



News Release

December 11, 2018

Councils meet with Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks regarding Bighorn Country proposal

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – On December 10, 2018, Councils of the Town of Rocky Mountain House, Clearwater County, the Village of Caroline and the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake met with the Minister of Environment and Parks Shannon Phillips, Deputy Minister Bev Yee and Assistant Deputy Minister Dana Mackie to discuss the Province’s Bighorn Country proposal announced in late November.

The local elected officials asked the Minister for clarification on the timeline and speed of the rollout; impacts to industry; emergency services, policing and other enforcement; wastewater and garbage disposal; existing and future land uses within the proposal area; and, how adjacent municipalities will be involved with future management direction of Parks, Provincial Recreation Areas (PRA) or Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ).

“As municipal elected officials we are fielding a lot of questions from our constituents,” said Town of Rocky Mountain House Mayor Tammy Burke, “I’m very happy Minister Phillips came out for the conversation, and we look forward to further discussions.”

“Since the Province of Alberta’s Bighorn Country Proposal announcement, Council and Administration have been busy gathering information on the proposal, reviewing against the County’s current municipal operations in order to assess potential impacts on the municipality and its taxpayers,” said Clearwater County Reeve Jim Duncan, “Our Councils are educating themselves and urging local stakeholders and citizens to do so as well. Once the proposal is fully analyzed and local public information sessions take place, it is expected Council will provide the Province feedback in writing, by the end of January consultation deadline.”

“I was very pleased to meet with municipal leaders about our proposal for the Bighorn Country,” said Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks. “We know that growth in Alberta’s population has put pressure on the eastern slopes, with many more people seeking recreational experiences. Mayor Burke, Reeve Duncan and all the local municipal leaders in attendance asked thoughtful questions and made helpful suggestions to our government. I am committed to consulting with all municipal leaders through the feedback period and beyond to ensure this beautiful region remains a place for everyone to enjoy.”

The Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County continue to encourage residents to review the Province’s Bighorn Country proposal, attend and ask questions at an upcoming open house in December and January and provide feedback on the plan, either online or at an open house.

To learn more about the Bighorn Country proposal and to participate in the online feedback survey, visit <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/bighorn-country>. The Bighorn Country Proposal is open to public comment until the end of January and the Province plans for a number of meetings to gather input from



stakeholder groups and municipalities. Printed copies of the proposal are available at the Town and County Office for residents who cannot access it online.

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Media inquiries may be directed to Communications Coordinators for both municipalities:

Laura Button
Communications Coordinator
Town of Rocky Mountain House
403-845-2866
lbutton@rockymtnhouse.com

Djurdjica Tutic
Communications Coordinator
Clearwater County
403-845-4444
dtutic@clearwatercounty.ca

Upcoming Public Information Sessions:

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Rocky Mountain House
Lou Soppit Community Centre, Shunda Room
5404 - 48 Street
6:00 to 9:00 pm

Monday, December 17, 2018

Rocky Mountain House
Lou Soppit Community Centre, Shunda Room
5404 - 48 Street
4:00 to 9:00 pm

Monday, January 7, 2019

Drayton Valley
MacKenzie Conference Centre
5745 - 45 Avenue
6:00 to 9:00 pm

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Red Deer
German-Canadian Club of Red Deer
38167 Range Road 280
6:00 to 9:00 pm

Monday, January 14, 2019

Sundre
Sundre Community Centre
3, 96 - 2 Avenue NW
6:00 to 9:00 pm