


February 2010

# Municipal Sustainability Strategy Working Group

Mayors' Caucuses

2010

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**



Presentation Outline

- **What is MSSWG?**
- **MSSWG Terms of Reference**
- **What are AUMA's concerns with MSSWG?**
- **Work to Date**
- **Next Meetings**
- **FOLG and Sustainability Statements**
- **Discussion**

2010

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**



## What is MSSWG?

2010

- **Premier's 2009 mandate letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs asked the Minister to develop a strategy to improve the long-term viability of Alberta municipalities.**
- **Municipal Affairs established the Municipal Sustainability Strategy Working Group (MSSWG) to assist in the development of the Strategy.**

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## MSSWG Terms of Reference

2010

- **The Working Group is to consider the following questions and complete a Report by March 31:**
- **Phase 1:**
  1. What constitutes a viable and sustainable municipality and how can these be measured?
  2. What basic services should a municipality provide?
- **Phase 2:**
  3. What capacity building tools are required?
  4. What restructuring processes should be used?

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## MSSWG Terms of Reference (cont.)

2010

- **MSSWG is comprised of staff from:**
  - Alberta Municipal Affairs (3 representatives)
  - AUMA (2 representatives + 1 LGAA representative)
  - AAMDC (2 representatives + 1 ARMAA representative)
  - ASVA

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## AUMA Board Concerns

2010

- **The task outlined in the Terms of Reference is very large in scope;**
- **MSSWG is an administrative committee;**
- **AUMA has a Convention-adopted paper on the Future of Local Governance, and this was not linked to the Terms of Reference;**
- **Initially, the Terms of Reference stated that communications would be joint, and issued by Alberta Municipal Affairs.**

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## AUMA Board Concerns

2010

- AUMA presented its concerns to the Minister in December, the Terms of Reference were slightly revised, but not sufficiently to provide full-fledged AUMA support for the effort.
- The AUMA Board agreed to have staff bring back a report following Phase 1 of the work, at which time the AUMA Board will decide whether or not to continue.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Work to Date

2010

- The MSSWG met twice in January, and will meet every 2 weeks.
- The MSSWG has wrestled with the question of what are basic municipal services.
- As basic services are defined differently in different municipalities, AUMA pressed for clear wording to frame the analysis.
- A Communiqué was issued by AMA following the first meeting, AUMA sent a member notice out the following week.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Next Meetings

2010

- The next meetings will review possible measures of municipal sustainability.
- AUMA is well-placed to contribute, as the 2009 President's Summit on the Future of Local Governance included speakers and discussion about measures of municipal sustainability.
- AUMA will keep members informed of progress through the Weekly Digest.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## FOLG and Sustainability Measures

2010

- The 2009 AUMA Convention adopted "Governance Sustainability Statements" and the 2009 President's Summit reviewed possible measures.
- To initiate discussion, we will display the statements and some possible measures.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.

## Governance Sustainability Statements 2010

### STATEMENT 1:

- Provision of infrastructure and services, effectively and efficiently. Engaging citizens.

### SOME POSSIBLE MEASURES

- audited financial statements,
- community affordability, (e.g.: cost/household),
- voter turnout,
- number of people running for office,
- adequate resources to provide and deliver municipal services.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.

## Governance Sustainability Statements 2010

### STATEMENT 2:

- Easily-understood, trusted, recognized Accountability System

### SOME POSSIBLE MEASURES:

- sustainability/strategic/long-term plan with performance measures,
- unfunded or unrecognized liabilities,
- annual number of legal non-conformity notices,
- conformity to Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) accounting standards,
- citizen satisfaction with reporting.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Governance Sustainability Statements 2010

### STATEMENT 3:

- **Strong inter-governmental coordination and cooperation. Resources and/or Access to Resources.**

### SOME POSSIBLE MEASURES:

- cost/service/revenue-sharing agreements,
- relationships with provincial government and federal government,
- total grant revenues as a percentage of total municipal revenues,
- sufficient qualified staff,
- number of candidates in municipal elections,
- property taxes and deviation from a median or regional median.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## DISCUSSION 2010

1. **Who should decide on the standards/measures of Sustainability?**
2. **Who should be responsible for monitoring and reporting on standards/measures of Sustainability?**

TOGETHER.STRONGER.

**DISCUSSION**

2010

- 3. If determined “not sustainable”, what steps should be taken?**
  - By the Municipality?
  - By the Government of Alberta?
  - By the citizens?
- 4. If determined “not sustainable”, how long should a Municipality be permitted to work to achieve Sustainability?**

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**