



# CENTRAL PEACE MUNICIPALITIES

## G5 GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, June 21, 2023  
Centennial Hall, Spirit River

### MEETING NOTES

#### G5 MEMBERS PRESENT

Tammy Yaremko, Mayor  
 Harry Ezio, Councillor  
 Wayne Meyer, Councillor  
 Jim Nicholson, Councillor  
 Denise Skoworodko, Councillor  
 Denise Stanich, Councillor  
 James Thomas, Councillor  
 Steve Jack, CAO  
 Tracy Lapping, Legislative Clerk  
 Tony van Rootselaar, Reeve  
 Nick van Rootselaar, Deputy Reeve  
 Dan Dibbelt, CAO  
 Roxann Dreger, Deputy Mayor  
 Joanne Chelick, Councillor  
 Brian Markovich, Councillor  
 Peter Thomas, CAO  
 Gerald Manzulenکو, Deputy Reeve  
 Albert Poetker, Reeve  
 Mel Douvall, Councillor  
 Denise Joudrey, Councillor  
 Karen Portelance, Councillor  
 Deanne Wendland, Councillor  
 Larry Davidson, CAO  
 Tom Morgan, Fire Chief  
 Alvin Hubert, Reeve  
 Ed Armagost, Councillor  
 Gerry Richard, Councillor  
 Danny Roy, Councillor  
 Cary Merritt, CAO  
 Ron Pelensky, Director of Operations  
 Brice Daly, Manager of Protective Services

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**ALSO PRESENT**

Brian Kroes, Fire Chief  
Steve Madden, CAO  
Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus, Chair  
Shari Hrehoruk, Housing Manager  
Scott McFadyen, Project Manager  
Glenda Farnden, Senior Municipal Relations Liaison

Grande Spirit Foundation  
Grande Spirit Foundation  
Grande Spirit Foundation  
Grande Spirit Foundation  
STARS

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Yaremko called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2. Delegations**

MPE Engineering

Haj Oshiki, Senior Project Manager and Ivan Kagoro, Project Manager from MPE Engineering gave a presentation on the Central Peace (G5) Regional Water Treatment Plant Phase 3.

- Funding for Phase 1 & 3 have been obtained and design work is 75% complete. The tender for the steel pipeline portion through Dunvegan Hill closes on July 5, 2023.
- Phase 3 is the Regional (Hub) Water Treatment Plant and funding has been obtained under Water for Life to complete the feasibility and design of the Regional WTP Phase 3.
- Regional WTP site location is northeast of Spirit River.
- Truck fill demands are very significant and provides most of the water demand, the average percentage of truck fill usage over the total treated water demands for the past 5 years is 70%.
- Consideration for the G5 Group whether to incorporate a truck fill at the Regional WTP. This would directly affect truck fill sales at Spirit River and Rycroft.
- Total treatment capacity for the Regional WTP would be 4256 m<sup>3</sup>/d (50 L/s) to meet 25-year design horizon.
- Treated water storage capacity would be 3200 m<sup>3</sup> to meet the 10-year storage needs.
- Raw water storage would be 1,200,000 m<sup>3</sup> total usage storage provided by 2 ponds.
- Process waste storage ponds would be 139,500 m<sup>3</sup> total provided 2 ponds in series.
- Proposed WTP would utilize water from the Peace River which is characterized by security of supply of raw water and higher quality raw water with low turbidity and organics.
- Proposed treatment system would be conventional pre-treatment (flocculation, coagulation, and clarification).
- The filtration system would consist of either 2 alternatives, alternative 1 would be rapid gravity multimedia filtration and alternate 2 would be membrane filtration.
- Alternative 1 is slightly lower capital costs than alternative 2 and is more susceptible to treatment upsets and filter breakthroughs.
- Alternative 2 produces better quality water on a consistent basis and would meet increasingly stringent regulatory standards and would be adopted for the Regional WTP design.



- The initial service connections would be the Town of Spirit River, Village of Rycroft and the Hamlet of Woking.
- The capital cost estimate is approximately \$48.92 million.
- The Regional WTP project would be eligible for up to 90% funding allocation through the Water for Life – New Regional Water Systems funding stream which is on the same cost-sharing basis as the AMWWP.
- Future considerations were also presented and they were:
  - Select truck fill locations
  - Rural resident servicing options
  - Select building type
  - Select governance model to oversee the operation of the WTP. Three potential types are:
    - Buy/sell (intermunicipal agreements)
    - Regional Services Commission
    - Municipal Controlled For-Profit Corporation
- The project schedule is preliminary design in Fall of 2023, detailed design in late spring of 2024 and tendering in 2024/2025 (when grant funding is received).

#### Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Agency – 2023 Wildfire Season

Brice Daly, Manager of Protective Service from Saddle Hills County; Brian Kroes, Fire Chief from Central Peace Fire & Rescue Commission; Tom Morgan, Fire Chief from Birch Hills County provided a presentation on the 2023 Wildfire Season in the G5 Region.

- March 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of Wildfire Season in the province.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> a Fire Ban was put in place at 12:00 pm.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> after the Fire Ban was placed Central Peace Fire and Rescue were called to a fire south of Rycroft at 1:09 p.m. CPFR, Woking and Happy Valley Fire Departments responded, the fire was initially 50 hectares and one structure was lost.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup> - CPFR, Woking, Happy Valley and Birch Hills Fire Departments continued to fight the fire GMD-001 Silverwood Fire and the fire grew to 330+ hectares.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:14 p.m. a fire was reported in South Cecil area in Saddle Hills County (GWF-018 Cecil Fire). Savanna Fire Department responded, Forestry didn't have any available resources at the time and conditions were too hot to action the fire and Township 83-8 was evacuated.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> the Cecil Fire jumped across the Peace River, no forestry resources available and there was poor access to the fire.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> there were 96 active wildfires in Alberta.
- May 10<sup>th</sup> they build more dozer guards for the Cecil Fire and still no forestry resources on south side of the river.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> continue dozer guard (2 dozer groups) and back burning operations on Cecil Fire.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> north wind drives fire south over the correction line (Twp Rd 830), Townships 82-7 and 81-7 placed on evacuation alert and reception center was opened at Fourth Creek Hall.
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> fire guards in place and fire not increasing in size south of the river.



- June 5<sup>th</sup> fire guards holding for the Cecil Fire and mop up operations were underway.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:46 p.m. a new fire was reported 18 km south of Hwy 49 and west of Deadwood Lake, Forestry responded with aircraft.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> another fire reported near Boone Lake in Saddle Hills County.
- June 8<sup>th</sup> an initial evacuation alert zone of 6 km around Boone Lake
- June 8<sup>th</sup> the two fires were titled Fires GWF-35/38 Boone Lake Complex.
- June 8<sup>th</sup> extreme fire behavior predicted and the evacuation alert zone was expanded as well as structure protection measures were taken.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:10 pm a new fire was reported 6 km northwest of Moonshine Lake, Forestry responded with aircraft and initial attack crew.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:18 p.m. a water bomber pilot reports another fire south of Hwy 49, no Forestry crews available, Happy Valley and Blueberry Fire Departments responded and extinguished while still less than 1 hectare.

#### Take-aways

- Mutual Aid agreement is effective and being utilized.
- Radio communication between agencies requires improvements.
- Fire departments require assistance to limit bystander access.
- More wildland firefighting training would be useful.
- Limited availability of Structure Protection Units in a busy year.
- Off-road access for firefighting would be a big help (eg: brush unit, UTVs).

#### Grande Spirit Foundation

Steve Madden, CAO and Shari Hrehoruk, Housing Manager from the Grande Spirit Foundation shared information on their evacuation plans. GSF would require notification from the EOC once it is set up in the case of an emergency and they would immediately start mobilizing the possible evacuation of residents.

#### STARS

Glenda Farnden, Senior Municipal Relations Liaison from STARS shared information on the possibility of a HELIPAD at the Spirit River Hospital.

- Any future helipad development must be coordinated with AHS.
- AHS has mandated that any helipad collocated at the hospital must be a certified helipad and must have certification through Alberta Transportation.
- A site design was provided by STARS in 2008 but since that time there have been many changes (flight path and new buildings) and a new site design would need to be completed.
- With the current statistics for service from the Spirit River Hospital it would not qualify for a helipad provided by AHS but it could be possible with collaboration among the municipalities.



### 3. Municipal Partner Updates

#### MD of Spirit River No. 133

- G3 Elevator is now operational.
- Brownlee Bldg renovations are completed.
- Voyent Alert will be utilized soon.
  - Voyent Alert is a multi-purpose communication service and alerting app that is designed to support the community through rapid dissemination of targeted information with alerts for both critical emergencies and day-to-day notifications.
  - The Commission will be paying for Voyent Alert for MD of Spirit River, Village of Rycroft and the Town of Spirit River.
  - Advertising will be going out to the public.

#### Saddle Hills County

- The County will also be utilizing Voyent Alert for their residents.
- Hosting a series of Community BBQs throughout June and July.
- Were recently notified that their STIP grants were not successful.
- The Reeve stated that they believe that the project is good for all municipalities, if they wanted it for Saddle Hills County they would build it in Saddle Hills County. The goal is to support everybody and Central Peace could be the hub for industry and the goal is to help everybody.

#### Birch Hills County

- Received STIP funding for three bridge files.
- Working on drainage ditches. Trying to get a handle on who the ditches belong to and who is responsible for maintenance.
- Partnering with AT for Highway 733 within Wanham. Replacement of Water and Sewer distribution system on 50<sup>th</sup> St. Construction slated for 2024.
- Currently reviewing and amending the Land Use Bylaw.

#### Village of Rycroft

- Started Phase 1 of paving project – WSP is the engineer and Wapiti Gravel were successful for the tender.
- Finishing up the sewer main line project.
- Secured land from the Ukrainian Church and using it for the Community Garden
- Just opened second dog park.
- Pickle ball is being played in the arena.
- Parade is July 29<sup>th</sup>, theme is “We are Here for a Good Time”.

#### Town of Spirit River

- Received the Golden Runway Award with help from the MD of Spirit River No. 133.
- Purchasing CN Land



- Beautification projects – mural on Home Hardware wall – looking for volunteers.
- Pool is open, not operating at full capacity due to lack of lifeguards.
- Collaborating with the MD of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft on a study regarding recreation facilities.
- Received a grant for the campground – increased the number of sites and more powered sites.
- WIFI is almost up and running with Mighty Peace Wireless – broadcast throughout the Town.
- Successful Spirit Days.
- Received 5 development permits.
- Airport has been busy with helicopters and fuel trucks from Alberta Wildfire.

#### 4. **Next Meeting Date**

MD of Spirit River No. 133 – December 7, 2023

#### 5. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.