

# NORTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)



## Session #4 – MINUTES

September 9-11, 2014

*Banff, Alberta*



### Session Objectives:

1. Recommendations on what the Government of Alberta can do to recognize private landowners for their stewardship and conservation initiatives (monetary and/or other alternatives)
2. Advice and insight on the limitations facing the promotion of the use of voluntary tools on private lands for conservation and stewardship, including how the Government of Alberta can increase private landowner awareness and use of voluntary tools
3. Advice on identified new or expanded recreation areas - Provincial Parks, Provincial Recreation Areas, Public Land Recreation Areas, etc.
4. Feedback on the outcomes and strategic directions proposed for the North Saskatchewan Region

### Attendance:

<b>RAC Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wendy Boje (Chair)</li><li>• Patrick Alexander</li><li>• Cecil Anderson</li><li>• Tim Burton</li><li>• Nicholas Gafuik</li><li>• Leslie Gammie</li><li>• Rob Gibb (<i>Days 1 &amp; 2</i>)</li><li>• Ed Gibbons</li><li>• Arnold Hanson</li><li>• Lorne Hindbo</li><li>• Tim Hofstra</li><li>• Doug King</li><li>• Charles Newell</li><li>• Ed Parke</li><li>• Robert Phillips</li><li>• Neal Sarnecki (<i>Days 1 &amp; 2</i>)</li><li>• Tracy Scott</li><li>• Stephen Stanley</li><li>• David Taylor</li><li>• Peter Vana</li><li>• Liv Vors</li><li>• Robert Winship</li><li>• Allen Wright</li><li>• Marla Zapach</li></ul>	<b>Government of Alberta</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crystal Damer (Land Use Secretariat - LUS)</li><li>• Niki Atwal (Energy)</li><li>• Jason Cathcart (Agriculture and Rural Development - ARD)</li><li>• Anna Curtis (Culture) (<i>Days 2 &amp; 3</i>)</li><li>• Cara Gill (Tourism, Parks and Recreation - TPR)</li><li>• Don Livingston (ESRD) (<i>Days 2 &amp; 3</i>)</li><li>• Scott Milligan (Environment &amp; Sustainable Resource Development - ESRD)</li><li>• Karen Raven (Agriculture and Rural Development - ARD) (<i>Days 1 &amp; 2</i>)</li><li>• Chris Spytz (Tourism, Parks and Recreation – TPR)</li><li>• Joannes Wong (Municipal Affairs)</li><li>• Graham Statt – Tourism, Parks and Recreation – TPR) (<i>Day 2</i>)</li></ul> <b>Consulting Support:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elevate Consulting</li></ul> <b>RAC Members Absent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stan Delorme</li><li>• Cecil Janvier</li><li>• Leonard Wade</li></ul>
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**Agenda Items:**

<b>Tuesday, September 9, 2014 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>4.1 FORMAL WELCOME</b>	<b>Wendy Boje, RAC Chair</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The RAC Chair formally opened the fourth RAC Session in Banff, Alberta, and thanked RAC members for providing feedback between sessions and for the work they are doing around land-use planning.</li><li>• RAC reviewed the Minutes of the third session from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>Call for vote to accept the Minutes from the meeting held August 26-28 in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta</i></li><li>– <i>Passed</i></li></ul></li><li>• RAC reviewed and commented on the Notes from the third session.</li></ul>	
<b>4.2 RAC DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT ADVICE FOR THE RECOMMENDATION REPORT</b>	<b>RAC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RAC reviewed the draft advice from the second and third sessions for the RAC Recommendations Report.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>RAC provided feedback and supplemental perspectives to be considered when RAC reviews the full Recommendations Report in the sixth session.</i></li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>4.3 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP ON PRIVATE LANDS</b>	<b>Jason Cathcart, ARD</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ARD presented on <i>Biodiversity Management and Stewardship on Private Lands</i>, which included an overview of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Context setting, current state, and the role of private land owners in stewardship and conservation in the North Saskatchewan Region</li><li>– Existing policies and approach</li><li>– Opportunities and challenges for achieving biodiversity goals</li><li>– Analysis for RAC consideration – a series of conversations to obtain RAC’s feedback around what the government is doing</li></ul></li></ul>	



#### 4.4 RAC ADVICE ON BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP ON PRIVATE LANDS

RAC

- Through a facilitated discussion, RAC engaged in the first three, in a series of five, conversations around biodiversity management and stewardship on private lands. The discussions centered on “Enhancing Existing Tools,” an “Online Stewardship Tool,” and a “Collaborative Public Awareness Campaign to Recognize Stewardship on Private Lands.” RAC members provided comments, considerations, and suggestions on these topics areas and where the Government of Alberta should focus its efforts.

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

#### 4.4 RAC ADVICE ON BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP ON PRIVATE LANDS (continued...)

RAC

- RAC continued its facilitated discussion around the fourth and fifth conversation areas to address biodiversity management and stewardship on private lands. RAC members reviewed the government’s proposed “Locations of Future Pilot Projects,” and suggested some new options for pilot locations. RAC members provided advice to the Government of Alberta on which pilot projects should be prioritized along with the rationale behind each recommendation. In the fifth and final conversation area RAC suggested potential new approaches and tools for consideration.
- RAC achieved consensus on the recommendations, and related considerations, for the Government of Alberta to address biodiversity on private lands in the North Saskatchewan region.

#### 4.5 HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN REGION

Anna Curtis, Culture

- Culture presented on *Historic Resources in the North Saskatchewan Region*, which included an overview of the following:
  - Context setting and current state of historic resources in the North Saskatchewan Region
  - Opportunities and challenges

#### 4.6 OUTDOOR RECREATION: MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION ON CROWN LAND

Graham Statt and Chris Spytz, TPR



- The Assistant Deputy Minister (Parks Division) of Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) gave a summary of the ministry’s mandate, activities, and direction, and RAC members provided comments and feedback for consideration.
- TPR presented on Outdoor Recreation: Management of Recreation on Crown Land, which included an overview of the following:
  - Context setting and current state of outdoor recreation in the North Saskatchewan Region
  - Existing policies
  - Opportunities and challenges
  - Approaches for management of Crown land and expansion or establishment of new recreation areas
- RAC members engaged in a round table to explore new ideas on how to improve the outdoor recreation experience of Albertans.

**Thursday, September 11, 2014**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**4.7 OUTDOOR RECREATION: MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION ON CROWN LAND (continued...)**

**Chris Spytz, TPR**

TPR continued the presentation from the previous day on Outdoor Recreation: Management of Recreation on Crown Land, and presented RAC with three approaches for “Management of Crown Land and Expansion or Establishment of new Recreation Areas.”

- The three approaches were:
  - Recreation management planning on Crown Land
  - Invest new funds to enhance and upgrade the existing provincial parks system
  - Add new land base to the provincial parks system

**4.8 RAC ADVICE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**RAC**

- For each of the three approaches, RAC members discussed and provided feedback for government consideration on every one of the proposed areas. RAC advice included implementation considerations and possible solutions to help address the issue of increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in the province.
- RAC members were asked to prioritize as a group, the most important areas they felt the Government of Alberta should focus on for each approach.
- For the first approach, ‘Recreation management planning on Crown Land,’ RAC members were presented with seven proposed regions under consideration as future recreation areas in the



province. Four regions were selected as priority areas for the government to focus on.

- The second approach, 'Invest new funds to enhance and upgrade the existing provincial parks system,' three regions were prioritized well ahead of the others.
- The third approach, 'Add new land base to the provincial parks system,' provided RAC members with maps and the rationale behind the selection of 13 proposed areas in the North Saskatchewan Region. They were asked to review each as a potential new recreation area or expansion upon an existing area based on a set of criteria for evaluation.
  - RAC reached consensus on 7 of the 13 proposed areas for expanding existing or establishing new recreation areas for Albertans. RAC provided additional implementation considerations and contrasting perspectives for the remaining six recreation areas.

#### **4.9 CLOSING OF SESSION #4**

**Wendy Boje, RAC Chair**

- RAC was provided the Agenda, Primers and Backgrounders for Meeting #5 in Fort Saskatchewan which are to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned by the Chair.
- Next Session – September 23-25 in Fort Saskatchewan