

# Best Practice

## Co-operation for Growth

### CONTACT

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### THE PRACTICE

The Rural Municipality of Gull Lake plays a leadership role in bringing eight municipalities together in a co-operative effort to build community and economic development for the region. The group of municipalities has been working on an improved regional water mapping system, including obtaining data on water wells, water quality testing and GPS mapping of all ground water wells within the member municipalities.

### THE PROCESS

In 2003, the RM of Gull Lake actively began to bring the municipalities together for the purpose of ensuring community viability and developing sustainable economic growth in the area. The practice included the development of environmentally sensitive lands and limited water resources.

Each municipality appoints two representatives to a committee which reports back to council on a regular basis. Ratepayers are given updates on projects by newsletter mail box drops. In consultation with Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), the RM became aware of a computer mapping system that would depict the various aquifers, water wells, depths, quality, quantity, land use and soil types in the municipality. A program co-ordinator has been hired to contact and inform each agriculture owner in the RM about the project and to assist them with individual plan applications and to promote good environmental land stewardship.

### THE RESULTS

So far, local citizens of the participating municipalities have benefitted by having their water wells tested and having received detailed analysis of their water, the assurance that their water is good or in need of treatment, and in some instances awareness of the dangers of contamination.

### LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Gull Lake has learned that enthusiasm, optimism and determination make great partnerships work. Keeping all parties informed and the lines of communication open is an effective manner of ensuring regional partnerships excel to their full potential. Throughout this process, the RM has learned that ratepayers are more likely to accept new projects if they are well informed and able to participate in the process.