

MINUTES OF THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES (ALUS) PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC), HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON MONDAY, MAY 30, 2016.

IN ATTENDANCE Shirley Mahan, Councillor
Duane Movald, Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Graham Kathol, Vice Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large
Cliff Whitelock, Member-at-Large
Cecil Andersen, Member-at-Large
Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Denika Piggott, Parkland County ALUS
Benjamin Misener, ALUS Coordinator
Jessica Karpo, Planning & Development Intern
Colin Poitras, Planning & Development Summer Student
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

ABSENT Kerri O’Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish
Rita Moir, Councillor (Alternate)

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE Diana Bingham, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Brian Ilnicki, Land Stewardship Centre

CALL TO ORDER D. Movald, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

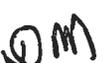
INTRODUCTIONS Partnership Advisory Committee members, guests and Administration staff introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA D. Movald, Chairperson, asked to add “Eligibility for Crown Land” to the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA 006-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC Member, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

Brian Ilnicki, Land Stewardship Centre, entered the meeting at 9:10 am.

ADOPTION OF THE MINTUES 007-16 Moved by C. Vanin, PAC Member, to adopt the minutes of the May 10, 2016 ALUS PAC meeting as presented.
CARRIED



BUSINESS ARISING

S. Mahan, C. Andersen & M.E. Shain are not available for the June 23, 2016 meeting. It was agreed the June 23, 2016 meeting be rescheduled to Monday, June 27, 2016.

008-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC Member, to adopt the 2016 PAC meeting schedule as amended.

CARRIED

ELIGIBILITY FOR CROWN LAND

D. Bingham advised that activities on Crown Lands (eg. Grazing Leases) are eligible for Growing Forward funding. Written consent of the registered owner would be required. C. Andersen, PAC Member noted that Grazing Leases have tenancy and are covered under a lease, while Grazing Reserves are administered by the government in conjunction with the Grazing Associations, rather than the producers. Grazing Associations cover operating costs for Reserves.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, will confirm if ALUS money can be used for projects on Crown Lands.

INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (INFFER)

Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director of the Land Stewardship Centre had a power point presentation for the group. A copy of the presentation was provided to the group.

The tool was developed in Australia to identify the goals & objectives of projects and then to determine what the best place is to spend the funds on. The program is extension and education based in order to decide how funding is spent.

J. Karpo, Planning & Development Intern entered the meeting at 9:23 am.

This program helps to clearly identify the environmental or natural assets. There must be evidence that management actions will make a real difference. The actions must be reasonable to the producer and the land managers.

Numbers are assigned to determine cost ratio variables and cost ratio outcomes to determine if the project is deemed worthwhile.

The tool will be used to assess the value for the investment by determining the highest ratio of benefits to cost.

After the power point presentation, discussion ensued around sewage lagoons and sewage plants and the example of phosphorous loading in the system.

The question was asked about what funding would be used for the INFFER tool (Growing Forward, ALUS, or Municipal money) and what group could/would be used for the tool. The funding would come over and above the funds requested through the Growing Forward grant. It was felt that the group of ALUS PAC Members would meet the needs of the group if they decided to move forward with the INFFER tool.

It was suggested that the timing of the INFFER tool may not be a good fit for an ALUS PAC in its infancy. The ALUS program can go forward without the INFFER tool in place. The INFFER tool can be used on another watershed, for example, while the first ALUS projects are starting.

It was also suggested that the Brazeau County ALUS PAC needs to first determine what their own specific goals and priorities are. The use of INFFER could help to identify and determine the most important issues, lands, or projects. INFFER could then help to identify the projects to focus on.

Discussion continued around how to balance the projects that benefit the immediate community vs providing benefits on a larger scale and determining which one is more important.

It was suggested that INFFER may assist more when funds become limited. B. Innicki stressed that INFFER does not necessarily assess individual projects but it identifies the problems and assesses the value that would be obtained.

D. Movald, Chairperson, asked for clarification that there would be no additional funding required from the Municipality or ALUS and the funding for INFFER would be over and above the Growing Forward grant funding. D. Bingham confirmed that the \$40,000

required for INFFER would be added on to the monies asked for under the grant.

B. Ilnicki suggested a working committee may be helpful as a sub-committee of the ALUS PAC.

D. Bingham advised that there is a possibility, but not a guarantee, of amending the grant if the PAC decides to utilize the INFFER program in year two rather than utilizing it immediately.

Brian Ilnicki, Land Stewardship Centre, left the meeting at 10:44 am.

D. Movald, Chairperson, called for a break at 10:44 am, and the meeting resumed at 10:53 am.

AWE/WRRP GRANT

Diana Bingham, On-Farm Stewardship Coordinator with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry discussed the AWE grant through Growing Forward. An official statement will be announced in conjunction with Agriculture. In the meantime, we can start accepting applications at any time.

Producers will submit applications to the ALUS Coordinator, who in turn will bring them forward to the PAC. The PAC will then determine if the project is accepted, and then Growing Forward will disperse the funds as necessary. The funds are held by Growing Forward, rather than the County and will be paid directly to the producer, not the County. The intent is to use Growing Forward monies (AWE grant) first for projects that qualify under their criteria. If projects do not qualify for Growing Forward monies, the PAC can then decide whether they want to utilize the ALUS funds and/or Municipal funds that are available for ALUS projects. Growing Forward funds can only cover agricultural producers, not acreage owners.

“Growing Forward 3” will be introduced in April of 2018.

M.E. Shain, PAC Member, asked if mapping data was available to share with the PAC. D. Bingham will check what maps can be shared, but advised that the data cannot be shared.

D. Bingham advised that she will be away from mid-June to mid-August, so a decision on INFFER is requested prior to that.

**ALUS VISION, MISSION
& PRINCIPLES**

D. Movald, Chairperson, reviewed the ALUS vision, mission & principles with the PAC. The group decided to follow these guidelines at present, and can develop specific Brazeau ALUS PAC strategies as they grow.

**PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA**

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, discussed the Program Eligibility Criteria according to ALUS Canada Guidelines. A table was presented that compared ALUS Canada Guidelines to that adopted by County of Vermilion River, Parkland County & Red Deer County.

Discussion ensued regarding the Program Eligibility Criteria, specifically the Land Requirement criteria. Members discussed the definition of Agricultural lands. It was suggested that 20% of the total lands owned and leased could be the guideline used. If the lands are leased, the owner's permission is required. If the lands exceed the typical percentage, the PAC can decide if a modified payment scheme can be used, or the PAC can decide if a larger percentage is acceptable. Other suggestions included a cap on the funds distributed by ALUS and Municipal funds.

009-16 Moved by H. Hughes, PAC Member, that the project should be on less than 20% of the titled and/or leased land within Brazeau County managed by the qualified producer. Exceptions can be made with PAC approval.

CARRIED

RECESS FOR LUNCH

D. Movald, Chairperson, called for a lunch break at 11:54 am, and called the meeting back to order at 12:31 pm.

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA**

Discussions continued regarding the Program Eligibility Criteria, specifically the Participant Requirement.

010-16 Moved by G. Kathol, PAC Member, that participants be defined as farmers or ranchers with a registered or legally defined farming operation, eligible for farm tax status in their respective province.

A friendly amendment to the motion was made by B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, to use the wording of “agricultural producer” rather than farmers or ranchers. The friendly amendment was accepted by G. Kathol.

A friendly amendment to the motion was made by B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, to use the wording of “farm tax status in Alberta” rather than farm tax status in their respective province. The friendly amendment was accepted by G. Kathol.

The motion with the friendly amendments read as: Moved by G. Kathol, PAC Member, that a participant be defined as an agricultural producer with a registered or legally defined farming operation, eligible for farm tax status in Alberta.

CARRIED

Discussions continued regarding the Program Eligibility Criteria, specifically the Land Requirement.

011-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC Member, that the land requirement criteria be identified as follows: ALUS projects must occur primarily on marginal or environmentally sensitive agricultural lands. Agricultural activity must currently be occurring on the property.

A friendly amendment was suggested by H. Hughes to change the wording from “property” to “project area”. The friendly amendment was declined.

CARRIED

Discussion turned to the question of determining a cap for the amount of money a producer can utilize. It was felt that at this time, a cap was not required but could be re-visited at a later time.

A list “Parking Lot” items will be created. This list includes agenda items to be re-visited at a later date:

- Maximum cap
- By your own hand
- Application deadline

**PROJECT SELECTION
GUIDELINES**

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, discussed the ALUS Project Selection Guidelines and the guideline that Parkland County utilized when they began their program. It was suggested that the ALUS Project Selection Guidelines can be used during the intake stage, while the Parkland guide can be used for scoring.

012-16 Moved by H. Hughes, PAC Member, that we use the ALUS Project Selection Guidelines as our long term selection guide.

CARRIED

013-16 Moved by H. Hughes, PAC Member, that we use the Parkland ALUS Questionnaire when setting up our own guidelines when we have a project.

H. Hughes, PAC Member, requested permission to withdraw motion 013-16. Permission given by S. Mahan, PAC Member, to withdraw motion 013-16.

**COST SHARING AND
ANNUAL PAYMENTS**

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, discussed the Cost Sharing Structure. Growing Forward will fund 100% of the establishment costs for eligible projects under the grant. Annual payments are provided by ALUS.

Discussion ensued regarding cost sharing of establishment costs that are not covered under the grant. Some counties have established maximums for payments of watering systems, fencing, labour, etc.

014-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC Member, that a 50% cost share with participant, of remaining project establishment cost be covered, as external grants can cover a larger cost share ratio.

CARRIED

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, will bring back some cap suggestions to the next meeting for further discussion.

015-16 H. Hughes, PAC Member, moved that the Annual Payment Schedule be tabled to the June 27, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FORM

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, discussed the Expression of Interest Form. The form was provided by ALUS and customized by Brazeau County. The SIN # will be required to provide tax receipts (AG-1 forms). If the participant does not want to provide the SIN # immediately, it can be collected when the contract is signed.

PAC Members discussed changes as follows: Remove SIN #, move municipal address up under the Personal Information heading, rename Farm Description area to Project Area Description, and refer to the project area lands rather than the farm lands.

016-16 S. Mahan, PAC Member, moved that the EOI be adopted with amendments.

CARRIED

POLICIES

017-16 C. Andersen, PAC Member, moved that the Policies be tabled to the June 27, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

EMERALD AWARD NOMINATION AND AWARDS SHOW

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, announced ALUS Canada's nomination at the upcoming Emerald Awards and advised that anyone from the PAC is eligible to go if interested.

POTENTIAL OPEN HOUSE AND OFFICIAL ALUS LAUNCH

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, asked the group about the best timing for an open house. It was suggested that in September, we can feature a few of the projects that are underway. This item will be placed in the Parking Lot for future discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, discussed the submission of Expense Claims and the updated Contact List.

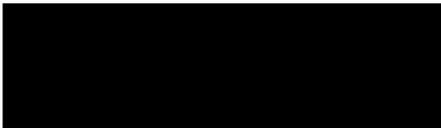
ADJOURNMENT

018-16 Moved by C. Whitelock, PAC Member, that the Brazeau County ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee meeting of May 30, 2016 adjourn at 1:57 p.m.

CARRIED



Duane Movald
Chairperson



Nancy Chambers
Recording Secretary