



Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society

P.O. Box 9012 Sylvan Lake
Alberta, T4S 1S6

Lacombe County Council
Terry Hager, CAO

RE: Lacombe County review of future land-use planning
Sylvan Lake watershed land – February 27, 2006

Dear Reeve Terry Engen, Councillors and Mr. Hager

We applaud Lacombe County Council for its decision to pause and review “where we want to go and how we want to get there” on Monday February 27, 2006 regarding Sylvan Lake development. It is very important to the lake’s sustainability to carefully consider the scale of development, development density, and more importantly, the protection of the health of the lake and its watershed. It is commonly understood that increased human activity results in degradation of water quality and the aquatic environment.

The timing of your review becomes even more critical when one considers that Lacombe County and Red Deer County are well down the path with an Area Structure Plan for West Sylvan Lake and with an East ASP soon to follow.

We urge Lacombe County Council invite, as part of the review process, interested parties to make written and/or oral submissions in the near future at a time and place convenient to Council. Lacombe County Council has demonstrated an interest in listening to and seriously considering input from the public on various critical issues facing Sylvan Lake. However, most of this input has been received at Public Hearings specifically held for various development proposals on or near the lake and therefore is often more narrow in scope than your discussions on Monday will likely be.

We submit that there could be a significant benefit to Council and to the lake in taking more time to invite and seriously consider submissions on the broader issues to be discussed next Monday. Also, the public perception of inviting such input would be very positive for Lacombe County Council.

Your discussions may uncover some specific issues or concerns on which Council would appreciate receiving more input as well as other relevant comments.

We suggest that such an invitation for public input to this critical process be considered as part of the review/consulting procedure that is commencing on Monday. Thank you for considering our request.

Kent Williamson
President
Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society