



## Welcome

On behalf of Associated Engineering we would like to thank the Council and residents of the RM of Colonsay No.342 for providing us the opportunity to work with you to prepare an Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw for your community. The implementation of an OCP and Zoning Bylaw represents a new beginning for the RM, and Associated Engineering is proud to be assisting you along this journey. To kick-start the planning process, we have prepared this brief communication to introduce the planning process, and to provide information about an online community survey intended to gather information about the RM to inform the preparation of the OCP and Zoning Bylaw.

## What is an Official Community Plan?

An OCP provides policies to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of a municipality. An OCP informs municipal decisions regarding the development of land within its boundary, and the potential allocation of public funds to support the development process. It promotes a predictable development environment for people considering investment into the community, while protecting the public interest of existing residents. The OCP tells the story of where the community is now, and where it intends to be in the future. The OCP is primarily a text-based document complemented by a series of thematic maps including the Future Land Use Map (FLUM).

## What is a future land use map (FLUM)?

The FLUM is a graphic representation of the community's intended direction for growth, as described in the text of the OCP. Any development within the defined area will have to conform with the designation placed on it by the FLUM and the policies prescribed in the OCP. Decisions concerning the timing for any new development remain with the property owner. Land Use designations on the FLUM may include agriculture, commercial or industrial and country residential. The specific designations and their locations will be determined through the application of best planning practices and through community engagement.

## What is a Zoning Bylaw?

The Zoning Bylaw is a required companion document to the OCP used to regulate the use and development of land and assist in implementing the policies within the OCP to achieve fair, orderly and economic development of land. These regulations include, but are not limited to, permitted land and building uses, density of

development, building height, and lot coverage. These regulations create a level of stability for Council and land owners as the options for development are clearly presented, and accessible for evaluation.

## Public Input in the Planning Process

Public input into the community planning process is essential to ensure that the OCP reflects the overall community goals and objectives for the municipality. The public survey referenced herein provides the first opportunity for providing input into the process. A subsequent public open house will be hosted in the latter part of the planning process providing an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to Council considering its adoption. A third opportunity to voice your opinion will be provided at the public hearing. The RM website will offer a convenient location to obtain regular project updates and contact information for the project team and the municipality is provided below, if you have any specific interests to discuss or have any questions.

## Plan Process Overview

A summary of the process followed in preparing an OCP and Zoning Bylaw is provided below, along with an estimated time frame for each stage of the project.



### 1. Establish Context for the Plan (March and April 2019)

The initial stage of the process focuses on collecting background information relevant to the community. This information includes, but is not limited to, community history, population and demographic data, existing development patterns, physical conditions, land uses, and infrastructure. This data is acquired from a variety of sources including municipal records, provincial databases, published studies, and personal interviews.

### 2. Community Visioning (April – May 2019)

This stage is focused on establishing the community's goals and priorities for the growth and development of within the RM over the next 20-25 years. These statements of priority establish the foundation for the policies that guide municipal decisions. Information regarding community priorities is acquired through in person meetings with community leaders, and through feedback received from the community survey.

### 3. Plan Preparation and Refinement (May – June 2019)

The consulting team will translate the information gathered in the previous phases of the project and prepare a draft OCP and companion Zoning Bylaw. The OCP, Zoning Bylaw and future land use map will be provided to the community for inspection and presented at an open house event. At this event, members of the public will be able to provide their perspective to the consulting team. Following this event, the documents will be refined as needed prior to initiating the formal approval process.

### 4. Plan Adoption (June – July 2019)

*The Planning and Development Act, 2007* prescribes the process for adoption of an OCP and Zoning Bylaw. This process begins with Council passing a resolution to consider adoption of the OCP and Zoning Bylaw. Following this meeting, Council will advertise its intention to hold a public hearing, providing the public with an additional opportunity to comment on the proposed plan. Following the hearing, Council may provide final reading to the adopting bylaws signifying their support for the plan. The OCP and Zoning Bylaw come into force following receipt of Provincial approval of the proposed bylaws.

## Community Survey

A link to access the public survey is included below. Please enter the link below into any internet browser to access the online survey using any mobile or desktop device with an internet connection.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColonsayOCP>

Your participation is important to ensure that the OCP appropriately represents the community's vision and goals for the future. Please take a few minutes to help shape the future of your community.

The survey questions are intended to encourage community reflection on topics that are considered within the context of preparing an OCP. More specifically the survey questions seek to:

- Establish community priorities concerning the growth and development of the RM over the next 20 to 25 years.
- Identify desired (and less desired) forms or types of development in the future.
- Identify existing community strengths that should be leveraged moving forward, and community challenges that may need to be mitigated in the future.
- Access personal perceptions concerning the current and future state of your community.

The above noted online survey will remain active until **Monday May 13, 2019**. The results of the survey will be published on the RM website and within the OCP.

If you have any questions or comments about the survey or the OCP process, please contact Kenneth Weddige with Associated Engineering at [weddigek@ae.ca](mailto:weddigek@ae.ca) or by phone at 306-653-4969. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the survey, please contact the RM's Administrator Randi Wood at [rm342@sasktel.net](mailto:rm342@sasktel.net) or by phone at 306-255-2233.



**We look forward to  
hearing from you!**