

Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach Viability Review

Pre-Vote Public Information Session
September 3, 2025

Linda Reynolds
Jeff Nixon
Ross Zimmermann

Dee Deveau
Sharlene Brown



Objectives



Outline what's happened to date



Review the Viability Review Report

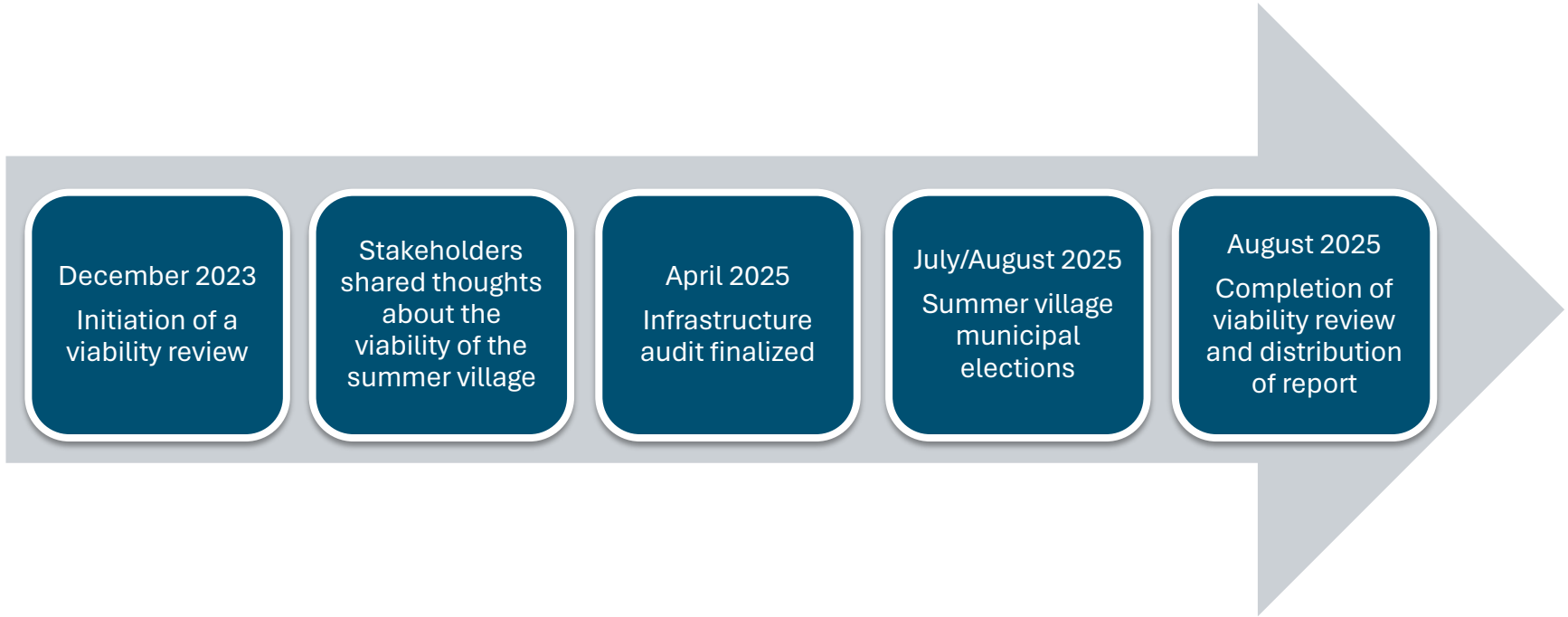


Answer questions about the upcoming vote



Share what happens after the vote

What's happened to date?



Viability Review Report Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach

- Executive Summary
- Review & Findings
 - *Preamble and Current State*
 - *Options Comparison*
 - *Recommended Actions*
- Appendices

www.alberta.ca/viability-reviews-for-municipalities



Municipal Operations

Governance

Administration

Finance

Infrastructure

Services

Community

Describe the
municipal operations

Compare the two options:
Summer Village or Hamlet

Lists recommendations for
moving forward as a
sustainable municipality

What is the intent of the recommended actions?

- Assist Ma-Me-O Beach to:
 - move forward in a sustainable manner and achieve a viable future ...becoming the foundation for a long-term action plan.
- Recommendations starting with:
 - “a municipality must” typically when legislation is not being followed; and
 - “a municipality should consider” when an action, that could benefit the municipality’s long-term viability, is suggested for council consideration at a council meeting.
- Recommendations in the report were suggested by viability review support group members, in public input, and by the Ministry.
- Some recommendations are unique to Ma-Me-O Beach, others may be very similar to recommendations in other reports.

Governance

Council defines the policies and direction that municipal administration puts into action



Options Comparison - Governance

As a Summer Village...

- Council representation would remain the same.
- Full-time residents, property owners, and partners may participate in elections.
- Council would continue to determine priorities and service needs of the summer village.
- The summer village would develop and implement realistic long-range plans.
- Council would continue to pass new bylaws and policies, and revise or repeal existing ones.

...As a Hamlet

- Council representation would be through the Division 5 councillor.
- Only full-time residents would be able to participate in elections.
- The county would determine priorities and service needs for the county as a whole including Ma-Me-O Beach.
- Ma-Me-O Beach would be included in the county's strategic long-range plans and county budget.
- Summer village bylaws will likely be replaced by county bylaws unless they are specific to the needs of the community.

Recommended Actions - Governance

The summer village should:

- complete a comprehensive planning session to discuss the recommendations in the viability review report and develop an action plan to address each recommendation;
- consider updating or replacing the 2019 strategic plan published on the summer village website;
- consider undertaking a bylaw review during each election cycle to ensure alignment with current practices and bylaws meet the unique needs and interests of Ma-Me-O Beach; and
- consider reviewing and updating local policies and enacting new policies in order to guide staff and to communicate service level expectations to the public.

Recommended Actions - Governance

The summer village should consider:

- sharing and keeping current all policies, bylaws, and strategic planning documents on its website;
- posting all council and committee meeting agendas and draft minutes on the summer village website sharing information on a timely basis;
- development of an intermunicipal collaboration framework with the summer villages on Pigeon Lake and/or the County of Wetaskiwin, and consider inviting the Indian bands from the Pigeon Lake 138A Indian Reserve to participate in the delivery of and funding of services provided under the framework; and
- initiation of a regional governance study with other summer villages on Pigeon Lake that could result in the amalgamation of the summer villages to form one new summer village.

Administration

*Municipal
administration
implements the policy
and directions of
council*



Options Comparison - Administration

As a Summer Village...

- Ma-Me-O Beach CAO will continue to be responsible for administration and operation of the summer village.
- The shared administration and facility agreement would continue.
- Administration services would continue to be available at the summer villages' office in Ma-Me-O Beach.
- Contracted bylaw services would continue.

...As a Hamlet

- The county CAO may be responsible for administration and operation of the hamlet.
- Initially, the county would be party to and may renegotiate the agreement.
- Administrative services would likely be provided through the county's municipal office - west of the City of Wetaskiwin.
- The county has a bylaw enforcement team.
- Any changes would be future decisions of the county council.

Recommended Actions - Administration

The summer village should:

- consider reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the CAO position described in the *MGA* and consider increasing the number of hours needed to perform the duties in Ma-Me-O Beach;
- consider reviewing the Joint Administration and Facilities Agreement and determine if it provides adequate staffing levels to support the unique needs of Ma-Me-O Beach and the other summer villages;
- track administrative time for non-core services that may consume more than 40 hours annually in accordance with the Joint Administration and Facilities Agreement;
- ensure that Alberta health and safety legislation is followed; and
- consider reviewing the summer village website on a regular basis to ensure it reflects current bylaws, policies, practices, and information.

Finance

- *Property taxes*
- *Annual operational and capital budgets*
- *3-year operational and 5-year capital plans with anticipated revenues*
- *Audited financial statements*
- *Borrowing and debt limits*



Options Comparison - Finance

As a Summer Village...

- The summer village will continue to set:
 - operating and capital budgets.
 - property taxes, due dates, and penalties, and services fees.
- Assets and liabilities remain with the summer village.
- The summer village will continue to be eligible for federal and provincial grant allocations.
- Appendix B: 2025 Operational Budget Summary describes revenue sources and expenses for the year.

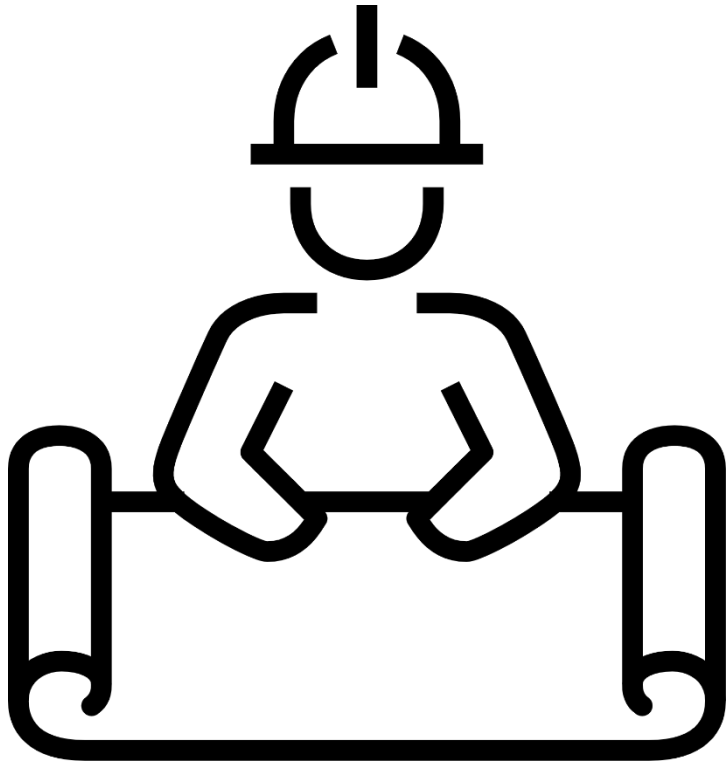
...As a Hamlet

- County budgets would include provision of services throughout the county including Ma-Me-O Beach.
- Property taxes, due dates, and penalties will be set by the county.
- County may impose additional tax to fund projects and programs benefiting Ma-Me-O Beach alone.
- Summer village assets and liabilities transfer to the county and must be used to benefit Ma-Me-O Beach.
- County eligible to receive provincial funding to assist with operational changes and fund Ma-Me-O Beach capital projects.

Recommended Actions - Finance

The summer village should:

- consider developing a plan to build reserves for future capital repairs and replacement of infrastructure, including funding sources;
- consider developing a policy and procedures addressing how operating revenues are accumulated and withdrawn;
- review the infrastructure inventory identified in the infrastructure audit, assess the needs of the municipality, and identify and align revenue sources to adequately fund current and future infrastructure costs;
- consider reviewing a comprehensive request for decision (RFD) document inclusive of costs and anticipated revenue sources prior to making future capital expenditures; and
- consider budgeting for staff dedicated solely to the operational needs of Ma-Me-O Beach.



Infrastructure

A municipality's ability to provide infrastructure for core services expected by residents.

Infrastructure Audit

Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach infrastructure audit:

- describes inventory and condition of the summer village assets;
- estimates costs for rehabilitation and replacement;
- prioritizes projects over a 10-year period; and
- identifies infrastructure investment of \$2,461,166 in years 2026 to 2033 as summarized in Appendix C: Infrastructure Audit – Summary Tables

Capital Plan

If Ma-Me-O Beach votes to remain a summer villages, the audit will assist the summer village prepare a long-term capital plan to address identified projects.

Based on needs and available funding, the plan approved by the summer village may differ from the forecast in the infrastructure audit and in Appendix C: Infrastructure Audit – Summary Tables.

Options Comparison - Infrastructure

As a Summer Village...

- Develop and adopt an operational plan for ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.
- Will need to address critical infrastructure through a prioritized long-range plan including realistic funding sources.
- Will continue to be eligible for provincial grant funding allocations.
- May have to consider other funding sources for essential rehabilitation and replacements.
- May need to dispose of assets to manage infrastructure needs.

...As a Hamlet

- The county would incorporate Ma-Me-O Beach assets into the county asset management plans for maintenance and operations.
- The county would assess and prioritize critical infrastructure.
- Utilization of local improvement, special taxes, or sub-classes may need to be considered.
- The county may need to make difficult decisions to identify non-essential assets in Ma-Me-O Beach and align with the county's asset management policies.

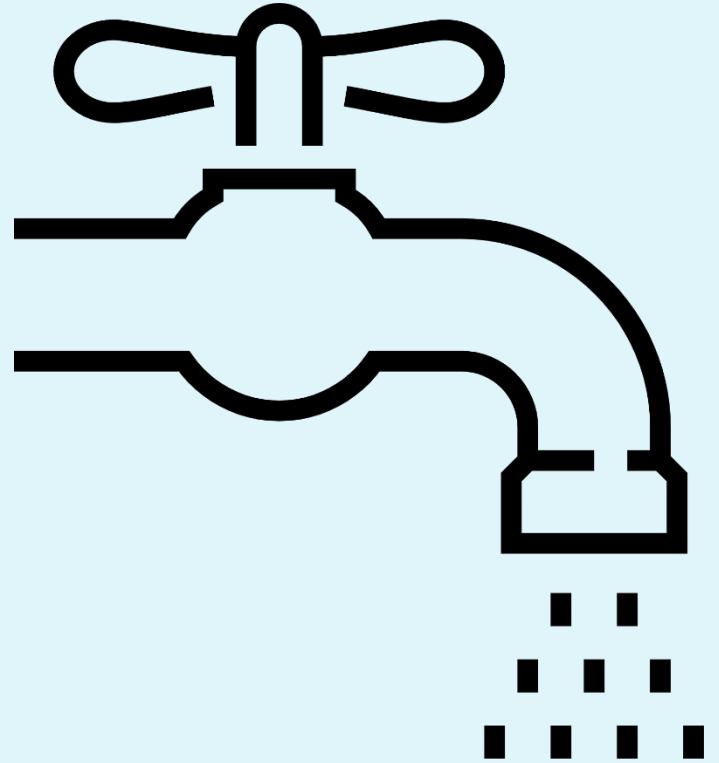
Recommended Actions - Infrastructure

The summer village should:

- identify essential and non-essential infrastructure, align infrastructure inventory with financial capacity, and develop a strategy for the management and rehabilitation or replacement of the summer village's infrastructure assets;
- (based on information in the infrastructure audit) consider adopting 10-year operational and capital plans to address repairs, maintenance, and rehabilitation or replacement of assets identified in the infrastructure audit. The plans should include projected funding sources; and
- consider development of weekly, monthly, and annual operational and maintenance task lists for Public Works.

Services

Municipalities determine what services, such as water, sewer, or paved roads, to provide to residents.



Options Comparison - Services

As a Summer Village...

- The summer village would continue contracted services for snow removal and garbage collection and offer the driveway snow clearance service.
- Property owners would continue to be responsible for containment in a watertight holding or septic tank and disposal of wastewater.
- Summer village would continue to be a member of the wastewater commission.
- Utility fee/levy for wastewater would be billed annually.

...As a Hamlet

- Solid waste collection would continue if property owners wish to continue the service and willing to pay the cost.
- Snow plowing and sanding would be done with a focus on priority routes and may be provided in-house by the county.
- County services are provided on a full-cost recovery basis.
- The county bills for utilities bimonthly.
- The county does not offer a service to clear driveways

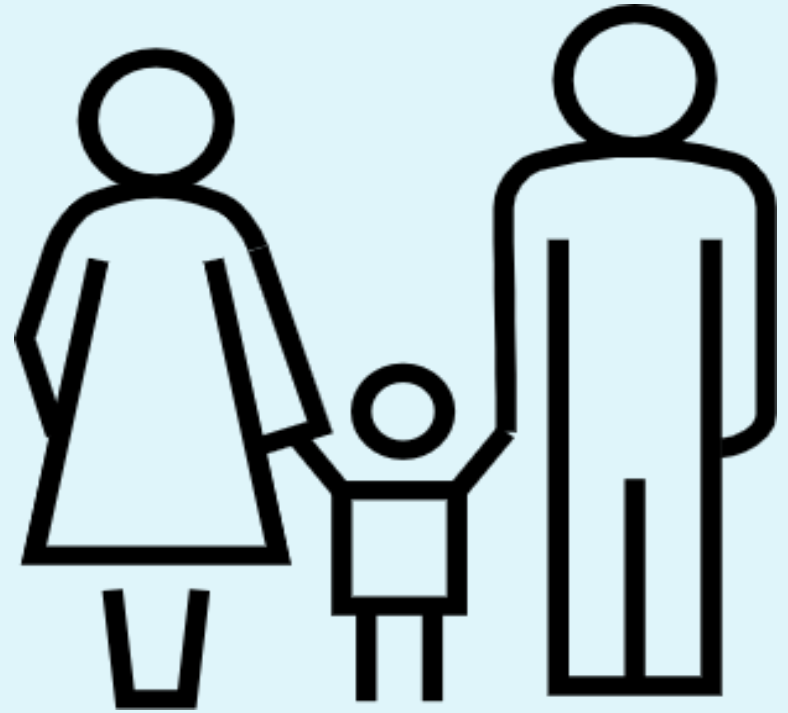
Recommended Actions - Services

The summer village should:

- consider completing a service capacity review to align services levels with council and property owner expectations and budget for the required staffing/contracting;
- consider revising Bylaw No. 389 that regulates the residential and commercial private wastewater facilities in Ma-Me-O Beach and develop a policy and procedures to outline the summer village's practice for inspection of private wastewater facilities;
- consider setting a utility fee for weekly solid waste pick-up to fund the service in addition to the wastewater fee; and
- continue to review and adjust utility levies annually to reflect full cost-recovery of associated expenses including costs of consumption, emergency repairs, capital projects, billing, and allocations to reserves for future infrastructure and asset replacement.

Community

Vibrant and strong communities may be fostered through the programs and services offered, public participation in events and activities, and connections between residents.



Options Comparison - Community

As a Summer Village...

- Agreements with community groups for use, maintenance, and operation of facilities would continue.
- The summer village will continue to own facilities and be responsible for costs associated with their ongoing operation, maintenance, and upgrades.
- The summer village will continue to actively seek funding sources to assist with tourism expenses.

...As a Hamlet

- Agreements with community groups would become agreements with the county.
- Most community events are organized by county community groups.
- The county participates in the provincial FCSS program.
- The county may levy a special tax on Ma-Me-O Beach properties to fund services provided exclusively to the lake community.
- Hamlet properties would be subject to a tax levy to fund community housing requisitions.

Recommended Actions - Community

The summer village should consider:

- developing a policy and procedures to formalize financial and in-kind support to community organizations and events;
- developing a tourism strategy to address expectations and needs of property owners, business owners, neighbours, and visitors; and
- the benefits to community programming of the provincial FCSS (Family and Community Support Services) program within the next five years.

Appendices

Appendix A: Recommended Actions for Option 1

Appendix B: 2025 Operational Budget Summary

Appendix C: Infrastructure Audit - Summary Tables

1. Asset Category
2. Facility and Equipment

Appendix D: Summary of Public Input

Appendix E: Vote on a Question

Vote on a Question

Based on the findings of the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach Viability Review, which one of the two options below do you support for the future of Ma-Me-O Beach? (Select one only)

Option 1: The Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach remains a summer village and implements changes to achieve viability.

Option 2: Dissolve the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach and Ma-Me-O Beach becomes a hamlet in the County of Wetaskiwin.

Upcoming Vote of Electors

- *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*
- Vote is conducted by Municipal Affairs
- Eligibility to vote
- Voter identification and proof of property ownership
- Special “Mail-In” ballot available
 - Must be returned to Returning Officer in Edmonton by noon on Friday, September 19, 2025



Upcoming Vote of Electors

Vote held in the Ma-Me-O Beach Community Centre on

Saturday, September 20, 2025: 10 am to 7 pm

Results will be posted that evening immediately after the ballot count.

What happens after the vote?

Electors vote to remain a summer village

**Electors vote to dissolve and become a hamlet
– appointment of Official Administrator**

Community as a summer village or a hamlet

Thank you for joining us!

Viability Review Team:

Jeff Nixon

Linda Reynolds

Dee Deveau

Sharlene Brown

Ross Zimmermann



Phone: 780-427-2225 or toll-free dial 310-0000 first

Email: viabilityreview@gov.ab.ca

Website: www.alberta.ca/viability-reviews-for-municipalities