

South Central Transportation Planning Committee

Box 1431, Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 4R3

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Friday, January 07, 2011

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To: South Central Saskatchewan Urban and Rural Municipalities

RE: 2010 SCTPC Membership Fees

Dear Council:

The South Central Transportation Planning Committee would like to thank all of the rural and urban municipalities who have supported the work of the SCTPC throughout 2010 with their membership renewals. Enclosed please find the Winter 2011 Newsletter which summarizes the year.

All municipalities in our area are encouraged to support the SCTPC as this is an opportunity to influence the transportation industry. Some benefits of being an SCTPC Member include:

- *Opportunity to elect a Board representative at the AGM;*
- *Broader perspective on transportation issues;*
- *Strong unified voice to the Government;*
- *Right to vote at the AGM and special meetings;*
- *Receive copies of the Transportation Plan and updates;*
- *Increased opportunity to express views; and*
- *Act as facilitators to develop transportation partnerships.*

In order to continue addressing transportation concerns on the behalf of our rural and urban municipalities, the SCTPC is requesting your support for 2011.

Town of White City - \$600.00

Please accept this letter as the invoice for the 2010 SCTPC Membership Dues and forward to:

*South Central Transportation Planning Committee
Box 1431*

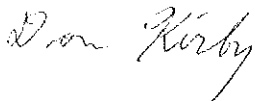
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 4R3

Please ensure your records reflect our correct address.

If your council is interested in representatives from the SCTPC visiting you to discuss our ongoing activities, please feel free to contact our administrator at (306) 692-5934 or sctpc@sasktel.net.

Thank you again for past contributions to our committee and we look forward to another successful year working with you towards the improvement of the transportation infrastructure within our region!

Regards,



Don Kirby
Chair

DK/st

Moose Jaw, SK
 S6H 4R3
 Phone: (306) 692-5934
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WINTER 2011



Upcoming Events

- SUMA Annual Convention
 January 30 - February 2, 2011
 TCU Place
 Saskatoon, SK
www.suma.ca
- SCTPC Traffic Counting Workshop
More information to follow
 February 23, 2011
 Moose Jaw, SK
- SARM Annual Convention
 March 7 - 10, 2011
 Prairieland Park
 Saskatoon, SK
www.sarm.ca
- SCTPC AGM
More information to follow
 March 17, 2011
 Briercrest, SK

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Happy 2011 and Good-bye 2010! What a year for weather!

The SCTPC-EWC held ten meetings this year, some of which included very informative presentations and tours. One presentation was on a dust control study performed in the south central area and another was from a MHI representative on the status of SCTPC priority projects. The EWC also had the privilege of receiving a tour of 15 Wing Moose Jaw. Our last presentation was scheduled at our annual joint meeting with the SWTPC

and the Gravelbourg EDO informed us all on the Gravelbourg Hodgeville Rail.

In addition to our regular meetings, the EWC organized a Paving Repair Workshop in March and participated in a Road Tour along our designated priority highways in June. We are also currently working on a Traffic Counting Workshop for 2011.

Recently the ATPC's in the Province began working with MHI to create an information presentation that can be delivered to

municipalities within each area to promote each committee's achievements and benefits. If your municipality would be interested in having a presentation, or attending one of our meetings or workshops, please feel free to contact us as we are here to serve our members!



*Don Kirby
 EWC Chair*

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PROVINCE-WIDE WINTER WEIGHT SEASON STARTED

Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter reminds truckers that winter weight season started December 1, 2010 for all applicable provincial highways.

"Because road beds freeze as we move into winter, they are stronger and can withstand heavier truck loads without being damaged," Reiter said. "This means transportation savings for shippers, as heavier loads means fewer trips."

The ministry places winter weights on applicable provincial highways as early

as November 16 or as late as December 1, depending on weather.

Winter weights remain in effect until the last day of February, but may be restricted again from March 1 until March 14. As of March 15, the allowable weights will revert back down to normal summer weights or have a spring weight ban restriction, depending on current conditions.

For more information on the projects listed, visit: www.highways.gov.sk.ca

FIFE LAKE RAIL PROJECT

When several municipalities in southeast Saskatchewan joined together to save their local rail line, doing their part to help their communities was the only reward they expected to receive. But that didn't stop members of the Fife Lake Rail Project from proudly accepting the award for Economic Development Leadership.

"It was quite exciting. We were quite taken by surprise," said Vernon Palmer, administrator for the RM of Hart Butte, which is one of seven municipal shareholders involved in the project. "You just do these things. You work to support your communities and keep everything as local as you can. We never ever considered being recognized for it."

Palmer says Fife Lake Rail essentially began in the late '90s, when the municipalities began researching how to save the stretch of railway between Assiniboia and Coronach, known as the Fife Lake Sub-division, in the event the CPR decided to shut it down. "The municipalities all wanted to save the railway," said Palmer. "It had not been slated for discontinuance, but we were concerned that it may be and we wanted to be prepared in the event that it ever did."

In 2005, the rail line was put up for sale. Great West Railway joined the municipalities—including the RM's of Hart Butte, Poplar Valley, Willow Bunch, Old Post and Stonehendge and the Towns of Coronach and Rock Glen—in purchasing the rail line. The goal of the shareholders was to maintain rail service for area grain farmers, keeping the grain on the rail and off the local highway system.

"All of the member municipalities were very supportive," said Palmer. "It's really worked excellent. The municipalities could see what was going to happen eventually if we didn't do something ourselves, so we stepped in."

Palmer says Fife Lake Rail doesn't own any of the infrastructure other than the rail bed itself, opting to contract all of the car pulling and maintenance to Great Western Railway, which also operates the line from Assiniboia on. "It's good for both of us. They get to utilize their infrastructure, their locomotives and all of their crews are able to stay busier pulling our cars as well," he said.

"They have the know-how. We don't need to train any staff or people to do the operation. We just use their expertise."

In their first year of operation, Fife Lake Rail moved about 890 cars, or approximately 2.5 million bushels of grain. Although business has slowed in recent years, due in part to the opening of the durum market in the United States, Palmer says grain still accounts for 85% of the rail line's use. Richardson Pioneer continues to operate two grain elevators in Coronach and the Poplar Hills Producer Co-op operate another in Rockglen.

"All we can do as a business is make sure we provide the best possible service to encourage them to keep utilizing the railway," said Palmer.

In addition to shipping grain, Palmer says having the rail line open benefits other existing and future business ventures in the area. For example, the Poplar River Power Station and Poplar Coal Mine have used the rail line on occasion to transport equipment and materials for maintenance. Plus, Whitemud Resources Inc. plans to use the line to transport product from their metakaolin mine in the area.

Palmer says Fife Lake Rail has received excellent support from the area, with many sharing their belief in the importance of keeping the rail line open. Fife Lake Rail continues toward its goal to make operation of the rail line into a profitable venture on behalf of all their shareholders. Until then, its shareholders will continue to enjoy the many ways the rail line has already benefited the local area.



"It's been a good project since the start. We're keeping our local grain delivered locally. We're maintaining jobs locally... we're just helping out, sustaining the area," said Palmer.

SCTPC would like to thank the following communities for hosting us for this year!

Weyburn * Weyburn * Rhedive
Hart Butte * Midale * Indian Head
Fife Lake * Montmarquette

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has 290 snow plows operating throughout the province to clear snow and ice for safer winter driving.

DID YOU KNOW?
Source: www.highways.gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan's total road surface would circle the Equator four times (the Equator has a circumference of 40,000 km).



The SHCA is the voice of Saskatchewan's road building and heavy civil construction industry, representing all levels of government and companies all across the province. One service they provide is timely and accurate information regarding construction tenders in Saskatchewan. This information is provided on a daily basis as it is received at their office.

The SHCA is requesting that all project tender information - whether its tender notices, additions, extensions or results - be forwarded to their office as soon as its available. The region will benefit as it widens the pool of potential bidders and provides a more representative sample to budget future projects on.

For more information, SHCA can be reached at:

(306) 586-1805 or www.saskheavy.ca

SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

As always, SUMA is working on a great deal of issues impacting our municipalities. They have taken a lead role in assisting the municipalities and the province in their attempts to restructure the "Urban Highway Connector Program" so that communities see it as a benefit and not further downloading on the part of the government. Most cities see the program as a benefit, but there are many small communities that could have a huge financial burden if they adopted the program. There is still much work to be done until a modified program can be put place to the satisfaction of everyone.



*Paul Topola
SUMA Director
Southwest Region*

For more SUMA information please visit www.suma.org

FALL AND WINTER FLOW ADVISORY FOR EASTERN SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is urging caution when crossing ice on any stream this winter due to the risk of thin ice resulting from stream flow. This includes streams which normally are not flowing.

Above-normal precipitation during this past summer and fall has left much of the eastern portion of Saskatchewan saturated. Rivers and creeks are flowing at rates well above normal for this time of year and some streams, which are normally dry in fall, are flowing. It is anticipated that these flows will continue throughout the winter creating thin ice hazards.

In addition to flow from precipitation, releases will be made at numerous lakes in an effort to reduce their level prior to spring runoff to alleviate the potential for flooding. Many of these releases will continue throughout the winter. Winter releases will be made from Alameda Reservoir, Good Spirit Lake, Last Mountain Lake and all lakes along the Qu'Appelle River system (Echo, Pasqua, Mission, Katepwa, Crooked and Round lakes). Stream flow under ice is an extremely serious thin ice hazard and persons on or near these lakes and rivers should use extreme caution.

Due to these releases, flow throughout the winter will be significantly higher than typical on the Qu'Appelle River, Moose Mountain Creek and the Souris River from Oxbow to Minot. Thin ice could occur at any point along these rivers, especially near bridges, culverts, or crossings.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority does not mark off potential hazards associated with ice conditions and those who choose to venture out onto the ice do so at their own peril. It is up to the individual to ensure that the ice is safe for the activities planned. The safest approach is to stay away from the river and stay off the ice. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will monitor the situation and issue updates as new information becomes available. Spring runoff forecasts, with estimated spring peaks for the lakes, will also be issued monthly and posted on our website beginning in March.

For more information, contact:

John Fahlman Acting Director, Basin Operations

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Moose Jaw

Phone: (306) 694-3954 Cell: (306) 631-0740 Web: www.swa.ca



**Saskatchewan
Watershed
Authority**

2010 SCTPC MEMBERS

Division 1

Urban

Creelman
Goodwater
Lake Alma
Halbrite
Macoun
Midale
Weyburn

Rural

RM of Cymri
RM of Fillmore
RM of Griffin
RM of Lake Alma
RM of Laurier
RM of Lomond
RM of Souris Valley
RM of Weyburn

Division 2

Urban

Assinibola
Coronach
Minton
Ogema
Pangman
Willow Bunch

Rural

RM of Excel
RM of Hart Butte
RM of Key West
RM of Lake of the Rivers
RM of Norton
RM of Poplar Valley
RM of Surprise Valley
RM of The Gap
RM of Willow Bunch

Division 3

Urban

Avonlea
Belle Plaine
Briercrest
Moose Jaw
Rouleau

Rural

RM of Elmsthorpe
RM of Moose Jaw
RM of Pense
RM of Redburn

Division 4

Urban

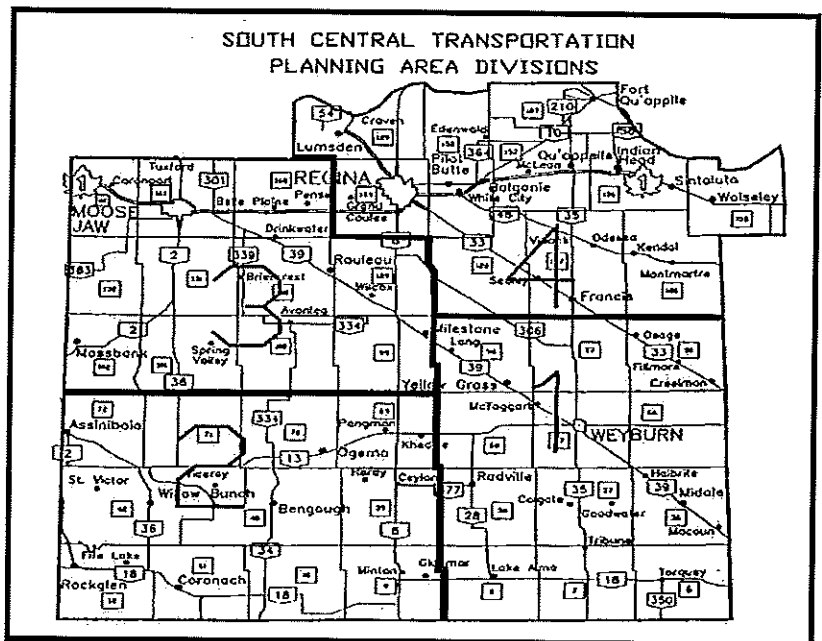
Indian Head
Pilot Butte
Sedley

Rural

RM of Francis
RM of Indian Head
RM of Lajord
RM of Lumsden
RM of Montmartre
RM of Sherwood
RM of Wolseley

The SCTPC-EWC would like to thank our members for their continued support! A few important Membership Benefits are:

- ◆ Opportunity to elect a Board representative at the AGM
- ◆ Broader perspective on transportation issues;
- ◆ Strong unified voice to the Government;
- ◆ Right to vote at the AGM and special meetings;
- ◆ Receive copies of the Transportation Plan and updates;
- ◆ Increased opportunity to express views;
- ◆ Receive weekly construction updates; and
- ◆ Act as facilitators to develop transportation partnerships.



SCTPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NAME	POSITION	MUNICIPALITY	WORK PHONE
Don Kirby, Chair	Rural Representative—Division 2	RM of Hart Butte	(306) 267-4507
Thor Johnson, Vice	Urban Representative—Division 4	Town of Indian Head	(306) 695-3643
Joe Vilcu	Rural Representative—Division 1	RM of Cymri	(306) 458-2717
Rene Richard	Urban Representative—Division 1	City of Weyburn	(306) 848-3230
Bob Pickard	Urban Representative—Division 2	Town of Assinibola	(306) 642-3777
Cal Jorstad	Rural Representative—Division 3 SARM Representative SAC Representative	RM of Redburn	(306) 692-6536
Don Mitchell	Urban Representative—Division 3	City of Moose Jaw	(306) 602-6710
Peter Wordyla	Rural Representative—Division 4	RM of Indian Head	(306) 695-2175
Paul Topola	SUMA Representative	Town of Assinibola	(306) 642-5416
Bryan Voth	Sr. Transportation Planner	MHI	(306) 787-6559
Hon Gerbrandt	MHI Representative	MHI	(306) 787-4973