



Councillor Report

Division: 3

Councillor\Reeves Report

Reporting Period: September 17, 2026

1. Committee of the Whole (All Council)

- 7 Requests for Discussion was on this Agenda the first being (MLUST) Municipal land Use Suitability Tool this tool helps support informed consistent and evidence-based land use planning and development decision-making. This tool recognizes that Smoky Lake County's Landscape contains significant agricultural, environmental, recreational, cultural and economic assets that collectively contribute to the County's long-term prosperity and quality of life. This tool supports transparent, objective and defensible land use decision-making with consistent evaluation criteria. Provides council and administration with readily accessible spatial data when evaluating development proposal amongst many other benefits.
- #2 topic was Land use Bylaw Amendments Reclassifying Certain Uses from Discretionary classification to Permitted Classification the difference between these two is Permitted Uses is automatically allowed in specific District and Discretionary Uses may be allowed in specific District but only if the development Authority specifically approves it and this is MPC (Municipal Planning Commission) Several suggestions were made by the Director of County Services which were discussed with some suggested changes by council
- #3 Bylaw # 1508-26 Speed limit Bylaw this bylaw has been prepared to consolidate all existing speed limit regulations into a single comprehensive bylaw. The maximum speed limit of 80km on all highway's roads under the direct control of Smoky Lake County and identifies roads where reduced speed limits of 70km down to 20km are warranted. This will improve public safety. This bylaw will also provide a stronger legislative foundation for enforcement
- #4 Rescission of Policy -2-16 Infectious Disease management Plan a review was determined that most of the document is operational and would be better if it was incorporated into the regional Emergency Response Plan. The new updated regional Emergency response Plan now includes an infectious Disease/Pandemic Response section that addresses the municipality's preparedness
- #5 Policy 03-56 Equipment Storage, Availability and Compensation the purpose of this policy is to establish a clear expectation regarding the storage, security, maintenance, operational availability, and compensation associated with County-owned equipment



- #6 Procedural Bylaw this specific bylaw deals with the number of delegations be permitted per Regular County Council Meeting. Submission deadline be revised from 14 days to 10 business days. Public Question and answer period will remain but will be called just Public Question Period this will help manage public expectations regarding responses from council.
- #7 Policy 08-18 Council Remuneration and Expenses this will give Transparency and Accountability Enhancements which will be posted quarterly on the county website.

2. Joint Municipalities July 13th (All Council)

- Representatives from the **Aspen View Public School Division Board of Trustees** provided an update on several educational initiatives and developments. Topics discussed included the proposed modular classroom addition to the school, ongoing collaborations with **Portage College**, and opportunities to potentially host local diploma examination preparation programs.
- Michelle **Wright**, representing **Travel Lakeland**, delivered a presentation on several regional economic development and tourism initiatives. Her update included information regarding the Rural Renewal Stream, Chamber Strategy development, and current Travel Lakeland activities and priorities.
- Sergeant **Anita Doktor** of the **Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment** presented an overview of local policing matters, including recent crime statistics, ongoing officer training initiatives, and community engagement activities such as the "Coffee with a Cop" program.
- Rachelle **Amyotte**, Director of **Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)**, provided an overview of what a regionalized FCSS model could look like across participating municipalities. The presentation outlined potential governance structures, service delivery considerations, and opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration.
- Mark **Baxter** provided an update on the Regional ACP Grant. He reviewed the current status of the grant, discussed available funding opportunities, and outlined potential next steps and various options for utilizing the funds to support regional priorities.

3. Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) July 13th (Craig)



- A discussion was had about Signing Authority to remove the previous people and replace them with the new assigned signing authority.
- Quarterly Meeting Structure Review members were to determine how they would like to have quarterly meetings and potential host locations.
- Marianne Janke presented the Executive Director Report covering marketing and promotion, partnership development, administration, and trail-related opportunities. The board also discussed the value of Alberta's Iron Horse Trail as a major community and tourism infrastructure asset. For marketing and promotion Travel Alberta funding was confirmed at \$60,000 the breakdown for this year's funding is Lisa Roper Outdoors – Ambassadorship \$5000, Lisa Roper Outdoors – TV Commercial \$10,000, Junction Consulting Digital Marketing \$3,000, The Group Social Media management \$27,750, Commercial Designs \$2500, Paid Online Marketing \$2500
- Project Manager Report stated that early investment strategy figures suggest between \$200 Million and \$220 million in potential investment across Travel Lakeland this includes accommodations, experiences, museum support and other Lakeland tourism assets
- Operations Coordinator Report included highlighted Lakeland Open Farm Days, 3 hosts for this event cancelled due to flooding but 28 hosts remained confirmed. This more than doubling the previous year's participation. Travel Lakeland continues to build relationships and partnerships with Travel Alberta, Indigenous Tourism Alberta, Explore Edmonton, and regional tourism operators. Travel Lakeland is considering holding a fall tourism session.

4. Smoky Lake Legion Branch #227 July 17th (Craig, Dave)

- Attended to celebrate Smoky Lake Legions Centennial Birthday I brought greetings on behalf of Smoky Lake County Council and its residents.

5. Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) July 20th (All Council)

- This meeting was to determine what the Town and County should do regarding MCC. A new business plan is needed to move forward with a project the board made a motion



to have the CAO's, and Lydia get together to compare the strategic plan to come up with a common thread to move forward with a strategic Business Plan.

6. Meeting with Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs July 20th (All Council)

- All the Region had a chance individually to discuss certain topics with Minister Williams. Smoky Lake County topics were strengthening Rural Alberta the purpose of this discussion was the key challenges facing Smoky Lake County and to seek the province's continued partnership in addressing infrastructure, Health Care, Emergency Services, Housing, and Economic Development.

7. Smoky Lake regional heritage Board July 22nd (Craig)

- Discussion on the preservation of the Photo Archive Project we currently have 3 Hard Drive Backup of all the photos. Looking into Documenting Oral Histories which will be done by Artificial Intelligence then reviewed for accuracy.
- Talked about Lovers Lane Nature Trail Interpretive Signage these signs will show the Landscape giving the history of White Earth valley and how it was formed over thousands of years by the processes of water and wind erosion. Ecosystem shows Smoky Lake County lies at the southern boundary of the Boreal Natural Region where it transitions to the Parkland Natural Region with the North Saskatchewan River forming the border. Vegetation the strata of habitats at this site present a wide distribution of plants from white spruce, aspen to sandbar to Bebb's willow these trees and shrubs provide cover and food for wildlife the next is Wildlife this shows a wide variety of animals inhabit the site many mammals or their tracks can be seen from rabbits and weasel to moose and bears also the diverse vegetation supports a variety of birds. The last interpretive sign will have Sandstone which shows the pile of sandstone tucked into the trees which was excavated and collected During construction of the Towns horizontal water tower in 1972 The coarse-grained, reddish brown to gray sandstone is sedimentary rock.
- Heritage awareness wants interpretive panels, plaques and self guided tours to show our enriched history of the Smoky Lake Region this will bring Educational Awareness

8. Smoky Lake Regular Council Meeting July 23rd (all Council)



- Council discussed this and would like you to refer to our council package agenda for information and topics for this meeting.
- There was a public hearing at 1:00pm regarding a new proposed development by Austin Zaharko several ratepayers showed up for this public hearing to express their concerns about this development.

9. Smoky Lake Municipal Planning Commission July 23rd (All Council)

- Please refer to the Chairs Report David Kully Division 2 Councillor

10. Smoky Lake Stampede Aug 1st (All Council)

- All council attended the parade to represent the county and throw candy for the parents and kids alike. The County won 1st Place in our category.

11. Special Council Meeting Aug 4th (All Council)

- Council attended this meeting because of the emergent situation we had to make a motion to replace a piece of gas line that was struck by lightening the motion read that Smoky Lake County Council approve an unbudgeted capital expenditure for the repair of the natural gas pipeline from the Natural Gas 2026 Budget in the amount of \$120,000

12. Water Commission Associated Engineering Aug 7th (Craig, Lorne)

Please refer to the chair Lorne Halisky Deputy Reeve Division 4 Councillors Report

12. Waskatenau Fair Days Aug 9th (All Council)

All council attended the parade to represent the county and throw candy for the parents and kids alike. The County won 1st Place in our category

Special Council Meeting Aug 11th (All Council)



- Council declared an Agricultural Disaster on this day due to the unforeseen amount of rain that has fallen in our region this year this was done to bring awareness for our farming community to the Provincial and Federal Government. Council also sent this to our regional 5 RMA conference for discussion
- Council discussed reimbursement of Vehicle Damages Resulting from a large sinkhole on our roadway
- Council went into camera under section 20 of the ATIA Act this was to discuss the CAO Evaluation. Chyenne Shaw has successfully completed her probationary period and was awarded the full-time position

Committee of the Whole Aug 11th (All Council)

- Council discussed an outstanding Natural Gas Service Installation Invoice and made a motion to approve transferring the outstanding balance of \$130,622 to Tax No 17581550 contingents upon payment not being received within 30 days of the meeting
- Administration drafted an AI Policy this will help direct Administration and Council on the use of responsible AI usage
- Policy 15-12 was brought to discuss the use of personal and company cell phones
- Request for drainage was made by a landowner to lower the culvert this type of request requires prior approval under the Water Act Wetlands which was explained to the ratepayer
- Policy 08-18 Council Remuneration and Expenses was brought back with some amendments

HWY 28,63 Regional Water Commission Board Meeting Aug 13th (Lorne, Craig)

- Please refer to the chair Lorne Halisky Deputy Reeve Division 4 Councillors Report

Vilna Boomtown Days Aug 15th (All Council)

- All council attended the parade to represent the county and throw candy for the parents and kids alike.

Smoky Lake region ICC Meeting Aug 18th (Craig)



- Regional approach of FCSS was the topic at this meeting the committee is looking at different type of funding formulas as well as what this look like for our community in the future we discussed a three-year path to sustainable core looks like and what the total requirement mean for each municipality

Travel Lakeland DMO Aug 20th (Craig)

- A discussion on quarterly meetings was brought up once again no decision was made where to hold our next meeting so it will be held in St. Paul in September
- Discussed Farm days and their success
- Round table discussion on upcoming events

Smoky Lake Foundation Aug 20th (Jered, Craig)

- Please refer to the chair Division 5 Councillor Jered Serben Report

Town Hall AI Data Center Redwater Aug 20th (Craig, Lorne, David)

- Three of us councillors attended this very important town hall in Redwater. There were a lot of people there to hear what an AI Data Center means and a lot of opposition with regards to having it located in the Heartland Area. One thing that was clear is that the Provincial Government has been discussing this for the past 2 years and now has just brought this to public awareness which was part of the problem. In our council meeting there was a motion for only 2 councillors be able to attend this town hall so we all carpooled to Redwater which would keep the cost down and Lorne and David attended according to the motion that was made and I attended as Smoky Lake County's ex-officio

Northern Lights Library Aug 28th (Craig)



- Terry Hampton has Resigned from NLLS
 - NLLS is currently doing some restructuring in the administration office
 - Buffalo Lake has signed an agreement to join the Northern Lights Library System which has now been sent to the Minister all Metis Settlements are now part of NLLS
 - Looking into a new accounting service for our local library's
 - Stronger Together Conference is coming October 19th to 21st which will take place in Edmonton at the Double Tree
 - 1.5% Levy increase this coming year from 5.5% to 5.65%
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- Plan of service was held at Metis Crossing this retreat was very successful building on stakeholders' engagement the committee has now developed a solid first draft of our next five-year plan of service

HWY 28/63 Regional Water Commission Meeting September 3rd (Lorne, Craig)

- Please refer to the chair Lorne Halisky Deputy Reeve Division 4 Councillors Report

Upcoming meetings:

September 10, 2026 Regular council meeting for the purpose of departmental meeting – 9:00 a.m.

September 25, 2026, Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 meeting – 9:30 a.m.

October 22, 2026, County Organizational meeting – 9:00 a.m.

