVC's, 1 structure fire (Blood Tribe) and 1 MFR.

Danny Melvin reported that he sent out a QMP and has received a resolution from the Village of Glenwood but is still waiting on the Village of Hill Spring.

Danny Melvin advised that the SCBA bottles have been tested. Casino funds have been approved to replace all those that have expired within the Authority.

Danny Melvin reported that the Fire Truck has been pushed back until March 2024.

Danny Melvin advised that he has been unofficially told that the Waterton contract will be extended until October 2024.

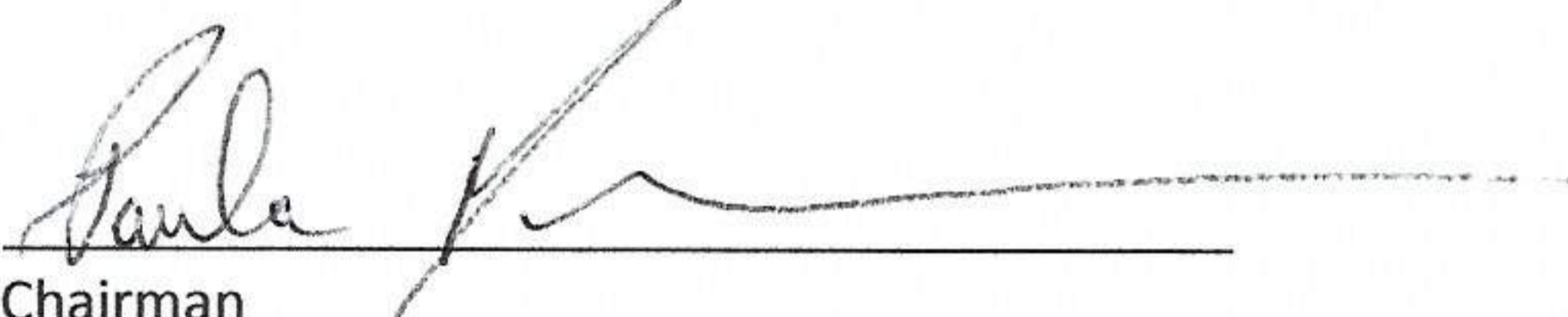
Tom Nish moved to approve Danny Melvin's report. Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Cam Francis moved to adjourn. Carried

Adjournment at 5:22 p.m.

Next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. at the Cardston County Emergency Services Building.



Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE CHIEF MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING HELD
FEBRUARY 8, 2023, AT THE TOWN OF MAGRATH.**

Members Present:

Brian Wickhorst – Village of Glenwood
Byrne Cook – Town of Magrath
Bryce Coppieters – Town of Raymond
Tyler Lindsay – Village of Warner
Randy Taylor – County of Warner

Tanya Smith – Village of Coutts
Wayne Harris – Cardston County
Larry Liebelt – Town of Milk River
Gary Bikman – Village of Stirling

Others Present:

Marian Carlson – SEO
Suzanne Pierson- Secretary/Treasurer

Lee Beazer – Operator

Commenced at 2:24 pm

Gary Bikman in the Chair.

AGENDA

Bryce Coppieters moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

MINUTES

Larry Liebelt moved that the minutes of the January 11, 2023, regular board meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Tanya Smith inquired as to the doors at the Milk River Transfer Station. The Operator advised that Lethbridge Door Systems has been contacted again regarding the door at the Milk River Transfer Station. They have ordered the materials and are waiting for them to come in.

NEW BUSINESS

The SEO advised that she has been working with both Hakon Skoien and Kim Welby on the projects they have been tasked to complete.

The SEO reported that there is a Community Energy Forum on February 23, 2023, in Claresholm and will be attended by the Operator.

Wayne Harris approved the SEO's report. Carried

The Operator reported that 751.265 tonnes of waste were delivered to the Landfill in January 2023 making the year-to-date total 751.265 tonnes.

Bryce Coppieters moved to approve the Operator's report. Carried

Financial Statement

The Financial Statement for December 31, 2022 was reviewed.

Randy Taylor moved to accept the December 31, 2022, Financial Statement. Carried

Approval of Bills

Bills for the month of January 2023 were reviewed.

Tanya Smith moved to approve the bills for January 2023. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from four municipalities (Town of Cardston, Town of Magrath, Town of Raymond, and Village of Stirling) regarding concerns and suggestions for the future of the Commission. The board inquired if a waste analysis should be completed again as was done for the Best Practice Study. The board would like the SEO to respond to the correspondence.

23-02 Randy Taylor moved to send a letter in reply to the four municipalities. Carried

A letter from the Town of Magrath regarding the intent to annex land.

23-03 Tyler Lindsay moved to have a letter of response sent to the Town of Magrath. Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Bryce Coppieters moved meeting adjourned.

Adjournment at 2:55 p.m.

Next Commission board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the conclusion of the planning session at the Town of Magrath.



Chairman

NEWCOMER EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

for local employers

***no cost for
registered
participants**

Monday, March 27, 2023

**REO Hall, Fort Macleod
470-17 St. | 10:30 am to 3:00 pm
lunch included**

**Network with other local
businesses and learn about:**

- The needs of newcomers in the workplace
- Settlement, integration & inclusion
- Intercultural training
- Best practices

To register, contact:

**soheilah@ruraldevelopment.ca or
ztaylor@lfsfamily.ca | 403-320-1589**



WHAT WILL I LEARN?



Module 1 - Newcomers in the Community and Workplace

- Settlement, Integration and Social Inclusion
- Best practices for integrating new workers/orientation into the workforce
- Case studies - Employers who were successful in their integration of newcomers
- Welcoming and inclusive organizations and communities
- Strategies for measuring and developing workplace inclusion



Module 2 - Intercultural Training

- Understanding equity, diversity and inclusion
- Communicating with workers whose first language is not English
- Intercultural communication and conflict management
- Understanding culture, tradition and customs
- Bridging the gap between newcomer and local workers
- **Networking with other local employers from various industries**

*Modules will include associated workbooks, slides and resources for employers

To register, contact:
soheilah@ruraldevelopment.ca or
ztaylor@lfsfamily.ca | 403-320-1589

A message from the Alberta Ombudsman

Communications <communications@ombudsman.ab.ca>

Tue 3/14/2023 1:25 PM

To: Communications <communications@ombudsman.ab.ca>

Good afternoon!

People relying on government programs expect fair treatment when a decision affects their lives and wellbeing. Most of the time, public services are delivered effectively and, in the public's best interest. However, when problems arise, the Ombudsman's office is here to listen and objectively investigate complaints.

Recently, I was honoured to be sworn in as Alberta's tenth Ombudsman. The purpose of this email is to introduce myself and my office to public agencies, advocacy services and organizations serving people who may be struggling. If your organization recognizes a person is feeling stuck or uncertain as to how to move their complaint forward, we may be able to help. Complaints can be submitted in a variety of ways, including through our secure online complaint form, email, and regular mail. We have [promotional material](#) to help or this video explains [how to complain](#).

Some of you may have collaborated with our office before, or this may be the first time you have heard of us. If you are interested in learning more about the Ombudsman's role, the Canadian Council of Parliamentary Ombudsman is releasing a series of podcasts called *Making it Fair*. Our submission is episode four, "**No**" is **Never a Complete Sentence** and has just been released.

We hope you enjoy listening: <https://ccpo-ccop.ca/podcasts/>

Sincerely,

Kevin Brezinski

Alberta Ombudsman

OMB – 1-888-780-427-2756

www.ombudsman.ab.ca



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and contains information that is strictly confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, distribution or copying of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message and any attachments in error, please notify the sender immediately, and delete this message and any attachments from your computer system, and refrain from saving or copying this communication or forwarding it to any other recipient.

Please note: Any materials prepared as a result of a complaint submitted to the Ombudsman, including the complaint itself, and any material produced by the Ombudsman, such as this email, cannot be used in any other proceedings, including before a board or court. This applies whether you or the Ombudsman have possession of any of these materials.

Our Mission

The Alberta Ombudsman provides oversight to ensure fair treatment through independent investigations, recommendations and education for all Albertans.

Our Values

Integrity. Respect. Accountability. Independence.

We also value a working environment that embraces diversity, fosters personal and professional growth, collaboration and innovation.

Our Role

The Ombudsman:

- Is an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly
- Does not report to any Minister, Executive Council or other individual
- Provides impartial and objective, third-party oversight
- Makes recommendations to improve decisions and/or decision-making processes



Get in Touch

Edmonton Office:

9925 - 109 Street NW, Suite 700
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
Phone: 780.427.2756
Fax: 780.427.2759

Calgary Office:

801 - 6 Avenue SW, Suite 2560
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3W2
Phone: 403.297.6185
Fax: 403.297.5121

Toll free: 1.888.455.2756
Email: info@ombudsman.ab.ca
Website: www.ombudsman.ab.ca
Follow us on Twitter: @AB_Ombudsman



www.ombudsman.ab.ca

**Your voice
of fairness.**

The Alberta Ombudsman is the office of last resort. If you have completed all available appeals and exhausted all available reviews, you may register a complaint with our office.

www.ombudsman.ab.ca

Our Jurisdiction

The Ombudsman can investigate any administrative decision, recommendation, act or omission of:

- Alberta provincial government departments, agencies, boards and commissions
- Alberta municipalities
- Patient Concerns Resolution Process of Alberta Health Services
- Self-regulated health professions proclaimed under the *Health Professions Act* such as the Alberta College of Optometrists
- Other designated professional authorities such as accounting, forestry, veterinarian and agrologist professions

The Ombudsman cannot investigate:

- Decisions made by the Federal government
- Members of the Legislative Assembly
- Federal or municipal police forces
- Decisions made by universities or schools
- Decisions made by the courts
- Private businesses or private matters

Making a Complaint

HERE'S HOW

- 1 Complete our online complaint form at www.ombudsman.ab.ca or submit your complaint in writing should you not have access to the internet
- 2 Provide specific information about your complaint, your name and contact information (address, telephone number, email, etc.)
- 3 Identify in your complaint the name of the department, agency or organization you are complaining about; include names and titles of the individuals you have dealt with
- 4 Explain what you have done to resolve the problem and why you feel you were treated unfairly
- 5 Describe the result or outcome that you seek
- 6 Provide a copy of the final decision or latest correspondence you received to help us understand your complaint

Complaint Received

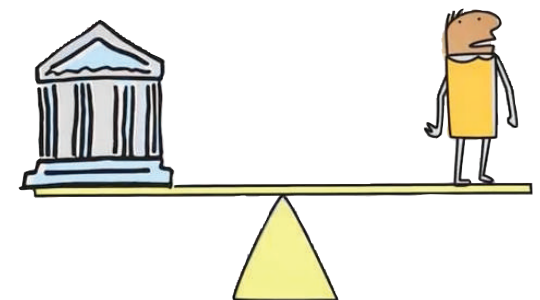
Once the complaint has been received, the Ombudsman will review the information and determine if an investigation is warranted.

If your complaint is accepted, we will:

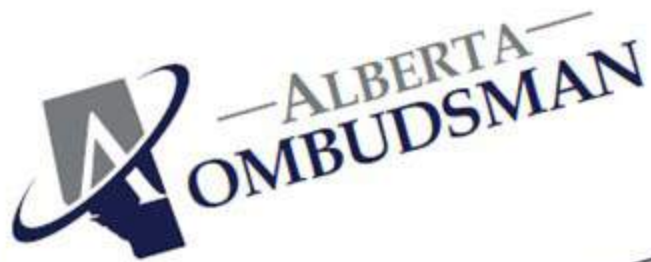
- Contact you and discuss your complaint
- Contact the department, agency, or designated professional organization and provide them an opportunity to respond
- Advise of the outcome of any investigation to the appropriate department, agency, or designated professional organization involved and
- Provide you with a letter explaining the final outcome of our investigation

The Alberta Ombudsman's office responds to complaints of unfair treatment by authorities and organizations identified in the *Ombudsman Act*.


If you are unsure if your complaint falls within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction, please contact us for further information. The Ombudsman is open, approachable and responsive to questions and concerns of Albertans seeking our assistance.



We are here to help.



The Alberta Ombudsman's office responds to complaints of unfair treatment by authorities and organizations identified in the *Ombudsman Act*.

 Your voice
of *fairness*.

Integrity. Respect. Accountability. Independence.

We can investigate any administrative decision, recommendation, act or omission of:

- Alberta provincial government departments, agencies, boards and commissions
- Alberta municipalities
- Patient Concerns Resolution Process of Alberta Health Services
- Self-regulated health professions proclaimed under the *Health Professions Act* such as the Alberta College of Optometrists
- Other designated professional authorities such as accounting, forestry, veterinarian and agrologist professions

If you have a complaint about an administrative decision that you feel is unfair and you have exhausted all available avenues of review or appeal, contact us.

www.ombudsman.ab.ca

Email: info@ombudsman.ab.ca
Twitter: @AB_Ombudsman
Toll Free: 1.888.455.2756

Edmonton
9925 - 109 Street NW, Suite 700
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
Phone: 780.427.2756

Calgary
801 - 6 Avenue SW, Suite 2560
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3W2
Phone: 403.297.6185

Concerned about Wind Project

Celie French <[REDACTED]>

Tue 2/21/2023 7:47 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

2 attachments (195 KB)

Proposed Riplinger Wind Project docx; Riplinger Wind Turbine Project- Concerned Citizen docx;

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing you an email in regard to the proposed TransAlta's Riplinger Wind Project located 30 km Southeast of Pincher Creek in Cardston County.

To date, my family has not received a formal information package for this project from TransAlta.

I have serious concerns about the lack of adequate community engagement for residents of Hill Spring Village, Cardston County, and the MD of Pincher Creek: all of whom will be directly affected by a large-scale wind farm project directly adjacent to the village and will obstruct all of our precious views, not to mention the abundant impacts and serious threat to the quality of life, the environmental impacts to this sensitive landscape and economic impacts to our property values.

The French family has been ranchers and landowners since 1912. This area is our home and we are concerned about how this will affect our future. The Village of Hill Spring should be concerned about what this means to our community.

I have attached a document with detailed information and concerns on the project.

Thank you for your time and I am looking forward to hearing from you,
Celie French

Feb. 15, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

ATTN: Riplinger Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing this letter as an extremely concerned resident of Hill Spring, who will be directly affected by the proposed Riplinger Wind Farm Project. To date, I have not received a formal information package for this project from TransAlta. I have serious concerns about the lack of adequate community engagement for residents of Hill Spring Village, Cardston County, and the MD of Pincher Creek; all of whom will be directly affected by a large-scale wind farm project directly adjacent to the village and will obstruct all of our precious views not to mention the abundant impacts and serious threat to the quality of life, the environmental impacts to this sensitive landscape and economic impacts to our property values.

The project community information itself has many inconsistencies. TransAlta has cited online 46 wind turbines over 14,000 acres in the document attached to this email, however, the project description online cites 67 wind turbines (<https://transalta.com/about-us/our-operations/projects-in-development/riplinger/> and https://transalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Newsletter_Riplinger_Final.pdf). That is a large inconsistency. There will be Phase 2 of this project, a transmission line for inter-connectivity will need to be built and the online proposal only shows the indication that it will be connecting 27.5 km north-west of the Riplinger Wind Power Project the west of Brocket and will consist of 45 km of transmission line. There is no documentation that is publicly available to show where this proposed transmission line route is planned. It will certainly impact Hill Spring Village, MD of Pincher Creek and Cardston County residents as well. It is imperative that this route is disclosed to concerned members of these communities and areas. Open House is cited as taking place on both Feb. 16 and 17 in the newsletter however, the open house ad states it is on Feb. 17 only. (<https://transalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Riplinger-Open-House-Ad.pdf> and https://transalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Newsletter_Riplinger_Final.pdf).

Members of these communities live and reside here because we cherish the intact landscape, our environment and fresh water, wildlife, and tremendous views. A development of this scale will absolutely affect all of these things.

The Riplinger Project will be situated within one of the most environmentally sensitive environments in Alberta, if not Canada. This project falls within the Buffer Area of the Waterton Biosphere Reserve, one of 19 UNESCO biosphere reserves in Canada. It falls within a provincial Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone, which is important for winter ungulate range, wildlife movement corridors, and key habitat for many species, including many species at risk and federally listed and protected species. The project also falls within a provincial Environmentally Significant Area, meaning it plays a key role in the long-term health of the natural habitat, landscape features, and natural process, as defined by Alberta Parks.

Land conservation in this area is critically important. It holds the highest biodiversity in Canada and features an unique and intact ecosystem. Wildlife corridors are important for many wildlife species for access to different habitats throughout the year. Natural grassland ecosystems are at-risk globally and particularly in the foothills of Southern Alberta, where intact fescue grassland ecosystems are an endangered ecosystem. These fescue grasslands are host to a large proportion of species at risk including, but not limited to, trumpeter swans, ferruginous hawks, little brown bats, bank swallows, barn swallows, sharp-tailed grouse leks, prairie falcons, short-eared owls, common nighthawk, and several at-risk birds, bat and amphibian species. Fescue grasslands are a priority for conservation because they are incredibly sensitive to disturbances, out-competed by introduced plant species, and are slow to regenerate. They provide important habitats for grassland birds, sequester carbon and provide important forage for ungulates and cattle alike.

The proposed area is also host to a huge network of wetlands and two major river systems, the Belly River and the Waterton River and Waterton Reservoir. We know that many bird species use these areas for staging, breeding, and nesting habitat. We also know that endangered species of bats nest and roost in the river areas. The flyover area for migrating raptors in this area is one of the largest in all of North America. We also know that wind farms are deadly to avian species and they should not be built on the edges of river valleys and adjacent to large bodies of water or along major migration routes and wildlife corridors. Riparian habitats are significant conservation areas, they support high biodiversity, help protect water quality and provide important wildlife movement corridors.

The project is proposed in an area of dark sky within proximity to a Dark Sky Preserve. Waterton Lakes National Park/ Glacier National Park is adjacent to the southwest of the project site and is a Dark Sky Preserve both parks have recognized the importance conservation of dark skies as a priority. This dark sky quality absolutely encompasses the areas adjacent to the parks and into the proposed project footprint. Lights on turbines will directly affect the integrity of the dark sky area for this entire region.

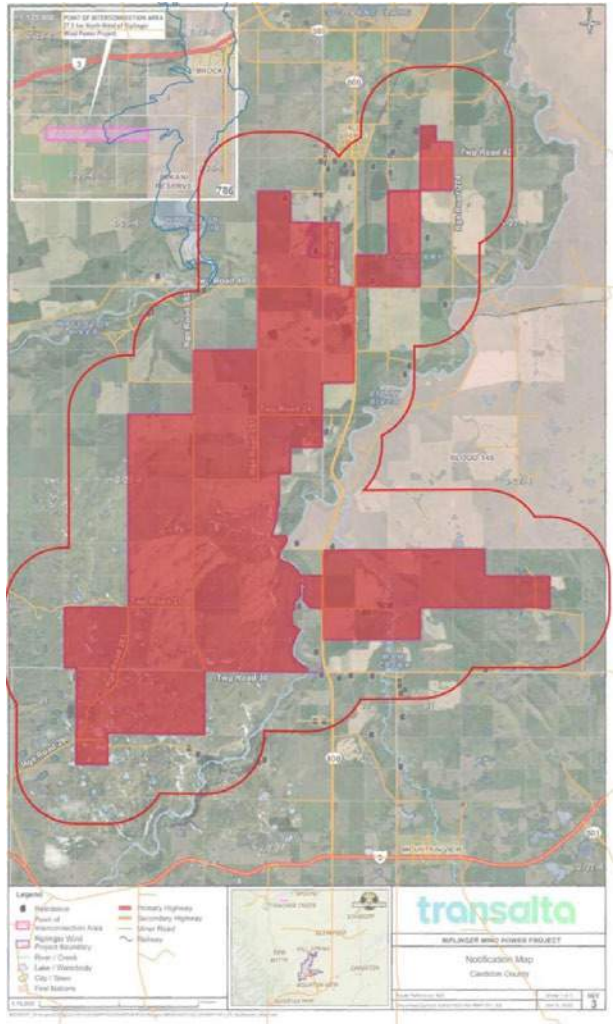
Cumulative Effects studies have shown negative effects of Wind Development in these areas. The Miistakis Institute developed a land use tool to aid with responsible and sustainable land use development called MLUST (http://www.communityconserve.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MLUST-Report_FINAL_Nov2020.pdf). Does Cardston County have any land use planning tools that incorporate environmentally sustainable practices and avoid wildlife corridors and connectivity and intact landscapes? The MD of Pincher Creek also has an Intermunicipal Development Plan with Cardston County (<https://www.mdpinchercreek.ab.ca/docs/files/bylaws/Bylaw%201308-19%20Cardston%20Intermunicipal%20Development%20Plan.pdf>); is the MD of Pincher Creek aware of this project and whether its development on sensitive lands breaches this agreement?

When will the Environmental Protection Plan be made available to the public? I would like detailed information addressing the exact environmental surveys and qualifications of the biologists who performed them. Were these surveys performed on all of the affected lands or were areas excluded because of landowner permission? Were they extensive and comprehensive surveys on foot or only from the roadside when access was not granted? Were amphibian surveys performed? Were bear den surveys performed? Were rare plant surveys performed? The current Directive for Wildlife management can be found here: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/2d992aec-2437-4269-9545-cd433ee0d19a/resource/e77d2f25-19dc-4c9e-8b87-99d86cd875f1/download/wildlifewindenergydirective-sep17-2018.pdf>.

Economic concerns have also been raised. It is recognized that the Village of Hill Spring itself will not benefit economically from this project even though it will be built directly adjacent to and nearly surrounding the entire community in close proximity. Certainly, this will affect property values, since once this is complete it will affect the aesthetics of the community and tourism opportunities. What will be the footprint of road development not only for each turbine for maintenance but also for the development of the MD roads to facilitate the build? Where will the gravel come from? (There is documentation of federally listed bank swallows nesting in local gravel pits). What is the realistic long-term employment of any local people for this project, beyond construction? Will there be a work camp put in place to house and feed the construction workers brought in for the build?

Lastly, why have only a certain handful of community members been contacted formally rather than the entire collective community? I have serious concerns that adequate community engagement is not taking place, which would be in breach of TransAlta's requirements for the application of this project.

Sincerely,
Celie French



The red shaded area is the proposed wind farm area. Only the people within the shaded area (and a handful of people directly adjacent) received “stakeholder” info packages.

Anyone within 1500M of the proposed area, within the red line, are required to be considered “stakeholders” and should have been notified. This would include most of the Village of Hill Spring and the vast majority of those within the required 1500M were not, and still have not been notified by TransAlta.

The map is missing multiple residences on the large section of land and these missing residences skew the information and make it seem like less people will be impacted.

Wind project

Andrea Hebert [REDACTED]

Tue 2/21/2023 7:44 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Hello, my partner (Christian Defalque) and I (Andrea Hebert) are very concerned about the wind project. The immediate wildlife impact is incalculable, never mind the lasting impact. We are very concerned about the construction traffic and the severe view changes. We saw the pictures and were horrified. Living in such a beautiful and important wildlife area it is our fundamental responsibility to protect and nurture the diversity that we are so privileged to be a part of. We are home owners in town and land owners in the area. We are invested in this town and can't bear to see this happen to it. Thank you for your time.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Riplinger Wind Turbine Project

LaRee Barfuss

Tue 2/21/2023 8:04 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

To the acting CAO Patrick Roach, Mayor Dwight Davis, Deputy Mayor Monte Christensen, Councillors Suzanne French, Ryan Barfuss, and Michael Nish.

I am sending you my official opposition to the proposed Riplinger Wind Turbine Project. I have environmental concerns, property value concerns, and wildlife concerns. These are just a few of my concerns but are the major ones fuelling my opposition. I as a resident of Hill Spring did not receive any notice or information from transalta about this project, and I have expressed my concerns with that among other concerns with transalta. I realize that there may not be a lot that the Village itself can do to halt the progression of this proposed project, but I would like to see the Village Council at least have in their minutes a vote that show that you do not approve of this proposal. I would also ask that if this project goes through that the Village council carefully consider allowing the O & M building to be built in our community. I am not in support of that either. Please include my husband James Barfuss as also being opposed to this project.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts
LaRee Barfuss resident of the Village of Hill Spring

I am against the riplinger wind project

liesl steiner [REDACTED]

Tue 2/21/2023 9:30 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Dear Hill Spring council:

I want to let you know that as a Hill Spring resident, I am opposed to the proposed Riplinger wind project. Our beautiful biodiverse area will not be served by building an industrial site on it. I am heartsick that this is even being proposed. It is just the wrong place for an industrial wind project.

I also do not think there will be any benefit whatsoever to the residents of Hill Spring.

It is likely that it will actually directly harm us with a devaluation of property values not to mention the heart break of looking at the industrial project demonstrating that money supersedes every other thing of value.

I believe beautiful, wild, biodiverse, dark sky nature has value beyond compare. Thank you.

Elizabeth Steiner

Sent from my iPhone

Wind farm

Sasha Montagu [REDACTED]

Tue 2/21/2023 8:03 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

I am 100% against this .

It's an eye sore to start property values will tank and it has all the making to Make Hillspring a ghost town in time .is that the legacy any leader would like on their Watch.
Please wake up and shut this down.

Sasha Montagu

Sent from my iPad

Opposed to the Wind Farm

Bree Mason <[REDACTED]>

Wed 2/22/2023 8:49 AM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Good morning,

As residents of Hill Spring, we are very concerned about the future of the wind farms. We are opposed to it and hope that this isn't the future for our town and surrounding towns.

Not only are we worried about our precious views. We are worried about what this means for the wildlife, the housing market, tourism to our town, and the future for our children being raised in this community.

Thank you,

Bree & Nathan Mason

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Riplinger wind project

charley bouffard [REDACTED]

Wed 2/22/2023 11:36 AM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Charley and Shauna bouffard are against this project we do not want it to happen

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

Riplinger project

Craig Boland [REDACTED]

Wed 2/22/2023 10:50 AM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

As a result of recommendations made by council last night I would like to go on record that I am against any wind farm development at Riplinger.
Craig and Brenda Boland 403 861-8686.

Cheers

Sent from Craig Boland

Riplinger windmill project

Holly Lauscher [REDACTED]

Wed 2/22/2023 3:24 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

To Hill Spring Council:

As a property owner in Hill Spring I am notifying the town council that I am very much opposed to the windmill project in this area for many reasons. I have researched the project and I strongly request that for the long term best interests of the village of Hill Spring that the council officially express that they do NOT support this project.

Holly Lauscher

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Riplinger Wind Power Project

Jackie Evans [REDACTED]

Tue 2/21/2023 9:04 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

As a resident of Hill Spring, I would like to go on record as being opposed to the Riplinger Wind Power Project.

Jackie Evans

Sent from my iPad

Proposed Transalta Riplinger Wind Project

Shannon Palmer [REDACTED]

Tue 2/21/2023 9:18 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Office: Village of HillSpring

We are totally opposed to this wind energy project. It has been very disingenuously presented by Transalta. This is NOT a green project! It will seriously alter the landscape and the land itself with a network of roads and overhead transmission lines, buried cables, concrete and huge wind turbines. Financial benefits to landowners for leases will be very short term. Other forms of energy will make wind turbines totally obsolete in the near future. Altamont, California was once a beautiful, but now despoiled landscape of abandoned wind turbines. Meteorological towers gathering wind data in our area for many years clearly indicate only 120 days of productive energy with no proven method of storage for all the down days. The random energy that is produced by these proposed wind turbines is totally reliant on fossil fuel to back them up.

Regards,
Shannon Palmer
Tom Palmer
Palmer Ranch

windmills

SHIRRAE RIEHS [REDACTED]

Wed 2/22/2023 11:24 AM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Good Morning!

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the windmill project! I live and work in Hillspring @ [REDACTED] and believe I am within the 1500m of the project!

Thank you!

ShirRae Riehs

[REDACTED]
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Riplinger



Wed 2/22/2023 8:28 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to notify council that as a property owner in Hillspring I am very opposed to the Riplinger project and I am asking that council oppose this project for the good of this town .

Thank you,

Tim Lauscher

Sent from my iPhone

Riplinger

Vaughn Smith

Wed 2/22/2023 8:37 AM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

We at Prairie Peaks Campground are apposed to the Riplinger project. It will surely bring in a substantial amount of money for the owners and some small percentage might come back to some in the area, but this project will not only be an ugly stain on the mountain view, it could and probably will just be the first of many more. Look to history for other similar projects in southern Alberta.

Vaughn Smith

--



I am opposed to the Riplinger Project

Neil Evans [REDACTED]

Thu 2/23/2023 6:35 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Thanks,

Neil Evans

Date: March 10, 2023

Attention:

Village of Hill Spring Office

PO Box 40
11 E 2nd Ave South
Hill Spring, AB
T0K 1E0
office@hillspring.ca

Re: Proposed TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project

Dear: Village of Hill Spring Council.

As your constituent, I am writing to express my opposition to the recently announced proposal of the TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project. Details can be found at: <https://transalta.com/about-us/our-operations/projects-in-development/riplinger/>.

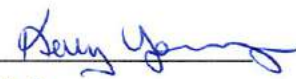
This proposed project located approximately 30km southeast of Pincher Creek in Cardston County, Alberta and would be less than 10km from Waterton Lakes National Park, an International Dark Sky Park. The projects western border will be directly adjacent to lands protected by Nature Conservancy of Canada. The project will be located within the Unesco Waterton Biosphere Reserve's boundary, and is less than 1.5 km of the Village of Hill Spring.

This is clearly a case of TransAlta putting the interests of the commercial merchant energy sector ahead of the legitimate needs of local residents.

This project will have severe negative impacts to the local residents use and enjoyment of the landscape they call home. It will detract from the intrinsic tourism values in the area. It will harm innumerable wildlife species, many which are designated as "sensitive" and "at-risk" by Provincial and Federal governments, which use the habitat between the Waterton and Belly Rivers.

I strongly encourage you to stand with the local residents of your community and the adjacent affected communities in stating that this landscape is not for sale. Please demand TransAlta rescinds the Riplinger Wind Power Project proposal.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely, 
Kelly Young

(print name)

Resident of Hill Spring, Alberta

Date: March 10, 2023

Attention:

Village of Hill Spring Office

PO Box 40
11 E 2nd Ave South
Hill Spring, AB
T0K 1E0
office@hillspring.ca

Re: Proposed TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project

Dear: Village of Hill Spring Council.

As your constituent, I am writing to express my opposition to the recently announced proposal of the TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project. Details can be found at: <https://transalta.com/about-us/our-operations/projects-in-development/riplinger/>.

This proposed project located approximately 30km southeast of Pincher Creek in Cardston County, Alberta and would be less than 10km from Waterton Lakes National Park, an International Dark Sky Park. The projects western border will be directly adjacent to lands protected by Nature Conservancy of Canada. The project will be located within the Unesco Waterton Biosphere Reserve's boundary, and is less than 1.5 km of the Village of Hill Spring.

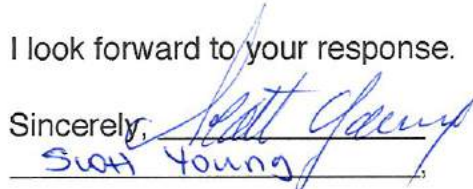
This is clearly a case of TransAlta putting the interests of the commercial merchant energy sector ahead of the legitimate needs of local residents.

This project will have severe negative impacts to the local residents use and enjoyment of the landscape they call home. It will detract from the intrinsic tourism values in the area. It will harm innumerable wildlife species, many which are designated as "sensitive" and "at-risk" by Provincial and Federal governments, which use the habitat between the Waterton and Belly Rivers.

I strongly encourage you to stand with the local residents of your community and the adjacent affected communities in stating that this landscape is not for sale. Please demand TransAlta rescinds the Riplinger Wind Power Project proposal.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Scott Young

(print name)

Resident of Hill Spring, Alberta

Office

From: Kim Schnoor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Office; riplingerwindconcernedcitizens@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Proposed TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project

Dear Mayor Davis / Village Council,

Firstly, may we express our appreciation to each of you for your hard work, integrity and commitment to the residents of Hill Spring! We're confident you don't receive enough appreciation for all you do!

We are writing this email to express our **strong opposition** to the location of the proposed **TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project in Southern Alberta**.

It's shocking that TransAlta is attempting to justify this proposed massive industrial wind turbine development in **this location** under the cloak of friendly "sustainable green energy". There is certainly an abundance of wind that blows through this area that obviously represents a financial enticement for TransAlta and its' share holders. It is significant however to realize the proposed location is a pristine and sensitive one-of-a-kind area known as the Waterton Biosphere Reserve is vulnerable and MUST be protected and preserved from exploitation.

As you're likely aware, Albertans, Canadians and a significant number of tourists from all over the world (~ 500,000) choose to visit Waterton National Park each year. All travellers to Waterton National Park arrive via limited highway access that offers breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains, the adjacent Foothills and nothing short of "Prairie to Peak Perfection". Construction of this industrial wind turbine project in this proposed area would create significant visual pollution and represents a reckless disregard for the natural beauty of this area. The sad conclusion for approval of an industrial wind turbine development in this pristine location would be that the Province of Alberta places corporate profits above it's stewardship for the environment and the protection and preservation of such natural treasures for the benefit of current and future generations.

After careful review, and despite lipservice from TransAlta to the contrary, it is abundantly evident that **sufficient environmental impact studies have not been completed by TransAlta for the immediate and surrounding areas** of this project. Appropriate studies must consider the individual native and migratory birds, animals, plants and insect populations that would certainly be affected. Due to the immense size of the proposed wind turbines there will be significant potential for collisions, noise pollution, habitat loss, impacts on survival, reproduction and migratory patterns, ground vibrations and a cumulatively negative impact on native species. Studies identifying the potential for disruption or contamination of underground water supplies must also be conducted, with clear liabilities and compensations established, in advance, should such vital resources be negatively impacted.

This is not a matter of a relatively small group of residents & communities simply not wanting wind turbines in their backyard, or are unreasonably concerned over a relatively minor disruption to the area. It is a matter of Albertans and our elected officials recognizing and protecting the natural beauty and limited treasures that are part of our Alberta Heritage. **This proposed area is simply too incredible and unique to enable the ravages of big business to ruin this location in the name of development.** TransAlta has not completed their due diligence and are poised to push their agenda forward with inadequate consideration regarding the irreversible catastrophe that will result. **This is NOT the location for a wind turbine project!**

Please consider that a similar wind turbine project would not be approved in such areas as Kananaskis, Banff & Jasper, for a host of obvious reasons, even if there was a suitable prevalence of wind. ***The proposed Waterton Biosphere location is the absolute wrong location for this project!***

We hope you will recognize the reasonableness and significance of our objection to this massive proposed TransAlta wind turbine project in the Waterton Biosphere Area. ***Please help us protect and preserve the limited natural beauty of this SW corner of Alberta from those who would willfully exploit and ruin in the name of progress and profit.***

Most Sincerely,

Kim Schnoor
Lori Schnoor
Maxine Tolman

Fwd: Proposed TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project

Kim Schnoor [REDACTED]

Mon 3/13/2023 1:52 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>;riplingerwindconcernedcitizens@gmail.com <riplingerwindconcernedcitizens@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor Davis / Village Council,

Firstly, may we express our appreciation to each of you for your hard work, integrity and commitment to the residents of Hill Spring! We're confident you don't receive enough appreciation for all you do!

We are writing this email to express our **strong opposition** to the location of the proposed **TransAlta Riplinger Wind Power Project in Southern Alberta**.

It's shocking that TransAlta is attempting to justify this proposed massive industrial wind turbine development **in this location** under the cloak of friendly "sustainable green energy". There is certainly an abundance of wind that blows through this area that obviously represents a financial enticement for TransAlta and its' share holders. It is significant however to realize the proposed location is a pristine and sensitive one-of-a-kind area known as the Waterton Biosphere Reserve is vulnerable and MUST be protected and preserved from exploitation.

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After careful review, and despite lipservice from TransAlta to the contrary, it is abundantly evident that **sufficient environmental impact studies have not been completed by TransAlta for the immediate and surrounding areas** of this project. Appropriate studies must consider the individual native and migratory birds, animals, plants and insect populations that would certainly be affected. Due to the immense size of the proposed wind turbines there will be significant potential for collisions, noise pollution, habitat loss, impacts on survival, reproduction and migratory patterns, ground vibrations and a cumulatively negative impact on native species. Studies identifying the potential for disruption or contamination of underground water supplies must also be conducted, with clear liabilities and compensations established, in advance, should such vital resources be negatively impacted.

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Most Sincerely,

Kim Schnoor
Lori Schnoor
Maxine Tolman

Riplinger Wind Farm

Scott Henrie [REDACTED]

Wed 3/15/2023 1:25 PM

To: Office <office@hillspring.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Riplinger Wind Farm

I want to add my name and voice those opposing the establishment of the Riplinger Wind project between the Village of Hill Spring and the mountains.

I defer to others to speak to tourism, small business, environmental, and wildlife impacts. I moved to Hill Spring to work in the wind industry in 2001. I worked with Vision Quest, a start up company, which was purchased by TransAlta and became the nucleus of their wind division. In those early days I helped erect three of the six turbines now within the boundaries of the proposed new farm. I know that this is a prime location for wind turbines and that further development here has continuously been in the planning since that time.

I also spent several years as a Project Site Supervisor for Vestas, working at sites throughout North America. I have built and seen wind turbines built in diverse locations. I know there some European countries where turbines are ubiquitous. Never have I seen a site in such close proximity to a National Park. Canada is a very large, mostly empty country with lots of marginal places for such enterprises to be sited. The same is true for Cardston County.

As a resident of the village I have come to believe that the only sure and substantial benefit to the village would be the establishment of a maintenance facility within the village and/or the possible addition of taxpaying homeowners associated with that facility. My question regarding that subject with TransAlta was responded to with;

“TransAlta is working with the Village of Hill Spring so that if the Riplinger Wind Project requires an Operations and Maintenance building we would endeavour to place it within the Village for additional community benefit to Hill Spring.” That “if” is pretty big in this context! There seems to be far too little in it for the village vs the argued downsides.

The original six turbines within the project boundaries were built in the very early days of commercial wind development in Canada. The machines were small and easily constructed, leaving a small footprint. The first Vestas turbine built in Canada, which stands on the edge of the river valley between Hill Spring and Mountain View just west of Hwy 800, sits atop a 40 m tower with 23 m blades. This is clearly no longer the case. Modern turbines are by contrast immense, requiring significant disruption, construction, and infrastructure. TransAlta’s Windrise, their recent project 30 km SW of Fort Macleod, consists of 43 turbines on 90 m towers with 70 m blades. These installations dominate and forever change the landscape.

Please encourage TransAlta to propose an alternate site within Cardston County and remove/recycle the original six as they are at or near the end of their useful life cycle. We need wild places and space for wind things.

Regards

Scott Henrie

Resident of Hill Spring
[REDACTED]