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Title: POLICY ON POLICY MAKING

Policy No: 1001

Approval: County Council

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Supersedes Policy No: N/A



Mountain View
COUNTY

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Policy Statement: Mountain View County has as its main responsibility the governance of the affairs of Mountain View County. In order to achieve this purpose, Council will approve policies on key issues of significance to the County. These policies may be suggested by the public, key stakeholders of the County, members of the administration or members of the Council. While these or other bodies may provide input on the nature and text of the policy, Council will retain authority to approve policies. Approved policies will be immediately implemented by the Chief Administrative Officer and his/her administration through the development and activation of CAO-approved procedures and regulations.

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Purpose: To indicate the Council's intent to develop policies on significant or repetitive governance issues.

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Principles:

1. The authority to approve governance policies is vested in Council as the governing body.
2. Clear administrative action follows clear messages from Council as the governing body.
3. The Council recognizes and appreciates that its role is that of governing, and not the administration of policies. This role it has assigned as per legislative direction to the CAO.

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Approved: December 14, 2005

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Procedure Title: POLICY AND PROCEDURE STANDARDS

Procedure No: 1001-01

Approval: CAO

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Supersedes Procedure No: (none)

1. **Definitions**

- 1.1. Chief Administrative Officer means the individual appointed by Council to that position or their designate.
- 1.2. Council means the Council of Mountain View County, in the Province of Alberta.
- 1.3. Committee means a committee, board or commission appointed by the Council.
- 1.4. Policy means a generalized statement of intent, based upon a body of principles, which describes what is to be done now and in the future.
- 1.5. Procedure means a statement(s) arising from policy which set out who does what, how, and in what sequence; the method of carrying out policy.

2. **Responsibilities**

- 2.1. Chief Administrative Officer, or designate, to:
 - 2.1.1. Recommend the revision or development of policy in identified areas to the Policies and Priorities Committee.
 - 2.1.2. Direct the preparation of draft policies and procedures.
 - 2.1.3. Review draft policies for consistency with the Mountain View County corporate goals and objectives, and other policies.
 - 2.1.4. Approve the implementation of procedures for any approved policy, where

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necessary.

2.2. Directors or Managers to:

2.2.1. Review draft policies and procedures affecting their areas of responsibility.

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2.2.2. Make recommendations on the proposed policy to the Chief Administrative Officer.

2.2.3. Support the development of procedures to support the implementation of policies.

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2.2.4. Ensure appropriate department reviews are carried out when a policy is being drafted or revised.

2.2.5. Annually review policies and procedures pertaining to their department and recommend revisions or amendments.

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2.2.6. Ensure adherence to policy within areas of responsibility.

2.3. Director of Legislative and Community Services:

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2.3.1. Provide for the distribution of policy manuals and their maintenance.

2.3.2. Review draft policies and advise the Chief Administrative Officer on their compliance with the laws of Alberta, completeness, accuracy, and consistency with organizational bylaws and standards.

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2.4. Staff to:

2.4.1. Adhere to policy, guidelines, and procedures when dealing with related matters.

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2.4.2. Recommend any need for amendments or revisions to their supervisor.

3. Policy Writing Guidelines

3.1. Policy Number: The number of a new policy will be assigned by the Manager of Legislative Services. The numbering will be based on the following allocation:

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Council and General Government Services 1000-1999

Human Resource Services 2000-2999

Protective Services 3000-3999

Infrastructure Services 4000-4999

Health, Social and Welfare Services 5000-5999

Planning & Development Services 6000-6299

Agricultural Services 6300-6999

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Economic Development Services 7000-7999

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Recreation & Cultural Services	8000-8999
Other Services	9000-9999

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3.2. The policy title should be simple and short. The title should express the way in which the policy will be referred to in future and need not include the word 'policy'. Reference to a policy may be made by way of number, title or a combination of number and title.

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3.3. The policy statement shall be a statement of the County's overall intent in the area of responsibility covered by the policy, and shall include a policy statement, purpose and principles.

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3.4. Definitions: The first section of the policy shall contain any definitions necessary for clarification of contents of the policy. If there are none, use "(none)

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3.5. Responsibilities: The second section of the policy shall contain a detailed breakdown of responsibilities for all aspects of the procedure. Responsibility will be defined in order of organizational hierarchy as follows:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Directors
- Managers
- Staff
- Members of the Public

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3.6. Items of policy sufficiently explained in the responsibilities section need not be repeated in the body of the Procedure.

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3.7. All pages are to be numbered and have the policy number attached, plus the effective date.

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3.8. Arrange all the details of the policy or procedure in such a way that the readers will find it logical and clear the first time they read it.

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3.9. Group the information being presented in procedures into subjects. Use bold headings and underlining where appropriate. Use numbers and indents to itemize steps or show a progression. Avoid repeating the same information and use the standard format demonstrated by this policy at all times.

3.10. Flow charts are encouraged to show a sequence of operations.

3.11. The writing style should stress clarity, consistency and simplicity. The text of the policy should use short sentences, correct spelling and good punctuation.

3.12. The third and subsequent sections of a policy shall contain the corporate procedures necessary to carry out the direction of Council. Departmental procedures shall be developed in a similar format to this policy format and shall, following the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer be inserted in the policy manual behind the relevant

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policy and shall be numbered as a the policy (e.g. 1001-01).

3.13. The end of each policy shall be indicated by a heading stating "End of Procedure".

4. **The Policy Approval Process**

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4.1. New or revised policies may be developed following the identification of a need by Council, Committees, the Law, the Public, the Chief Administrative Officer, Directors, Managers, or Staff.

4.2. After initial development or revision a policy draft is to be circulated to stakeholders for comment.

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4.3. Each policy is approved by resolution of Council.

4.4. Routine updates that are not significant in impact, do not require that the policy go before Council for approval (i.e. name changes, position title changes, revisions to comply with Council or Board resolutions, numbering changes), but such changes shall be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer.

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4.5. The Manager of Legislative Services shall provide for the distribution and maintenance of policy manuals, and shall maintain a Master Policy Manual against which other policy manuals and electronic indexes may be checked for accuracy.

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4.6. Each policy manual shall contain all the approved policies that exist for Mountain View County. A separate safety manual will be provided containing solely those procedures relating to safety standards. Policy manuals may also contain procedures required to support those policies.

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4.7. Each policy manual shall be packaged in a loose-leaf binder. Each binder is identified by location and by a label located on the spine and on the front cover.

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4.8. Policy manuals are to be distributed as follows:

Reeve and Councillors (7) copies
Chief Administrative Officer (1) copy
Directors (3) copies
Managers (?) copies
Open Office area (1) copy
Open Office area (1) copy
Public Libraries (?) copy
Master Policy Manual

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4.9. Each transmittal sent out with policy manual revisions shall contain a transmittal identification number and a list of all policy and procedure changes included with that transmittal. A log shall be provided in each policy manual to record the transmittals inserted into the manual.

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4.10. Policies shall be posted on the web-site following their approval by Council. The Chief Administrative Officer may take additional steps to inform the public and staff on the impacts of a policy as necessary

5. **Policy Ownership and Responsibility**

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5.1. All staff are required to refer to the Policy Manual for guidance in handling matters relating to Mountain View County.

6. **Policy Filing System**

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6.1. Files shall be maintained by the Manager of Legislative Services that contain information on the development of each policy, and its subsequent revisions. Individual files are to be set up for each policy.

6.2. Transmittal files shall be maintained by the Manager of Legislative Services and shall be utilized in the event that updates have to be recovered due to loss or failure of the user to update their policy manual.

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6.3. All outdated material must be removed from each policy manual and be recycled.

7. **Compliance**

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7.1 Any breach of this policy or the components contained herein will be treated as misconduct. Misconduct will be reviewed and may result in disciplinary steps being taken up to and including dismissal from employment or seeking restitution or both.

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8. **End of Procedure**

Approved: December 14, 2005
Approved: November 1, 2010

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