



RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
of ALBERTA

RMA Board of Directors Committee Report

Spring 2019



**RMA Board of Directors Committee Report:
Spring 2019**

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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 August 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Committee Appointments by Board Member

Board Member	Committee
Al Kemmere RMA President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Operation Practices Act Policy Advisory Group • Agricultural Plastics Recycling Stakeholder Advisory Committee • Alberta Common Ground Alliance Task Force • 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 • Growth Management Board Rural Caucus • RMA Resolutions Committee • R.W Hay Evaluation Committee • Western Canada Municipal Associations
Brian Brewin 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 Riparian Habitat Management Society • Alberta Water Council – Multi-Year Drought Working Group • Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee • Provincial Agriculture Service Board
Paul McLauchlin Director, District 2 (Central)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Advisory Committee • Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta – Land-Use Framework • Alberta Water Council Board of Directors • Alberta Water Council – Water for Life Implementation Review Committee 2019/20 • Endangered Species Conservation Committee • Foothills Research Institute Board of Directors • Miistakis Institute/Environmental Law Centre Community Conserve Municipal Advisory Committee • Wildfire Management Advisory Committee
Kathy Rooyakkers	<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
- Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group
- Local Authorities Pension Plan Stakeholder Consultation Group
- Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee
- Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee
- Safety Codes Council Technical Coordinating Committee
- Septage Variance Transition Working Group

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
- Power and Natural Gas Consumers Panel
- 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
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Committee Summaries

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

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 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:

- Support for Alberta Climate Change Office initiative to develop plan to build regional climate change adaptation capacity.
- Exploring Canada's conservation targets under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and role of existing management of private and public lands in contributing to goal.
- Research role of vegetative buffer strips and undisturbed fence lines in supporting disease prevention and improved biodiversity.
- Consider request for support from the Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network (ESBN) to develop and implement an extension plan that leads to the adoption of environmental markets in the agriculture sector.

Issues on the horizon:

- Collaboration with Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network (ESBN) on a number of initiatives related to conservation in the agriculture sector.

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:

- Collaboration between AEPA Crop Sector Working Group and Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG).
- Working on addressing environmental impacts of intensive livestock operations through focus on developing a disease surveillance strategy, solutions related to municipal development strategies and exclusion zones, and water quality research.
- Examining future of recycling and agriculture industry, such as agricultural plastics recycling and extended producer responsibility.
- Research on the extent to which existing climate data can be used to predict future changes to weather and climate patterns.
- Role of agriculture industry in water stewardship and importance of considering multi-sector responsibility for responsible management of water.
- Bighorn Country proposal.
- Changes to the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change (ESCC) Producer Program and potential impacts on agriculture industry.

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing collaboration with provincial and federal stakeholders related to environmental stewardship in the agriculture industry.

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:

- Impact of AOPA on municipal land use planning.
- Nutrient management requirements.

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:

- Development of business plan for agricultural plastics recycling pilot program through grant funding from Government of Alberta.
- Outreach and collaboration with industry, municipalities and other stakeholders related to design and operation of pilot program.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued design and operation of pilot.
- Long-term planning for permanent program options.

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:

- Re-appointment of current board members.

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:

- Development of advocacy to support Alberta's Bill 211: *Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act*.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued input to Government of Alberta on approach to development of a province-wide underground infrastructure notification system.

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:

- Enhanced titles mapping.
- Development of mapping data amending agreement.
- Open Data Areas Alberta project.

Issues on the horizon:

- 2019 priority projects, including the following:
 - Registered interests on titled land
 - Enhanced titles mapping
 - Governing agreement updates

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 resource management system

- Statement of concern process.
- License approval process.

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 impacts of different regulatory requirements for professional and volunteer firefighters.
- Employment challenges for volunteer firefighters.
- Impact of post traumatic stress disorder and mental health on firefighter retention.

Issues on the horizon:

- Development of new terms of reference.
- 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 us in rural areas.

Recent issues:

- Need for additional training/education for AFRRCS users including a possible programming guide or mentoring program for new agencies.
- Impacts of releasing or sharing conversations on AFRRCS in accordance with FOIP and other requirements.
- Monitoring and discussion of operational issues such as compatibility of system with various providers, and others.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of operational challenges.

Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee

RMA representative: Brian Brewin, 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.
- Development of Metis harvesting policy.

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: Brian Brewin, 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.
- Updating of health and safety management systems and auditing training.

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:

- Transition of Alberta Used Oil Management Association into Alberta Recycling Management Authority.
- Recruitment and introduction of new executive director.
- Ongoing challenges with inadequate fee structure at point of purchase to support long-term viability of paint and electronics recycling program.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued advocacy to Government of Alberta for modernization of paint and electronics recycling fees.

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society

RMA representative: Brian Brewin, District 1 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Beef Producers, Trout Unlimited Canada, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Government of Alberta.

Committee Purpose: The Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (better known as Cows and Fish), is a non-profit society striving to foster a better understanding of how improvements in grazing and other management of riparian areas can enhance landscape health and productivity, for the benefit of landowners, agricultural producers, communities and others who use and value riparian areas.

RMA interest: As many RMA members host beef and dairy farms, as well as grazing lands, understanding the role that rural municipalities can play in supporting effective grazing habits to protect riparian habitats is relevant to the association.

Recent issues:

- Planning and delivery of education and extension events related to conservation programming.
- Providing input to other organizations and consultations related to various management projects.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued delivery of education and extension events related to conservation programming.

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:

- Continued oversight of Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team and Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Project Team.
- Update of AWC Communications Strategy.

Issues on the horizon:

- Potential phase 2 for Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team.
- Preliminary work on developing approach to four potential new projects, including ecosystem services, aquatic ecosystem protection, watershed monitoring and management funding, and net environmental effects.

Alberta Water Council – Multi-Year Drought Working Group

RMA representative: Brian Brewin, 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 common municipal issues before, during and after a drought.
- Categorization of existing drought-related resources from municipal, provincial and federal 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:

- Support Alberta Environment and Parks in developing project to gather data on water treatment plants and intake sources.
- Reviewed Government of Alberta Source Water Allocation Directive.
- Oversight of project to conduct a jurisdictional scan of international approaches to source water protection intended to identify potential innovations or best practices to apply to Alberta.

Issues on the horizon:

- Finalize ongoing projects such as jurisdictional scan and guidance document on approach to source water protection.

Alberta Water Council – Water for Life Implementation Review Committee 2019/20

RMA representative: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 Director

Other organizations represented: Keepers of the Athabasca, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Lake Management Society, Alberta Energy Regulator, Athabasca Watershed Council, Alberta Irrigation Districts Association, City of Calgary, Environmental Law Centre, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Forest Products Association,

Committee Purpose: To provide guidance to Alberta Water Council related to implementation of the Water for Life Program.

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. As such, rural municipalities have a significant interest and role in the management and safeguarding of Alberta's water resources and the effective implementation of the Water for Life Strategy.

Recent issues:

- Confirm scope and role of committee.
- Identify water management issues present across the province and how they relate to Water for Life.
- Understand common issues and challenges faced by water managers.

Issues on the horizon:

- Work with Government of Alberta and other stakeholders to gather input on Water for Life implementation from water managers across the province.
- Develop Water for Life performance measures to better understand successes and challenges of implementation.

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.

- Future of municipal funding.
- Municipal-Indigenous relationship building.
- 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.
- Relationship building between municipalities and Indigenous communities.
- Post-MSI municipal funding.
- 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:

- Supporting committee in gathering more information on impacts of cancer care accessibility in rural Alberta.
- Role of community care in promoting wellness.

Issues on the horizon:

- 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 management framework review.
- Strategic planning.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued monitoring of CASA project team progress.
- Continued collaboration with Government of Alberta on air quality monitoring strategies.
- Strategic plan development.

Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group

RMA representative: Al Kemmere, President, and Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 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 and reporting across province.
- Enhancing reporting process and developing annual growing season reports.

- Preparation of further reporting enhancements for upcoming crop year.

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: Paul McLauchlin, District 2 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 members are often challenged to implement or abide by endangered species protection orders within their municipalities which have economic and social impacts.

Recent issues:

- Recovery approach for Western Grebe.
- Recovery approach for Prairie Falcon.
- Protection of riparian areas.

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:

- Federal election readiness.
- Advocacy approach for a national broadband strategy.
- Cannabis legalization and fair revenue-sharing between provinces/territories and municipalities.
- FCM advocacy for energy development and market access.

Issues on the horizon:

- The implementation of funding under the Investing in Canada plan.
- Continued issues related to cannabis legalization.
- FCM advocacy for energy development and market access.
- Advocacy and opportunities associated with 2019 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:

- Ongoing support of grizzly bear project.
- Sustainability of organization.

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing focus on organizational sustainability and project funding opportunities.

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:

- No recent meetings.

Issues on the horizon:

- To be determined at a future meeting.

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:

- Continued review and selection of applications for projects funded through the FireSmart program.

Issues on the horizon:

- Ongoing selection and monitoring of projects funded through the FireSmart program.
- Review of application process, including expression of interest and terms of reference documents to ensure applications received are within program scope.

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:

- Setting of insurance rates.
- Development of 2019 business plan.

Issues on the horizon:

- Oversight of 2019 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:

- Impacts of bankrupt companies on leaseholders.
- Overhaul of policies and regulations governing seismic industry.

Issues on the horizon:

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

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:

- Transition of pension plan to group RSP
- RMA role in new program

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued oversight of transition to group RSP.

Growth Management Board Rural Caucus

RMA representative: Kara Westerlund, Vice President

Other organizations represented: Sturgeon County, Strathcona County, Parkland County, Leduc County, Foothills County, Rocky View County, Wheatland County

Committee Purpose: The Growth Management Board Rural Caucus is comprised of rural municipalities which are also members of one of Alberta's two growth management boards. The Rural Caucus is intended to identify items of mutual interest for the purposes of rural advocacy, growth management board strategies, and joint opportunities.

RMA interest: As RMA members who are also members of growth management boards face unique challenges, RMA appreciates being involved in the Rural Caucus to remain apprised of issues, challenges and opportunities associated with growth management boards.

Recent issues:

- Growth management board appeal and dispute resolution processes.
- Regional evaluation frameworks.
- Regional servicing approaches.
- Preservation of agricultural land.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued challenges and opportunities within growth management board regions.

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:

- Implementation of new governance model and administrative board of directors.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued oversight of LAPP.

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:

- Implementation of new LAPP governance structure.

Issues on the horizon:

- Role of RMA in communicating municipal concerns with LAPP to board of directors.

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: As this is a new committee, no meetings have taken place to this point.

Issues on the horizon: To be determined following first meeting.

Municipal Excellence Awards Review Committee

RMA representative: Brian Brewin, 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:

- No meetings since last report. Next meeting likely to take place in summer of 2019

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.

- New four-year operating grant from Government of Alberta.
- How to address challenges municipalities may face in relation to Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework development.

Issues on the horizon:

- Possible review and expansion of mentor roster.
- New marketing and promotion approaches to support program uptake.

Power and Natural Gas Consumers Panel

RMA representative: Tom Burton, District 4 Director

Other organizations represented: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Alberta Chambers of Commerce, Alberta Federation of Agriculture, Utilities Consumer Advocate, public members at large.

Committee Purpose: The Power and Natural Gas Consumers Panel is a public panel administered by Service Alberta intended to provide independent advice to the Minister of Service Alberta by representing the interests of residential, farm and small businesses related to electricity and natural gas consumption.

RMA interest: RMA members represent constituents in all three priority areas for the panel: residential, farm and small business. Additionally, accessing electricity and natural gas in rural areas often carries unique challenges.

Recent issues:

- Development of Consumer Education Dashboard.
- Rural community generation issues.

Issues on the horizon:

- Leverage panel member networks to enhance outreach and consumer education.

Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee

RMA representative: Kathy Rooyakkers, District 3 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:

- Tenant support program framework.
- Seniors lodge program logic model and metrics.
- Tenant dispute resolution.
- Guide for services for LGBTQ seniors.

Issues on the horizon:

- Continued implementation of the Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy.

Provincial Agriculture Service Board (ASB)

RMA representative: Brian Brewin, 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:

- Weed Act appeal process.
- Government of Alberta funding support for ASB administration.

Issues on the horizon:

- Possible changes to farm and ranch workplace safety legislation.

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 Fall 2018 and spring 2019 RMA resolutions session.

Issues on the horizon:

- Review of RMA Resolutions Process Policy.
- Review of submitted resolutions for the Fall 2019 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:

- Determining successful community recruitment practices.
- Practitioner training opportunities.

- Role of nurse practitioners in supporting rural healthcare.

Issues on the horizon:

- Enhancement of specialized services in rural Alberta.

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:

- Review of applications and selection of winner for the 2018 R.W. Hay Award for Excellence in Municipal Administration.

Issues on the horizon:

- This committee will meet prior to the RMA Fall 2019 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, annual report, sub-council appointments, and update policies.
- Long-term business planning and budgeting.

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: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Health Services, safety codes officers, Alberta Summer Villages Association, MD of Smoky River

Committee Purpose: The Septage Variance Transition Working Group was formed to develop resources and share information with municipalities related to the transition of responsibility for septage variance approvals from the Government of Alberta to municipalities.

RMA interest: As most rural municipalities include properties with septage systems, it is important that the transition process be supported by adequate resources and education for RMA members.

Recent issues:

- Determining how to educate municipal elected officials and staff on their responsibilities in this area.
- Development of resources (such as guides and flowcharts) and educational opportunities to support effective transition.

Issues on the horizon:

- Complete the development and roll-out of resources and educational materials.

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:

- Improved marketing and promotion for WNC through social media and other means.
- Potential use of cured in place pipe to replace traditional pipes.
- Continued recruiting for additional members, particularly from Indigenous communities and industry.
- Development of mutual aid documents for both temporary and long-term agreements.

Issues on the horizon:

- Gather information from municipalities on water/wastewater infrastructure, including liabilities/deficits, challenges, grant availability, etc.

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:

- This committee has not met since the last report. The next meeting will take place in summer 2019.

Issues on the horizon:

- The next WCMA meeting will take place in summer 2019. Priority issues will likely include:
 - Market access
 - Bill C-69
 - Collaboration with FCM
 - Disaster mitigation
 - Rural crime and public safety

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.