

Celebrating 10 Years of Service to Rural Saskatchewan



a midsask MOMENT

Summer 2008 Edition

The Draft Plans Are Out!



The first drafts of the WaterWolf Growth Management Plan and the Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan are now accessible to the public. To view and print off your own copy of the plans, visit www.waterwolf.org and click on the links tab.



Communities involved in our land use project are looking at the long term and evaluating core values. The willingness to ask ourselves what kind of communities we want to leave our grandchildren has sparked some exciting conversation and a large rethink about what rural will be in the future.

Partnerships have grown out of the process at an exciting rate. We have moved from seven rural municipalities fronting the river when we began, to fourteen rural municipalities and a total of forty

one municipalities in the core WaterWolf group, plus four municipalities in the corridor 11 group. The municipal development program has provided community planners and support to the process, a welcome addition.

I encourage everyone in the region to take the time to go the WaterWolf Draft Management plan and reflect- we are creating a blueprint for the future of our communities. As the land use program moves toward a formal corporate model or planning commission, we are also creating a home for management of the river valley, a regional water technician, a regional building technician, and planning staff going forward. Conversations about revenue and tax sharing are beginning to happen as well.

The Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan was also launched and is available at the web site as well. The synergies created by that initiative and the crossover to the land plan will bring some huge capacity to our regional

growth strategy. The partnerships, which involve Lake Diefenbaker Tourism, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Whitecap Trail Association and Tourism Saskatchewan, are creating new benchmarks for regional cooperation.



Published by: Mid Sask CFDC/REDA
420 Saskatchewan Ave W
P.O. Box 176, Outlook, SK, S0L 2N0
1-306-867-9566 OR 1-888-929-9990
info@midsask.ca
www.midsask.ca
www.waterwolf.org



Submit your Photos Now

The deadline to submit photos for the Heritage River Photo Contest is August 31st, 2008. The contest rules stipulate that the photos were to be taken on June 21st, 2008, anywhere along the South Saskatchewan River. Photos can be submitted to nicole@midsask.ca or mailed to 420 Saskatchewan Avenue West, Outlook, SK, S0L 2N0. Please visit www.onedayoneriver.ca for contest rules and submission requirements.

www.onedayoneriver.ca



The next WaterWolf Planning Workshop will be held in Outlook at the Outlook Legion Hall
September 18th, 2008
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
RSVP attendance to denise @midsask.ca

Open houses for the WaterWolf Growth Management Plan & the Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan will begin in the fall.



Chairman's Annual Report

The past year has been, to say the least, exciting, confusing at times, extremely busy and challenging for Mid Sask. One of the great news stories was the opening of Dakota Dunes Casino which has opened employment opportunities in rural Saskatchewan that have not been available since the construction of Gardiner Dam. The completion of the highway to the casino also gives more and better access to our region and Lake Diefenbaker; and with the proposed hotel at Whitecap, will only enhance tourism in our region.

Mid Sask CFDC/REDA celebrated its 10th anniversary in November at Dakota Dunes Casino which was well attended with past and present board and staff. It was interesting to see where Mid Sask started and its goals to where we are today. Water Wolf continues to be extremely busy with pressure being constantly put on our office as the goals and objectives of Water Wolf are being accepted, not only in our region, but beyond our borders in very quick timeframes. These

timeframes will continue to grow as economic growth and expansion are occurring at an extremely fast pace in our province.

Mid Sask has also entered into a new domain with a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and other parties to investigate water quality in Lake Diefenbaker as it pertains to tourism, water use and the potential expansion of the fish farm.

Western Economic Diversification has introduced performance targets for CFs across Western Canada which will be followed and tagged to our yearly operating plan and funding. Mid Sask is trying to adjust accordingly with our mandate to satisfy both WD and our Board. We were also fortunate to have WD supply funding for video conferencing equipment in our thirteen CF offices in Saskatchewan which will become a valuable tool for meetings and training as the cost of fuel increases. Mid Sask has also embarked into a new area with the creation of new Enterprise Saskatchewan regions that will be less in

number but will cover all regions south of the northern administration line. Our region was left, for the most part, untouched as it was felt by the provincial government that all the good work that has been done to date by Water Wolf should not be interrupted. Mid Sask has applied to change our boundaries slightly to include some members which had been put in other regions. We will then review our board make-up and see if our mandate fits with the Enterprise Saskatchewan model.

As you can see, our past year has been busy and the prospects for this year even busier. I believe Mid Sask is positioned well for the exciting times Saskatchewan is entering as a 'have' province and a tourist destination to the world. Once again, my deepest thanks to a dedicated and hard working staff and to you, the Board, for your vision, patience, understanding and co-operation in new, exciting, and sometimes confusing times.

-Bill Matlock



Chairman's Report

The WaterWolf project brings to mind a Charles Dickens quotation, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The land use initiative in particular has passed milestones that we did not envision at the beginning. The need for regional growth in both capacity and cooperation has resonated with the key players in the region, and the WaterWolf project has created the framework to sustain that positive movement. The challenge that accompanies that commitment and enthusiasm has generated a need for more resources, and our staff are working hard on that front.

The project funding that has moved the initiative forward for the past three years has come to an end. The funding and support from Western Economic Diversification, the Rural Secretariat, and the Rural

Development Institute at Brandon University has been key to the success to date. On behalf of the board of directors of WaterWolf, I want to take this opportunity to put our thanks and appreciation on the record for the commitment these organizations have made, and the flexibility and support they have shown over this period. Today is also a time to look to the future and where our corporation and our project can help move the region and the province. Over the next three years we will see the land use project formalize into a corporate planning district or a planning commission. We will move through development of governance, administrative structure, and culture changes to ensure that the data base we are building is live and kept current. Through the use of GIS and GPS data, we will move our region to a place where evidence

based division making is as natural as breathing.

We believe that the success we have had in our region can be shared with other regions throughout the province. With that in mind we have begun exploring a partnership with the regional college, to help capture the process and the milestones of our project, and make that available to other communities.

The work we have done here, and the capacity we have created, will fit hand and glove with the vision and direction of the new Enterprise Region initiative currently under construction. We look forward to partnering with them in creating a sustainable regional framework for growth.

-Bill Matlock



Outlook River Run



The 70% chance of rain predicted for the morning of the first Outlook River Run didn't seem to put a damper on anyone's plans for attending the latest event put on by Outlook Tourism. Despite the slim chance of nice weather, the Outlook River Run went on as scheduled and ended up with clear skies and temperatures ranging above 20°C.

The River Run is a new tourism initiative hosted by Outlook Tourism as a means to bring the community together with visitors and to show case some of the best features Outlook has to offer. The 5 km run/walk led participants along the Trans Canada Trail in the Outlook & District

Regional Park, through the bluff of 800 year old elm trees, over the SKYTRAIL, above the golf course, through the camp grounds, and ended with a BBQ at the camp kitchen.

A total of 12 participants entered the event, and a total of 20 people attended the BBQ. The Run brought visitors in from Prince Albert, St. Louis, Conquest, and Outlook. Everyone had a blast at the first Outlook River Run, and talk of expanding the event next year sounds promising. So keep your eye's peeled for the next River Run in May 2009 and join in the fun.

Also watch for the next event hosted by Outlook Tourism in mid-August. The 5th Annual Canoe/Kayak Trek will take place on August 16th & 17th, and will begin on the South Saskatchewan River at Outlook and end the next day at Whitecap Dakota First Nations. More information and registration packages can be found online at www.town.outlook.sk.ca.



OUR STAFF

Jim Tucker
sjimtucker@midsask.ca
General Manager

Russ McPherson
russmcpherson@midsask.ca
Water Wolf Project Manager

Holly Vollmer
holly@midsask.ca
Business Development Officer

Denise Guillet
denise@midsask.ca
GIS Technician

Michelle Hooey
michelle@midsask.ca
Administration/Accounting

Nicole Carey
nicole@midsask.ca
Apprentice

Chelsea Taylor
chelsea@midsask.ca
Apprentice

New Staff!

Chelsea Taylor has been hired for a one year apprentice position. She will be responsible for maintaining and upgrading various web-sites, as well as the Outlook Tourism contract while Aaron Spence is on maternity leave.

Chelsea was born and raised in Outlook. She moved to Red Deer, Alberta for her post secondary education, graduating with a 2 year diploma in Hospitality and Tourism. Chelsea worked in both Alberta and Saskatchewan, making her way back to Outlook in 2007. With her education and experience, Chelsea has gained a background in event planning and tourism which she feels will benefit the Mid Sask office.

Since moving back to Outlook, Chelsea has been involved with coaching minor hockey and ball, which she enjoys very much. She currently lives in Conquest and is excited for her new position with Mid Sask REDA.

Canoe & Kayak Trek



August 16th & 17th, 2008

Outlook to Whitecap Dakota First Nations

Registration Packages can be found:

Online at: www.town.outlook.sk.ca

Phone: (306) 867-9566

E-mail: nicole@midsask.ca

To inquire about a website for your community contact the Mid Sask CFDC/REDA Office at 1-888-929-9990 or 306-867-9566

SATELLITE OFFICES

Our Satellite Offices are located :

Central Butte
Bathgate Shop—3rd Mon.

Davidson
Davidson Town Hall—2nd Wed.

Biggar
Bear Hills RDC—3rd Thurs.

Beechy
Village Office—4th Tues. a.m.

Lucky Lake
RM Office—4th Tues. p.m.

To book an appointment for one of our satellite offices, please phone Holly at 1-888-929-9990

On Monday, July 7th, our Web Designer/Tourism Coordinator, Aaron Spence and her husband Jay, along with big sisters Hailey and Rylee, welcomed a baby boy to their family!

Sawyer Jay Spence was born at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, weighing in at 8lbs, 10z and measuring 20.4 inches long. Congratulations Aaron & Jay!

It's a boy!

