

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Summer Village of Mewatha Beach



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INTRODUCTION

The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach is a seasonal residential community located approximately 8 kilometers northeast of the Town of Boyle via Highway 663 on the West side of Skeleton Lake. Its primary attraction is a recreational lifestyle for the many residents that make Mewatha Beach their secondary home or their principal residence. Recent years have shown no significant change in new residential lots, redevelopment of properties or the introduction of municipal services.

The Municipal Development Plan provides policy statements that clarify the context in which both public and private decision making will occur. Council can therefore assess development proposals as they arise within an overall, long-range plan, which will allow Council to maintain slow, high quality growth, as well as ensuring basic municipal services continue to be made available.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is to set policies for the use of land within the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach. Also, while accepting that Summer Village council has no jurisdiction beyond the municipal boundary, this plan discusses how development outside the boundary might affect the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach, and respectfully suggests how the Summer Village would like to see the Athabasca County and Town of Boyle manage that land.

The general area dealt with in this plan is shown on Map 1. Also, the location and the existing boundary of the Summer Village and surrounding lands are shown on Map 1.

This MDP has been prepared on behalf of the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach and together with the current Summer Village of Mewatha Beach Land Use Bylaw (LUB) provides guidance for future land use and development within the Summer Village. The policies contained within this MDP address what type of community the Summer Village wishes to be and provides potential developers and current landowners and residents with a vision or guide for future development and growth.

This MDP has been prepared in collaboration with a steering committee comprised of the Summer Village Council and Chief Administrative Officer/Development Officer. Review and adoption of the MDP will be based on community consultation with residents and property owners in the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach and in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*.

VISION

The Municipal Development Plan sets out the future for the community for future years. The vision statements are used to facilitate a common understanding of the community in terms of what elements are important to the residents.

The following are community statements that define the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach:

- We are exclusively a low density, single family seasonal community
- We are committed to being good and effective stewards of the environment and will act accordingly
- We are committed to providing municipal services that compliment a simple approach to community living
- We are committed to a community that respects and shows pride with regard to public and private spaces
- We will endeavour to communicate, cooperate and work towards creating a better lake environment with all municipalities surrounding Mewatha Beach

The means of achieving these vision statements is expanded by the goals and policies contained in this plan.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* provides the legislative basis for the preparation of the MDP. This MDP has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 632 of *the Municipal Government Act (MGA) (Statutes of Alberta, 2000)*. The Act requires that all Alberta municipalities, no matter their population, must create a Municipal Development Plan.

As per *Section 692 of the Municipal Government Act*, before giving second reading to a proposed bylaw to adopt a municipal development plan, or a proposed bylaw amending a statutory plan, a council must hold an appropriate public hearing after having given proper notice.

Section 632 of the MGA states that;

A municipal development plan

(a) Must address

- i. The future land use within the municipality,
- ii. The manner of and the proposals for future development in the municipality,
- iii. The co-ordination of land use, future growth patterns and other infrastructure with adjacent municipalities if there is no intermunicipal development plan with respect to those matters in those municipalities,
- iv. The provision of the required transportation systems either generally or specifically within the municipality and in relation

- to adjacent municipalities, and
 - v. The provision of municipal services and facilities either generally or specifically,
- (b) May address
- i. Proposals for the financing and programming of municipal infrastructure,
 - ii. The co-ordination of municipal programs relating to the physical, social and economic development of the municipality,
 - iii. Environmental matters within the municipality,
 - iv. The financial resources of the municipality,
 - v. The economic development of the municipality, and
 - vi. Any other matter relating to the physical, social or economic development of the municipality,
- (c) May contain statements regarding the municipality’s development constraints, including the results of any development studies and impact analysis, and goals, objectives, targets, planning policies and corporate strategies,
- (d) Must contain policies compatible with the subdivision and development regulations to provide guidance on the type and location of land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities,
- (e) Must contain policies respecting the provision of municipal, school or municipal and school reserves, including but not limited to the need for, amount of and allocation of those reserves and identification of school requirements in consultation with affected school board,
- (f) Must contain policies respecting the protection of agricultural operations, and
- (g) May contain policies respecting the provision of conservation reserve in accordance with section 664.2(1)(a) to (d).

The Municipal Development Plan is a policy document that provides guidance to the Summer Village’s Council and the community concerning future development. As per Section 632 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the plan must be consistent with the land use policies established by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and future municipal policy documents – such as an Area Structure Plan, an Area Redevelopment Plan, an Outline Plan, or a Land Use Bylaw – or amendments to current policy documents should conform to the vision expressed herein.

PROVINCIAL LAND USE POLICIES

Pursuant to Section 622 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Province of Alberta developed the Land Use Policies to help harmonize provincial and municipal policy initiatives at the local land use planning level. This MDP has been prepared in the spirit and intent of the Provincial Land Use Policies.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Council is fully committed to participation of the residents in the planning and development of Mewatha Beach. In order to ensure that local residents are able to

contribute to the development process continuous updates will be posted on the Mewatha Beach website.

1.0 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

1.1 Location

The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach is a seasonal residential community that seeks to maintain the quality of life they currently enjoy, seasonal and permanent residents alike, and is not considering growth, annexation or economic diversification. Its attraction is its recreational and open space atmosphere and basic amenities. The consumer needs of the community are met by the Town of Boyle and the Athabasca County.

The study area of this Plan includes the lands contained within the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach. Map 1 shows the location of the study area in relation to the existing boundary of the Summer Village.

1.2 Population

Population projections are difficult to determine for seasonal communities, as only the permanent population is recorded by Statistics Canada. The 2000 census information indicates a permanent population of 94, while the 2016 census information indicates a permanent population of 90.

The past 18 years have shown no population growth and none is expected in the coming years.

1.3 Location of Growth

Map 1 generally outlines the location of existing land uses within the Summer Village and shows why future growth is not possible without annexation.

GOALS:

To ensure that growth is appropriate and complementary to the existing surrounding uses.

To ensure that growth is measured to mitigate impacts on the environment, and quality of life for existing residents.

POLICIES:

- 1.3.1 *The Land Use Concept (Map 1) divides the Summer Village into the following land use areas:*
- a) *Residential Area*
 - b) *Reserve Lands*

- 1.3.2 *The Municipal Cooperation Area is concerned with lands outside the municipal boundary and therefore the policies established in this plan are the subject of intermunicipal planning agreements between the Athabasca County and the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach.*
- 1.3.3 *Any subdivision of lots shall require an outline plan approved by Council before an application for subdivision may be considered.*

2.0 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Residential use is the exclusive permitted land use within Mewatha Beach (Map 1). It is the intention of Council and the wishes of the residents that the community retains the character of a seasonal residential community. It is also their desire to promote a high standard of residential development and open space within the existing built areas.

GOAL:

To encourage high standards for new and existing development that complements and protects the existing character of the Summer Village.

POLICIES:

- 2.0 Single detached dwellings and RV's will be the main form of housing permitted within the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach.*
- 2.1 Council does not approve of commercial operations within the Summer Village, with the exception of Council approved home based businesses.*
- 2.2 All development shall conform to the provisions set forth in the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach Land Use Bylaw.*
- 2.3 Council supports the policy that the edge between lake and private property be kept as natural as possible for the lake to maintain its natural ecosystem.*

3.0 OPEN SPACE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The majority of residents of Mewatha Beach have chosen the community because of the recreational lifestyle that the Skeleton Lake area offers. Although the current municipal owned land generally is left natural, it is Council's desire to provide an Open Space system that provides a variety of experiences for the residents.

GOALS:

To maintain the privacy of all residents and ensure that negative impacts of non- resident users are mitigated.

To maintain and enhance the environmental integrity of the open spaces and provide a greater variety of passive recreational activities.

To ensure that the provision of open space and reserve land is in balance with the demands of the residents.

To ensure that public areas do not become an economic burden on local ratepayers.

POLICIES:

3.0 *Open Space uses are generally expected to occur in accordance with the plan's Land Use Concept (Map 1).*

Open Space within the Summer Village will be designated as:

(a) Reserve Land

3.1 *The following primary purpose shall guide the management of each designation of Open Space:*

(a) Reserve Land: environmental management, open play, and recreation, protection of the natural environment and landscape appreciation;

3.2 *Council will discourage proposed developments that may have undesired environmental impacts.*

- 3.3** *As provided for in the Municipal Government Act, the Summer Village shall acquire the maximum allowable amount of municipal reserve, school reserve, or municipal and school reserve in order to obtain sufficient lands for local needs.*
- 3.4** *Public trails and natural green spaces are acceptable uses of municipal reserves in the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach.*
- 3.5** *For reasons of environmental integrity and to maintain the character of the community, the Summer Village supports that Reserve Areas:*
- (a) should be left in their natural condition as much as possible; and*
 - (b) may be appropriate for low-impact trails to provide access where conditions are suitable;*
- 3.6** *Tree cutting and pruning is prohibited on any open space areas, including but not limited to municipal reserves, environmental reserves (and environmental reserve easements), and undeveloped road allowances without the prior approval of the Summer Village Council.*
- 3.7** *The open space areas are meant for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, not generally for storage or parking.*
- 3.8** *The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach shall not dispose of lakefront reserves, and disposition of other reserves may only occur under exceptional circumstances and after the careful consideration of Council.*
- 3.9** *Council will ensure that all development complies with the provisions of the provincial Land Use Policies regarding the protection of, and consideration for, the natural environment.*
- 3.10** *The Summer Village recognizes the many water activities that occur on the lake and a public boat launch has been provided.*
- 3.11** *All trail designs must be reviewed and approved by Council before development may occur in order to ensure the trail's appropriateness for its context.*
- 3.12** *Surveyed and undeveloped road allowances throughout the*

Summer Village are considered a part of the Open Spaces system for the purpose of this plan. These road allowances are:

- (a) to be left in their natural condition as much as possible;*
- (b) to provide pedestrian access to the lake shore;*
- (c) to provide access to, community docks where permitted by the Summer Village;*
- (d) to be kept in a reasonable state of repair by the Summer Village.*

4.0 COMMERCIAL

The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach does not allow for any commercial development.

GOALS:

To prevent the growth and development of the Summer Village's commercial base.

To minimize incompatibility with adjacent uses.

POLICIES:

4.0 *Ensure that the lakeside character of the community is maintained.*

5.0 UTILITIES AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

It is the intention of Council to maintain Municipal services currently contracted for the Summer Village. They are snow removal, ditch mowing, police, fire, and general maintenance. There are contracts for the operations of the Summer Village Office, as well as the continued services of the administrator and other support staff.

Historically the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach was a minimally serviced, seasonal residential community. Over the years, as environmental concerns over lake water quality were raised, Council and ratepayers have chosen to implement solutions that address sewage disposal methods that respect the natural lake environment. To this end, Council adopted a bylaw to Regulate the treatment and disposal of sewage in the summer village.

GOALS:

To promote the safety, health, welfare and protection of the residents and property by regulating the treatment and disposal of sewage generated on properties within the summer village.

POLICIES:

5.0 *Control and Regulate the Treatment and Disposal of Sewage in the Summer Village Bylaw #05-10*

6.0 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach is essentially served by Mewatha Drive. From this one road, access is provided to all of the residential parcels.

While the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach is in many ways reliant on automobiles, it is recognized that an effective transportation system considers not only automobiles, but also pedestrians, cyclists, and other alternative forms of transportation.

GOALS:

To establish and maintain an effective and safe road system for the movement of vehicles and pedestrians in Mewatha Beach.

POLICIES:

- 6.0** *The Summer Village transportation system shall consist of local roads, which provide legal and physical access to the residential lots, and safe and effective highway access.*
- 6.1** *In order to ensure the safety of all road users, the Summer Village shall provide traffic calming measures where warranted.*
- 6.2** *All main municipal roads shall be maintained at their current level.*
- 6.3** *The Summer Village shall ensure that adequate maintenance of the existing roads is provided by suitable general contractor.*
- 6.4** *Mewatha Beach shall provide on-going maintenance for existing trails within the Summer Village.*
- 6.5** *For the purposes of this plan, undeveloped road allowances are considered open space and are addressed in Section 3.0 Open Space and the Natural Environment.*

7.0 MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach recognizes the mutual benefits of a consultative and cooperative planning approach with regard to land uses, common infrastructure, economic growth, and environmental concerns.

GOAL:

To establish and maintain open dialogue with adjacent municipalities for the coordinated approach to matters of mutual interest.

POLICIES:

- 7.0** *The Summer Village supports consultative approaches with adjacent rural and urban municipalities regarding but not limited to the following matters:*
- (a) environmentally significant areas;*
 - (b) subdivision and development of adjacent lands;*
 - (c) transportation and utility linkages;*
 - (d) economic development; and*
 - (e) communication and issue resolution processes.*
- 7.1** *The Summer Village does not intend to annex the lands around the Summer Village Limits but the development of these lands should not materially or aesthetically impair the quality of life for the residents of Mewatha Beach, therefore consideration should be given to ensure compatible land uses.*
- 7.2** *The Summer Village supports intermunicipal planning initiatives for the integrated planning of Skeleton Lake’s shoreline, and the planning of the wider watershed in general.*
- 7.3** *Insofar as it is beneficial to residents and other municipal interests, the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach may enter into utility and/or service agreements for:*
- (a) road maintenance;*
 - (b) protective and emergency services;*
 - (c) administrative, recreation, social, cultural services; and*
 - (d) any other services deemed necessary.*
- 7.4** *The Summer Village of Mewatha Beach will seek to collaborate with Athabasca County and other Summer Villages around Skeleton Lake to ensure compatible and mutually acceptable land use and development policies.*

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

As the overall planning document that provides direction for the subdivision and development, land use, and road patterns within the Summer Village, Council's primary role is to administer the goals and policies of the Municipal Development Plan.

GOAL:

To promote the use of the Plan by policy implementation.

POLICIES:

- 8.0** *Council may require the preparation of an area structure plan or outline plan to provide the details of land use, utility servicing, road patterns, open space, storm drainage, and any other matters deemed necessary, prior to the consideration of any re-designation (zoning) proposal, or subdivision or development application. Council will require the preparation of an outline plan for proposed subdivisions that create more than two (2) lots, or that require the dedication of a public road allowance.*
- 8.1** *This Plan shall be interpreted with flexibility having regard to its purpose, objectives and policies. The Council's decisions on interpretation shall be final.*
- 8.2** *Council will observe the effect of this Plan after adoption and implementation, and if new ideas or changing circumstances warrant, will bring forward amendments to satisfy public concerns and aspirations.*
- 8.3** *Council will conduct a review of this Plan whenever it considers it no longer expresses the long-term goals of the Summer Village and in any event, within ten (10) years. The Plan will be amended in accordance with the procedures established in the Municipal Government Act (as amended).*
- 8.4** *Council will consider a Capital Works Plan in support of the policies of this plan for the future municipal improvements, including costs.*

- 8.5** *Council will undertake a review of the Land Use Bylaw within one (1) year of adopting this Plan.*
- 8.6** *The subdivision authority is instructed by Council to require the applicant for subdivision to submit a plan of survey for all subdivisions requiring endorsement, with the exception of boundary adjustment applications.*

MAP 1: PLAN AREA AND EXISTING LAND USES

