

## **Assessment of Candidates in RVC's Electoral Divisions**

Rocky View Forward's preferred candidates in each division are as follows:

- Division 1 – Kevin Hanson
- Division 2 – Don Kochan
- Division 3 – Crystal Kissel
- Division 4 – Samantha Wright
- Division 5 – Ted Francois
- Division 6 – Sunny Samra
- Division 7 – Alysha Bates

The following summarizes our assessment of each candidate.

### **Division 1**

#### **Kevin Hanson (incumbent)**

- One of the three sanctioned councillors – demonstrated that he is willing to stand up for what he believes in
- Focuses on fiscal and environmental impacts of decisions
- Voted against most of this council's major initiatives that have had no support from affected residents
- Engineering and business background

Brent Moore

- Runs a small business in Bragg Creek
- Difficult to understand his motivation for running and/or his platform from his website

### **Division 2**

#### **Don Kochan**

- Worked in executive positions for the municipalities of Edmonton and then Canmore – last 5 years in Canmore as its CAO, before retiring
- Sat on Rocky View's Subdivision & Development Appeal Board and Assessment Review Board
- Civil engineer

Kim McKylor (incumbent)

- Supported most major initiatives that had little to no support from affected residents, including the Springbank ASPs and the revised Municipal Development Plan
- Supported sanctioning Wright, Kissel, and Hanson, the disqualification charges against Wright, and the continuation of the appeal of the sanctions' decision
- Spearheaded selling land to Cochrane Ag Society for \$1

### **Division 3**

#### **Crystal Kissel (incumbent)**

- One of the three sanctioned councillors – demonstrated that she is willing to stand up for what she believes in
- Focuses on whether proposals have support from the local community and are consistent with policy
- Works hard to help residents resolve issues they have with the County
- Solid understanding of permitting process and continues to work hard to improve it

- Voted against most of this council's major initiatives that had no support from affected residents

#### Jolene Airth

- Appears to have little relevant experience in Rocky View issues
- Not known to have participated in any public hearings on major issues in her area
- Her family sold land on Hwy 567 for the existing Hillstone gravel pit and owns over 1,200 acres of land between Hwy 22 and Big Hill Springs Provincial Park

#### **Division 4**

##### **Samantha Wright (one of two incumbents)**

- One of the three sanctioned councillors – demonstrated that she is willing to stand up for what she believes in
  - The disqualification allegations against her were dismissed by the judge as a political vendetta by the council majority
- Focuses on consistency with policy, support from the local community and fiscal impacts
- Voted against this council's major initiatives that have had no support from affected residents
- Has longstanding involvement on Rocky View issues
- Sits on the Rural Crime Watch board
- Background in public relations and communications

##### Dan Henn (one of two incumbents)

- Spearheaded spending \$9.6 million from the Tax Stabilization Reserve to extend water/wastewater servicing to west Balzac, with no payback mechanism
- Prior to becoming Reeve, supported most major initiatives that had little to no support from affected residents
- Supported sanctioning Wright, Kissel, and Hanson, the disqualification charges against Wright, and the continuation of the appeal of the sanctions' decision
- Recently introduced an amendment to the Procedure Bylaw reducing groups' speaking time at public hearings from 10 minutes to 5 minutes

##### Roc Spence

- Has experience in establishment organizations – Calgary Stampede Board and Calgary United Way
- Has not participated in any of the major public hearings that affected Bearspaw over this council's term.
- Platform appears to focus on the negative aspects of the current council

#### **Division 5**

##### **Ted Francois**

- He's running because he feels that the County has lost its way and needs stronger representation from people who put residents' concerns at the top of their priorities
- Appears to have a clear stance on many key issues facing the county
- Experienced property assessor

Greg Boehlke (incumbent)

- Has been a councillor for 17 years
- Was part of the council majority that approved the east Rocky View water/ wastewater infrastructure, its associated debt, and the inadequate off-site levies that failed to recoup costs from the initial developments attracted by the servicing.
- Instrumental in hiring Al Hoggan as CAO, including leading the highly questionable hiring process
- Supported sanctioning Wright, Kissel, and Hanson, the disqualification charges against Wright, and the continuation of the appeal of the sanctions' decision

Mark Jette

- Only past involvement on Rocky View issues appears to have been a letter to the editor criticizing the three sanctioned councillors and praising Gautreau for abandoning them so he could get things done – interestingly, he signed the letter as an Elbow Valley resident

John McMurray

- Ran against Boehlke in the last 2 or 3 elections, on the logic that no one should be acclaimed

## **Division 6**

### **Sunny Samra**

- Community leader in Cambridge Park – the residential community shafted by Gautreau (see below)
- Became involved to protect his community and decided to run because of the disrespect he saw from the council majority towards residents presenting their concerns

Rolly Ashdown

- Former councillor and reeve
- Track record from earlier terms on council indicates his priorities are with developers not residents – although the Langdon ASP illustrated that he has his limits.

Jerry Gautreau (incumbent)

- Initially part of the group that was sanctioned, but abandoned them and became a vocal critic
- Spearheaded changes to the land use bylaw to create live-work designations for commercial and industrial activities on residential properties.
  - Then came forward with a redesignation application for his own property, followed by an application to subdivide the property.
- Led council majority to suspend their procedural rules to push through a land use redesignation against solid opposition from the affected residents in Cambridge Park.
- Took the job as CAO in Swan River, Manitoba, telling them that he would be relocating to Swan River while, at the same time, telling people in Rocky View that it was only a part-time, temporary position.
  - Was fired from the position by Swan River council before job started.

- Spearheaded council killing the Aggregate Resource Plan – after promising residents to move it forward

Jeremy Stinson

- Difficult to determine why he is running and what he intends to do if elected

## **Division 7**

### **Alysha Bates**

- President of Langdon Chamber of Commerce – small business owner in Langdon
- The information on her Facebook page and website indicates she is interested in doing a good job for Langdon and for Rocky View
  - Has expressed concerns about Langdon's residential development outpacing the servicing and infrastructure in the hamlet.
  - Appears to bring a business-oriented perspective, married with the priority to ensure that Rocky View remains a great place for its residents

Al Schule

- Was on council in the early 2000s. At that time supported RVC investing in the east Rocky View water/wastewater system, its debt, and inadequate off-site levies.
- Supported sanctioning Wright, Kissel, and Hanson, the disqualification charges against Wright, and the continuation of the appeal of the sanctions' decision
- Has frequently voted to reduce or eliminate off-site levies for specific landowners
- Supported most major initiatives that had little to no support from affected residents
- Spearheaded most of the developer-funded ASPs
- Spearheaded the revised Municipal Development Plan – especially changing policies from “shall do” to “should do”
- On the redesignation application for which the majority alleged Samantha Wright had a pecuniary interest (subsequently thrown out by judge), he was the applicant's development consultant before the 2017 election. He told Bearspaw residents that he would recuse himself because that prior involvement gave him a pecuniary interest in the decision.
  - At the public hearing he did not recuse himself because the applicant indicated he had no problem with his participation.

Prepared by:  
Rocky View Forward  
October 2021