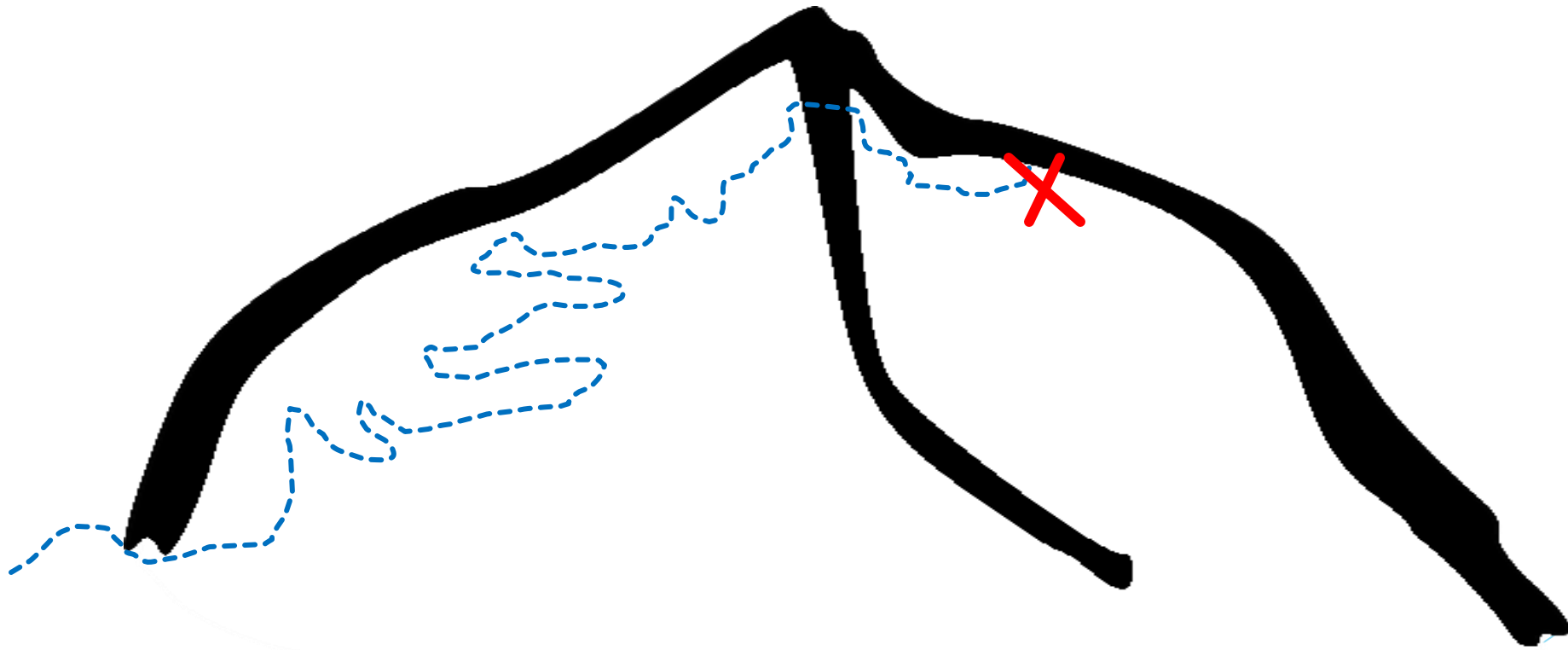


Navigating the Terrain to an Emergency Management Partnership



Road map for today's session:

- Background
- Why
- Roadblocks
- Considerations
- Benefits
- Questions

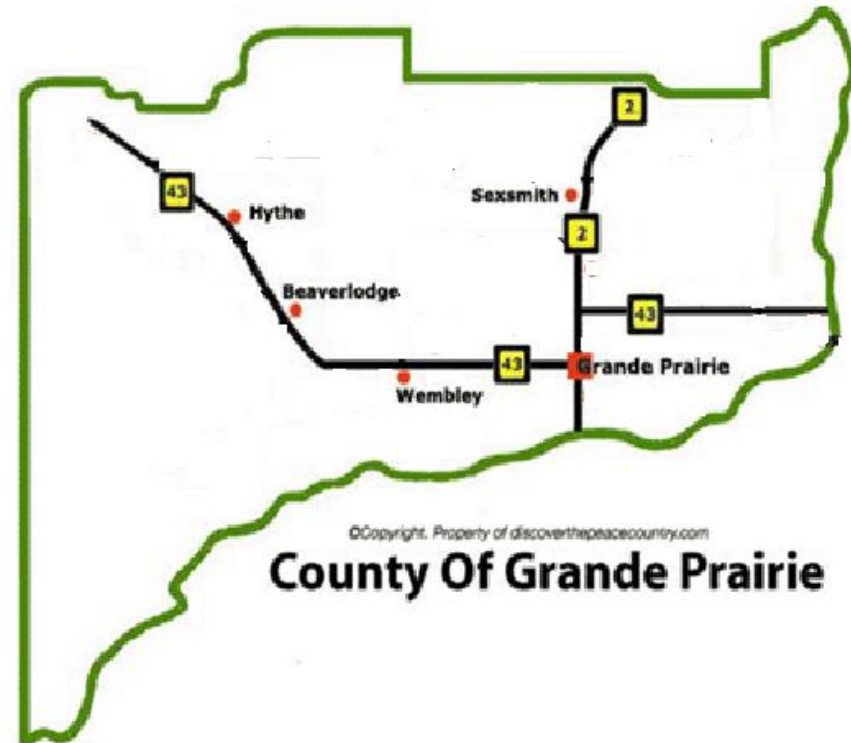


What is GPREP?

- ▶ Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership
- ▶ Formal emergency management agreement and program between 6 municipalities

A Regional Partnership

- ▶ County of Grande Prairie
- ▶ City of Grande Prairie
- ▶ Town of Beaverlodge
- ▶ Town of Sexsmith
- ▶ Town of Wembley
- ▶ Village of Hythe

































Population of 95,889; area of over 5,500 km²


















Formation

- ▶ Agreement
- ▶ Ministerial order
- ▶ All have the same emergency management bylaw
- ▶ GPREP is more than a mutual aid agreement

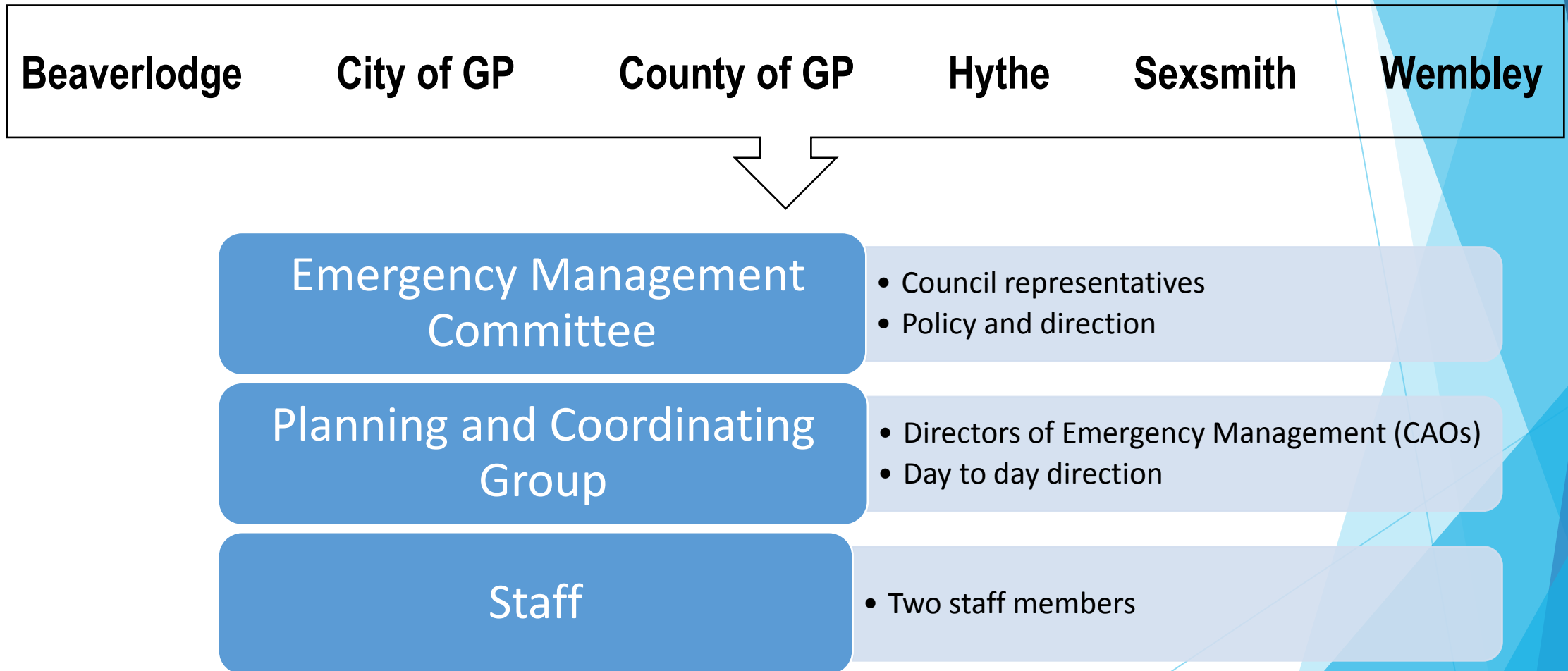
Before Regionalization

	County GP	City GP	Beaverlodge	Hythe	Sexsmith	Wembley
Emergency Management Committee						
Director of Emergency Management						
Plan						
Emergency Management Bylaw						
Ability to Declare State of Local Emergency						
EM Specific Staff						

After GPREP formed

	GPREP	County GP	City GP	Beaverlodge	Hythe	Sexsmith	Wembley
Emergency Management Committee							
Director of Emergency Management							
Plan							
Emergency Management Bylaw		 The same bylaw					
Ability to Declare							
EM Specific Staff							

What is the Structure of GPREP?



When does GPREP come into effect?

- ▶ Large scale emergencies and disasters



Sexsmith Grain Elevator Fire

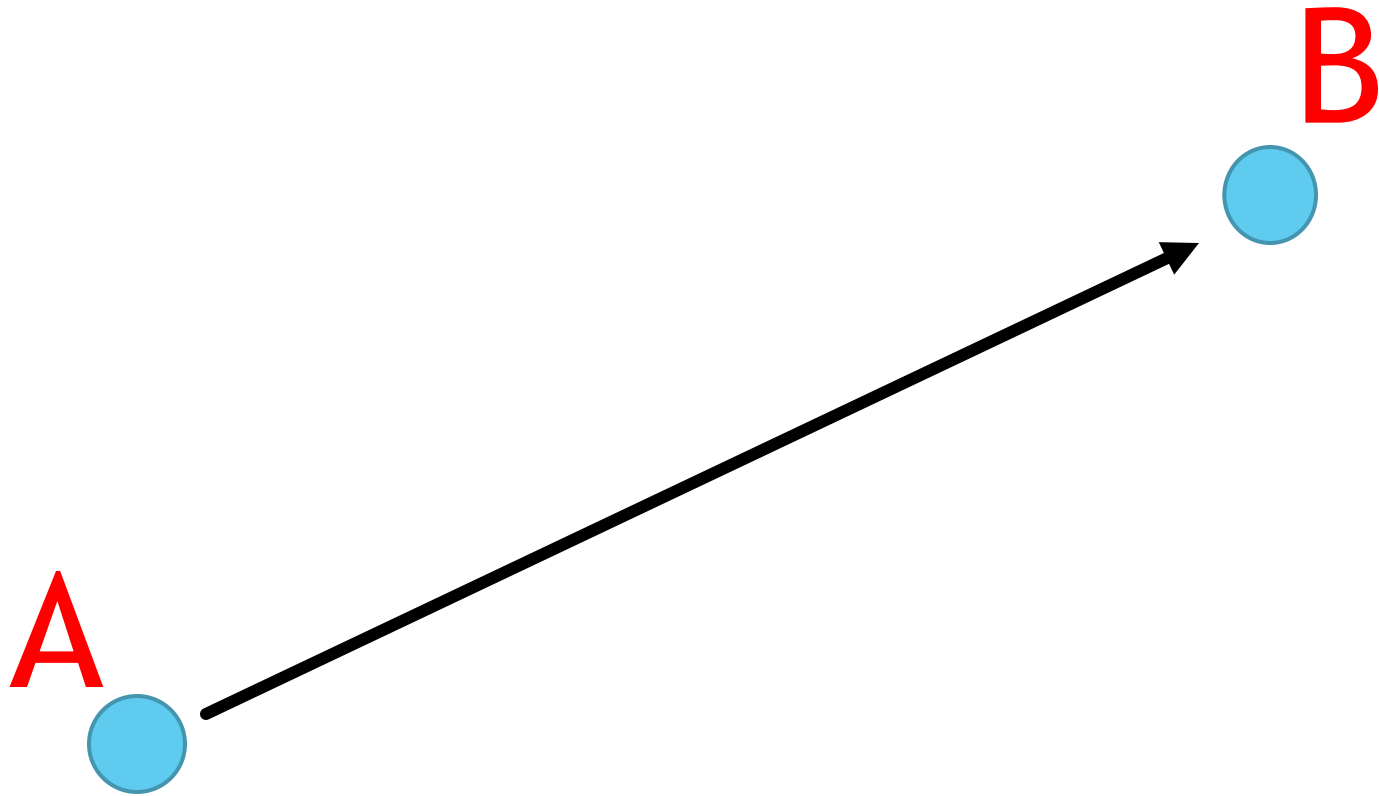


© William Vavrek Photography

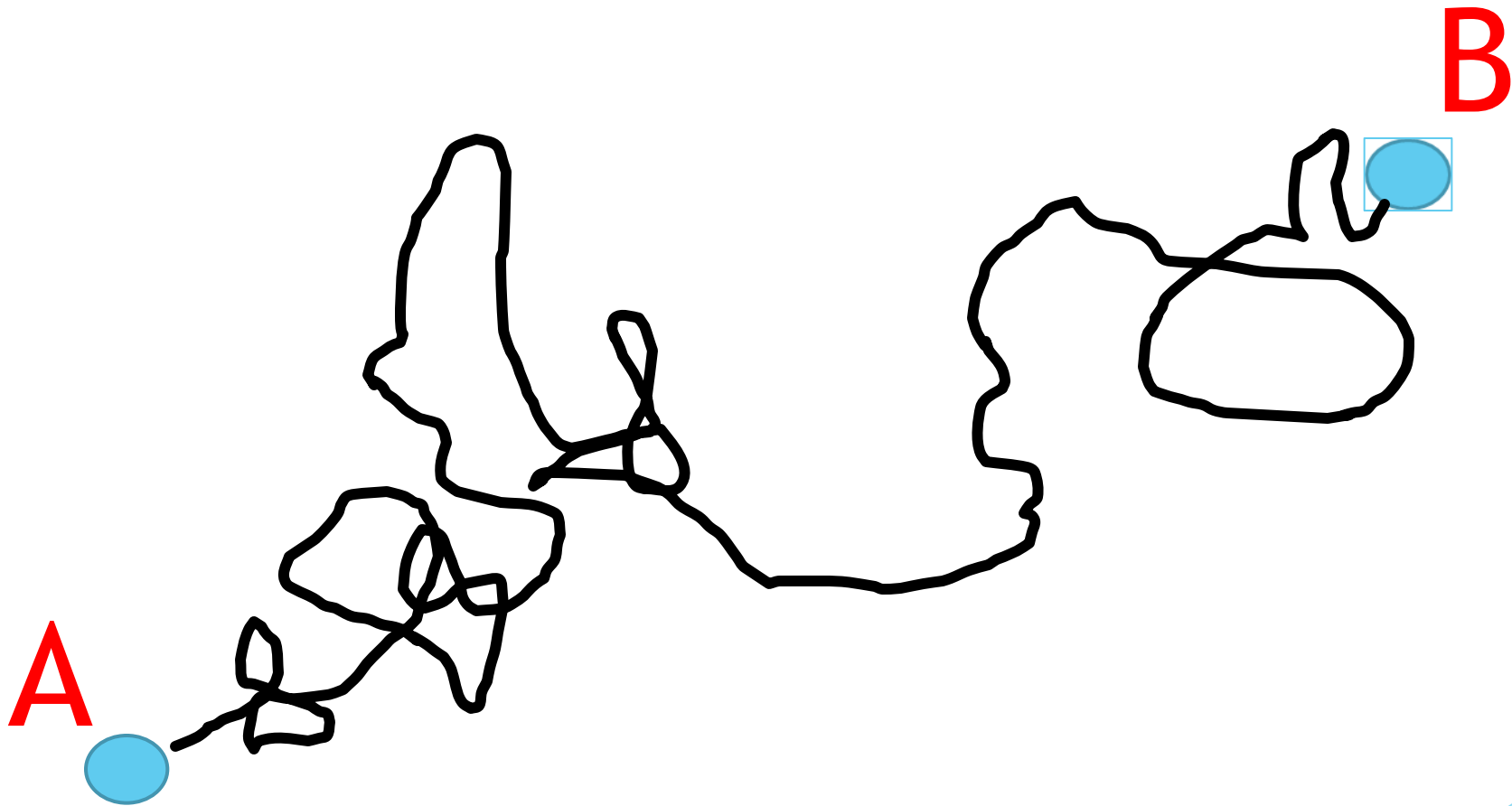
Why was GPREP formed?

- ▶ Disasters don't respect boundaries
 - ▶ impact of multi-jurisdictional events
- ▶ Competition for resources

How we imagine a project will go



How it actually goes



Roadblocks, detours and challenges

- ▶ There was no process for ministerial order when we started
- ▶ Challenges creating new bylaw and agreement - no precedents; makes lawyers and legislative services uncomfortable



Roadblocks, detours and challenges, cont.

- ▶ Different parts of the system work at different paces
- ▶ Other municipal dynamics and relationships can impact your progress
- ▶ Feelings of loss of control
- ▶ Achieving and maintaining unity of effort



Challenges – comments from the GPREP Agency

- ▶ Lack of understanding of the system (idea)
- ▶ Selling councils on the program every time council changed
- ▶ “Nice idea, but the legislation doesn’t allow it.”
- ▶ Leaving your hat at the door
- ▶ More sense of responsibility
- ▶ Lack of training

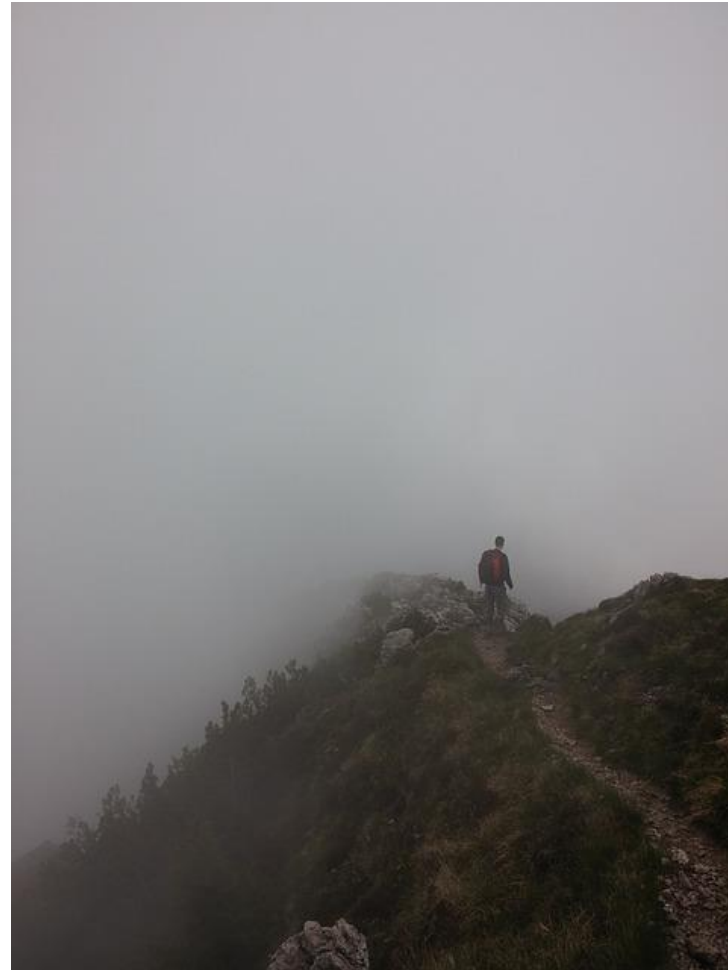


Have you ever had that feeling?



Considerations

- ▶ Took longer than thought
- ▶ Fears and resistance
- ▶ Takes time and energy to get everyone on board



Considerations, continued

- ▶ We were able to get a grant to get partnership going....
This was used to put a coordinator in place before anyone had to start paying
- ▶ Started from scratch to create plan
- ▶ Relationships are so important; building trust
- ▶ One municipality acts as the banker and hires the staff on behalf of the partnership

Benefits



- ▶ Shared costs
- ▶ Dedicated staff to do Emergency Management work (not off the corner of someone's desk anymore)
- ▶ Regional Emergency Operations Centres
- ▶ Ability to declare regional state of local emergency or declare on someone else's behalf

Benefits, continued

- ▶ Less competition for resources (e.g.. RCMP)
- ▶ Joint training and more training than before
- ▶ Partnerships (Grande Prairie Regional College, ATCO, etc.)
- ▶ Good integration of Emergency Social Services
- ▶ Strengthened relationships
- ▶ More exercises

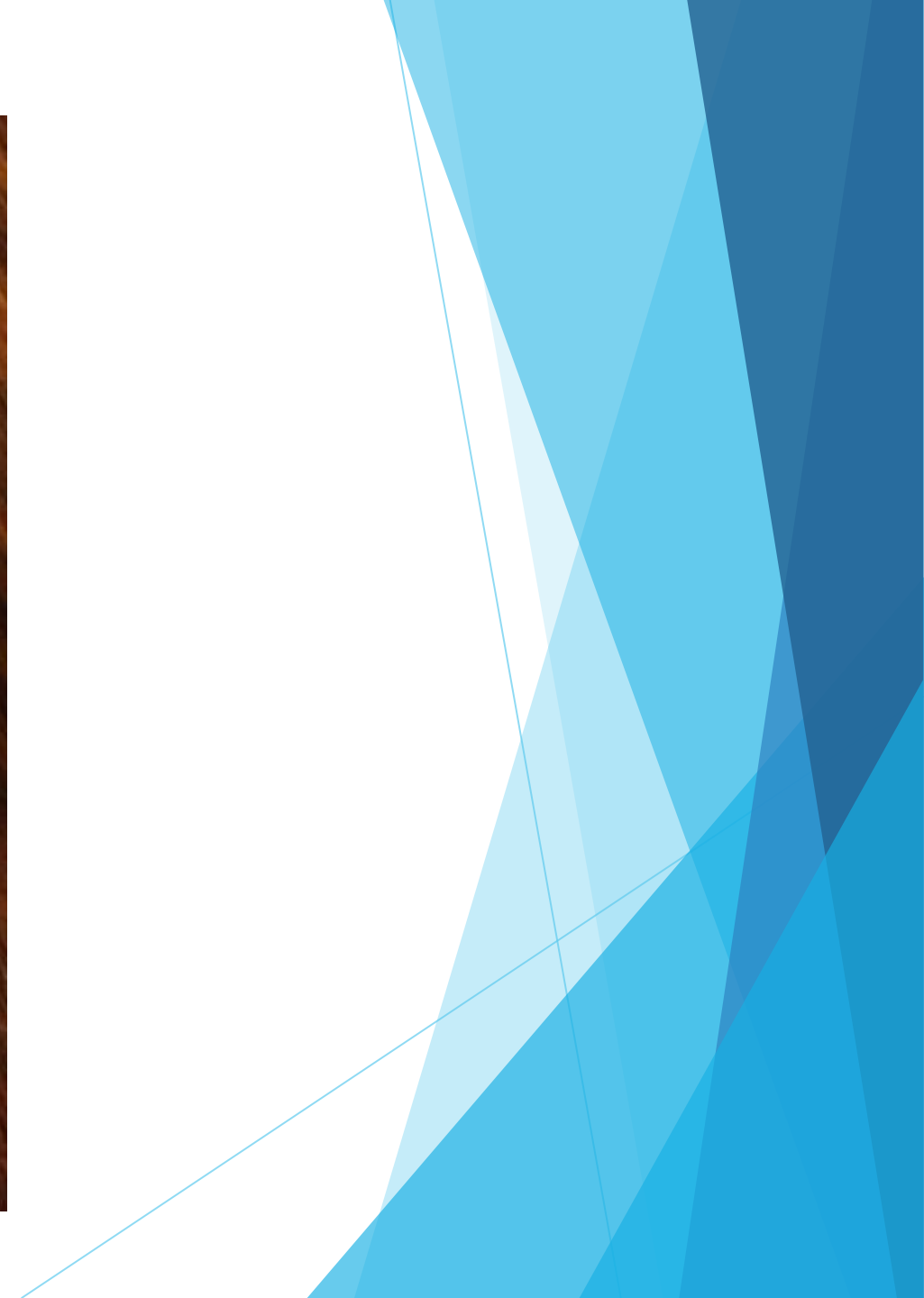


Benefits – Comments from GPREP Agency Meeting

- ▶ “We are very prepared”
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Interagency partnerships - know each other, learn from each other
- ▶ Shared responsibility
- ▶ Resource sharing
- ▶ Smaller communities have limited staff to do emergency management, we get it through GPREP
- ▶ Shift from disaster/emergency preparedness to community resilience

What I learned about regional emergency management partnerships







Questions?

