



South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes - Meeting # 1

Date: 1:30pm – 8:30pm, June 10, 2009
9:00am – 4:15pm, June 11, 2009

Location: Cochrane RancheHouse
Cochrane, Alberta

Next Meeting: July 15 - 16, 2009
Strathmore, Alberta

Attendees: **Regional Advisory Council (RAC):**
Rob Penny (Chair), Stanley Church (Vice Chair) Gord Lehn, Jay Bartsch, Hugh Lynch-Staunton, Linda Bruce, Ron McMullin, Lisa Fox, Ralph Nelson, Wolf Keller, Greg Sekura, John Kerkhoven, Daniel J. Smith Q. C., Georgina Knitel, John E. Squarek, Leah C. Lawrence, Bill Szabon, Kevin Van Tighem

Regional Planning Team (RPT):

Crystal Damer, Douglas Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Andrea Dorrans, Richard Roberts, Rob Stuart, Susan Friesen

Minister of Sustainable Resource Development Welcome

RAC chair, Rob Penny, welcomed everyone and introduced Honourable Dr. Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

Minister Morton thanked the RAC members for accepting the responsibility of being on the RAC and introduced the Land-use Framework and the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*.

Minister Morton emphasized the importance of the regional planning process, indicated that he has a strong personal interest in the work of the RAC, and assured them that they would see him again.

Opening Remarks from the Chair

Mr. Penny warmly welcomed the RAC members and thanked them for their commitment to this process.

It was explained that the province's first two regional plans, the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) had been carefully and strategically chosen.



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RAC members were urged to:

- Work collaboratively
- Set aside organizational affiliations
- Take the time to build a solid foundation
- Take a long-term view
- Think outside of the box

Mr. Penny explained that the Government of Alberta is working hard to develop the terms of reference for the RAC so the group's boundaries will be clear.

RAC members were given administrative binders containing a proposed team charter for the group.

Overview of the Land-use Framework

Crystal Damer, from the Land Use Secretariat provided members with a brief background of the Land-use Framework.

The group was reminded that they have Cabinet's commitment to give them guidance and direction and the Secretariat's full support and coordination, which would also provide them connection to stakeholders and the public.

The group was reminded that although this is a government plan, the RAC is needed to provide valuable insights and advice.

SSRP Terms of Reference

RAC members were asked to put forward issues and concerns that they would like to see addressed in the terms of reference for the regional plan:

- Water
- Conservation
- Wildlife
- Consideration of other regional planning processes
- Landowner buy-in must be encouraged and supported
- Autonomy of municipalities
- Inter-municipal issues
- Rural/urban development
- Be mindful of the impact on individual rights and property rights
- Resource allocation for what is decided in the plan



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- Provincial commitment
- Climate change and its impacts
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Land management
- Mineral rights
- Transportation, utility corridors and linear disturbances (including rail)
- Demographics and immigration
- Increasing regulation

Understanding Communication Styles and Group Dynamics

- Discussion regarding the RAC's role and the boundaries for discussion and deliberation.
- Discussion regarding the importance of good communications; members identified ways they could ensure their time was used effectively.
- Discussions regarding the importance of achieving group consensus while ensuring individuals are respected.

Thoughts on Process

- Working in three smaller groups, the members were asked to consider how they saw themselves working together in a collaborative manner and to set out their thoughts on how to separate people from problems.

Proposed Team Charter

- A proposed team charter was circulated for group input. Comments and suggested changes were made.

Binder #1

RAC members received a binder containing the following relevant government policies:

- A Place to Grow: Alberta's Rural Development Strategy
- Aboriginal Policy Framework: Strengthening Relationships
- Alberta's Clean Air Strategy
- Alberta's 2008 Climate Change Strategy
- Alberta's Plan for Parks
- Alberta's Forest Management Planning Standard



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- Alberta's Strategy for the Management of Species at Risk
- Boundary Water Treaty
- Building and Educating Tomorrow's Workforce
- Fish Conservation Strategy of Alberta 2006 – 2010
- Fish Conservation Strategy of Alberta 2006 – 2010
- Land-use Framework
- Launching Alberta's Energy Future: Provincial Energy Strategy
- Report on Progress: Alberta's Rural Development Strategy
- The Spirit of Alberta: Alberta's Cultural Policy
- Water Allocation Order: Old Man River
- Water Conservation Objective: Bow, Oldman, South Saskatchewan and Red Deer Sub-Basins
- Water for Life: A Renewal
- Water for Life Strategy: Alberta's Plan for Sustainability
- Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin
- Water Management Plans for the Upper Highwood and Upper Little Bow Rivers
- Vision 2020 – The Future of Health Care in Alberta

Administration

- RAC members will receive three binders in total:
 - One contains government policies
 - One contains administrative materials
 - One contains reference material, maps, key documents and summaries
- The final meeting notes and agendas will be posted on www.landuse.alberta.ca for review of the public.

Next Steps

- Dates and locations for the next four meetings were established
- Agenda items for the next meeting were discussed

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.