



News Release

March 16, 2017

Councils confirm commitment to joint development planning

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – The Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County Councils met on March 14, 2017 to review the County's North Rocky Area Structure Plan (ASP) concept plans and agreed to continue with the joint development process.

The principle discussion focused on conceptual land uses in the ASP, including industrial, commercial and community services. The Councils also reviewed relevant Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) policy directions and clarified the intent of the intermunicipal partnership. By consensus, both Councils indicated the intent to moving ahead with joint planning that benefits both municipalities.

The County hosted an open house on February 16, 2017 as a starting point for community dialogue on the North ASP. The next step in the process is the review of public input and the development of a draft ASP, vetted by the existing IDP Committee. Information from the IDP Committee will be provided to both Councils prior to the County's statutory ASP adoption processes, including additional public hearings. IDP amendments and the Joint Development Area (JDA) servicing agreement discussions continue to occur concurrently with the ASP development.

The JDA agreement, adopted in principle by Town and County Councils in May 2016, provides for a shared vision, for long-term community development over the next 40 years. The JDA supplies a direction for commercial and industrial development to take place that benefits both municipalities. The JDA anticipates joint servicing, a 50/50 tax revenue sharing and the Town's future annexation of areas for residential and commercial expansion.

"We need to attract development for the betterment of our community and the vision of a Joint Development Area creates opportunity growth," said Town of Rocky Mountain House Mayor Fred Nash. "With growth comes new businesses, new revenues and new jobs for people in our community."

"Our community's growth has stalled, and in order for our region to be sustainable, we need to be ready, welcoming and compete for development. We need an area for developers to go – making the process easier and thereby making development here more attractive," said Clearwater County Reeve Pat Alexander. "The North ASP is one piece of a bigger puzzle, and we need to move forward with the Joint Development Area."





The need for commercial and industrial land development has been long identified by both the Town and the County's strategic plans, and was recognized as a regional target of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) that formed with the adoption of the Stronger Together regional governance model developed in 2013. Over the last couple years, both municipalities have worked together extensively to review the IDP and develop the JDA in order to achieve this collaborative strategic goal.

Nash continued by saying, "The goal of joint development and our partnership is to provide a sustainable economic benefit to the community, by diversifying revenues and encouraging planned development, for the benefit and future of this region."

Reeve Alexander concluded by saying, "the JDA is the one of the largest initiatives our community has considered and divergent perspectives are expected. In any good partnership, there are going to be bumps in the road. But, for both our municipalities the end goal is community enhancement, for now and for future generations."

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For more information about Clearwater County or its members of Council, please visit our website at www.clearwatercounty.ca. For more information about the Town of Rocky Mountain House or its members of Council, please visit our website at www.rockymtnhouse.com. For media inquiries, please contact:

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ASP, IDP, JDA and Stronger Together agreement materials are all available online at www.clearwatercounty.ca