



Harry Riva Cambrin,
Municipal Manager,
Municipal District of Foothills No. 31
309 Macleod Trail, BOX 5605
High River, Alberta T1V 1M7

July 4, 2017

MD Foothills Flood Mitigation Program Proposal Meeting

Dear Mr. Riva Cambrin,

Cathy Maniego and I met with representatives from the Municipal District of Foothills (M.D.) on Tuesday June 27th in High River to discuss the proposal for flood mitigation on the Highwood and Little Bow rivers submitted by the M.D. Due to the current fiscal climate and in consideration of existing provincial policy, the Government of Alberta is unable to support the proposal in its entirety at this time. However, the Province is committed to assisting the M.D. in protecting those properties most at risk.

The Watershed Adaptation and Resilience Branch are supportive of the creation of a stand-alone funding proposal to facilitate mitigating or purchasing properties, whichever is cheapest, with residences at high risk of flooding on the Highwood River downstream from the Town of High River. This project is considered to be of high priority because in a future extreme flood event these properties are predicted to experience a significant negative impact from the mitigation that has been constructed to protect the Town.

Mitigation of the highest priority properties downstream on the Little Bow River will be supported through the FREC program. Because Provincial flood hazard mapping has not been undertaken on the Little Bow River resulting in them not being eligible for buyouts under the Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP) in 2013, addressing these high priority parcels, which are at risk of flooding, is deemed appropriate.

While it is recognized that properties on the Highwood River upstream from the Town of High River in many cases experienced significant flooding, offering an additional program for buy-outs or mitigation in this area is not considered a priority at this time. This is because most of the residents in this area were eligible for buy-outs under the Floodway Relocation Program in 2013/14 and because the mitigation works at High River are not predicted to have any adverse impact on these properties.

Please pass on my thanks to Heather, Julie, and the rest of your team, for hosting a valuable and productive meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Comerford', written in a cursive style.

Mark Comerford
Director, Resilience Projects

cc: Cathy Maniego
Julie McLean