



**RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA (RMA)
DISTRICT 5
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
January 24, 2025**

Organizational meeting of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) District 5 held on Friday, January 24, 2025, in hybrid in-person/virtual (ZOOM) format and hosted by Flagstaff County, Killam Community Hall, Alberta.

CALL TO ORDER

Kayleena Spiess, Chief Administrative Officer, Beaver County, called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

AGENDA

Reeve Roger Konieczny, Minburn County requested that item 7.3 from the Regular Meeting agenda be moved to the Organizational Meeting agenda to be discussed in conjunction with the Nomination of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative.

MOVED by Kevin Smook, Beaver County, that the agenda be adopted with the following addition:

1. Add Item 3.4a) – Value of FCM Membership

CARRIED

NOMINATIONS

Nomination of Chair

Kayleena Spiess, CAO, Beaver County, explained the nomination and voting process to the membership.

Kayleena Spiess, CAO, Beaver County, called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Deputy Reeve Don Gulayec, County of Two Hills, nominated Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec, Beaver County.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec accepted the nomination.

Kayleena Spiess, CAO, Beaver County, called for nominations for the position of Chair a second and third time.

As there were no further nominations, Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec, Beaver County, was declared Chair of RMA District 5 for the 2025 term.

MOVED by Josh Crick, MD of Bonnyville, that Beaver County Deputy Reeve, Gene Hrabec be confirmed as Chair of RMA District 5.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec assumed the Chair.

Appointment of Secretary / Treasurer

MOVED by Carl Ogradnick, County of Minburn, that Beaver County Administration assume the role of RMA District 5 Secretary and Treasurer.

CARRIED

Nomination of Vice-Chair

Chair Hrabec called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Councillor Eric Anderson, Minburn County, nominated Deputy Reeve Leslie Cusack, County of Vermillion River as Vice-Chair.

Deputy Reeve Leslie Cusack, County of Vermillion River accepted the nomination.

Chair Hrabec called for nomination for the position of Vice-Chair a second and third time.

Chair Hrabec declared, Deputy Reeve Leslie Cusack, County of Vermillion River as Vice-Chair of RMA District 5 for the 2025 term.

Nomination for RMA Resolutions Committee Alternate Member

MOVED by Carl Ogrodnick, County of Minburn, that the Vice-Chair be appointed to the position of RMA Resolutions Alternate Member for the 2025 term.

CARRIED

Value of FCM Membership

Reeve Roger Konieczny, Minburn County, requested input from the membership regarding District 5's continued support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the attendance of a representative on behalf of the membership to the annual conference. Members spoke for and against District 5 Federation of Canadian Municipalities representation.

MOVED by Carl Ogrodnick, County of Minburn that the District 5 discontinue appointment of a representative to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

DEFEATED

Nomination of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative

Chair Hrabec called for nominations for the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative.

Councillor Charlyn Moore, Lac La Biche County, nominated Councillor Robert Parks, Strathcona County.

Deputy Reeve Bob Barss, MD. of Wainwright nominated, Reeve Mike Wildeboer, MD. of Wainwright.

Councillor Robert Parks, Strathcona County spoke to his nomination.

Reeve Mike Wildeboer, MD. of Wainwright spoke to his nomination.

MOVED by Charlyn Moore, Lac La Biche County, that the vote for the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative be conducted by secret ballot.

CARRIED

Chair Hrabec declared Reeve Mike Wildeboer, MD. of Wainwright as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative for the 2025 term as per the result of the secret ballot.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Bob Barss, MD. of Wainwright, that the secret ballots for the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Representative be destroyed.

CARRIED



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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.

DRAFT



**RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA (RMA)
DISTRICT 5
REGULAR MEETING
KILLAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
JANUARY 24, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gene Hrabec called the meeting to order at 10:33 am.

PROTOCOL ITEMS

Reeve Don Kroetch, Flagstaff County acknowledged that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (Sotie), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

GREETINGS

Reeve Don Kroetch, Flagstaff County gave greetings to the membership on behalf of Damien C. Kurek, Member of Parliament (MP) – Battle River – Crowfoot, and Flagstaff County.

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills, that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 approve the agenda with the following additions and deletions:

- Add Item 10.2 – Formation of a Federal Lobby Association for Rural Municipalities
- Add Item 11.2 - District 5 Golf Tournament
- Remove Item 7.3 – Value of Federation of Canadian Municipalities Membership – County of Minburn.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Approval of District 5 August 23, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills, that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 approve the January 26, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes.

CARRIED

To accommodate scheduled speakers, the agenda proceeded in the following order.

SPEAKER

10:30 am – Matt Enwright spoke on Battle River Railway.

Battle River Railway is a new generation cooperative, short line railway, based out of Forestburg, Alberta. The railway was purchased in 2010 by area producers and residents. The railway is Alberta's longest straight section of railway, beginning in Alliance and continuing 52 miles to the Camrose area. Battle River Railway serves its agriculture and industrial customers on a weekly basis. Battle River Railway is proud to hire local and service the economic needs of the surrounding communities. Core services are Commodity Transportation, Railcar Storage, Grain Merchandising, Transloading and Tourism.

BUSINESS

District 5 2024 Financial Statement

MOVED by Charlene Wetthuhn, Camrose County, that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 members adopt the 2024 financial Statement.

CARRIED

2025 Membership Fees

MOVED by Gene Hrabec, Beaver County, that District 5 members waive the 2025 annual membership fee.

DEFEATED

SPEAKER

Jenalee Waring, Economic Development Officer – Flagstaff County spoke on the Flagstaff Crafted story.

- Flagstaff County Crafted Program at a glance.
 - Business Directory and Website
 - Professional Content Creation
 - Educational Resources
 - Events
 - Annual Gift Guide
 - Collaboration Opportunities
 - Networking / Events
 - Extending Customer Reach
- Eligibility for Flagstaff County Crafted Program
 - Within the Flagstaff County Region or
 - Within 40km of the boarder of Flagstaff Con.
- 3 Big Whys – Small Business is Big Business
 - Diversify your Economy
 - Stronger Community Ties
 - Diversifying Strengths
 - Wildrose Co-op Partnership

Kristy Jackson, Salted Business Owner – Spoke on Flagstaff Crafted and the positive impacts it has had on their business.

RESOLUTIONS

Water and Wastewater System Funding – County of St. Paul

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Maxine Fodness, County of St. Paul, that

Therefore be it resolved that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to restore funding levels and expand eligibility through the Water for Life Program to assist with required water/wastewater distribution system replacements and maintenance that will ensure rural residents continue to have access to safe potable water and wastewater removal from their homes.

Motion **SECONDED** by Reeve Roger Konieczny, County of Minburn.

CARRIED

Formation of a Federal Lobby Association for Rural Municipalities Sponsoring Municipal Name : Municipal District of Bonnyville

MOVED by Councillor Josh Crick, MD of Bonnyville, that

Therefore be it resolved that RMA work towards creating a lobby group for rural municipalities across Canada that will include a mandate to actively lobby for the specific needs and values of rural municipalities.

MOTION SECONDED by Deputy Reeve Mike Wildeboer, MD of Wainwright.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Alberta Municipalities Representative

Andrew Knack – Director of Cities over 500,000

Bill Rock advised the membership that Andrew was unable to attend.

Bill Rock – Director of Villages East

Bill Rock – Director of Villages East provided a report on the following:

- Thank board of directors and members for continued work
- Viability of villages and small towns – LGFF operating grant
- Continued work with RMA

SPEAKERS

Mike from Cortech and Darren Triple S Transport spoke on Cortech and services they have to offer:

- Dust Control
- Stabilization
- De-Icing
- Highway Contractors – Sand Mixing
- Tradeshows/Conventions
- BBQ Traylor – Convention

Cortech sponsored lunch and refreshments for the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 am and reconvened at 12:46 pm.

REPORTS

Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 Director

Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 Director Kevin Wirsta, and RMA Vice President John Burrows reported on the following:

- Renewable Energy

Rural Municipalities of Alberta President

Rural Municipalities of Alberta President Kara Westerlund reported on the following:

- Police Funding Model
- Engagements in 2025
- Wildfire Working Group
- Spring Convention March 17-19
- RiskPro Communities April 22-24
- EOEP Website

Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 FCM Representative

Rural Municipalities of Alberta District 5 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Representative, Robert Parks reported on the following:

- FCM Report for RMA District 5
- Advocacy Days
- Notable Activities
- Fall Economic Statement
- Board Meeting Highlights
- Prime Minister's Resignation
- Budget 2025
- FCM Sustainable Communities Conference

INFORMATION ITEMS

Meeting Host Schedule

September 2025 – Lac La Biche County

District 5 Golf Tournament

Wainwright to host Annual Golf Tournament

Chair Gene Hrabec thanked Flagstaff County for hosting the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.