

Saskatchewan Municipal **Best Practice**

Municipal Sign Program

CONTACT

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Project Date: Date project initiated (if ongoing, please indicate)

THE PRACTICE

The RM of Big Stick wanted to develop a sign program within the municipality that would serve as a mapping system for residents, industry and emergency services.

THE PROCESS

The RM of Big Stick belongs to a joint venture between multiple municipalities' known as the Richmond Maintenance Area. The group meets regularly to discuss concerns and practices for the area as a whole. The municipality needed to get the approval from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and felt that a lobbying effort from a larger group would make the government more receptive to the proposal. The Richmond Maintenance Area gave their support and the consultations and framework for a township/range numbering sign system began.

In an effort to make the sign program cost-efficient, the RM placed the signs on top of existing signs to reduce the costs of building new sign posts.

THE RESULTS

The nominated practice was intended as a service to local ratepayers and visitors, but also impacts the health and safety of motorists. People who use their cell phone in the RM for emergency services now have an accurate description of their location for dispatch services. The municipality has also incorporated the sign system onto our municipal maps, so that users can specifically pinpoint their location. Expansion of the mapping system is expected to continue outside the municipality and into surrounding areas.

LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Big Stick has learned that improving the health and safety of our rural communities was a priority for our residents. Many times, often in emergency situations, emergency personnel had a difficult time determining people's exact location, which led to delayed response times. The mapping system is also convenient for tourists who may not be familiar with the area and is an efficient way at ensuring people do not become lost.