



# Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council

## Meeting Notes – Meeting #4

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**Date:** June 2-4, 2009

**Place/Time** Sawridge Hotel & Conference Centre, 530 Mackenzie Boulevard, Fort McMurray, AB

**Next Meeting:** July 8-9, 2009  
Lakeland Inn, Cold Lake, AB.

**Attendees:** **Regional Advisory Council Members:**

Eric Butterworth, Lanny Coulson, Roy Vermillion, Hildy Hanson, Heather Kennedy, Peter Koning, Clarence Makowecki, Doug Parrish, Rick Pawluk, Cecilia Quist, Glen Semenchuk, Dave Theriault, Howard Ewashko, Marc Stevenson

**Regional Planning Team:**

Crystal Damer, Neal Watson, Simon O'Byrne, Jonathan Mackay, Bonnie McInnis, Terry Koch, John Steil, Randy Hills, Scott Milligan, Audrey Murray, Justin Ellis, Shannon Flint, Randall Barrett, Dennis Bell, Lorne Ternes, Katherine Braun, Bob Nichol, Ken MacDonald, Mike Kennedy, Jon Fennell, Geetha Ramesh

### Introduction

The Chair, Heather Kennedy called the meeting to order, introduced the agenda and requested acceptance of the May meeting minutes.

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss:

- The preferred version of the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) Vision and Outcomes
- Provide advice to the Ministerial Working Group (MWG) and Regional Planning Team (RPT) on the creation of a LARP, Conservation, Recreation and Tourism Map
- Provide summary of comments and recommendations to the MWG and RPT regarding the "Business as Usual" model run
- Provide input on the assumptions and considerations on the "best practices" model run
- Identify the important social considerations to RPT and MWG within the LAR on a qualitative and quantitative basis
- Provide the MWG with a status update report outlining the progress to date and future steps

RAC Members were asked to provide comments and concerns regarding the progress to date.



## Vision Statement and Outcomes

- RAC members participated in a round table discussion, evaluating the draft Vision and Outcomes. The documents were edited live to incorporate the established amendments.
- The revised Vision and Outcomes were distributed in hard copy and are to be sent to members digitally for additional review.
- Stantec to compile and document further RAC member amendments.

## Presentations

**(For reference purposes, all power point presentations can be found on the SharePoint site)**

### Transportation Utility Corridors (TUC)

- Alberta Energy is leading the TUC planning to devise the concept and facilitate the siting for new corridors to potentially encompass pipelines, electric transmission and transportation facilities.
- Issue identification is currently in draft, pending input from stakeholders.
- After the presentation, members were asked to provide comments and questions regarding TUCs. Stantec will compile the comments and questions and provide to the RPT.

### Conservation, Recreation and Tourism

- Initial analysis of the RAC conservation workshop was presented in map format to RAC members. It has been established that conservation is to be expressed in “high/low” value versus “either/or.”
- A workshop was originally scheduled to followup the initial work undertaken but it was determined a question/comment period was more appropriate following the presentation. It was determined that further analysis is required.
- The Recreation and Tourism Areas presentation gave an overview of the terminology, and initial analysis of the previous RAC workshop.
- Recreation Management Approaches were presented for the purpose of informing members of the various options employed by the Government of Alberta (GOA) and other jurisdictions within Canada.



### Aboriginal Rights and Government of Alberta Policy

- A power point providing an overview of Aboriginal Rights within Canada, Alberta included, but was not limited to, the following: background history, current status, establishment of rights through litigation. Interpretation of current legislation and the duty to consult was highlighted.
- GOA policy presentation provided the history of the historic treaties established within Alberta and the recognized rights of Aboriginal Peoples within Alberta.
- The province created the Aboriginal Policy Framework to address the government's responsibility and recognizance of Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights. A guidelines overview provides, but is not limited to, the following:
  - i. Crown indicates if consultation required, who to consult and where;
  - ii. Notification to First Nation;
  - iii. Listen to concerns, make changes to plans;
  - iv. Submit consultation summary to Crown and First Nation; and
  - v. Crown makes final assessment (agreement is desirable but not required).

At the close of the first day of meetings, members participated in an *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* (Bill 36) information session or took a helicopter tour of the oil sands. Maps of the route for the helicopter tour to be posted to the share point site.

### Consultation Update

- It was determined that an email to MLAs from Chair Heather Kennedy will be sent to request meetings with municipal councils.
- Draft summaries of the initial phase of consultations to be provided to RAC members by Stantec and posted to the SharePoint site.

### Economic Thresholds (Energy Model)

- The energy models are a forecast of bitumen and gas production, including number of wells, pipelines and seismic lines and are designed to be included in regional models (ALCES).
- Under the DRAFT terms of reference provided to the RAC, three production scenarios were requested:
  - i. Current state: 1.5 – two million barrels per day (mbd)
  - ii. Mid-range: 4.5 – five million mbd
  - iii. High-range: greater than six million mbd
- The bitumen model supplied by Energy does not include external influences such as:
  - i. Economic**
    - Bitumen demand
    - Fuel supply
    - Royalty regimes
  - ii. Environmental**
    - Land access
    - Water allocation
    - Emissions
  - iii. Social**
    - Labour supply

### Environment – Cumulative Effects Management Approach

- The cumulative effects management approach dealt with the water quality, groundwater quality and air quality and the thresholds determined by this modelling exercise will be incorporated in the ALCES model.
- Physical environment and administrative areas determined the boundaries for the air shed
- For further in depth analysis review the “Modelling Environment” powerpoint located on the SharePoint site

### Business as Usual Modelling Run (two mbd scenario)

- Key modelling inputs and assumptions used in the business as usual modelling run can be found on slides 10-13 of the power point, which was distributed in hard copy at the meeting and posted to the SharePoint site.
- Key information regarding Scenario 1, “Business as Usual,” can be found on slide 17 of the power point. The three aspects to Scenario 1 (two mbd) that have been modelled – range of natural variability, backcasting, Business as Usual forecast.

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- The modelling results can be found on the slides for the following:
  - i. Economic Perspective – Slides 25-28
  - ii. Environmental Perspective – Slides 29-38
  - iii. Social Perspective – An alternative approach to social indicator modelling is required.
- The Scenario No. 2 modelling run will use “Best Practices” and is to incorporate the following: Access Management, Land-use Footprint Minimization, Old Forest Maintenance, Landscape Nutrient Loading and Water Quality and Reduction in air emissions. Descriptions of the “Best Practices” can be found on Slides 47-49.

Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) and Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) presentations

- Details of the CEMA and LICA presentations can be found on the SharePoint site.

Forestry

- It was identified that oil sands development and an increase of production will create a “productive” timber shortfall due to the lost land base.
- Various potential mitigation examples were provided; see slides 29-32 from the presentation located on the SharePoint site.

Social Modelling

- It was determined the ALCES model did not effectively model the social aspect and a new parallel approach is being undertaken.
- There is a need to recognize that the social indicators are a new approach and are considered to be pioneering work and that subsequent regional plans will gain and benefit from the initial work undertaken by the Lower Athabasca RAC.
- A significant output of the social modelling and decisions made will help determine the data collection that is required to allow for a meaningful evaluation of the social pillar at the time of plan review.
- Review the “Modelling Social” power point, located on the SharePoint site for further information.

Social Workshop

- Members were divided in two groups to participate in a social workshop to help





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determine the social issues that exist within the Lower Athabasca Region.

- The information provided assists in determining the assumptions to be used in the social model.
- Information gathered will provide background for the LARP objectives.

Closing

Documents that are to be treated as *confidential*:

- Draft Terms of Reference
- Profile of the Region
- All presentations given and accompanying handout.

The meeting adjourned Thursday, June 4, at 2 p.m.

The next meeting to be held July 8-9, in Cold Lake, AB.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

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<b>Action Items from Meeting:</b>		<b>Lead</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
LARP Terms of Reference/summary of changes	Distributed in hard copy	LUS	June 12
Revised Vision and Outcomes	Distributed Electronically	Stantec	June 12
Additional comments, LARP Vision and Objectives	Submitted electronically	RAC Members	June 26
<b>Preparation for Next Meeting</b>			
Background information to be reviewed prior to RAC Meeting #5 to be provided on the Agenda	Distributed Electronically	Stantec	June 26

