

County of St. Paul No. 19

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

Vicinia Planning and Engagement Inc. was retained by the Regional Partnership including Lac La Biche County, County of St. Paul, County of Smoky Lake, M.D. of Bonnyville, County of Two Hills and the County of Vermilion River; to complete nine Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks. We have been working closely with the administrative of each rural municipality to identify and assess any intermunicipal issues that may exist between the County of St. Paul and your neighbouring municipalities (Two Hills, Smoky Lake, Vermilion River, Lac La Biche and Bonnyville).

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

Bill 18, the Modernized Municipal Government Act stipulates that municipalities with a common boundary must develop an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework:

1. to provide for the integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services,
2. to steward scarce resources efficiently in providing local services, and
3. to ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents.

An ICF must inventory all services:

1. provided by each municipality
2. shared between municipalities on an intermunicipal basis
3. provided by third parties

With regard to services an ICF must address the following five services:

1. transportation
2. water and wastewater
3. solid waste
4. emergency services
5. recreation

An ICF must also address any other service provided that benefit residents in the other municipality. An ICF is essentially a cover letter that references all of the services that could be provided by municipalities, both independently and jointly. Reference will be made to existing agreements between the municipalities and neighbouring partners. For example, under Emergency services, the ICF's make reference to the existing mutual aid agreements you have with your rural neighbours.

In addition to the MGA requirements to reference services, an ICF must also include a dispute resolution process. In the event an issue arises after the ICF has been adopted there must be a mechanism to address the issue, including the various steps which will could result in binding arbitration if the dispute cannot be resolved locally. We also recommend that an ICF include wording regarding the development of new capital projects.

With regard to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Agreements between the County of St. Paul No 19 and your rural neighbours included in this project, there are not many issues or agreements.

County of Two Hills – The only outstanding issue is the need for an agreement regarding the waste water transfer station at Lac Sante. The Intermunicipal Development Plan has recently been approved by both municipalities and there is a mutual aid agreement.

M.D. of Bonnyville No. 87 – there are no outstanding issues with Bonnyville. Both municipalities have approved the Intermunicipal Development Plan, both municipalities are members of Muni-Corr and there is a mutual aid agreement.

County of Smoky Lake – Both Counties are members of Evergreen Waste Management Services Commission and have entered into an agreement to establish and maintain a mini-transfer station to serve the Hamlet of Spedden. The County of St. Paul has also entered into a construction access agreement with Smoky Lake to provide access to the metering station and pumphouse on the Highway 28/63 Commission water line. Both municipalities have entered into a mutual aid agreement, are members of Muni-Corr and have recently approved the Intermunicipal Development Plan.

County of Vermilion River - there are no outstanding issues with Vermilion River. Both municipalities have approved the Intermunicipal Development Plan and there is a mutual aid agreement.

Lac La Biche County – there are no outstanding issues with Lac La Biche. Both municipalities have approved the Intermunicipal Development Plan and there is a mutual aid agreement.

As the ICF is not a planning document, there is no requirement for a public hearing and or public consultation. We have prepared a brief news release for all municipalities to post on their web sites. Over the next month we will be meeting with the Councils of the other rural partners and during the summer months the ICF agreements will be finalized and presented to Council for approval. Council may give all three readings to the ICF bylaw in one Council meeting. Once the ICF is approved by both municipalities a copy of the ICF must also be provided to Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Austrom, Associate Vicinia Planning and Engagement Inc.