



Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes – Meeting #8

Date: October 7, 2009

Place/Time: Fort Chipewyan, AB.

Next Meeting: November 4, 2009

Attendees: **Regional Advisory Council Members:**

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

Regional Planning Team:

Crystal Damer, Simon O'Byrne, Selena Cole, Scott Milligan, Justin Ellis, Terry Koch, Jonathan Mackay

Absentees: Don Pope, Howard Ewashko, Roy Vermillion, Archie Collins

Meeting Objectives

- Finalize conservation areas/parks geography.
- Take stock of progress to date and chart direction for tradeoffs between the three pillars.
- Discussion of social objectives – what is preventing us from achieving them, etc.

Opening Roundtable

Request made for development of a more formal process for capturing action items to ensure that they are completed.

RAC/RPT members provided a summary of their activities since the last meeting.

Lunch with Local Aboriginal Leadership

Chief Allan Adam (Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations), Chief Roxanne Marcel (Mikisew Cree First Nation), Fred Fraser (President, Métis Local 125) and Pat Marcel (Elders Council leader) joined the RAC for lunch on Day 1. Each spoke passionately about the need for more engagement with their communities so that their input can be reflected in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan.

Tourism and Recreation Priorities

Justin Ellis gave a presentation, Options for Tourism and Recreation Development. The presentation noted:

- Tourism/recreation demand in the area is growing and becoming more diverse but supply is limited.
- Tourism leakage to British Columbia and Saskatchewan is increasing due to lack of supply.
- Tourism, Parks and Recreation is working on several strategies to enhance





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parcs/recreation opportunities across Alberta; “Lakeland Country” concept part of this overall plan.

Discussion was then initiated on individual recreation area advice sheets.

Conservation Area Priorities

Scott Milligan gave a presentation on the updated conservation areas. Changes to past versions include:

- Two small conservation areas in bitumen fairway have been discussed with ministers of Energy, Environment, etc. and have been expanded to about four townships to make them more robust for caribou habitat.
- Area 8 has not been expanded due to high economic impact.
- Aboriginal uses on each conservation area reflect information received to date and may be revised if new information is presented.

Concerns were expressed that the vast majority of the conservation lands will be in the northern part of the region.

Discussion ensued regarding the individual conservation areas.

Day 2

Taking Stock Roundtable

A roundtable session was held to receive feedback from each RAC member on their perception of the progress of the regional plan process to date and the work remaining.

Social Objectives Workshop

The RAC provided input on the proposed Social Pillar objectives. These were captured in real time on the document and will be sent to RPT for refinement.

Timelines for Remaining Work

Plan is for all new information for consideration to be presented to the RAC by the December meeting, which will leave the 2010 meetings for deliberations/finalization of advice.

Zoning scheme for land use is being developed to ensure that common language/zones are used in all seven plans. This will be presented at the November meeting.

Land Use Secretariat/Stantec will lead formal public consultation in January and will involve the draft strategies, vision, conservation areas, etc. In the meantime, the RAC members, LUS and Stantec should provide more information to the stakeholders to start gathering information informally.

Land-use map will be presented in November and will show some of the conflicts





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Upcoming Meetings

November 4-5 – Fort McMurray. Invitation to Treaty 8 chiefs and Métis local presidents to join the RAC for lunch.

December 2-3 – Edmonton.

January 6-7 – Lac La Biche. Invitation to Treaty 6 chiefs/Métis local presidents to join the RAC for lunch.

February 10-11 – Day 1, Fort McMurray; Day 2, Fort McKay.

March – Edmonton, Mar 3-4.

Closure

General consensus is to wait to release conservation areas map after November meeting and also parks/recreation maps as well.

Agreement that RAC can show the revised strategies/outcomes document but no distribution – conversation only.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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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