



South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes - Meeting #3

Date:	August 31 - September 01, 2009
Place:	Heritage Inn Convention Centre, Pincher Creek
Next Meeting:	October 06 – 07, 2009, Lethbridge, Alberta
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, Kevin Van Tighem Regional Planning Team (RPT): Glen Tjostheim, Doug Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Andrea Dorrans, Richard Roberts, Rob Stuart, Susan Friesen

Introduction

Mr. Penny welcomed the group and reminded them that as a Regional Advisory Council (RAC), “We don’t write the plan, it is government’s plan. We own the advice we provide.” He urged members to make the most of their time and use the breaks to re-charge, as it was time to get to work. The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Review the SSRP terms of reference
- Provide an overview of planning and modelling
- Introduce the SSRP table of contents
- Start developing the SSRP regional vision and outcomes

Overview of the SSRP Terms of Reference

The RAC was presented with an overview of the draft terms of reference for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. The terms of reference required that the RAC look at various scenarios, and that population growth and water use are two key considerations. The RAC should focus their discussion at this meeting around developing region-specific vision and objectives based on the Land-use Framework. Recommendations need to look to the future of the region and how we get from where we are to this desired future. There is also the expectation that RAC will address changes in thresholds and what the expected outcomes would be. A number of suggestions for changes and requests for clarification were made. These will be forwarded to the Regional Planning Team (RPT) for their consideration and review. At the end of the discussion it was agreed to accept the terms of reference as a guiding document and move forward. Once government approval has been received, the document will be released for public review.



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Overview of Planning and Modelling

RAC members were presented with a brief overview of the planning process that lies ahead in preparing the SSRP and were given a draft table of contents for their review and consideration (two handouts). The RAC will have a primary role in establishing the vision for the region and setting objectives that come out of the vision. The RPT does not want to direct the work of the RAC but would like to expedite it where possible in order to make the best use of time. Members were asked to provide the RPT with some response to the draft table of contents and to indicate how they wish to work together with the RPT as they prepare the SSRP. A number of suggested changes were made.

RAC members were also provided with an overview of scenario modelling and the techniques that will be used for this process. RAC was reminded that the analysis is what is critical. Not everything can be modelled; the expertise amongst this group needs to be added to make the work complete. The intent is that at the October meeting the RAC will have the first modelling discussion.

Regional Vision and Outcomes

RAC members spent considerable time providing suggestions for what important values need to be captured in the vision for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and setting out objectives that would flow from this vision. The ideas were discussed and prioritized and will be further reviewed at the next meeting as they are shaped into a final draft vision and outcomes that will eventually be presented to the public for review.

Next Steps

RAC members were asked to continue to think about the regional vision and outcomes and be prepared for more discussion of those at the next meeting. They were also asked to prepare to provide more feedback on the table of contents for the SSRP.

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.