



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Joint Meeting Rural Committee / Sustainable Development Committee

Jubilee Centre, Council Chamber
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray

Monday, August 22, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Agenda

This meeting is scheduled based on the following Council resolution passed on August 16, 2016:
“That a joint meeting of the Rural Committee and Sustainable Development Committee be scheduled for the purpose of inviting the Rural Stakeholders group to present their concerns regarding the 1995 amalgamation agreement, distribution of spending, standard of living and business tax rates”

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

1. Dialogue with Rural Stakeholders Group

Adjournment

RMWB Rural Stakeholders and the Conklin Multiplex

Aug 16, 2016

Prepared for RMWB Council Meeting

First of all...

- Thank you. On behalf of the rural stakeholders of the RMWB we want to acknowledge all the hard work and sacrifice of the mayor, council and administration during the wildfires.

Who We Are

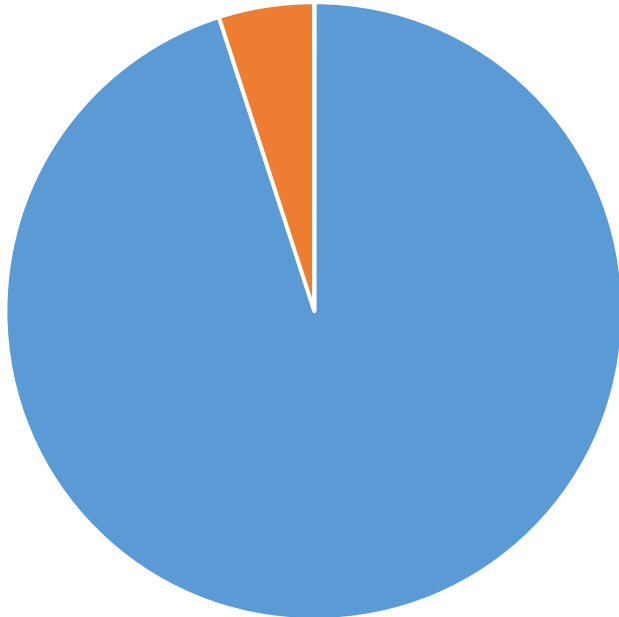
- We are a collective of the rural stakeholders in the RMWB who have been brought together by our mutual disappointment regarding the inequitable treatment of the rural communities; in particular - the deferment of the Conklin Multiplex.
- We include;
 - Athabasca Tribal Council
 - Every Métis Local in the RMWB
 - Every residents/community associations in the rural areas of the RMWB
 - With support from select local industry

What is the problem?

- Conklin is a community in crisis
- Conklin's concerns are being ignored
- The wildfire has made these problems worse
- Lack of trust and goodwill

2016 RMWB Tax Revenue

From 2016 Budget



Breakdown

Total Tax Revenue
\$720,660,880

Rural \$684,627,836

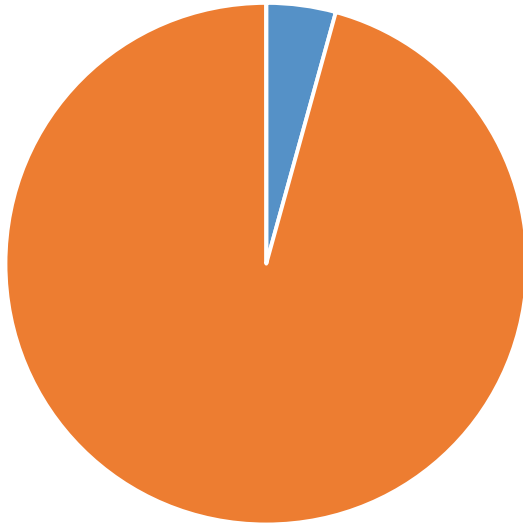
Urban \$36,033,044

Rural: 95%

Urban: 5%

2016 RMWB Operating Budget

From 2016 Budget

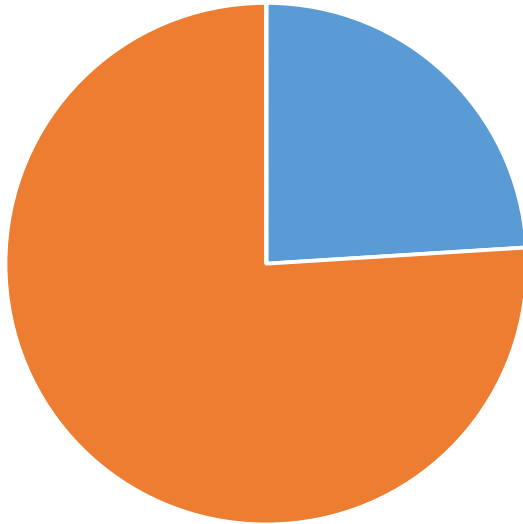


Breakdown

- Total: \$520,495,301
- Rural: \$22,381,297
- Urban: \$498,114,305
- **Rural: 4.3%**
- **Urban: 95.7%**

RMWB 2016 Capital Budget

From 2016 Budget



Breakdown

- Total: \$340,212,900
- Rural: \$81,651,096
- Urban: \$285,561,804
- **Rural: 24%**
- **Urban: 76%**

RMWB 2016 Capital Budget: Minus Deferrals

- Minus \$45M for piped sewer & water deferred to 2017
- **Rural: 7.8%**
- **Urban: 92.2%**
- Minus \$10M budgeted for Multiplex in 2016
- **Rural: 10.7%**
- **Urban 89.3%**

Rural/Urban Budget Disparity Continued...

Operating Budget

YEAR	URBAN	RURAL
2014	95.25%	4.75%
2015	95.7%	4.3%

Capital Budget

YEAR	URBAN	RURAL	REGIONAL
2014	71%	18%	11%
2015	65%	24%	11%

Case Study: Conklin Multiplex

Conklin experiences pressure from:

- Shadow population from nearby camps
- Social and environmental impacts from nearby oil sands operations
- Decades of neglect

Conklin Multiplex Continued

Conklin has:

- No piped sewer and water
- Inadequate recreation options for kids
- A lack of adequate policing
- A higher crime rate
- Unsafe roads and sidewalks
- Lower educational outcomes
- Lower health outcome
- Higher unemployment rates
- No bylaw enforcement

Conklin Multiplex Continued

- The Conklin Multiplex was to provide:
 - Recreational options
 - Office space for local agencies (RCMP, AHS)
 - Meeting space for community events (Weddings, Funerals)
- Meeting space for services (ie. Employment Services, Child Abuse Services, FAS support groups etc.)
- Job opportunities for locals
- A better future for our kids
- Honour the 1995 amalgamation agreement

Myths vs Fact

- Conklin's population
- Estimated use
- Effects of wildfire
- Money Savings
- The severity of Conklin's needs
- Tax rates
- Lease agreements
- Cost Recovery
- Level of support
- "Breach of governance"

Example: Municipal Policing

Fort McMurray 2013

- \$52 million on a new police detachment
- Staff salaries \$21.5 million/year
- \$1.3 million operating budget

All paid for by RMWB tax dollars

Conklin 2013

- \$0 spent on policing by the RMWB in Conklin
- RMWB expects the Province to pay

Conklin residents pay an additional \$35K/month over and above taxes for “enhanced policing”

Since the wildfires

- Some RMWB Councilors state that they are cancelling rural projects because “money is needed to help those effected by the wildfires.”
- However, the rural areas were affected (ie social, economic, indigenous land-use) as well as housing evacuees by the hundreds.
- To date no budget for reconstruction has been produced.
- RMWB Councilors, Administration and REOC have failed to communicate with the rural communities of the RMWB.

Since the wildfires continued

- Some RMWB Councilors have spread misinformation at council meetings and in the media.
- Some RMWB Councilors and Administration are ignoring needs in the rural communities that pre-date the fire.
- Council voted to shelve the project on the holiest day of the year for the Métis while all our members were on a religious pilgrimage.
- The relationship between the rural communities and the RMWB has been severely damaged.

What do we want?

- Approve the Conklin Multiplex - no more deferrals
- A review of the 1995 Amalgamation Agreement
- Equitable distribution of spending
- Standard of living comparable to the urban service area (opportunities for children, running water, adequate policing, recreation facilities, community space, waste disposal, municipal services, library, out door lighting, emergency response, snow removal etc.)
- Lower business tax rates as our local small businesses are charged at the same rate as industry. This is 375% higher than business tax rates in the urban service area.

Conclusion

- The rural communities have always been good neighbours to the fellow residents of the RMWB.
- We have helped fund the quality of life in the urban service area while our residents live in poverty. All the while dealing with the impacts of nearby heavy oil sands development.
- We are not asking for any more than our fair share or anything that the RMWB hasn't already agreed to in a legally binding contract.
- We want to see all communities of the RMWB succeed and recover together after the wildfires.
- We consider correcting this imbalance to be part of recovery.

- We are here. We are strong.
 - Thank you