



South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes - Meeting # 2

Date:	July 15 – 16, 2009
Place/Time:	Holiday Inn Express, Strathmore 10:30am to 7:30 pm, 9:00am to 4:30 pm
Next Meeting:	August 31, September 1, 2009, Pincher Creek, (venue to be announced)
Attendees:	Regional Advisory Council (RAC): Jay Bartsch, Linda Bruce, Stanley Church, Lisa Fox, Wolf Keller, John Kerkhoven, Georgina Knitel, Leah Lawrence, Gord Lehn, Hugh Lynch-Staunton, Ron McMullin, Ralph Nelson, Rob Penny, Greg Sekura, Daniel Smith, John Squarek, Bill Szabon Regional Planning Team (RPT): Morris Seiferling, Doug Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Andrea Dorrans, Richard Roberts, Rob Stuart. Susan Friesen Guest Presenters: Olimpia Pantelimon, Dave McGee, Louella Cronkhite, Rick Butler, Darryl Johnson

Introduction

- Rob Penny thanked the group for their commitment and level of engagement.
- The stated purpose of the meetings was to build a strong foundation of knowledge and awareness:
- Provide information on:
 - Legislation overview (*Alberta Land Stewardship Act*)
 - Profile of the region
 - Other planning initiatives
 - Identify RAC critical success factors
 - Outline major project milestones
 - Introduce RAC binder #3
 - Build on the stakeholder list

Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA) Overview

RAC members were provided with an overview of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* in the form of a handout and PowerPoint presentation presented by Morris Seiferling. *ALSA* has been passed by the Legislature but has yet to be proclaimed. *ALSA* is designed to support the Land-use Framework but by itself does not result in any changes; the regional plan/s will be what is implemented. The regional plans will be the public policy that directs decision-making regarding public and private land.



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Presentations on the Profile of the Region

- **Environment Pillar** - The RAC was provided with an overview of the natural features of the region (i.e., water, air sheds, climate, land, soil, forests, fisheries and wildlife). They were also introduced to some of the management issues and tools that human interaction with these resources and features presents.
- **Social Pillar** - This presentation introduced an overview of population centres in the region, and provided a population projection for expected growth into the future. It also provided an overview of the political and planning structure of the region. Health services and health determinants, recreation, tourism, cultural assets, social impacts, social trends and drivers of the region were also introduced. Information about transportation, housing and safe communities is still being prepared.
- **Economic Pillar** - Employment, industry, goods and services, income distribution were discussed in this presentation. Agriculture, irrigation, livestock operations, petroleum and natural gas activity were also explored. The economic aspects of wind and other renewable energy, coal, forestry, fishing and hunting were also considered.
- **Regional Tour by PowerPoint** - In the evening, RAC members were asked to provide input and feedback on a slide presentation that is being prepared for use at public open houses in order to give a visual overview of the region. A great many ideas were generated and once a short version is prepared it will be brought back to the group for final comment.

Other Presentations

- **Water Allocation** – The RAC was presented with an overview of the river sub-basins in the region and given a look at the water volume, run-off and naturalized flow. They also received an understanding of the principles on which licences are allocated, transferred or cancelled. Risk management, storage, water assignments and water conservation objectives were also discussed and key areas in need of greater discussion in the future were identified.
- **Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP)** – The RAC was provided with an overview of the work completed so far on the CMP and members learned that every effort will be made to ensure alignment of this sub-regional plan with that of the SSRP.
- **Southwest Prototype (SWP)** – The RAC was provided with an overview of the work completed so far on the project under the mandate of MLA Evan Berger. The RAC requested more information and clarification on how this project would fit with the work of the RAC.



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Critical Success Factors for the RAC

The RAC was asked to put forward factors that they felt would indicate their work is successful, they included:

- Decisions are mostly reached by consensus
- The Government of Alberta accepts most of the RAC's recommendations
- Major milestones are met
- The public understands the process and is aware of it
- RAC members have helped to ensure that no stakeholders are missed
- RAC members are satisfied with the process and have been given the information they need
- The Government of Alberta is satisfied with the process

Public Consultation & Timelines

The RAC was provided with an overview and proposed timeline of the Government of Alberta's public consultation process. This process will be carried out in three phases and at three levels. Separate consultation will occur for stakeholders, municipalities and for the general public. Each of these groups will have sessions for awareness and information building in the fall (First Phase), sessions for review of the draft vision in the early part of 2010 (Second Phase), and then be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft plan in early spring of 2010 (Third Phase). These sessions will take place in 31 communities in the region with an additional seven that are within 100km adjacent to the region. RAC members will receive a final list of the communities selected and members are invited to attend any and all sessions their schedules permit.

Public sessions will be divided into three-part days. There will be two stakeholder sessions: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Public open house sessions will take place in the evening. The first phase of the government consultation is to start on September 8th 2009. In addition, there is the opportunity to provide feedback to a workbook that will be available online or on hard copy. A separate Aboriginal consultation process will also be conducted.

RAC members strongly emphasized the great importance of involving the public in this process and saw themselves as having a strong role to play in helping ensure that stakeholders receive the information they need, and get every opportunity to be heard. Members began by providing names of stakeholders that will be included on the GoA mailing list and who will receive invitations for engagement. The results of public and stakeholder engagement will be summarized and provided for review of the RAC in their deliberation.

Binder #3

RAC received a binder populated with summaries of various government reports.



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Next Steps

RAC member were charged with a number of “homework” assignments including reviewing the contents of binder #3. For the next meeting, August 31st – September 1st, members were asked to bring their schedules for 2010 in order to set future meeting dates.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm on Thursday, July 16th.

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.