

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
POLICY & PRIORITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

The Policy & Priority meeting of the Council for Clear Hills County will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, commencing at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - 2. AGENDA**
 - 3. MINUTES**
 - 4. DELEGATION(S)**

 - 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. COUNCIL**
 - 1. a. Village of Hines Creek 2**
 - b. Hines Creek Truck Fill 9**
 - c. West End School Visit..... 12**
 - d. Grain Bags 13**
-
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Policies & Priorities Meeting
Meeting Date:	May 22, 2019
Originated By:	Council
Title:	Village of Hines Creek
File:	68-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

Council requested a discussion regarding the Village of Hines Creek.

BACKGROUND:

P129-19(03-25-19)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Fletcher that this committee table the discussion regarding the Village of Hines Creek until the next Policy and Priority Meeting. **CARRIED.**

Village of Hines Creek previous funding		
Year	Amount	Information
2019	\$500,000	Motion C631-17
2018	\$500,000	Motion C631-17
2017	\$200,000	Motion C483-16
2016	\$267,000	Motion C437-15
2015	\$200,000	Motion C622-14
2013	\$1,000,000	
2012	\$500,000	
2011	\$145,000	annually ended in 2011

ATTACHMENTS

- Request for funding
- Village of Hines Creek Information
- Village of Hines Creek & Clear Hills County incentive information

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLUTION BY to recommend Council

Initials show support - Reviewed by:	Manager:	CAO: 
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RECEIVED

MAR 14 2019

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, Alberta
T0H 3W0

March 12, 2019

File No: 0126

Dear Reeve Croy, and Council

Re: 2019 Request for Funding

On behalf of Village of Hines Creek Council I want to extend our appreciation for your willingness to discuss the viability of the Village at the February 15, 2019 joint council's meeting.

At this time Council is requesting an additional \$214,000.00 to go towards the tax recovery property process within the Village, securing funding at this time enables us to go forward with cleanup of certain properties. We are diligently working to compile a 5 Year Capital plan and will have it to you for your consideration prior to the 2020 budget process.

I am also requesting the release of the unconditional funding for Operating In the amounts of \$500,000.00 for the 2019 year.

On behalf of the Village Council and Staff I am extremely grateful for your Council's contribution to our community.

Yours truly,

Leanne Walmsley
Chief Administrative Officer

Village of Hines Creek Policy & Priority Meeting Information

Elected Officials	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County
Mayor/Reeve	Hazel Reintjes	Miron Croy
Deputy	Camille Zavisha	Dan Fletcher
Councillor	Megan Bjornson	Peter Frixel
Councillor	*The village currently has a ministerial order allowing them to run with 3 elected officials	Jason Ruecker
Councillor		David Janzen
Councillor		Raymond Wetmore
Councillor		Amber Bean

Population	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County	Discussions
Total Population	346	3033	Discussed the ward boundary moving the ward line between wards 1 & 2 to include the village
Population by ward	*The Village does not have a ward system		
Ward 1		499	
Ward 2		469	
Ward 3		403	
Ward 4		431	
Ward 5		603	
Ward 6		432	
Ward 7		196	

Misc.	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County
Full time employees	4	13
Memberships in regional Commissions	NPRL	NPRL
Total Area of Municipality (H)	289.9 H	1,468,352.0
Number of Hamlets	0	2
Length of open roads maintained (km)	12.50	1,895.60
Paved Roads (km)		67
Paved Roads in Hamlets (km)		4
Water mains length (km)	5	69.90
Waste water Mains Length (km)	5	5.80
Storm Drainage Mains Length (km)	0.49	
Number of Dwelling Units	181	1,072
Regional Water line (km)		64

Legislated Organizations	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County
Planning agency (MMSA)	None	Yes
Housing management body (NPHF)	Yes	Yes

Village of Hines Creek Policy & Priority Meeting Information

Taxation & assessment	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County	Discussions
Municipal Tax Rate			
Residential	17.11	1.30221	
Farmland	17.11	6.97055	
Non-Residential	36.72	14.64590	-Possibly lower to keep businesses from leaving the area -Settings separate rates for village to cover infrastructure costs
Machinery & Equipment	36.72	14.64590	
Assessment			
Residential	13,218,550	135,460,430	
Farmland		40,666,250	
Non-Residential	6,705,070	651,507,060	
Machinery & Equipment	19,923,620	263,677,720	

Finance (2017)	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County	Discussions
Assets	1,551,776	35,084,879	
Liabilities	75,502	4,509,623	
Net Financial Assets (Net Debt)	1,476,274	30,575,256	
Non-Financial Assets	8,038,289	86,548,065	
Accumulated Surplus	9,541,563	117,123,321	
Outstanding Debt	500,000.00	0	

Item	Village Cost	County Cost	Discussions
Recreational Sites Within the Village (Rec Board Funding)	County	84,500 through Rec Board funding. HC Arena	Continue to provide
Hines Creek Seniors Handi Bus	County	18,550 100% of all costs for operating and maintaining	Continue to provide
Recycle Bins	County	6,000 annually	Continue to provide
Fire fighting services	5%	95%	Continue to provide
Fire Fighting Equipment		100%	Continue to provide
FCSS Funding	Village gives 100% to School liaison position (PRSD)	Application process, various programs	
Street Sweeper	County	3,000 annually to store to store in HC	Continue to provide
Weed control	County	Cost recovery	Continue to provide
Development Services	County	Cost recovery	Continue to provide
Continuing Education		100%	Continue to provide
Mutual Aid Emergency	Assistance when needed	Assistance when needed	Continue to provide

Village of Hines Creek Policy & Priority Meeting Information

Services	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County & Hamlets	Discussions
*Recycling (County Supplied)	County	100%	Continue to provide
Transfer Stations	County	9 facilities throughout County	Continue to provide
Curb Side Garbage collection	Water, Sewer, Garbage: Residential 168.00/bimonthly Commercial 176.00/bimonthly Metered Accounts - The Village has 7 metered accounts and are charged as follows: Flat Rate 27.00 for first 3000 gallons used and 6.75 for each additional 1000 gallons thereafter Water Meters: In 2015 the Village received funding through the Federal Gas Tax Program for a water meter project however, as the monies were not spent within two years, we must reallocate those monies to a different project.	0	Follow County procedure (private)
Water Meters		\$335-\$2,010 per water meter	All residents & businesses will be metered
Domestic potable water		.021 per gallon	Regional Water line tie in to Village. Cost recovery
Industrial potable water		.05 per gallon	
Industrial non-potable water		.04 per gallon	
Wastewater		.0060 per gallon	
*Raw water Supply (shortage)			
Hamlet/Village Snow removal	Public Works provides for snow removal from roadways, alleyways and sidewalks Private Snow Removal is provided at a fee of \$20.00/driveway only after essential snow removal is completed however administration recommends that residents contact privately for snow removal as the Village does not want to compete with private industry.	Contracted	Contracted

Village of Hines Creek Policy & Priority Meeting Information

Services	Village of Hines Creek	Clear Hills County & Hamlets	Discussion
*Street sweeper	0	100%	Continue to provide
Fire services	5%	95%	Continue to provide
Recreations	<i>Total Arena & Fitness Center Expenses \$135,443.53</i> <i>Total Arena & Fitness Center Revenue \$158,503.93</i>		Recreation Operating Committee? All recreation eg. Arena, spray park
Emergency management			Continue
Business licencing	yes	-	Remove from Services
Fire Permits	yes	-	Remove from Services
Seniors		Senior Driveway Snowplowing/summer grading	Continue to follow County procedure
Grading/maintenance		Contracted	Continue
Rental Equipment		100 % County owned	Continue
Subdivision & expansion	The Village does not have any subdivision plans currently.		Create HC Development Planning Committee

Current 2018 Mill Rate Bylaw		20% reduction contribution (cost to County)		25% reduction contribution (cost to County)	
VHC-Residential	17.11	Residential	\$45,234	Residential	\$56,542
VHC-Non-Residential	36.72	Non-Residential	\$49,242	Non-Residential	\$61,552
<hr/>					
CHC-Residential	1.3	Residential	\$35,280	Residential	\$44,099
CHC-Non-Residential	14.65	Non-Residential	\$55,335	Non-Residential	\$69,169

*These figures are based off the 2018 Village of Hines Creek Mill Rate Bylaw and Assessment calculations.

	Current 2018 Mill Rate Bylaw		20% County funded Supplement			25% County funded supplement		
	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	County Supplement	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	County Supplement
Residential	17.11	\$226,169	13.688	\$180,935	\$45,234	12.8325	\$169,627	\$56,542
Non-Residential	36.72	\$246,210	29.376	\$196,968	\$49,242	27.54	\$184,657	\$61,552

*These figures are based off the 2018 Clear Hills County Mill Rate Bylaw and Assessment calculations.

	Current 2018 Mill Rate Bylaw		20% County funded Economic Growth Incentive (EGI)			25% County funded Economic Growth Incentive (EGI)		
	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	EGI	Mill Rate	Tax Levy	EGI
Residential	1.3	\$176,398	1.3	\$176,398	\$35,280	1.3	\$176,398	\$44,099
Non-Residential	14.65	\$276,676	14.65	\$276,676	\$55,335	14.65	\$276,676	\$69,169

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Policies & Priorities Meeting
Meeting Date:	May 22, 2019
Originated By:	Council
Title:	Hines Creek Truck Fill
File:	11-02-02 & 41-09-25

DESCRIPTION:

Council requested a discussion regarding a Hines Creek Truck Fill.

BACKGROUND:

P130-19(03-25-19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this committee table the discussion regarding the Hines Creek Truck Fill until a future Policy and Priority Meeting.

CARRIED.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Information
2. Dugout Location Map & Hines Creek Well Location

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLUTION BY to recommend Council

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

CAO:



Herbicide & Pesticide Information

According to Vaughn Leuschen, a well-known and respected research biologist in Alberta that develops herbicide and pesticide formulations, as long as the water is less than 500 ppm in hardness and pH level between 6.5 and 7.2 efficacy of herbicides and pesticides will not be compromised.

Eureka River Truck fill – Non- potable

Project Costs:

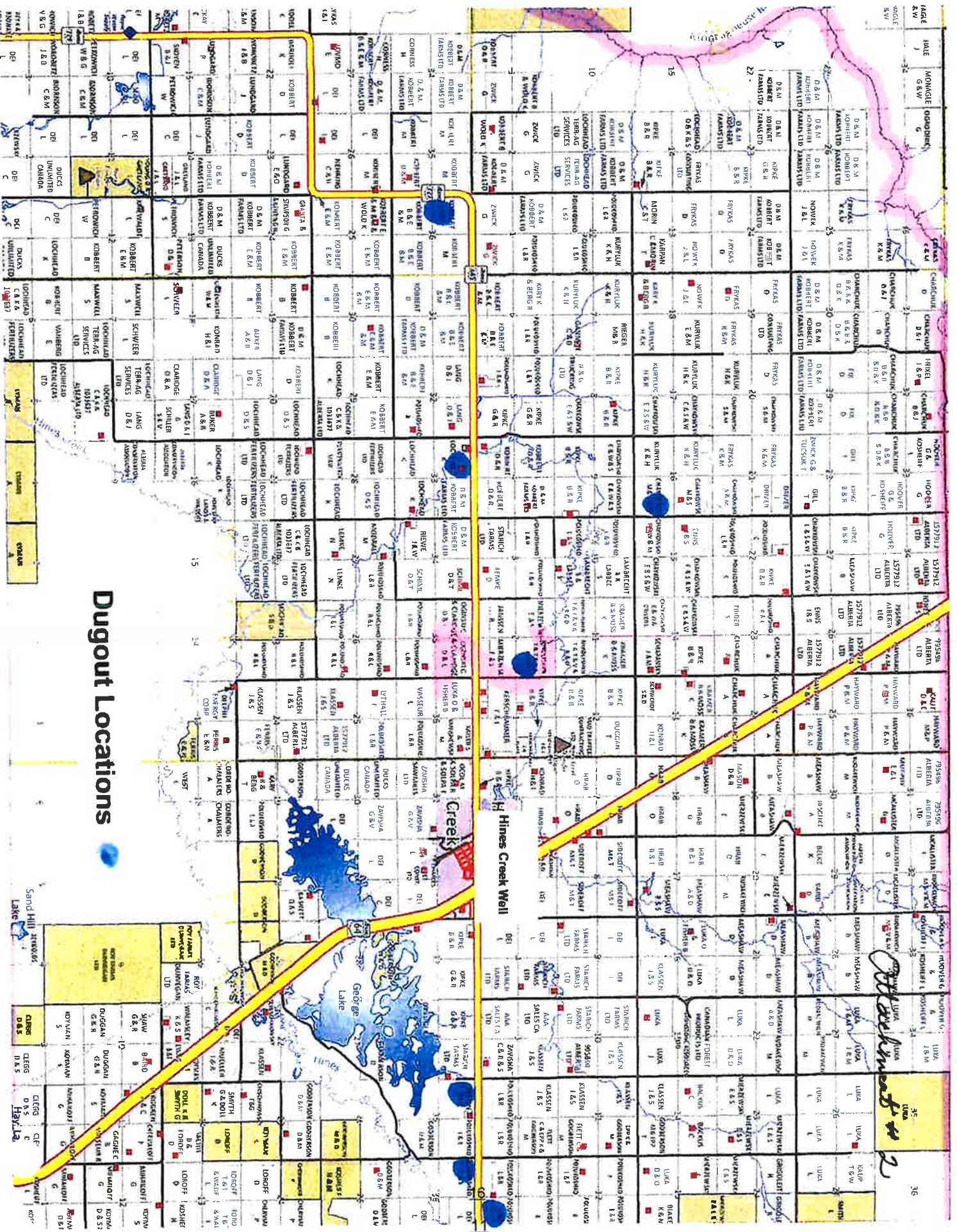
Overall cost \$118,268.70

Items included in the cost:

- Land Purchase
- Brushing the area around the dugout
- Installation of power
- Construction of the building
- Pump and required materials to get it running

Water Samples:

- Samples have been collected from Worsley Wastewater Truck & Eureka River Truck Fill and sent to lab for analysis
- Results are not back.



Dugout Locations

Handwritten signature

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Policies & Priorities Meeting
Meeting Date:	May 22, 2019
Originated By:	Council
Title:	May 23, 2019, West end School Tour
File:	68-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

Council requested a discussion regarding the Thursday, May 23, 2019, West end School Tour

BACKGROUND:

<i>Funding for the 3 West End Schools</i>		
Trades Training	2012-2018	\$319,255.21
FCSS	2010-2019	\$536,484.00
Menno Simons School upgrade	2018-2019	\$3,000,000.00
Hines Creek Parking Lot expansion	2016	\$143,617.57

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLUTION BY to recommend Council

Initials show support - Reviewed by:	Manager:	CAO: 
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Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Policies & Priorities Meeting
Meeting Date:	May 22, 2019
Originated By:	Council
Title:	Grain Bag disposal
File:	11-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

Councillor Frixel requested a discussion regard the used grain bags being disposed within the County.

BACKGROUND:

Clear Hills County

GRAIN BAG ROLLER- Self powered, gas motor
\$50.00 deposit - No rental Charge
5 year total users = 61

The Alberta government announced they are moving forward with funding for a three-year pilot project of \$750,000. The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) has submitted an application to access the \$750,000 of funding to cover the costs of a market assessment and a pilot project over a three-year period (2019-2021) with the expectation that there will be a rollout into a permanent program by 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Plastics Recycling in Alberta – Whitepaper
- Letter to APRG Members and Provincial Stakeholders
- Problem statement and Outcomes

RESOLUTION BY to recommend Council

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

CAO:



Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 14, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Agricultural Plastics Program
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with an update on the Agricultural Plastics Recycling program from the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group.

BACKGROUND:

The Alberta government announced they are moving forward with funding for a three-year pilot project of \$750,000. The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) has submitted an application to access the \$750,000 of funding to cover the costs of a market assessment and a pilot project over a three-year period (2019-2021) with the expectation that there will be a rollout into a permanent program by 2022.

There is a communications strategy for the pilot to help communicate to all stakeholders, so expect to see more details released once the application is accepted by the Province.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Plastics Recycling in Alberta – Whitepaper
- Letter to APRG Members and Provincial Stakeholders
- Problem statement and Outcomes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the update from the Alberta Plastics Recycling Group on the Agricultural Plastics Recycling program.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABJ

AgFieldman:

GC

Agricultural Plastics Recycling in Alberta – Whitepaper

December 6, 2018

Executive Summary

This document intends to provide an update on the state of agricultural plastics management in the Province of Alberta. It provides a history of the recycling pilot programs, surveys and research that have been done in the past decade and the current need for a provincial agricultural recycling program. It also explores the programs in other provinces as positive examples of environmental stewardship. It is the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group's (made up of 20 stakeholder associations and connected members and partners) recommendation for the Government of Alberta to put in place recycling legislation for grain bags and twine as soon as possible.

This whitepaper will be reviewed and updated at each APRG meeting with current information. This draft is dated **December 6, 2018**.

Introduction: The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG)

In December 2016, a working group formed to advance the discussion and action on the topic of agricultural plastics recycling. The APRG gathered stakeholders for further discussion about a provincial solution for ag plastics recycling because of concerns over the lack of options for the waste material, combined with the absence of policy for a provincial agricultural plastics diversion program. From January to June 2017, the group met with over half a dozen producer groups and communicated to over 30 producer groups in the province (representing dairy, beef and crop agricultural producers among others) to update them on the topics and issues of ag plastics waste and recycling.

In August of 2017, a group of 70 representatives from municipalities and producer groups gathered for discussions about challenges and opportunities around agricultural plastics recycling. This was the start of discussions to form policy recommendations to present to the Government of Alberta.

To include a wide group of stakeholders, the APRG extended invitations to join to agricultural producer groups, retailers, manufacturers and others in November 2017.

Managing Ag Plastics Waste – Background

Agricultural plastics, in the form of baler twine, grain bags, bale wrap, silage plastic and feed bags of various sizes and materials are a problematic waste for agricultural producers and agricultural businesses and pose an environmental threat. Anecdotal evidence, as well as data from surveys (see links throughout the document), suggest plastics use is increasing with limited options for safe disposal. In 2013, CleanFARMS Inc., in partnership with Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development (ARD), initiated an [Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study](#), to identify and quantify significant sources of paper and plastic waste on Alberta farms. The study showed that the total agricultural film waste, including grain bags and silage plastic, is an estimated 3300 to 6400 tonnes per year in Alberta. At the same time, estimates for waste twine were 2000 to 6000 tonnes per year. These volumes represent a significant waste of resources, as well as pose a logistical waste management challenge. Landfills may prohibit or limit the disposal of some agricultural plastics, more specifically twine, because of the handling challenges it presents such as potential damage to equipment. Burning on farms was listed as one of the top disposal options for four out of five agricultural plastics categories in a [2012 Agricultural Plastics Recycling Agricultural Producers Survey](#) (pg.20). Research shows that harmful compounds are

released from burning plastic at low temperatures such as open burning, and emissions such as dioxins and furans accumulate in soil and bio-accumulate in fat as they move up the food chain.

“Overall, 82% of agricultural plastics users say they are concerned about how they deal with agricultural plastics, while 87% say it is important to them to be able to recycle agricultural plastics – in fact, just under half (44%) say it is very important. The majority, however, do not feel that they can do so – 74% say it is difficult for them to recycle agricultural plastics, with half (48%) saying it is very difficult, and 63% are dissatisfied with their current access to recycling agricultural plastics.” [2012 Agricultural Plastics Recycling Agricultural Producers Survey](#) (pg.20)

Prior to these surveys, in 2007, the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) established a working group with representatives from the Alberta Plastics Recycling Association (APRA), the plastic manufacturing sector, retailers, recycling project operators, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, and recyclers to look at options for agricultural plastic waste. This working group established a number of initiatives, including a series of pilot projects, to assess the viability of recycling agricultural plastics in this province. One of the conclusions of the group’s work was the need for a provincial environmental stewardship program to provide sustainability for agricultural plastics recycling. As evidence from the pilot program shows, a provincial program would create equal access to recycling in all parts of the province, as well as guarantee volumes of waste to create economies of scale for plastics recycling.

Since the conclusion of the pilot projects, pockets of recycling have been established, and an increasing number of communities are interested in developing recycling programs. For example, Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission has funded agricultural plastics recycling for a number of years. At the same time, counties, including Rocky View, Yellowhead, and Wheatland are collecting film materials such as grain bags and silage plastic, for recycling into products like garbage bags. The only challenge is, these programs only supply a recycling option to a very small percentage of the population.

Agricultural plastics management practices have been researched by the Alberta Government in a number of studies that point for the need for proper management including: [Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities](#), [Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics Part 2: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities](#), [Agricultural Plastics Recycling – Agricultural Producers Survey](#), [Agricultural Plastics Recycling – Municipal Waste Authorities Survey](#).

The Solution

The largest challenge to expand recycling opportunities to all areas of the province remains the lack of a provincially-regulated ag plastics recycling program. With a provincial program, accessibility to recycling would increase, and agricultural producers in all agricultural-intensive regions of the province would have access to a well-resourced and environmentally beneficial recycling program. Environmental stewardship programs also ensure financial fairness, as those benefiting from the use of the product are the ones who contribute funding to have the material recycled.

This assertion has been supported by a number of organizations, including the recent resolutions passed by Alberta’s Agricultural Service Boards in 2016, that the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry research, develop, and implement an agricultural plastics recycling program modelled after the pilot program in the Province of Saskatchewan. *See appendix for the full resolution.*

Who will oppose?

ARPG's participants include organizations representing industry, agriculture, municipalities and recyclers, who support agricultural plastics recycling program as a provincially-regulated program. Questions from the stakeholder groups include costs (such as environmental handling fees) that could be associated with a program. Cost is the largest area of apprehension for the producer groups representing agricultural producers. However, agricultural producers are a key stakeholder in this issue as the primary users of agricultural plastics, and those burdened with a lack of sustainable options for management of waste plastics. The majority agree that there is greater demand for recycling solutions than concern over cost and that an effective program will include consultation and communication about costs before the program starts.

Impacts to the Public

The stakeholder group has also considered the perspectives of the broader public and how they may be impacted, despite not being directly involved in the purchase, use, or end of life management of agricultural plastics. In many cases today, Albertans that live in municipalities with local recycling programs for agricultural plastics are paying for these programs through their municipal taxes. This cost-burden will be reduced or eliminated if the recycling program is transferred away from the municipality, toward those that either make or use the plastics. It is unknown whether the creation of an agricultural plastics program will result in increased costs of consumer products and those changes will depend if agricultural producers pass along any increased costs from their operation. It is believed that if this were to occur, the increased cost would be negligible. There are more perceived benefits to the public, from a change in practice to recycling from the current practice of burning plastics on farm, than negative impacts.

Accountability – advisory group

The APRG also feels that policy should allow for an advisory committee where producer groups and stakeholders actively participate in the development of the program and contribute to decisions. Because a program would be designed as a service to the agricultural producers who use the plastic, it is logical that they would contribute to discussions about the program design.

Scope of materials

With input and representation from the users of the plastics (the agricultural producers and their organizations) and the recyclers and processors of the material, the APRG believes grain bags and twine offer a good starting point for a provincial program. These are the two largest contributors to material volumes and have current available markets. Collection, processing and transportation logistics have also been established through current collection and past pilot programs.

Research and pilots will be conducted on the potential to recycle an expanded list of materials, with the goal to revisit the regulation after the initial material collection has been implemented successfully, to consider expanding collection to other types of agricultural plastics.

Other plastics materials, include but are not limited to:

- Bale wrap, silage plastic, boat/machinery wrap, green house plastic, net wrap, rope (square bale and other), mineral bags, and feed/seed bags

Other Provinces

In Saskatchewan, [The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations](#), introduced after [agricultural waste stewardship research](#), has made it mandatory that every grain bag seller develop and fund a program to recycle grain bags. This program started November 1, 2018. More information can be found [here](#).

In Saskatchewan's EPR model, the first importers are responsible to ensure there is a program to recycle grain bags. In their case, the importers have selected an organization to run the program for them and to charge an environmental handling fee of 5-7% to cover the costs of the grain bag collection and recycling.

A series of [government-funded pilot programs](#) are available in Manitoba to recycle bale/silage plastic, twine and grain bags. Going forward, there is interest in taking an approach similar to Saskatchewan's.

Efficiencies and harmonization among provincial programs are particularly important for agricultural plastics recycling because of the importance of a level playing field to the agricultural industry.

A Western solution would also prevent issues such as cross-border shopping.

Prepared by the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG):

Organization	Sector/Representation
Agricultural Service Board	Board Representation
Association of AB Agricultural Fieldmen	Ag Fieldmen
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Barley	Barley Producers
Alberta Beef Producers	Livestock
Alberta Cattle Feeders Association	Livestock
Alberta CARE	Recycling and Waste Management
Alberta Environment & Parks	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	Producers
Alberta Milk Producers	Dairy Producers
Alberta Plastics Recycling Association	Plastics Recycling
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	Urban Municipalities
Committed Ag Supply	Retailer
Crop Sector Working Group	Crop Producers
Merlin Plastics	Recycler
Olds College	Academia
Peavey Mart	Retailer
Recycling Council of Alberta	Recycling and Resource Conservation
RPC BPI Agriculture	Material Manufacturer
Rural Municipalities Association (RMA)	Municipalities
TAMA Canada	Retailer

Attachments:

- a. Ag Service Board's Resolution
- b. AAMDC Resolution

Summary of Endorsed ASB and AAMDC Resolutions Related to Ag Plastics Recycling		
12-15 (ASB)	<p>Agriculture Plastics Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement a stewardship program with funding for collection and recycling of agricultural plastics • <i>Resolution Response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment – not currently considering a recycling program but working on an education program in collaboration with Agriculture on environmental impact of burning plastics and current options for disposal ○ Would need a regulation to implement a stewardship program and would require environmental fees ○ ARMA – not currently within mandate to act on ag plastics ○ Will be reviewing with Board of Directors and Minister and will provide input informally 	<p>Resolution Status: Unsatisfactory</p>
7-15F (AAMDC)	<p>Agriculture Plastics Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resolution Ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That Alberta Environment and Parks develop a recycling program for agricultural plastics in Alberta • <i>Resolution Response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agriculture and Forestry – Worked with Environment and Parks and CleanFARMS on a study showing that agricultural plastics contributed only 1% of waste sent to landfills. AF currently sits on a committee with AAMDC and other stakeholders to develop policy options for ag plastic recycling. ○ Environment and Parks – Not currently considering a regulated recycling program for ag plastics. 	<p>Resolution Status: Intent Not Met</p>

December 10, 2018

Dear Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) Members and Provincial Stakeholders;

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the APRG Advisory Committee. We are continuing our efforts to bring forward recommendations for the management of agricultural plastics. In November Minister Shannon Phillips, Environment and Parks and Minister Oneil Carlier, Agriculture and Forestry announced funding for a province-wide agricultural plastics recycling pilot project. We have now submitted the application with details on the pilot program and we hope to have the government's formal approval within the next two months. As it stands now, we will look to build this as a three-year program for grain bags and twine with waste characterization and market studies to ensure we have accurate data about what materials are being generated and look for responsible management options for all agricultural plastics. Other details on the program will need to be finalized and can be shared once we have government approval.

At our meeting on December 6, the APRG Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from the organizations listed on page two, approved our Terms of Reference and nominated an executive committee for the next year. The APRG will act in an advisory role with the mandate to assist in the development of recommendations to manage agricultural plastics including promoting ag plastics recycling actions and programs that are sustainable and implementing the terms set out in the pilot program business plan. Alberta Beef has been elected as the program administrator to receive the funding from the government and the committee will determine the pilot operations and details.

Executive:

Al Kemmere, RMA, Chair
Tammy Schwass, APRA, Secretary
Christina Seidel, RCA, Executive
Assar Grinde, AB Beef, Executive
Neil Gorda, AB Barley, Executive

We would like to thank all the groups and individuals that have contributed and collaborated to support a provincial solution to manage agricultural plastics. We will continue to keep everyone informed with updates and news as we receive them and please continue share updates with your members. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me or your committee representatives.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season,

Sincerely,

Al Kemmere, Chair
APRG Advisory Committee
akemmere@rmalberta.com

APRG Member Organizations:

Organization	Sector/Representation
Agricultural Service Board	Board Representation
Association of AB Agricultural Fieldmen	Ag Fieldmen
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Barley	Barley Producers
Alberta Beef Producers	Livestock
Alberta Cattle Feeders Association	Livestock
Alberta CARE	Recycling and Waste Management
Alberta Environment & Parks	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	Producers
Alberta Milk Producers	Dairy Producers
Alberta Plastics Recycling Association	Plastics Recycling
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	Urban Municipalities
Committed Ag Supply	Retailer
Crop Sector Working Group	Crop Producers
Merlin Plastics	Recycler
Olds College	Academia
Peavey Mart	Retailer
Recycling Council of Alberta	Recycling and Resource Conservation
RPC BPI Agriculture	Material Manufacturer
Rural Municipalities Association (RMA)	Municipalities
TAMA Canada	Retailer

**Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group –
Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

PROBLEM STATEMENT AND OUTCOMES

April 27, 2018

Background

Agricultural plastics such as grain bags, twine, silage plastic, bale wrap and netting are essential on-farm tools. While end of life management can be challenging, limited recycling markets are available for some of these materials, and Alberta farmers have demonstrated their desire to support end of life stewardship programs.

In December 2016, a working group was formed to advance discussion and action on this topic. The working group, the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), started to reach out to stakeholder groups that use these products and help manage them at the end of their life.

From January to June 2017, meetings were held with a number of groups (including producer groups representing dairy, beef and crop farmers, Ag Service Boards and municipalities, among others). The APRG also hosted a half-day meeting in August 2017, where close to 70 representatives from producer groups and municipalities came together.

Based on this outreach and various resolutions from stakeholder groups, the APRG's goal is the establishment of a province-wide program for the recycling of agricultural plastics.

The group's mandate is to develop recommendations that may include a policy framework that considers multiple operating models, including; industry stewardship, delegated administrative organization/multi-stakeholder, and extended producer responsibility models to present to the provincial government.

Problem Statement

Growth and change in the agriculture industry has led to greater use of agricultural plastics by agriculture producers to help manage their storage, improve efficiencies and improve cost-effectiveness. While there are some local initiatives for some plastics, there is a lack of western Canadian or Alberta-wide options for environmentally safe end of life management of all agricultural plastic. The lack of comprehensive end of life management of agricultural plastics will continue to have adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

Program Principles

- Level playing field among all agricultural producers (ie. Amongst unique sectors and those who purchase imported plastics and local plastics)
- The program's financial responsibility is equitable amongst stakeholders – costs do not get downloaded on the municipality or gov't
- Program is based on outcomes with target enforcement penalties
- Addresses the immediate and long term needs of ag producers

- Program is measurable, transparent, and can be adapted for ultimate efficiency and effectiveness
- Program acts in the best interest of human and environmental health

Desired Policy Outcomes

- The following policy outcomes have been outlined by the APRG as a desired outcomes of a future end-of-life management program for agriculture plastics. There are some immediate outcomes and some that are long-term or “ultimate”.

Outcomes

- An end-of-life management system for agricultural plastics that is self-sufficient and self-sustaining
- Adaptable and flexible end-of-life management that can adjust to changing global trends and events
- Western provinces collaborate to develop harmonized end-of-life programs to meet economy of scale requirements
- Elimination of improper disposal of agriculture plastics resulting in negative environmental and human health impacts. (ie. Burning and burying)
- When agricultural producers buy ag plastics, they know it will be 1. Recycled 2. What the process is for that to happen and how to participate
- Recognition (or continued acknowledgement) of agriculture producers as stewards of the environment who are part of the solution (entrenched social license for ag producers)
- Agriculture producers consistently recycle agricultural plastics.
- Expansion of end-of-life management programs to all agricultural plastics.
- Diversion of agriculture plastics into end-of-life management systems (75% of agricultural plastics).
- Development of an end-of-life management system that adheres to the waste hierarchy and continually seeks improvement and efficiency.
- The normalization of a recycling program for farmers such that recycling agriculture plastics is part of their day-to-day operations but acknowledge the extra on-farm steps to recycle the materials will require a culture change amongst agricultural producers.
- Manufacturers design agriculture plastic products that are recyclable
- Mechanism driving to an outcome: Program establishes a reporting structure to monitor and manage agriculture plastic recycling in Alberta
- Address the urgent issue of orphan and growing stockpiles of agricultural plastics at collection sites and on farms