



OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

MEMBER BULLETIN

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

On March 25, 2011 the Alberta Provincial Government released the document entitled “**Advice to the Government of Alberta for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan**” prepared by the South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council (RAC).

The RAC was established on May 13, 2009 under the Land-Use Framework to provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Government of Alberta on the development of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) and it has, with the release of its ‘**Advice**’, fulfilled its mandate. During this time, the 19-member RAC held 13 meetings across the region and received more than 100 stakeholder submissions.

Government-supplied terms of reference asked the RAC to explore the relationship between population growth, water supply, economic growth and land conservation. There are four components to the recommendations: a regional vision statement; strategic land-use principles; regional outcomes, objectives and recommendations with associated resource maps; and, a regional land-use map and its associated management intents.

Released in 2008, the Land-Use Framework sets out a new approach for managing lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta’s long-term economic, environmental, and community goals. A key strategy of the framework is the development of seven regional plans based on seven new land-use regions. On April 5, 2011 the government released the first of the seven regional plans entitled “**Draft: Lower Athabasca Regional Plan**”. The SSRP will be the second plan to be developed under the framework.

The Alberta Government will seek public input on the recommendations of the RAC ‘**Advice**’ in the fall, before developing the draft regional plan. An online workbook will also be available at www.landuse.alberta.ca by the end of April 2011. The province will consult again with Albertans before the final plan is developed.

Our Planning Staff have had an opportunity to review the ‘**Advice**’ document and the **Draft Lower Athabasca Regional Plan** and propose the following twofold strategy for the upcoming consultative process:

1. We will prepare for our members a general summary and analysis of the ‘**Advice**’ document from our professional perspective. The summary will serve to inform you of the RAC’s work and their ‘**Advice**’ to the province

and will set the stage for a formal response to the Government of Alberta. This summary will be available by mid-May 2011; and,

2. A comprehensive review and response to the RAC's '**Advice**' will be prepared. Our review will focus on identifying municipal issues and concerns with the advice provided by the RAC using ORRSC's initial '**Position Paper**' as the framework. This review is intended to be submitted to the province and will, once again, require your participation and endorsement prior to its release. This review will be available by September 2011.

As usual, our focus will be on representing the viewpoints and advocating the interests of our rural & urban municipal members. We look forward to preparing these two documents for your review and consideration.

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