Vision

To create a safe, healthy and prosperous environment to live, work and play in; and to encourage sustainable development that will complement and enhance the way of life for all.

Why the RM of Piney Undertakes Strategic Planning

The RM of Piney engages in strategic planning to ensure that our municipality is guided by a clear, forward-thinking vision that reflects the values and aspirations of our community. Strategic planning allows us to proactively address challenges, seize opportunities, and make informed decisions that support long-term sustainability. It is a tool for aligning our goals, resources, and actions in a way that promotes responsible governance, community resilience, and continuous improvement. By planning strategically, we are not only responding to today's needs but also laying the foundation for a vibrant and prosperous future.

How Strategic Planning Benefits Our Ratepayers

Strategic planning directly benefits our ratepayers by ensuring that municipal decisions are transparent, accountable, and aligned with community priorities. It helps us deliver services more efficiently, invest wisely in infrastructure, and create programs that enhance quality of life. Ratepayers gain confidence knowing that their municipality is working with a clear road map, focused on long-term value and sustainability. Through strategic planning, we ensure that every dollar spent contributes to meaningful outcomes that support the well-being of residents today and for generations to come.

How Strategic Planning Benefits Today and Future Councils

For both current and future councils, strategic planning provides a stable and consistent framework for decision-making. It offers clarity of purpose, helping elected officials prioritize initiatives and allocate resources effectively. By establishing long-term goals and measurable outcomes, councils can track progress, adapt to changing circumstances, and maintain continuity across election cycles. Strategic planning also fosters collaboration and shared understanding, enabling councils to lead with confidence and remain focused on the broader vision for the RM of Piney.

How Strategic Planning Benefits Administration and Staff

Strategic planning empowers administration and staff by providing clear direction and a unified sense of purpose. It helps teams understand how their work contributes to the municipality's broader goals, fostering motivation and accountability. With a strategic framework in place, staff can plan operations more effectively, manage resources efficiently, and pursue innovation with confidence. It also supports professional development and organizational growth, creating a workplace culture that values strategic thinking, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

COMMUNITY PLANNING - Securing land and managing growth

Completed Activities
✓ Secured land near Woodridge for 15-20 years potential growth
✓ Dust control on shoulders of highway 210 within Woodridge ✓ Firesmart education to mitigate increased land use activities ✓ Security camera policy for community clubs

COMMUNITY PLANNING - Securing land and managing growth

Upcoming Activities
• Continue to pursue potential crown land acquisition • Further investigate opportunities for in-fill or small lot development (potential pocket home) • Develop policy for public land dedication within development process
• Develop policies to address growth conflicts • Further develop the support to communities for other grant opportunities • Complete livestock assessment in general development zones • Investigate the option of ORV travel within general development zones

SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE - Business case, asset management (AM) & business continuity

Completed Activities
✓ Increasing assets in our AM APP inventory and developed an asset management plan
✓ Staff training for short term absences
✓ Greater financial scrutiny with banking notifications since risks identified outside municipality

SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE - Business case, asset management (AM) & business continuity

Upcoming Activities
• Determine internal business case/lifecycle costing education needs and plan • Review options of contractor feasibility and oversight
• Provide asset management reporting to Council • Implement asset management plan recommendations
• Review and enhance existing documentation (staff & council) • Develop a plan to address shortcoming and omissions, implement and re-evaluate
• Review and update the 10 year reserve policy for financial security • Assess whether reserve goals are being achieved

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY - Sustainable funding model, promote investment readiness

Completed Activities
✓ Membership with AMBM (Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities); receiving benefits as a member of Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM) ✓ Assistant economic development position created through AMBM ✓ Business Attraction strategy ✓ Strengthening the Labour Market survey ✓ Created housing sub-divisions in Woodridge and Sandilands ✓ Participation in local Career Symposium

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY - Sustainable funding model, promote investment readiness

Upcoming Activities
• Develop a continuity framework for businesses in the RM of Piney • Sustained support for the Piney Chamber of Commerce to support business • Determine support of Sunrise Corner past October 2026 funding term
• Support private woodlot as source of timber • Plan Seine Rat Roseau Watershed Open House in RM of Piney • Support "buy local" campaign • Follow-up survey results for the RM Strengthening the Labour Market survey • Explore regional economic development of highway 210 • Follow-up with improved cellular service

COMMUNICATION - Emergency communications & working relationships, government advocacy

Completed Activities
✓ Emergency related information typically in monthly RM newsletter
✓ Advocacy on border hours, seniors housing, transit, cellular
✓ RM newsletter survey; expansion to include more community events ✓ Participated in ERMC (Eastman Regional Municipal Committee) for regional interests

COMMUNICATION - Emergency communications & working relationships, government advocacy

Upcoming Activities
• Emergency exercise with stakeholders • Increase awareness to emergency preparedness • Respond to community's preference for more communication
• Bring solutions forward to higher levels of government for issues and challenges being faced by local ratepayers • Develop advocacy messages
• Support ERMC initiatives

SERVICES - Water management, transit options, transportation infrastructure, AMBM

Completed Activities
✓ Investigated participation in the Winnipeg Conservation District ✓ Continued support for the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District
✓ Created BPP Rent & Ride with 2 vans in partnership with Buffalo Point First Nation ✓ SERTi - partner meetings (South East Regional Transportation Initiative); market and feasibility study reports
✓ Secured funding for EV (electric vehicle) charger installation in Vassar, Sprague and Buffalo Point ✓ Growth in capital assets to address service continuity ✓ Financial support for the 'From the Ground Up' grant for community center electrical and generator hook-up applications ✓ Attended presentations on new concepts for road stabilization ✓ New road construction of 1 km in Sandilands ✓ Prepared support letter to 'Friends of Highway 210' and met with provincial staff during Fall Association of Manitoba Municipalities conference
✓ AMBM membership ✓ AEDO (assistant economic development officer) position funding by AMBM as well as the business directory update

SERVICES - Water management, transit options, transportation infrastructure, AMBM

Upcoming Activities
• Determine the viability of the Sundown Bog Retention project & next steps • Monitor silica sands mining potential • Investigate activities associated with the pipeline from the RM to the Morden-Winkler area for awareness and potential impact
• Support BPP Rent & Ride operations • Continue to investigate grant opportunities • Improve ridership participation and education
• Continue operational continuity (contractor vs RM owned equipment) • Support the modernization of electrical supply with community centers • Continue to investigate additional road stabilization • Develop an Asphalt Program policy • Support paving of 210 lobby efforts with Friends of Highway 210 group
• AMBM 3M model implementation • Determine actions, if any, independent of the 3M model

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - Recreational master plan, support housing, other

Completed Activities
✓ March 2024 Master Recreation Plan; Next steps and recommendations provided
✓ Sub-divisions in Woodridge & Sandilands created ✓ Secured support to work with developers
✓ Supported South Junction and Sprague trail development ✓ Seedling programs for residents ✓ Forestry tours ✓ Grant writing workshop for residents ✓ Evaluated participation of regional library as initiated with Steinbach ✓ Newcomer welcome event in Vassar ✓ Radon gas education presentation and started a radon device lending library

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - Recreational master plan, support housing, other

Upcoming Activities
• Implement the Master Recreation Plan • Strive to simplify recreation RM grant policies • Identify new grant opportunities
• Continue to support South East Community Services Co-op (SECSC) • Investigate financing challenges of rural property acquisition by developers and potential residents • Explore affordable housing, including rental options
• Determine how to support community centers with potential electrical upgrades • Work with MMF (Manitoba Metis Foundation) tree nursery • Plan another newcomer welcome event

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - Waste management, environmental adaptation

Completed Activities
✓ Recycling incentive program ✓ Implemented electronic products recycling
✓ Community Scenario Planning Workshop to prepare for wildfire disaster recovery and resilience ✓ Municipal Biomass Pre-Feasibility Study of a renewable energy system to replace electricity at RM buildings and fire stations ✓ Wildfire preparedness grant to achieve 55-60 trained firefighters in southeast Manitoba by 2027

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - Waste management, environmental adaptation

Upcoming Activities
• Additional grants to support waste diversion
• Investigate energy alternatives for improved efficiency and cost savings • Source grant opportunities to achieve environmental adaptation • Monitor for potential funding opportunities related to the Municipal Biomass Pre-Feasibility Study

20, Year Vision

Planning for a Resilient Future

Looking 20 years ahead allows the RM of Piney to shape a future that reflects our community's values, needs, and aspirations. Long-term planning is essential for establishing priorities that guide decision-making across multiple council terms and administrative cycles. Many transformative projects, such as infrastructure upgrades, economic development initiatives, and environmental stewardship, require years of preparation to secure funding, assess feasibility, and coordinate resources. By thinking strategically and planning proactively, we ensure that our municipality grows in a way that is logical, efficient, and sustainable. This long-term vision provides a framework for consistent progress, helping us respond to emerging challenges while staying true to our goals.

20, Year Plan Actions

For the RM of Piney

- Overall water management strategy for the district
- Water & wastewater for Woodridge infrastructure
- Improved public amenities along travel routes
- Growing active transportation infrastructure
- Expansion of public utilities to meet population growth and business needs
- Maintain viability of recreation services
- Anticipating housing growth impacts and incorporate policies within our development plans to support the vision of that growth
- External threats to inclusive, safe, welcoming communities