



Fieldnotes

Palliser Regional Municipal Services



Regional Bylaw Enforcement Study Nearing Completion



The regional bylaw enforcement services exploration study was requested by municipal members/ shareholders of Palliser Regional Municipal Services at the 2010 fall general meeting.

A regional bylaw service is being considered and reviewed as a possible option due to the small

size of the interested municipalities and the lack of efficiency of having bylaw enforcement services on an individual municipality basis.

The study is currently being drafted with input from many surrounding and participating municipalities to determine part-

nership opportunities for an effective and efficient bylaw service that can provide a professional presence for the municipal partners.

A draft study including potential organizational options and costs is scheduled to be available in November for review.

PRMS Fall General Meeting November 30th @ 4pm — all PRMS municipal representatives and CAO's are invited to join us for the general meeting, elections of board members, a scrumptious dinner and networking with other municipal councilors and CAO's in the region.

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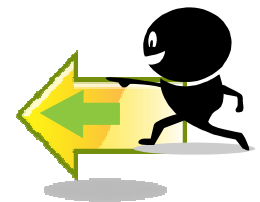


Safety Codes Basics Training

All municipal staff members who handle safety codes application forms are invited to gain knowledge about providing the appropriate forms and advice to applicants (ie. when a permit is needed).

October 20, 2011; 10am to 12pm with lunch provided.

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services Boardroom in Hanna.
RSVP to kbott@palliserservices.ca**





PRMS – Planning to Plan!

The PRMS Strategic Plan, adopted in Spring 2011, has provided the organization with a clear mandate and specific goals to assist our member communities in planning, mapping, safety codes and other regional solutions. The Planning Policy schedule is underway with projects ongoing in six communities; Hanna, Delia, Empress, Special Areas, Standard and M.D. of Acadia. We are anticipating that many of these projects will be nearing completion by year end in accordance with the policy planning schedule developed as part of our strategic plan. We look forward to the challenge of completing policy (MDP and LUB) reviews for all our members on a 5 year rotating basis. If you have any questions on the schedule or process please contact our office.

Planning Intern Report—Dave Suen

The Municipal Internship Program for Land Use Planners is designed to attract recent post-secondary graduates to the field of municipal planning. Its objective is to assist in the training and development of competent, well-rounded municipal planners. It is expected that upon successful completion of the program, interns will be better prepared to enter the municipal planning field in Alberta's municipalities.



It has been almost half a year since I joined PRMS and I have been involved in several projects and tasks during this time. I am working on reviewing subdivision applications and with guidance from our senior planners I am developing my planning skills. I have taken part in the following land use policy projects:

- Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (Village of Standard)
- Municipal Development Plan (Town of Hanna)
- Land Use Bylaw (Village of Empress, MD of Acadia, Special Areas and Village of Delia)
- Research Project (Sidewalk Patio in Town of Drumheller)

The opportunities offered as part of the internship program have been a great start to my career. With the funding provided by Municipal Affairs, I attended the National Canadian Institute Planner Conference and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Convention where I was able to meet members from other associations and municipalities. These were valuable networking opportunities for me. I am enjoying my internship at PRMS and by working with the planners at Palliser, I have gained a lot of field and practical experience.



CURRENT 2011 SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

The following Table entitled “Subdivision Applications by Municipality” shows the total subdivision activity for the current year as well as the previous 7 (seven) years up to and including September 30 of each year. The numbers inside the brackets indicate the numbers of parcels while those in front represent the number of applications per municipality. The down turn in the world economy over the last couple of years has been reflected in the number of applications for subdivisions. Economic indications will likely see the amount of applications remain low for some time yet, compared to the high activity years of 2005 to 2008. It seems there is a surplus of parcels that were created in these high activity years that have not moved and potential applicants are sitting back waiting to see what the future may bring. A trend would also indicate in the rural municipalities over the last few years that there are more and more applications made for the second and third parcels out of a quarter-section. A likely reason for this is that in the past the first “parcel-out” has been already removed and there is greater pressure for applicants that prefer a country residential lifestyle in close proximity to urban areas. The country residential option for families appears to be more in demand rather than the historical agricultural with applicants selling off the farm land and retaining the developed homestead.

While the number of applications this year is down slightly from last year at this same time, the total number of parcels being created is actually up by about 24%. The average number of applications by this time of year would be about 55, with an average number of 135 parcels being created. The last three years have been below these numbers with the last two only being about 60% of the overall average in both number of applications and parcels.

Eleven of the twenty-eight (28) communities or 40% of those served by Palisier Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) have experienced subdivision activity to date which is nearly identical to the previous two years. The rural communities represent 64% of the total applications while the urban municipalities represent 36% and yet when the number of parcels are factored in, 57% of the parcels are urban with 43% being rural. As history has shown in previous years, nearly 80% of the total yearly applications have been received by the end of September and with this taken into account it is most likely that the total number of applications for this year will be close to 36; significantly below the annual average.





SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS BY MUNICIPALITY

Municipality	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
M.D. Acadia			3(3)	4(4)	3(3)	1(1)		
Acme					1(1)			2(5)
Beiseker	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1(71)			1(4)
Carbon					1(41)			
Castor	2(2)		1(1)	2(8)	3(31)			
Cereal								
Consort		1(1)	1(2)		1(1)			1(2)
Coronation				3(3)	1(6)	3(7)		
Delia				1(2)				1(1)
Drumheller	1(1)	12(121)	3(6)	11(22)	6(17)	6(39)	5(22)	3(10)
Empress			1(1)		3(9)			
Hanna	1(2)	3(26)	3(4)	4(34)	3(7)	3(10)	1(1)	
Halkirk	1(22)		1(1)		1(1)	1(1)	1(3)	
Hussar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1(2)		1(1)	1(1)
Linden		2(4)	3(18)	2(28)		3(10)	1(1)	
Morrin		1(1)		1(4)			1(9)	
Munson			1(16)		1(2)			
Oyen	1(9)		1(1)	1(4)				
Paintearth	3(4)	7(7)	6(6)	5(5)	9(10)	6(5)	3(3)	2(9)
Rockyford	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Special Areas	12(21)	8(9)	21(22)	19(22)	16(16)	11(13)	6(6)	9(13)
Standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			1(0)	
Starland	7(7)	9(9)	12(12)	15(18)	7(7)	3(3)	4(4)	3(3)
Trochu	2(1)	2(5)	2(4)		3(31)			1(18)
Veteran	1(0)			1(0)				
Youngstown								
Gadsby**		1(3)	1(1)	1(2)	3(3)			
M.D. Provost**	10(11)	8(22)	14(14)	12(17)	19(18)	11(10)	6(5)	4(6)
TOTALS	41(80)	54(208)	74(112)	82(173)	83(277)	48(99)	30(55)	28(72)

- All totals are to September 30 for comparison purposes ** Non member municipality
- # - number of parcels created are shown in the brackets





PRISM Update—



Technical Corner

Over the past year Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) has been working on a planning and development strategy for our web based Palliser Regional Information System Management (PRISM) program. On October 5th, staff from our member municipalities gathered in our boardroom to discuss the vision of the project as we look to shift from planning to implementation.

This new web-based system will benefit both municipalities and residents alike as new and exciting options for regional collaboration become available. From the municipal perspective, this new website will streamline work orders, building permits and bring a new level of mapping and infrastructure management. For our public residents, the website will bring together regional information for recreation and tourism. PRMS is very excited about this project as it will further solidify an already strong sense of regional community.

In addition to the PRISM project, PRMS has also made drastic changes to our website and on-line identity (www.palliserservices.ca). Recently, our new website was launched and is continually growing. One of the new features of the website is the integration with social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter. This will allow PRMS to keep our members and their residents informed on the many projects we are currently undertaking. Also our Events Calendar lists not only important meetings and events, but can also be used to see the availability of our Boardroom for rental purposes. To stay up to date on everything PRMS has to offer “Like” us on Facebook or Follow Us on Twitter (@palliserregion).

For more information on our new Website or our PRISM project, please contact our GIS Coordinator Justin Hill at jhill@palliserservices.ca



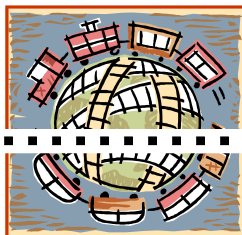
www.palliserservices.ca

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Railway Discontinuance Recovery Project ~ Municipalities in Negotiations

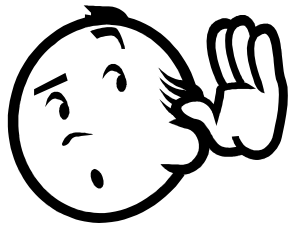
The municipalities of Starland County, the Town of Drumheller and Wheatland County have continued to work together to negotiate with CN to retain rail options in the region. The inter-municipal group is awaiting a valuation decision in eastern Canada that may have impacts on the potential transfer of the railway.





Alberta Development Officers Association (ADOA) 2012 Conference to be held in the new Drumheller Badlands Community Facility

The ADOA has decided to hold the 2012 ADOA Conference in the Valley. The Badlands Community Facility, located next to the World's Largest Dinosaur, is scheduled to be completed later this year and the Town of Drumheller along with Kneehill County have agreed to host the conference. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 30, 2011

4pm in the Palliser Boardroom

Followed by supper & networking



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