



# STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Governance & Priorities Committee

March 7, 2023

# Stormwater Master Plan

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- Council directed initiative
- Driven by continued drainage related concerns raised by residents
- County wants to have a better understanding of its role relating to:
  - regulatory and approval authority
  - operation and maintenance
  - infraction enforcement and
  - oversight related to stormwater management



# Scope of Study

- Phase 1 – Stormwater Management Plan
  - Task 1: Basin Identification
  - Task 2: Regulatory Review
  - Task 3: System Management
- Phase 2 – Tools and Resources
  - Scope to be determined during Phase 1



# Project Status

## Task 1: Basin Identification & Mapping

- Essentially complete
- Detailed “mapbooks” created – 124 separate maps 1:20,000

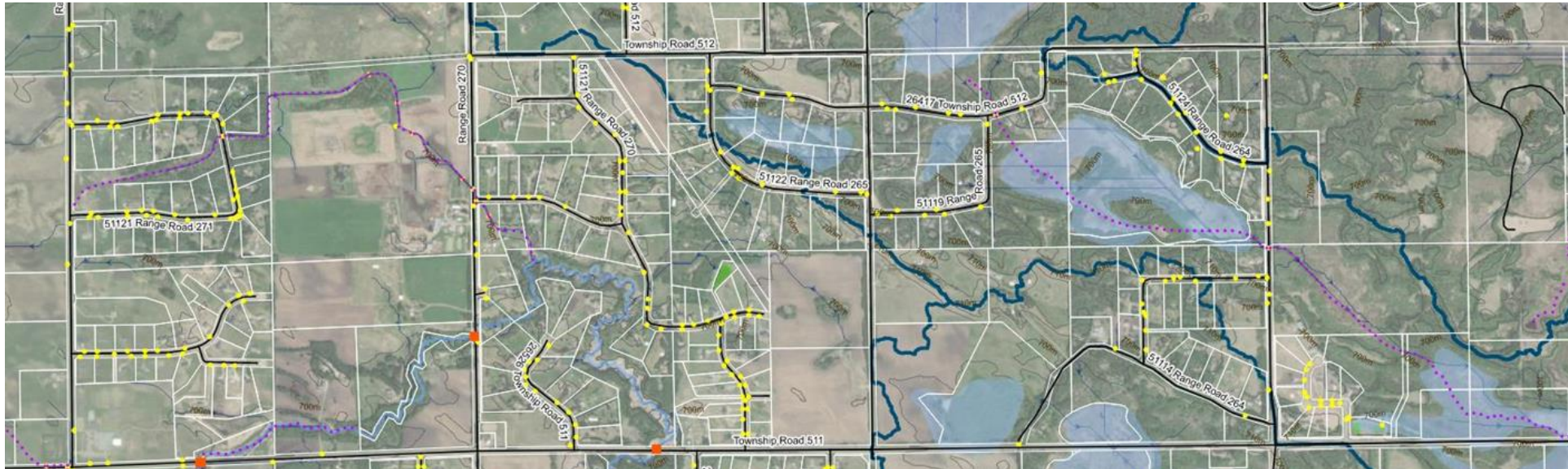
## Task 2: Regulatory Review

- Essentially complete
- Key finding: Operations and Maintenance of “licensed drainage courses” to be reviewed

# Project Status

## Task 3: System Management

- Mostly complete
- Still refining as we work on draft recommendations



# Key Findings

## What the County is doing right

- County is doing a very good job in managing most aspects of stormwater
- Current and recent initiatives that are excellent:
  - Asset management – storm sewer
  - GIS – LIDAR
  - Surface Drainage and Site Grading Bylaw (draft)
  - ALUS program



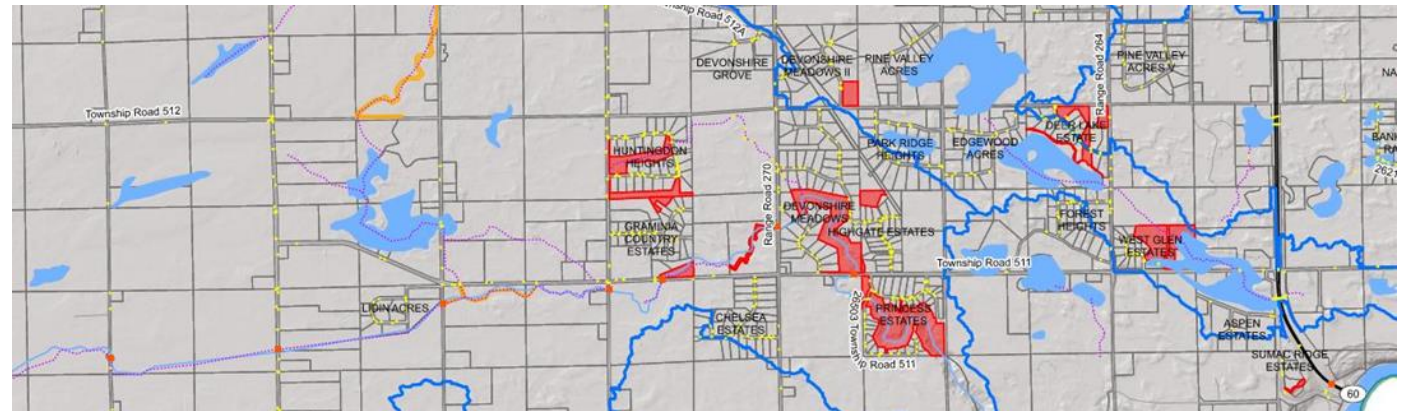
# Key Findings Challenges

- Legacy developments
- Limited enforcement historically
- Complex natural drainage systems
- Landowner expectations for level of service
- Provincial regulatory environment (e.g. SG/SP flows meet 1999 Stormwater Management Guidelines)
- Historic licensed drainage ditches



# Preliminary Recommendations: Communications / Education

- Stakeholder information strategy
  - Council
  - Residents
  - Agricultural producers
  - Business / industrial sector
- EMRB / Regional partners
- Other rural municipalities





# Preliminary Recommendations: Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement

- Internal County administration process improvements
- County needs to operate and maintain the licensed drainage courses per the agreements with the Province
  - This requires a better understanding of the County's legal obligation
  - It will also require updates to the County's GIS data base etc.
  - It may require obtaining rights-of-way to private lands

# Preliminary Recommendations: Stormwater system planning

- Consider preparing Area Structure Plan (ASP) level drainage plans – based on growth potential and operation & maintenance challenges.
  - This can supplement information in existing areas or be prepared in advance for new areas under development
- Consider local drainage studies – to address historic drainage challenges
- Investigate the cumulative effects of Spruce Grove / Stony Plain development on County's watercourses
- Continue to work with EMRB stormwater initiatives
- Integrate stormwater system planning with natural assets system planning (e.g. ALUS)



# Preliminary Recommendations: Operation & Maintenance

- Refine CRM processes to optimize O&M effectiveness
- Prioritize O&M staffing levels to match level of service expectations
- Refine CRM processes to better understand local drainage challenges



# Preliminary Recommendations: Planning and Land Development Engineering

- Implement concurrent Surface Drainage and Site Grading Bylaw
- Minor refinements to LDE & Planning Process
  - E.g. grading requirements for simple subdivisions
- Review County Council Policies
- Consider expanding Floodplain Overlays in key areas
- Establish minimum top-of-bank and upland setbacks from watercourses

# Next Steps

- Finalize Recommendations and Action Items
- Submit 95% Draft Report – March / April 2023
- Follow up meetings with County departments
- Final Draft Report – May / May 2023
  - Public and internal reports will be produced
- Meetings with external stakeholders - TBD
- Final Council presentation - May / June 2023



# Questions?

