

Waste commission briefs members at all-council meeting

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The Mountain View Regional Waste Commission is looking ahead — for a change — after an eventful year spent cutting costs and bringing back member municipalities that had served notice to leave.

Chair Mary Anne Overwater said the commission's 2016 top priority would include drafting its five-year business plan. Once finished, it would be sent to member municipalities.

The commission will continue to work with CanPak Environmental Ltd. to deliver recycling services, she added.

The commission board held an all-council meeting at the Olds United Church on Oct. 29. The mood was far sunnier than it was at a similar meeting held about a year ago, when the board was grilled over its finances and "special requisition" levy. Fewer municipal officials attended this time around as well.

Members were briefed on the commission's activities this year, including dissolving its pickup fleet and deal with CanPak, closure and subsequent re-opening of the Olds transfer station under CanPak and the retraction of letters sent by four members stating their intentions to leave.

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MARY ANNE OVERWATER,
commission chair

was one of our big cost items. We've made a reduction in wages by a million dollars. We're glad we've opened the communication between councils and CAOs, which is something that has never happened in the past," Overwater said.

Overwater also urged members to join the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA).

SAEWA plans to build a facility that would generate energy from non-recyclable materials, which could in turn be sold to power companies.

Patricia McKean, the representative from Mountain View County said if all member municipalities joined SAEWA, the commission would have six votes on the association's affairs.

Overwater called it "one of the most innovative projects Alberta is taking on."

"It will be a huge diversion for landfills because Alberta Environment isn't just opening up landfills all over," said Overwater.