



Christopher Northcott,  
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## COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor activities and updates for April 2024.

- With the Council meeting being on May 1<sup>st</sup>, my April edition of “Notes from Council” will be found on my website: <https://christophernorthcott.com/category/notes-from-council/>  
The presentations from the April 5<sup>th</sup> Local History Night in Milo can be found here: <https://christophernorthcott.com/presentations-from-local-history-night/>
- Attended the Regular Meetings of Council on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the morning Water Conservation Roundtable between members of the Twin Valley Regional Water Commission on April 4<sup>th</sup> followed by the Board meeting that afternoon.
  - Agreement on common approach to water conservation and standardization of water conservation bylaws.
  - The new financial auditor for the Commission attended the board meeting to review the financial statements. Commission has largely been spared from a costly Asset Retirement Obligations review.
- Attended Assessment Review Board Conference at the City of Calgary on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Review of decision reasons and how to draft them to hold up to scrutiny or challenge.
  - Excellent presentation by the economist for the Calgary Real Estate Board on climbing assessments.
  - Judicial Review of recent case law.
  - Excellent presentation on how Artificial Intelligence is being used to challenge municipal assessments. It is resulting in an uptick of assessment challenges while the complaints are not formulated very well.
- Met with representatives from the Travers Ridge Community Association on April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss challenges they have been having with Alberta Environment over their boat dock. They are wondering if there is common ground with the County with respect to some of the frustrations.
- Attended ORRSC Executive Committee meeting virtually on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Financial statements presented to the Executive Committee.



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- Attended meeting with RCMP on April 23<sup>rd</sup> given my interest in this issue. Initially, I brought “Policing and Crime Prevention Strategy” forward in November of 2021. It was moved by Council to our strategic planning session. In our approved Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2026 we added it under Priority 6, Safe Communities, with the Lead Role being Protective Services and Council: “Engage RCMP on comprehensive policing and crime prevention strategy for the County.”
  - Discussion focussed on figuring out boundary adjustments for each detachment that makes sense and will stay for the long-term; we don’t want to have to change them again. We also discussed the need for the County and its municipal partners to clearly communicate their policing needs and interests on a regular basis, in a manner that is easy to share with all RCMP detachments policing our region. Administration is looking at how to potentially incorporate it into the context of the regular communications meetings and/or the regional emergency management committee meetings. The RCMP thought there would be a lot of value in the municipalities regularly outlining, in writing, what they need and expect for policing. In turn, they believed they could collate their data to provide County Council with a comprehensive look at the whole County rather than just the Vulcan detachment.
- Attended meeting of the SAEWA Board on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Wheatland County Administration Building. There were three decisive outcomes to the meeting: 1. The motion to move forward on an MOU with HZI failed to pass; 2. The Steering Committee has been disbanded; 3. The Board moved to accept detailed proposals by vendors who may want to work with one of SAEWA’s members on a waste to energy project.
- Attended Community Planning Conference in Red Deer from April 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Presentations available here: <https://www.cpaabiz/content/events-information>
  - Being on the board and elected to Executive Committee, attendance at this conference was offered to me. It was a good conference. Jeneane Grundberg’s presentation on IDPs was excellent, as was Gavin Scott and Steve Harty on the same topic. There was an interesting presentation on land use planning and the availability of housing choice in rural Alberta.



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- Constituent Matters:
  - Received a call over Township Road 170 from Ralph Johnson. He thought the road could use more gravel. I drove down. Took some pictures and sent them to Mike Kiemele. Mike agreed that gravel and grading was necessary.
  - Received thank you from Leslie and Howard Warren regarding the recent gravel and grading work that has been undertaken on TS Road 150A and RR 240; thank you to Operations! The ditches are slated to be seeded on this road as well (the shoulders have been bare for a few years) and, hopefully, additional gravel will help it firm up. The success of these applications will need to be monitored.
  - Conversations with Mayor of Champion over potential collaboration on development. I don't have much by way of detail at this time, however, I will bring it to Council once I have more information.
  - A group from McGregor Landing wants me to come down on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to see their lots. They are working on a land use bylaw amendment of which the rest of council has been made aware by email. It is my understanding that not all landowners in this development are supportive of the amendment and different standards of development are usually a source of conflict.
  - We received approval from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta on the MITACs Missing Grave GIS (Geographic Information System) Component and 25% of the MITACs extension request (one 6 month extension can be requested for each project). The MITACS extension request has been submitted by Dr. Craig Coburn. Additional stakeholders include the Lions Club of Arrowwood and the Village of Arrowwood since the Arrowwood and Anastasia cemeteries were included in the project and the project had some scope creep. The other three villages each chipped in an additional contribution toward the extension request. With the GIS component, all eight cemeteries will have a fully functional GIS profile that incorporates the images and missing grave findings. This will also make records management for each of these cemeteries much easier going forward. Councillor Lyckman and I will keep you updated as this project wrap up and development of the GIS profiles is completed.