



Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes – Meeting #9

Date: November 4-5, 2009

Place: Sawridge Inn, Fort McMurray, AB.

Next Meeting: December 2-3, 2009, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton, AB.

Attendees: **Regional Advisory Council Members:**

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

Regional Planning Team:

Crystal Damer, Simon O'Byrne, Selena Cole, Scott Milligan, Justin Ellis, Lisa Sadownik, Katherine Braun, Terry Koch, Randy Hills

Absentee: Roy Vermillion

Meeting Objectives

- RAC to finalize their recommendations to RPT and advice to Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on conservation areas, recreation and tourism and multi-use corridors.
- Focus on what considerations, recommendations and advice needs to be made on the following: revised vision, outcome, objects and strategies document, forestry, multi-use corridors (MUC) map, management intent and direction on land uses for the southern portion of the Lower Athabasca Region (LAR).

Opening Roundtable

RAC/RPT members provided a recap of activities since last meeting.

Important updates from RPT:

- Alberta Environment re-evaluating NO_x + SO_x thresholds.
 - Meeting next week with assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers.
- Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) and Finance and Enterprise working together to provide analysis on economic impacts of conservation areas.
- Tourism, Parks and Recreation further investigating southern portion of LAR for recreation/tourism opportunities.
- RPT has created a document outlining all previous objectives created to date.

RAC Action Log

Members appreciated the creation of the RAC Action Log and the following



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amendments to be addressed:

- Add action number for referencing purposes.
- Change status to Ongoing for any First Nations references.

Multi-use Corridors

- Note that transportation utility corridors (TUCs) are now being referred to as multi-use corridors (MUCs).
- See power point and advice sheets on SharePoint site for references.
- Over the next 12 months, the pros and cons will be evaluated by GOA.
- GOA to come back in December or January with final advice sheets on MUCs.
- Highway 686 already exists; amend the map to reflect where it exists.
- Amend briefing #1 with same wording from briefing #1 re: Aboriginal interests.

Conservation Area Priorities

- See power point and advice sheets on SharePoint site for references.
- A lot of assumptions went into the numbers about Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG). The numbers were based on leases and possible values.
- Compensation numbers are approximate. Costs are different for forestry on the spreadsheet than they are for PNG.

Management Intent of CA's

- See power point and advice sheets on sharepoint site for references.
- The terms of reference gives a lot of guidance about management intent. RPT has followed this as a base.
- Aboriginal traditional use includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
- Conservation Areas are benchmark areas measured against currently developed areas.

Tourism and Recreation

- See power point and advice sheets on SharePoint site for references.
- Need to identify the land base, providing direction on the opportunities and management intent. RPT to prepare management intent options to bring to December RAC meeting, including 1-2 page summary of how this meets the terms of reference requirements.
- Recreation Strategy was a recognized policy gap within the Land-use Framework. Policy is due by March 2010.
- Language to be included within the plan that enables enthusiast groups.
- Lakeland Country - Tourism, Parks and Recreation: development plan required.

Day 2

Forestry

- See power point and advice sheets on SharePoint site for references.
- There is disagreement with the numbers put forth by the ALCES modeling. The focus needs to be on the mitigation and not the numbers.
- Progressive reclamation of oilsands land is essential. SRD has come up with a number of strategies to assist with reclamation.
- Timing is the major issue with reclamation. The forestry industry needs certainty so that a productive forest can be created and ensured. The problem with reclamation is that it takes 80-plus years before the trees are harvestable.
- Another consideration needs to be Aboriginal use of the land following reclamation. As such, the focus can't just be on forestry.
- Some of the considerations in mitigating the loss to the forestry industry are: changes to utilization standards, reductions in risk and loss and gains in yields, seed selection of the best trees to generate better, faster-growing trees.

Land Use Classification

- Proposed Land Use Classifications:
 1. Conservation
 2. Forest
 3. Agriculture
 4. Industrial
 5. Metropolitan
 6. Urban Settlement
 7. Rural Settlement
 8. Recreation and Tourism
 9. MUCs
 10. Federal Lands
- Need to consider the temporal nature of land uses. Priorities will change over time.
- There is a proposed floating zone for industrial purposes. With reclamation we know that the landscape will change over time and be used again for other purposes.
- It also makes sense in the mixed-use area to allocate how much area can be used and disturbed at one time (e.g. only five per cent).

Social Objectives Workshop

The spreadsheet was edited live and will be sent back to RPT for revisions. New revised version will be sent to RAC members for review.

Upcoming Meeting





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December 2-3 – Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton.

Closure

- MUCs can be talked about with others, but not handed out.
- RAC would like a package put together of information that can be shared widely.
- Objectives document can be reviewed with RAC member's constituencies.

The meeting adjourned at 5 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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