

KIM MCKYLOR

Rocky View Country Councillor for Division 2

Happy Summer! It is my hope that by the time this reaches your mailboxes we will be entering a new season with reduced case numbers and fewer restrictions, allowing us all to travel a little, visit family and friends and seeing a light at the end of the Covid tunnel. For those families that have been affected by the loss of someone close to you, my most sincere condolences. I hope that you and your loved ones can soon come together to mourn but also celebrate the life journeys of those that have left us during this time.

Over the last few months, I have continued to speak out about the impact of the CMRB on Rocky View (and ultimately every member of that Board but Calgary). There are those in our community that believe that to advocate against the CMRB is to advocate against regional planning. Nothing could be further from the truth. Regional planning, at its core, makes complete sense. As one example, RVC recently made a large regional contribution to recreation when it invested over \$2,000,000 on quad ball diamonds in Langdon. It wouldn't make sense for Calgary to now spend the same dollars building a similar facility on the east side of the City. Instead, the Langdon facility should be (and is) available to the public; not just RVC residents but everyone. It will be the region, including Calgary, that will make this facility a success.

The same holds true for other regional planning items such as roads, libraries and transit, to name a few. While I agree that it may make sense for many of these to be in urban areas, I do not agree this is the only place they can or should be. My concern with the current plan is that it is set up to allow growth in "urban" centres while the rural municipalities are used as default land banks. This plan, by default, also sets up economic winners and losers, when we can all be winners.

In addition, I see several problematic inconsistencies in the current plan. While the consultant to the CMRB has stated that urbans won't need to annex because they will densify, Cochrane includes annexation in its vision document, and Calgary has asked RVC not to plan in their growth corridors. This is a direct contradiction of the CMRB's vision. I also see a problem in the voting structure of the CMRB. Calgary recently exercised their "veto" to change a minor amendment to cluster residential (only applicable to rural municipalities), something which had already been given a blessing by the CMRB Administration and its supporting technical teams. Calgary was able to veto this amendment despite the fact that 80% of the CMRB members agreed to the amendments. (In favour of the amendment were RVC, Foothills, Airdrie, Okotoks, High River, Chestermere, Wheatland and Strathmore. Against were Calgary and Cochrane.) To my mind, if Calgary's vote can carry that sort of disproportionate weight, the process is unacceptably undemocratic. So, I will continue to support sound regional planning but at the same time advocate for RVC whose voice should not be so easily overruled at the CMRB table.

I would like to close with a special tribute to Eric Longeway who passed away on May 21. One of my earliest memories of Eric was the time he spent with 4-H kids, including my daughter, sharing his passion on multi-judging. Eric was a true giver. He volunteered in our community and participated in everything Springbank had to offer. He was a red ribbon winner at virtually every Fall Fair and most certainly a red ribbon member of our community. Rest in Peace, Eric. You were loved here!

As always, you can reach me anytime at 403-462-9207 or kmckylor@rockyview.ca.