



RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
of ALBERTA

RMA Board of Directors Committee Report

Fall 2018



**RMA Board of Directors Committee Report:
Fall 2018**

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Introduction

As the voice of rural Alberta, the Rural Municipalities Alberta (RMA) is regularly approached by the Government of Alberta or other organizations to participate on committees or working groups on a wide range of topics. If, in the opinion of the RMA Board of Directors, a committee is relevant to RMA and its members, the association will dedicate the time and resources to participate.

As part of their responsibilities, each member of the RMA Board of Directors participates on a portion of these committees and working groups. Committee assignments are determined each year, and based on a combination of experience, interest, and cross-training opportunities. As the workloads of different committees vary, some board members have fewer committee assignments, but a higher number of labor-intensive committees.

To increase accountability and transparency to members, the RMA Board of Directors will publish a *Committee Report* twice annually. The report will provide an overview of committee assignments, membership background information, committee mandate, and note current issues being addressed.

For more information on a committee, please contact the RMA board member assigned to the committee.

This report covers meetings attended from February 1, 2018 to July 31, 2018.

Committee Appointments by Board Member

Board Member	Committee
Al Kemmere RMA President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Common Ground Alliance Task Force • Agricultural Operation Practices Act Policy Advisory Group • Agricultural Plastics Recycling Stakeholder Advisory Committee • Alberta Recycling Management Authority and Assessment Board • Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group • Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Board of Directors • Genesis Reciprocal Insurance Exchange Board • Great West Life Councillor Pension Plan Board of Trustees • Rural Health Professions Action Plan Board of Directors • Western Canada Municipal Associations
Kara Westerlund RMA Vice President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALERT Civilian Advisory Committee • AUMA/RMA Joint Operating Committee • Great West Life Councillor Pension Plan Board of Trustees • RMA Resolutions Committee • R.W Hay Evaluation Committee • TRAVIS MJ Advisory Committee • Western Canada Municipal Associations
Randy Taylor Director, District 1 (Foothills-Little Bow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee • Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association Board of Directors • Alberta Water Council – Multi-Year Drought Working Group • Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group • Endangered Species Conservation Committee • Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee • Provincial Agriculture Service Board • RMA Charitable Gaming Committee
Paul McLaughlin Director, District 2 (Central)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Advisory Committee • Alberta Water Council Board of Directors • Foothills Research Institute Board of Directors • Miistakis Institute/Environmental Law Centre Community Conserve Municipal Advisory Committee • Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee • Wildfire Management Advisory Committee
Kathy Rooyackers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Operation Practices Act Policy Advisory Group

Director, District 3
(Pembina River)

- Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Land-Use Framework Working Group
- Cancer Strategic Clinical Networks Core Committee
- Clean Air Strategic Alliance Board of Directors
- Local Authorities Pension Plan Stakeholder Consultation Group
- Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee
- Safety Codes Council Technical Coordinating Committee

Tom Burton
Director, District 4
(Northern)

- Alberta Blue Cross Nominating Committee
- Alberta Energy Regulator Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Committee
- Alberta Fire Chiefs Association - Recruitment and Retention Task Force
- Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System Interoperability and Standards Council
- Forest Products Association of Canada
- Forest Resource Improvement Association – FireSmart Advisory Committee
- Peer Network
- Safety Codes Council Board of Directors
- Water North Coalition

Soren Odegard
Director, District 5
(Edmonton East)

- Alberta Data Partnership
 - Alberta Water Council – Source Water Protection Working Group
 - AUMA/RMA Joint Operating Committee
 - Government-Industry Joint Geophysical Steering Committee
 - Local Authorities Pension Plan Board of Directors
-

Committee Summaries

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Land-Use Framework Working Group

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Cropping industry, livestock industry, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental non-governmental organizations

Committee Purpose: The Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) Land-Use Framework (LUF) Working Group was established to implement the AEPA's LUF Engagement Strategy. The Working Group is expected to be in place until all seven LUF regional plans are complete. The Working Group's focus is ensuring that the agriculture perspective is considered in the development of each regional plan.

RMA interest: As agriculture is critical to the economic sustainability of many RMA members' municipalities, participation in the Working Group is an effective way for the RMA to ensure agriculture is considered by the Government of Alberta during regional plan development. Participation in the Working Group also supports strong collaborative relationships with agriculture-focused organizations.

Recent issues:

- Better understanding of the role and mandate of Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) and identification of opportunities for the agriculture industry to provide input into ERA's programming.
- Discuss possible coordinated approach to informing agriculture industry of policies, programs, etc. with Alberta Climate Change Office.
- Approaches to climate change adaptation.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of LUF developments

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, Ducks Unlimited Canada, ALUS Canada, various representatives from the agriculture industry.

Committee Purpose: Responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of the Agri-Environmental Partnership's annual business plan. The Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta AEPA engages in agri-environmental policy development processes related to land-use, water, air, biodiversity, and climate change. It also provides policy input and collaboration with other stakeholders to support environmental sustainability in the agriculture industry.

RMA interest: As the majority of Alberta’s agriculture industry is located in rural municipalities, the RMA is supportive of an environmentally sustainable agriculture industry and strives to support this through participation on the AEPA Advisory Committee.

Recent issues:

- Strategy to address on-farm water management
- Provincial and federal GHG reporting requirements
- Alberta Climate Change Office’s review of policy on assessing the additionality of activities
- Potential withdrawal of Strychnine registration

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing progress of Land Use Frameworks and Water working groups.

Agricultural Operation Practices Act Policy Advisory Group

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President, Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environmental and Parks, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Natural Resources Conservation Board, Alberta-based environmental non-governmental organizations, beef industry, poultry industry, Intensive Livestock Working Group, pork industry, dairy industry

Committee Purpose: The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* Policy Advisory Group (AOPA PAG) was created to provide advice to the Government of Alberta related to the effective delivery of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*. The AOPA PAG’s purpose in relation to the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*, is to ensure that the province’s livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner.

RMA interest: As the majority of Alberta’s agriculture industry is located in rural municipalities, the RMA is supportive of an environmentally sustainable agriculture industry and strives to support this through participation on the AOPA PAG.

Recent issues:

- Setback distances
- Manure spreading requirements
- Feedlot dust control
- Municipal development plan land use provisions, including exclusion areas

Issues on the horizon:

- Collaboration with Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to better understand how municipal development plans and land use bylaws align with the NRCB approval process

- Agriculture industry's role in environmental stewardship and addressing climate change

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Stakeholder Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Agricultural Service Board, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Milk, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association, BPI Agriculture, CleanFARMS, Crop Sector Working Group, DOW, Merlin Plastics, Peavey Mart, Recycling Council of Alberta, United Farmers of Alberta

Committee Purpose: Assist in research and the development of recommendations related to the stewardship of agricultural plastics in Alberta, including how agricultural plastics may fit into existing sustainability frameworks and initiatives.

RMA interest: Both the RMA and its members prioritize environmental stewardship and a sustainable agriculture industry. Agricultural plastics recycling supports both of these goals, as well as the Government of Alberta's focuses on climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability.

Recent issues:

- Review of approaches to agricultural plastics recycling in other jurisdictions.
- Development of white paper recommending an Alberta approach to agricultural plastics recycling.
- Continued advocacy to Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for provincial action in developing an agricultural plastics framework.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued advocacy and collaboration with Government of Alberta and other partners in the development of a stewardship program for agricultural plastics.

Alberta Blue Cross Nominating Committee

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta, Provincial Health Authorities of Alberta, Alberta Blue Cross Benefits Corporation Chair.

Committee Purpose: To nominate potential members of the Alberta Blue Cross Board of Directors for evaluation and selection of the current board members remaining in office for the upcoming year.

RMA interest: The RMA has a legislated requirement to participate on this committee under s.4 of the *ABC Benefits Corporation Regulation*.

Recent issues:

- Options for nomination to the Alberta Blue Cross Board of Directors

Issues on the horizon:

- Options for nomination to the Alberta Blue Cross Board of Directors

Alberta Common Ground Alliance Task Force

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Telus, Trans-Canada, Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops, Ames Construction, Association of Science and Engineering Technology, Alberta One-Call, Alberta Common Ground Alliance

Committee Purpose: To jointly advocate for buried infrastructure legislation in order to allow for safer ground disturbances.

RMA interest: As municipalities manage underground infrastructure, and commonly engage in construction activities that result in ground disturbances, ensuring that the process for locating buried infrastructure and preventing accidents related to ground disturbances is as consistent as possible is crucial to both safety and reducing municipal liability related to buried infrastructure.

Recent issues:

- Bill S-229: *An Act respecting underground infrastructure safety*
- Advocacy at the provincial level and identifying champions for the development of provincial legislation to address buried infrastructure.

Issues on the horizon:

- Discussion to have provincial legislation come forward in the future that is modelled on federal Bill S-229.

Alberta Data Partnership

RMA representative: Soren Odegard, District 5 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Chamber of Resources, Alberta Forest Products Association, Alberta One-Call, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Energy Regulator, ATCO Gas, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Alberta Environment and Parks.

Committee Purpose: A non-profit, public-private partnership created to provide long-term management of comprehensive digital data sets for our stakeholders.

RMA interest: The RMA represents the rural municipal perspective on the Alberta Data Partnership (ADP) board of directors to ensure the continued use and storage of data by municipalities – particularly for the purposes of planning and mapping.

Recent issues:

- Continued updating of geospatial data sets
- Open Data Areas Alberta project

Issues on the horizon:

- Expand use and access of data developed through ADP to support use by both public and private sector in areas related to economic development, tourism, etc. Also, continue to investigate approaches to cost effective or free access to data.
- Mapping data agreement extension with Government of Alberta
- Two new projects to help with monitoring linear taxation once it has been centralized.
- Enhanced titles mapping project

Alberta Energy Regulator Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, Fort McKay First Nation, Farmers Advocate Office, Clean Air Strategic Alliance, Gilchrist Consulting (landowner advisor), Metis Nation of Alberta, Land Stewardship Centre, Black Coffee Group (landowner advisor), Treaty 7 First Nations of Alberta, Synergy Alberta, Alberta Environmental Network, Alberta Airsheds Council, Pembina Institute, Keepers of the Athabasca (landowner advisor), Treaty 6 First Nations of Alberta

Committee Purpose: The Alberta Energy Regulator Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Committee (MSEAC) is intended to allow the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to regularly gather input from stakeholders regarding regulatory changes, and allow for stakeholders to provide the AER with feedback on various initiatives.

RMA interest: As rural municipalities host much of Alberta’s energy development, the RMA values the opportunity to provide the rural municipal perspective on AER-related regulations and initiatives.

Recent issues:

- Integrated decision-making approaches
- Area-based regulations
- Climate policy assurance
- Cumulative effects management
- Improving Indigenous engagement
- Liability management

Issues on the horizon:

- New regulatory changes and initiatives as introduced by the AER
- Continued development of integrated decision-making approach

Alberta Fire Chiefs Association - Recruitment and Retention Task Force

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, various municipal and First Nations fire department representatives

Committee Purpose: The Recruitment and Retention Task Force was formed by the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) to develop strategies and programs to recruit and retain volunteer fire fighters in Alberta.

RMA interest: As rural municipalities often struggle to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, RMA involvement in this committee is central to supporting advocacy and policy development to support the sustainability of rural fire departments.

Recent issues:

- Recruitment and retention of women in fire services
- Ongoing successes and challenges associated with recruitment and retention of fire fighters

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing recruitment approaches, including the use of social media and direct collaboration with municipalities interested in improving their recruiting practices.

Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System Interoperability and Standards Council

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, RCMP, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Police Services, City of Lethbridge, City of Red Deer, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Committee Purpose: The Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System (AFRRCS) Interoperability and Standards Council (ISC) is responsible for the creation, adoption, and use of standards required for the continuous improvement of an interoperable radio system. The AFRRCS Interoperability and Standards Council is one of several councils and working groups that informs the governance and operation of AFRRCS, which is the responsibility of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

RMA interest: Rural municipalities often face unique challenges related to emergency service delivery. Among these are the impacts that geography and lack of infrastructure can have on radio communication among first responders in rural areas. The RMA's role is to inform the development of AFRRCS and ensure it is developed in a way that allows supports its use in rural areas.

Recent issues:

- Monitoring and discussion of operational issues such as compatibility of system with various providers, and others.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of operational problems
- Review and possible changes to ISC meeting structure to improve council outcomes.

Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Environmental and Parks, various stakeholder organizations.

Committee Purpose: The Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee (AGPAC) provides an opportunity for consultation between the Government of Alberta and key stakeholders on issues related to the management of wildlife game species.

RMA interest: As hunting and fishing are significant recreational activities in rural Alberta, RMA's participation on this committee ensures that the rural municipal perspective is considered during conversations related to game management policy.

Recent issues:

- Development of big game allocations policies
- Licensing policy change development in collaboration with Alberta Environment and Parks

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued input into game policy developments
- Modernization of federal waterfowl quotas in 2019

Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association Board of Directors

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Local Government Administrators Association, Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association, City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, CUPE Local 30, CUPE Local 37, Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association, Alberta Municipal Supervisors Association, Civic Service Union Local 52, CUPE Local 38

Committee Purpose: The Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association (AMHSA) represents municipal councils to develop and maintain sound occupational health and safety practices for the municipal workforce. The AMHSA Board of Directors oversees AMHSA to ensure they are meeting their mandate related to municipal health and safety best practices.

RMA interest: Involvement on the AMHSA Board of Directors ensures that the unique health and safety challenges encountered by rural municipalities informs AMHSA's policy and program development.

Recent issues:

- Continued development of online and in-person training initiatives

- Peer auditing system

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued oversight of AMHSA programming

Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) and Assessment Board

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Public at-large member, industry at-large member, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta, Environmental Services Association of Alberta, Recycling Council of Alberta, Electronics Recycling Alberta Industry Council, Paint Recycling Alberta Industry Council, Tire Recycling Alberta Industry Council

Committee Purpose: To manage Alberta’s tire, electronics, and paint recycling programs. ARMA ensures that the programs run effectively and meet Alberta’s diversion needs for these products.

RMA interest: As municipalities often host collection sites for tires, electronics, and paint, including the municipal perspective in the oversight of ARMA is crucial.

Recent issues:

- Development of long-term plans for tire, paint and electronics recycling
- Challenge of engaging Government of Alberta to address electronics not funded under the ARMA from ending up in the recycling stream and being orphaned.
- Transition of used oil recycling

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued transition of used oil recycling

Alberta Water Council Board of Directors

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: The Alberta Water Council Board of Directors (AWC BOD) is comprised of one representative from each of the sectors represented on the broader Alberta Water Council (industry, non-governmental organizations, government, Government of Alberta/provincial authorities), Alberta Forest Products Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Lake Management Society

Committee Purpose: To ensure that the AWC proceeds towards its strategic goals and to ensure it operates effectively and efficiently.

RMA interest: As many RMA members play an important role in managing water-related infrastructure and services, participation on the AWC BOD ensures that the rural municipal perspective is prominent in how the AWC addresses issues and makes decisions. The RMA has been active on the AWC for many

years, and their membership on the AWC BOD reflects their leadership on water-related issues in the province.

Recent issues:

- Formation of two new project teams: the Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team and the Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Project Team.
- Merging of AWC administration with Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) administration to increase efficiencies and collaboration among the organizations.
- AWC Process Guidelines review

Issues on the horizon:

- Monitor progress of working groups.
- Continue to develop an improved recommendation tracking system for the lake management report recommendations and others.

Alberta Water Council – Multi-Year Drought Working Group

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Innovates, Alberta Environment and Parks, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Alberta Water Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Crop Sector Working Group, Lake Environment Conservation

Committee Purpose: Explore a potential project on multi-year drought resiliency, based on a Statement of Opportunity brought forward by the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs). This work will support WPACs in engaging municipalities and communities within their watershed to better plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from multi-year droughts.

RMA interest: As extreme weather events such as droughts often have significant economic and environmental impacts in rural Alberta, ensuring the rural municipal perspective is present on the working group is crucial.

Recent issues:

- Development of municipal best practices related to drought management
- Categorization of existing drought-related resources
- Water shortage procedures
 - Water sharing agreements
 - Secure water for essential services
 - Debrief/lessons learned/identify barriers
- Winter reservoir levels

Issues on the horizon:

- Continuing to develop resources and information relations to drought mitigation and management

Alberta Water Council – Source Water Protection Working Group

RMA representative: Soren Odegard, District 5 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Newsprint, City of Edmonton, Esso, Alberta Irrigation Project Association, Canadian Natural Resources, Battle River Watershed, Town of Okotoks, Alberta Environment and Parks.

Committee Purpose: To provide guidance for protecting drinking water sources in Alberta.

RMA interest: Alberta’s rural municipalities account for 85% of Alberta’s land mass, as well as a significant portion of the source waters that flow through Alberta.

Recent issues:

- Document existing source water protection approaches

Issues on the horizon:

- Develop approaches to source water protection that will advance outcomes of *Water for Life* and *Our Water, Our Future: A Plan for Action*

ALERT Civilian Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: One representative of Aboriginal communities, one representative of the Calgary Police Commission, one representative of the Edmonton Police Commission, one representative chosen by the AUMA to represent and RCMP community with a population between 5000 and 500,000, and one representative from the RMA to represent a rural RCMP community.

Committee Purpose: The Advisory Committee is intended to provide civilian oversight to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) operating throughout Alberta. This includes reviewing ALERT’s annual business plan, budget and strategic plan, representing the interests of the public to ALERT directors, and engaging with the communities and organizations they represent to provide and receive information relevant to ALERT.

RMA interest: As community input into policing is central to supporting safe rural communities, RMA places great importance on sitting on the ALERT Civilian Advisory Committee.

Recent issues:

- Formed in 2018, this committee has not yet met.

Issues on the horizon:

- Formed in 2018, this committee has not yet met.

AUMA/RMA Joint Operating Committee

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President and Soren Odegard, District 5 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. The Joint Operating Committee (JOC), which consists of two board representatives from each association.

Committee Purpose: The *AUMA and RMA Working Agreement* is intended to guide and facilitate collaboration among the two organizations on selected advocacy issues. The *Working Agreement* allows for the formation of the AUMA/RMA The JOC meets periodically to discuss issues which may warrant joint advocacy between RMA and AUMA.

RMA interest: While RMA always prioritizes the interests of its members, there are some issues for which RMA and AUMA advocacy position is similar or identical. In such instances, there may be value in advocating jointly. When RMA and AUMA have competing advocacy positions on an issue, there are advantages to better understanding one another's position. The JOC supports both of these processes.

Recent issues:

- Federal infrastructure funding
- Joint asset management capacity-building opportunities
- Collaboration on MGA change management
- Cannabis legalization

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued knowledge- and capacity-building related to MGA change management
- Municipal opportunities and challenges related to implementation of cannabis legalization
- RMA/AUMA participation on Local Authorities Pension Plan Board of Directors
- Relationship building between municipalities and Indigenous communities
- Other advocacy issues as they arise

Cancer Strategic Clinical Networks Core Committee

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Health Services, Allied Health, Cancer Control Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Alberta, Covenant Health Palliative Institute, Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund, Highland Primary Care Network, Alberta Cancer Foundation, Alberta Health, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Cross Cancer Institute, Red Deer Regional Hospital

Committee Purpose: Alberta Health Services has developed a variety of strategic clinical networks (SCNs) to coordinate physician and clinical leaders and community representatives to develop and implement health improvement strategies across Alberta. The Cancer SCN will focus on strategies to improve access to resources and treatment for cancer.

RMA interest: As healthy communities are critical to rural viability, the RMA appreciates the opportunity to participate on the Cancer SCN Core Committee. The RMA brings forward the rural perspective on challenges in accessing health services.

Recent issues:

- Enhancing diagnosis processes
- Identifying current diagnosis challenges
- Priorities for implementation of various approaches
- Development of terms of reference

Issues on the horizon:

- Implementation plans for diagnosis acceleration approaches
- Defining quality around the diagnosis process
- Co-designing solutions to address gaps in cancer care in areas throughout Alberta.

Clean Air Strategic Alliance Board of Directors

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Alberta Energy, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health, Samson Cree Nation, Metis Settlements General Council, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Federation of Agriculture, Methanex Corporation, Alberta Forest Products Association, Graymont Western Canada Inc., Lehigh Cement, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Encana, Canadian Fuels Association, Imperial Oil, ATCO Power Canada Ltd., Capital Power Corporation, The Lung Association – Alberta and Northwest Territories, Southern Alberta Group for the Environment, Pembina Institute

Committee Purpose: The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) is a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to a comprehensive air quality management system for Alberta. The CASA Board of Directors oversees the operations and policy-making functions of CASA and ensures the organization's goals and mandates are met.

RMA interest: The RMA and its members are committed to environmental stewardship. As much of Alberta's industrial activity happens in rural municipalities, the RMA's role on the CASA Board of Directors is to ensure that both air quality and economic sustainability are considered.

Recent issues:

- Update on progress made by Ambient Air Quality Objectives Project Team
- Electricity Framework Review and its impact on the environmental sector
- Continued updates on five-year air quality and deposition monitoring plan
- Approval of 2018 operational plan

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of CASA project team progress

- Continued collaboration with Government of Alberta on air quality monitoring strategies
- Formation of project team review of electricity framework
- Strategic plan development

Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President, and Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Financial Services Corporation, Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen, Wildrose Agricultural Producers Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada

Committee Purpose: The Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) is intended to bring together organizations with a common interest in mitigating and responding to drought and excessive moisture events in order to develop advice and recommendations to complement government action on drought and excessive moisture and its impact on the agriculture industry.

RMA interest: As agriculture is critical to the economic sustainability of many RMA members municipalities, participation in the DEMAG is an effective way for the RMA to contribute knowledge and resources towards developing advice and tools intended to support the agriculture industry and rural municipalities in better preparing for and building resilience towards drought and excessive moisture events.

Recent issues:

- Ongoing crop condition updates
- Review and updating of terms of reference

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of crop conditions across the province
- Development of tools to support resiliency to drought and excessive moisture events

Endangered Species Conservation Committee

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented:

Committee Purpose: The Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC) is established by the Minister of Environment and Parks under the *Wildlife Act*. The ESCC is responsible for recommending legal designations and protections for threatened, endangered and special concern species as well as facilitating programming of conservation and recovery programs. The ESCC also recommends actions that will prevent species from becoming at risk.

RMA interest: RMA member are often challenges to implement or abide by endangered species protection orders within their municipalities which have economic and social impacts.

Recent issues:

- Overview of progress on status evaluations for Wood Bison, Plains Bison, Little Brown Bat and Northern Myotis Bat
- Recovery planning for Grizzly Bear in Alberta

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of progress on status evaluations.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Board of Directors

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Various municipal elected officials and provincial/territorial board members from across Canada.

Committee Purpose: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors meets quarterly to develop policy priorities for issues of concern to FCM members.

RMA interest: The RMA values the opportunity to bring the rural Alberta municipal perspective to the FCM National Board of Directors. The RMA's participation helps to ensure that the FCM develops advocacy positions and capacity-building programs that meet the needs of rural municipalities, as well as other types of municipalities in Canada.

Recent issues:

- Advocacy related to need for FCM to apply "rural lens" to policy issues and positions
- Advocacy related to bilateral negotiations between each province and territory and the Government of Canada related to the Investing in Canada plan.

Issues on the horizon:

- Advocacy for Government of Canada to develop a national broadband strategy
- Continued issues related to cannabis legalization
- Monitoring of progress of MAMP program
- Advocacy and opportunities associated with 2018 federal budget

Foothills Research Institute Board of Directors

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Indigenous Relations, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, ConocoPhillips, Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Forest Products, Jasper National Parks, Suncor Energy, Talisman Energy, University of Alberta, Weyerhaeuser, West Fraser Mills Ltd.

Committee Purpose: Foothills Research Institute (FRI) works toward sustainable land and resource management by engaging forest and forest resource users to look at the impact of primarily industrial use on the local ecology, economy, society, and culture. FRI shares new practices and technologies to support sustainable land and resource management, and research results with partners.

RMA interest: As RMA members provide municipal government to approximately 85% of Alberta's land mass, including much of Alberta's forested areas, participating on the FRI Board of Directors ensures that the municipal perspective is considered when determining approaches to sustainable land and resource management.

Recent issues:

- The importance of including Indigenous knowledge in the FRI strategic plan, and strengthening relationships with Indigenous and Metis communities
- Challenges with the impacts of caribou range planning on the oil and gas and forestry industries.
- Shortage of logging operators and its impact on the forestry industry
- Continuing risks/impacts of Mountain Pine Beetles
- Challenges of Alberta's oil and gas regulatory process and its impacts on investment and production in the oil and gas industry
- The need for enhanced silviculture and genomics to increase forest volumes

Issues on the horizon:

- Securing funding for migratory bird project
- Development of organizational implementation plans
- Review of organizational approach to use of external project funding

Forest Products Association of Canada

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Various representatives of Canada's forest products industry.

Committee Purpose: To advocate for an effective balance between sustainability of Canada's forests and the growth of Canada's forest products industry.

RMA interest: RMA members support Alberta's forestry industry and this industry supports economic development in rural areas of Alberta.

Recent issues:

- Role of industry and various levels of government in addressing the forestry industry and its relation to species at risk issues, particularly related to Caribou

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued advocacy related to the *Species at Risk Act*
- Participation in development of range plans for Little Smoky and A La Pêche Caribou herds

Forest Resource Improvement Association – FireSmart Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Partners in Protection Association

Committee Purpose: The FireSmart Advisory Committee functions as the approval body for the administration of the FireSmart program. The advisory committee reviews applications for funding under the FireSmart programs and provides oversight on FRIAA’s administration of funded projects.

RMA interest: As many RMA members have significant areas of forested lands within their boundaries, the RMA understands the value of wildfire mitigation initiatives. Participation on the FireSmart Advisory Committee provides a good opportunity for the RMA to be involved in the development of wildfire mitigation initiatives.

Recent issues:

- Review and selection of applications for projects funded through the FireSmart program. Thirty-three projects totalling approximately \$3.2 million were approved for funding

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing selection and monitoring of projects funded through the FireSmart program
- Initial stages of development of “FireSmart Hub,” an online planning tool to assist municipalities, First Nations, and contractors in developing FireSmart plans. The FireSmart Hub will include mitigation strategies, preparedness guides, data, and other resources to support the creation of FireSmart plans

Genesis Reciprocal Insurance Exchange Board

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Town of Jasper, Mountain View Regional Water System

Committee Purpose: Oversees the operations of the Genesis Insurance Reciprocal program.

RMA interest: As the RMA operates Genesis, involvement on the Exchange Board is mandatory.

Recent issues:

- Continued oversight of reciprocal management to support a sustainable program

Issues on the horizon:

- Oversight of Genesis’ 2018 business plan

Government-Industry Joint Geophysical Steering Committee (JGSC)

RMA representative: Soren Odegard, District 5 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Indian Oil and Gas Canada, Government of Alberta Aboriginal Consultation Office, Farmers Advocate Office, Alberta Forest Products Association, Alberta Sand and Gravel Association, Coal Association of Canada, Oil Sands Mining Industry, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, electrical utilities industries as represented by ATCO Electric

Committee Purpose: The Province of Alberta, as the steward of Crown land and natural resources, allocates sub-surface, surface, and timber rights that are vital to the industries. The approach to allocation adopted by the province requires that industries cooperate operationally, and to that end, Alberta is committed to facilitating discussions between the industries and addressing regulatory issues where the changes benefit the parties under a long-term working relationship. The JGSC will operate within this context, advising its constituent associations, their members and government on operational issues between the industries so as to improve their overall relations.

RMA interest: As many of the sub-surface, surface, and timber rights stewarded by the Province of Alberta are located in rural areas, RMA members have an interest in ensuring that the allocation of such rights to private industry take into consideration local land use planning and environmental impacts.

Recent issues:

- Caribou range planning
- Indigenous relations
- Review of exploration directives from Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors
- First Nation and Metis Consultation Policy renewal
- Piezometer setback update

Issues on the horizon:

- Caribou range planning
- Indigenous relations
- First Nation and Metis Consultation Policy renewal

Great West Life Councillor Pension Plan Board of Trustees

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President and Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: None

Committee Purpose: This committee provides oversight to the Great West Life Councillor Pension Plan.

RMA interest: The RMA provides this program for councillors as a benefit municipal councillors.

Recent issues:

- Approval of Trustee bylaws
- Updated agreements with partners who manage the pension program

Issues on the horizon:

- Review of plan structure to ensure subscribers receive maximum value

Local Authorities Pension Plan Board of Directors

RMA representative: Soren Odegard, District 5 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Union of Public Employees, Alberta Health Services, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Amalgamated Transit Union, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta School Boards Association, Health Sciences Association of Alberta, United Nurses of Alberta

Committee Purpose: The Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) is the pension plan for employees of municipalities and other public-sector organizations. The LAPP Board of Directors provides governance and oversight to the pension plan.

RMA interest: As employers of municipal employees, RMA members have an interest in the LAPP.

Recent issues:

- Discussion on new LAPP self-governance model and possible structures for self-governance of LAPP
- Full funding of plan

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued progress on determining a new LAPP self-governance model

Local Authorities Pension Plan Stakeholder Consultation Group

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Various employer and employee plan members

Committee Purpose: The Local Authorities Pension Plan Stakeholder Consultation Group (LAPP SCG) serves to periodically advise LAPP on issues such as their actuarial valuation report and long-term funding strategies.

RMA interest: As employers of municipal employees, RMA members have an interest in the LAPP.

Recent issues:

- Discussion on new LAPP self-governance model and possible structures for self-governance of LAPP

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued progress on determining a new LAPP self-governance model

Miistakis Institute/Environmental Law Centre Community Conserve Municipal Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Miistakis Institute, Environmental Law Centre

Committee Purpose: The Municipal Advisory Committee is intended to ensure that municipal voice is considered in the ongoing operation of the Community Conserve. Community Conserve is a web site and a research team. On the web site, municipal personnel submit their environmental and conservation concerns and ideas as individuals, and then prioritize them as a community of municipalities. The research team then proposes Project Plans to address the top issues and facilitates the process of crowd-funding those projects. All project results are made available to all municipalities.

RMA interest: Participation on the Municipal Advisory Committee allows the AMDC to ensure that the Community Conserve is structured in a way that makes it as accessible and as useful as possible for rural municipalities.

Recent issues:

- Developing committee mandate, structure, etc.

Issues on the horizon:

- To be determined.

Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director and Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Local Government Administration Association, Society of Local Government Managers, Government Finance Officers Association (Alberta Chapter), Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association, Alberta Municipal Affairs

Committee Purpose: Evaluate yearly submissions to the Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence

RMA interest: Represent the rural municipal perspective and participate in peer recognition.

Recent issues:

- At the last meeting, in the summer of 2018, the committee reviewed applications and selected award winners. In 2018, there were fourteen applications in the "innovation" category, nine applications in the "safe communities" category, and twenty-two applications in the "partnerships" category.

Issues on the horizon:

- The committee will meet in the summer of 2019 to review applications and select 2019 award winners.

Peer Network

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association, Local Government Administrators Association, Alberta Municipal Affairs

Committee Purpose: The Peer Network is a group of experienced municipal elected officials and administrators who volunteer to provide confidential advice to their colleagues on local governance issues and disputes.

RMA interest: The RMA believes in the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among members. The Peer Network is an excellent opportunity for colleagues to work through and consider solutions to issues within their municipality. Its confidential nature ensures that the issues identified can be discussed freely.

Recent issues:

- Potential new methods of communication between mentors and mentees
- Long-term program funding
- How to address challenges municipalities may face in relation to Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework development

Issues on the horizon:

- Long-term program funding
- Possible expansion of mentor roster

Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Seniors and Housing, Alberta Public Housing Administrators Association, Alberta Network of Public Housing Agencies, Alberta Seniors Communities and Housing Association, Alberta Health, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Community and Social Services, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

Committee Purpose: Provides advice to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division, of Alberta Seniors and Housing on the implementation of the Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy and the development of effective implementation initiatives.

RMA interest: As affordable housing in rural communities may be very different from that in urban communities, it is important that the RMA provides the rural municipal perspective to the Assistant Deputy Minister. RMA members have a role in the provision of affordable housing in their communities.

Recent issues:

- Identifying housing needs through data mapping
- Strengthening existing data collection tools
- Tenant dispute resolution process
- Management body handbook refresh

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued implementation of the Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy
- Disposable income review process

Provincial Agriculture Service Board (ASB)

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman, and Five Agriculture Services Board regional representatives

Committee Purpose: To facilitate an effective and positive working relationship between the RMA and the ASB Provincial Committee to strengthen advocacy efforts that will benefit rural Alberta. As the RMA and the ASB Provincial Committee represents the interests of rural Alberta and the agriculture industry, there is an opportunity to collaborate to strengthen common advocacy efforts. Specifically, the RMA and ASB Provincial Committee work together to:

- Identify opportunities for joint advocacy to the provincial and federal governments
- Represent member interests promoting the contributions of the agriculture industry and opportunities for advancing the industry
- Share resolutions endorsed at ASB and RMA conventions that are in alignment on specific issues
- Provide strategic direction on behalf of rural municipalities
- Identify solutions to issues raised through resolutions
- Incorporate the other party in committee work that may benefit objectives
- Explore the possibility of holding joint meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry when possible, understanding that each group has their own specific mandate

RMA interest: As the agriculture industry is a major economic driver in many rural municipalities, the RMA places great importance on having a strong relationship with the ASB Provincial Committee.

Recent issues:

- Potential de-registration of Strychnine
- Vegetation management along transportation right of ways

- Farm and ranch workplace legislation
- Agricultural plastics recycling
- Resolutions related to potential joint advocacy topics such as:
 - *Species at Risk Act*
 - Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis prevalent in Bison within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park
 - Wildlife damage compensation program
 - Elk quota hunt
 - Management of farm and agricultural leases

Issues on the horizon:

- Fusarium graminearum and Clubroot

RMA Charitable Gaming Committee

RMA representative: Randy Taylor, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: RMA districts, AUMA

Committee Purpose: The RMA Charitable Gaming Committee was formed to provide a rural municipal perspective on the charitable gaming model and how it impacts rural communities and organizations. RMA resolution 13-17F called for the formation of the committee to develop recommendations that would address the current inequities in the charitable gaming model.

RMA interest: RMA formed this committee in response to member direction through a resolution. The issue of how charitable gaming revenues are distributed to organizations in various areas of the province has been identified as a concern by RMA members for several years. Voluntary organizations are critical to community sustainability throughout rural Alberta.

Recent issues:

- Committee formation
- Review of charitable gaming model
- Development of draft recommendations to improve equitability of model

Issues on the horizon:

- Finalization of report and recommendations
- Approval by RMA board
- Presentation to RMA members and use of report and recommendation in advocating on this issue

RMA Resolutions Committee

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: One representative from each RMA District

Committee Purpose: As per RMA Bylaws, the RMA Board of Directors establishes a Resolutions Committee that comprises of one representative from each of the five RMA districts and is chaired by a board representative. The Resolutions Committee administers the RMA Resolutions Process policy and has an important role in the resolutions sessions held at each of the RMA two annual conventions.

RMA interest: The RMA receives resolutions endorsed by RMA members, which provide the RMA Board and administration with advocacy and governance direction.

Recent issues:

- Review of submitted resolutions for the Spring 2018 RMA resolutions session.

Issues on the horizon:

- Review of submitted resolutions for the Fall 2018 RMA resolutions session.

Rural Health Professions Action Plan Board of Directors

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President

Other organizations represented: Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health Services, College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, Health Quality Council of Alberta

Committee Purpose: The Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) is a collaborative partner and advocate for rural communities seeking greater access to health care. RhPAP undertakes advocacy and provides specific services intended to support the recruitment and retention of health professionals to rural communities. The RhPAP Board of Directors is a hybrid of a advisory and policy board, meaning that the board reviews both the strategic objectives of RhPAP and the policy direction being taken by RhPAP to meet those objectives.

RMA interest: As rural communities across Alberta face challenges in recruiting and retaining health professionals, participation on the RhPAP Board of Directors will ensure that the municipal role in recruitment and retention is considered, and that RMA members are apprised of any recruitment and retention programs or initiatives available to them.

Recent issues:

- Review of locum program
- Role of nurse practitioners in supporting rural healthcare

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued transition of board focus to address new mandate

R.W. Hay Evaluation Committee

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: Society of Local Government Managers

Committee Purpose: The primary role is to choose a deserving winner of the R.W. Hay Award for Excellence in Municipal Administration. An annual winner is to be chosen from those candidates nominated by their councils.

RMA interest: The RMA awards the R.W. Hay Award to highlight excellence in municipal administration.

Recent issues:

- As the award is presented at the RMA Fall Convention each year, this committee has not met in recent months.

Issues on the horizon:

- This committee will meet prior to the RMA Fall 2018 Convention to review nominations.

Safety Codes Council Board of Directors

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Various Safety Codes Council Committee chairs, City of Edmonton, City of Calgary

Committee Purpose: The Safety Codes Council (SCC) administers portions of Alberta's safety system, including accrediting municipalities, corporations, and agencies that sell permits and inspect the work carried out under these permits. The SCC is overseen by the SCC Board of Directors, which consists of experts in governance, finance, risk management, human resources, and business.

RMA interest: As many municipalities are accredited to sell permits and inspect buildings for compliance with safety codes, ensuring that the SCC considers the municipal perspective is critical.

Recent issues:

- Review financial statements, sub-council appointments, and update policies.

Issues on the horizon:

- Potential changes to labour laws and impacts on Safety Codes Council.

Safety Codes Council Technical Coordinating Committee

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented: Various Safety Codes Council sub-committee chairs, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. The SCC Technical Coordinating Committee is made up of the chairs of ten SCC sub-councils and representatives from municipalities, labour, and education institutes

Committee Purpose: The Safety Codes Council (SCC) administers portions of Alberta’s safety system, including accrediting municipalities, corporations, and agencies that sell permits and inspect the work carried out under these permits. The SCC Technical Coordinating Committees role is to participate and contribute in the development of safety codes and standards.

RMA interest: As many municipalities are accredited to sell permits and inspect buildings for compliance with safety codes, ensuring that the SCC considers the municipal perspective is critical.

Recent issues:

- Ongoing review and discussion of safety codes-related issues

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing review and discussion of safety codes-related issues

Septage Variance Transition Working Group

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 Director

Other organizations represented:

Committee Purpose:

RMA interest:

Recent issues:

- Determining how to educate municipal elected officials and staff on their responsibilities in this area
- Determine what resources municipalities need to address septage variances and what role the committee, RMA or Government of Alberta should play in developing these resources

Issues on the horizon:

- Develop specific plan to provide guidance to municipalities during transition

TRAVIS Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: Alberta Transportation, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Municipal Supervisors Association, various municipal participants

Committee Purpose: Alberta Transportation’s Multi-Jurisdictional Transportation Routing and Vehicle Information System (TRAVIS MJ) is a web-based permitting system developed by Alberta Transportation, in conjunction with a task group comprised of municipal and industry representatives. TRAVIS MJ Advisory Committee provides advisory guidance to Alberta Transportation on how TRAVIS MJ is functioning across Alberta.

RMA interest: RMA members manage extensive infrastructure networks across Alberta and it is important that a rural municipal voice in the permitting process is heard.

Recent issues:

- Ongoing successes and challenges associated with TRAVIS MJ in municipalities across Alberta
- The possible modernization of TRAVIS MJ and how it could be enhanced to better meet the needs of municipalities and industry
- The allowance of new generation wide base single tires (NGWBST) on trucks in Alberta, and how that could impact municipal infrastructure and permitting

Issues on the horizon:

- Approaches to address the use of NGWBST in provincial and municipal roads.

Water North Coalition

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Various urban and rural municipalities in northern Alberta, Alberta Municipal Services Corporation, Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association, Aquatera, Aspen Regional Water, Advanced Technology Applications, Beaver River Watershed Alliance, Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence, Lesser Slave Watershed Council, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, Northern Lakes College, Portage College, Smoky River Regional Water Commission

Committee Purpose: The Water North Coalition (WNC) seeks to ensure, through collaboration, that sustainable water systems are available to every northern community. The WNC shares information on water and wastewater regulations and responsibilities, identifies emergent workforce needs, and advocates for local solutions and funding for training, education, recruitment and retention, and succession planning for municipal water/wastewater personnel.

RMA interest: As the WNC is focused on northern Alberta, the RMA participates as a non-voting member in order to provide input into strategies used elsewhere in the province that could be applied to WNC, and to sharing WNC ideas with members.

Recent issues:

- Discussion of challenges many northern municipalities face in testing water due to lack of labs in northern Alberta.
- Review of certification process for water/wastewater operators.

Issues on the horizon:

- Work with colleges and post-secondary institutions in northern Alberta to develop a water treatment internship program.

Western Canada Municipal Associations

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President and Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

Committee Purpose: This committee's purpose is to allow the municipal associations across western Canada to exchange ideas, discuss issues of joint interest, and identify opportunities for joint advocacy.

RMA interest: The RMA derives value from listening and exchanging information with other municipal associations across western Canada that often share similar challenges and perspectives.

Recent issues:

- Federal infrastructure funding for municipalities
- Federal disaster mitigation funding
- Cannabis legalization and excise tax sharing
- The impact of the: *Fisheries Act*, the *Navigation Protection Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act* on municipalities
- Agriculture plastics
- Federal/provincial carbon tax
- Provincial/municipal climate change initiatives
- Rural crime
- Provincial funding for municipalities
- Provincial drainage regulations
- Caribou recovery planning
- Indigenous relations
- Trans-mountain pipeline
- CFTA rules: buying groups

Issues on the horizon:

- The next WCMA meeting will take place in spring 2019. Priority issues will be identified closer to the meeting date.

Wildfire Management Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Forest Management Agreement Holders and Quota Holders, Alberta Forest Products Association, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, representatives from the rail industry and electric industry

Committee Purpose: Provides a forum for forest users and/or managers to discuss wildfire management issues, policies and programs, provide updates on wildfire operations, discuss options to promote

information and education related to wildfires, and for municipalities and other stakeholders to update Alberta Environment and Parks on local wildfire-related issues.

RMA interest: As RMA members provide municipal government to approximately 85% of Alberta's land mass, including much of Alberta's forested areas, participating on the Wildfire Management Advisory Committee ensures that the municipal perspective is considered when discussing wildfire-related issues and policy development.

Recent issues:

- This committee only meets as issues emerge and as such, there have been no recent meetings.

Issues on the horizon:

- This will be determined as issues emerge.