

Re: MD OF ACADIA AND SPECIAL AREAS JOINT IRRIGATION PROJECT

The MD of Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project aims to transition 108,000 acres of dryland to irrigated farming, creating a technologically and economically feasible irrigation expansion project. Located in east-central Alberta, the project is an initiative of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Government of Alberta, MD of Acadia, and Special Areas.

A Phase 1 project feasibility report was completed in 2022. Work on the project is now continuing with further investigation of potential challenges and risks, including environmental implications, engineering constraints, and project costs / financial feasibility.

Associated Engineering and Clifton Engineering Group Ltd., in association with Scott Land & Lease, Wilde Brothers Engineering & Surveys, and Boost Energy (the AE-Clifton team), were selected to begin preliminary engineering for the current project phase. Over the next 20 months, they will be active in the area, undertaking field investigations, coordinating meetings and information sessions, and obtaining information from you and other area stakeholders. The attached documentation provides some additional details on what can be expected and provides contact information for additional questions.

Each stakeholder will be affected differently by this project. The AE-Clifton team will strive to coordinate collaborative presentations and discussions to address potential project impacts and challenges. As well, they will play a central role in engagement with First Nations and Métis communities.

We look forward to continuing work on this exciting project and welcome your feedback.

Yours truly,



Jordon Christianson, Chair
Special Areas Board



Pete Rafa, Reeve
MD of Acadia

Scope of Preliminary Field Work

Over the next 20 months, our team will undertake preliminary work in various areas of the MD of Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project. Refer to Figure 1. Our field programs will primarily be done prior to seeding and after harvest to minimize impacts to production. Prior to work being performed, we will meet with community leaders, key stakeholders, the general public, and landowners to discuss the work and arrange land access. Our intention is that any access agreements will be voluntary.

What type of field investigations are being done this year (Fall 2023)?

The 2023 field investigations are not anticipated to require access to private land. Work may include:

- Site reconnaissance tours.
- Surveys using small unpiloted aircraft operated by a person on the ground to capture aerial photos to supplement the project Geographic Information System (drone surveys).
- Surveys collected using piloted aircraft flown over the project area to capture topographic data to better understand suitability of the existing design and potential constraints (LiDAR surveys).
- Underwater surveys to establish water depths to identify potential hazards and construction risks (bathymetric surveys).
- Ground surveys to support the air surveys.

What future testing may be required (2024)?

- Geotechnical drilling and subsurface soil sampling at selected locations.
- Installation of water observation wells in some of the geotechnical drill holes.
- Field data gathering to support environmental studies.

Why is this additional work needed?

- To verify existing ground contours, geology, groundwater conditions and to gather soil samples for design purposes.
- To assist in understanding how to control reservoir leakage and laying out the distribution systems needed to provide water to land deemed suitable for irrigation.
- To support planning, environmental assessment, permitting and licensing of the project.

Will there be any public information sessions?

- Yes. Three Open Houses are planned, likely starting in Spring 2024 to present the findings of the project to that point.

Who can I contact for more information?

Dwayne Gelowitz, P.Eng., Director of Communications and Engagement for the AE-Clifton Team through public.input@specialareas.ab.ca or (306) 535-3661

For general project information and quarterly project updates, visit the Special Areas website (<https://specialareas.ab.ca/regionalirrigation/>).

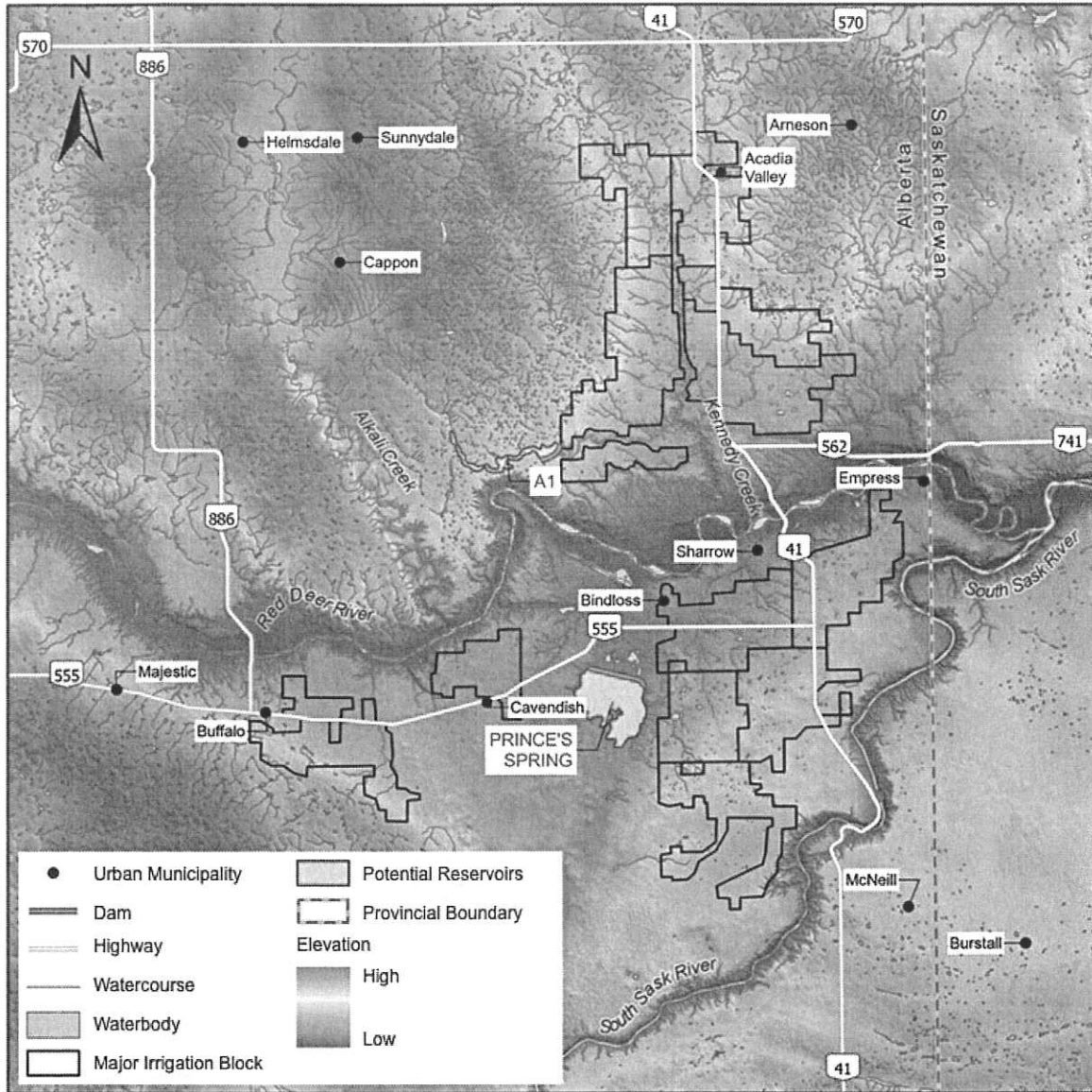


Figure 1 - MD of Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project Preliminary Plan