



## **South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Notes - Meeting # 6**

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<b>Date:</b>	January 05 - 06, 2010
<b>Location:</b>	Holiday Inn Express, Airdrie, AB
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	February 09 and 10, Canmore
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Regional Advisory Council (RAC):</b> Linda Bruce, Stanley Church, Lisa Fox, Colin Jeffares, Wolf Keller, John Kerkhoven, Georgina Knitel, Leah Lawrence (Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> ), Gord Lehn, Hugh Lynch-Staunton, Ron McMullin, Ralph Nelson, Greg Sekura, John Squarek, Bill Szabon, Kevin Van Tighem <b>Regional Planning Team (RPT):</b> Morris Seiferling (Jan. 5), Glen Tjostheim, Doug Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Richard Roberts (Jan. 5/am), Rob Stuart, Susan Friesen, Mark Haxby, Rob Dunn, Avelyn Nicol, Heather Sinton, Justin Ellis, Darryl Johnson, Bob Myrick

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### **Day One**

#### **Introduction**

The Chair (Colin Jeffares) called the meeting to order introduced the agenda and requested acceptance of the (November 24, 25, 2009) meeting minutes.

#### **Presentation - Base Case Follow-up Economic Potential - Mark Haxby**

- RAC members received a presentation about the economic potential of the South Saskatchewan Region (SSR). The information provided an update from the Government of Alberta (GoA) and helped to answer questions raised by RAC members in earlier sessions.
- The C4SE economic modelling process is underway. RAC members were urged to carefully consider the assumptions and outcomes made in the presentation and decide if they agree with them.

#### **Presentation - Base Case Follow-up Farm Production and Employment Trends - Rob Dunn**

- The RAC received a presentation on farm production and employment trends that followed up on earlier discussion and request for more information.
- RAC members had a variety of questions around the definition of a farm, confined feeding operations (CFOs), and the potential of research and development to improve value-added.

#### **Presentation - Conservation and Stewardship Strategy - Avelyn Nicol**

- RAC members were provided with an overview of the various tools that are being explored for use in conservation and stewardship. Some of these have been specifically identified in the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA)*, while a few others have not.
- Ms. Nicol stressed the fact that “these are tools – that is all.” Their use and effectiveness will be determined by the objectives that are set for them. She urged the RAC to focus on helping to



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establish these objectives in order that the work of honing the tools can progress in tandem. Not every tool can be used everywhere and they must fit the need precisely.

- RAC members were keen to learn more about how the tools could work and help achieve the objectives that they will provide advice on.

### **Day Two**

#### **Presentation - Source Water Protection Watershed Integrity - Heather Sinton**

- The RAC was provided with an overview of source water protection, and this sparked a number of requests for clarification regarding water standards, riparian buffers, source water pollution and the important role of Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) and stewardship groups.
- RAC members then began formulating specific advice on watershed management policy for the Eastern Slopes and policy to help protect watersheds and source waters to bring about a more unified approach to management.

#### **Presentation - Management of Recreation Use on Provincial Crown Lands - Justin Ellis**

- The RAC received a presentation describing the issues and challenges associated with recreation use on public lands, and the GoA's current approach to dealing with these issues and common recreation practices. RAC was notified that the recreation corridors program is in progress and explored a variety of issues related to recreational use of public land.
- RAC members then began formulating specific advice on how recreation use of public land could be better managed. They focused on basic considerations for planning and development, possible tools that could be used and opportunities that should be pursued.

#### **Presentation - Air Quality Management - Bob Myrick**

- The presentation provided the RAC with information about federal air quality standards, pollution sources and health impacts as well as some discussion on emissions.

#### **Closing**

- A review of the progress made from the session's work was carried out and suggestions were put forward for improvement in future. Some potential agenda items for next session were provided.

### **Deliverables**

- The RAC was provided with a list of suggested guiding principles for trade-off discussions and asked to provide additions or changes.

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.