

**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 TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016.**

IN ATTENDANCE

Shirley Mahan, Councillor
Rita Moir, Councillor (Alternate)
Graham Kathol, Member-at-Large
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large
Cliff Whitelock, Member-at-Large
Duane Movald, Member-at-Large
Cecil Andersen, Member-at-Large
Kerri O'Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish
Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Benjamin Misener, ALUS Coordinator
Jessica Karpo, Planning & Development Intern
Lisa Rabel, Agricultural Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Christine Campbell, ALUS Canada
Krista Quesnel, Parkland County ALUS
Eashan Karnik, Parkland County
Eldon Greanya, Parkland County PAC
Gerry Taillieu, Parkland County PAC

CALL TO ORDER

Benjamin Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called the meeting to order
at 9:10 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA**

No additions were presented.

**ADOPTION OF THE
AGENDA**

001-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC member, to approve the
agenda.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

002-16 Moved by D. Movald, PAC member to adopt the 2016
PAC meeting schedule as presented.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTIONS

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

ALUS CANADA

Christine Campbell, ALUS Canada Western Hub Manager presented a power point presentation titled "Welcome to the PAC". An overview of the ALUS Program was provided. ALUS provides the mechanism to bring ecosystem services to the market. Ecosystem services include riparian buffers, erosion control, and water purification, among many others.

Best management practices help to identify which areas lend to certain activities or ecosystem services. Establishment and annual payments are determined by the PAC. Payment is for the management of the ecosystem services, but ALUS does not "rent" the land. The ownership of the land remains with the landowner.

ALUS is community developed and delivered, and is specific to the community. On the ground, ALUS provides overall principals to follow, but it is community developed and farmer-driven.

ALUS is a voluntary program, and provides flexibility to the producer. Applying for other funding (eg. Growing Forward, Alberta Conservation Association, etc.) is strongly encouraged to supplement the program funds. The PAC determines what funding they will provide (eg. 50% of the fencing cost, or 75% of the fencing cost, etc.), but the producer determines what kind of fencing will be used.

An overview of the process was provided from the initial producer contact to the project establishment and annual payment process. The producer leads the process and the PAC provides recommendations and feedback.

If the land is sold during the term of the 5 year contract, the annual payment will be pro-rated for the time they are in the contract.

Two parts to the contract: establishment costs (if any), and annual payments (per acre basis) for the management of the project.

Sample projects include: riparian fencing, drainage ditch rehabilitation, pollinator hedges, buffers, native prairie restoration, wildlife habitat amendments, species-at-risk habitat and tree planting.

The sites will be GPS'ed to determine the area involved. Judgement of the ALUS coordinator, and technical advice are also used, along with PAC advice. A rate payment for "conserved" could be used (eg. water conserved). This is a decision the PAC will determine.

Funding will come from a diverse number of organizations and sources. Examples include: Delta Waterfowl, Alberta Conservation Association, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, and the local communities through in-kind, cash investments, ALUS Canada, local grants and local fundraising.

Brazeau County ALUS has received \$2000 unrestricted funds from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. National Conservation Plan (NCP) Canada has provided Brazeau County ALUS \$5000 for wetland-related projects only. Municipalities can also apply for other grants.

C. Campbell also provided a "Program Guidelines and Support" power point presentation.

ALUS Canada provides a guideline for eligibility criteria and cost-sharing structures, but the County PAC has the flexibility to determine their own criteria. ALUS Canada recommends using other sources of funding first (through external grants such as Growing Forward), then ALUS monies, then participant monies.

If a project was done in the past, there may be opportunity to be compensated for an existing project, provided a new project in the same area is established. This is a decision for the PAC and is referred to as "by your own hand".

An annual payment schedule that is used by Red Deer County was presented. Red Deer County bases their payments on current land uses: cropland, pasture, wetland, trees & shrubs, or grasslands.

Project proposals will be prepared by the ALUS Coordinator (B. Misener), and will include an Expression of Interest form (signed by the participant), proposal outline, maps, budget breakdown and site photos, along with his recommendation. The PAC will review the proposal and make their decision.

In order to measure successes, annual reporting is required, and will be the responsibility of the ALUS Coordinator.

K. Quesnel, Parkland County Environmental Engagement Coordinator advised that policies can be established to guide the decision making. Also, participant agreements can be tailored to describe terms such as grazing dates.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator called for a break at 10:52 am, and the meeting resumed at 11:09 am.

PARKLAND COUNTY ALUS

K. Quesnel, Parkland County Environmental Engagement Advisor presented information regarding Parkland's ALUS program and PAC. The program started in 2012 on Gerry Taillieu's land and Mr. Taillieu is now a Parkland County PAC member. There are currently 12 participants and over 400 acres enrolled currently.

K. Quesnel discussed the ALUS Coordinator's role in presenting the projects, along with the roles of the PAC. In December, they typically review the projects and monies allocated. A decision matrix has been created, along with a priority mapping area. This assists in priority setting. A wetland assessment is currently being undertaken in Parkland County, as well as a historical loss assessment of the wetland areas.

The PAC votes on approval of projects, but also gives recommendations for fencing, for example, or other areas on the lands to focus on. Parkland has applied for grants through Wildlife Habitat Canada, Alberta Conservation Association, and National Conservation Plan funding for wetlands. Grants are applied for toward the program in general, rather than specific projects. Then they find the participants to use the funds. Depending on the terms of the grant, the monies may or may not be used for some administration costs.

A question was asked regarding penalties or policing of the terms of the agreements. Parkland County has not had to deal with this to date, but if necessary, the PAC would address this.

K. Quesnel spoke about the regional collaboration grant. A consultant looked at the Counties' programs to determine what was different, what was the same, etc. Lac St. Anne County and Parkland County partnered together to apply for the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement (AWE) grant. The watershed is shared between Lac St. Anne & Parkland Counties and together they received over \$500,000 over three years.

K. Quesnel noted that verification and reporting takes a significant amount of time and effort. The funders require interim and final reporting. Some projects receive monies from more than one source, so budget tracking can be complex. Verification will be discussed in further detail by all of the ALUS coordinators. Verification reports can be completed by a stand-alone company if the County does not have the staff dedicated to verification. Verification reports will be provided to the producer first, and then shared with the PAC.

Parkland's plans for external events include workshops, annual tour, and information sessions for grants. Internal communication is also key between departments to recognize potential sites.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, advised that Brazeau County's ALUS program will call upon the Community Services Department (Agriculture) to assist as available. West Central Forage Association and Alberta Conservation Association were not able to provide members for the Brazeau County PAC at this time.

Brazeau County PAC is comprised of five producers, three external agencies, and one County Council member. Guidelines and policies will be created by the group.

Availability of staff will dictate how much time and effort can be dedicated to wetland mapping, Environmentally Significant Areas, input into the Agricultural Master Plan, etc.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called for a break at 11:52 a.m.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called the meeting back to order at 12:44 p.m.

**BRAZEAU COUNTY
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, presented the "Brazeau County PAC for ALUS Terms of Reference", as adopted by Brazeau County Council March 1, 2016. A copy of the Terms of Reference were provided to the PAC members in their binders.

**NOMINATION OF
CHAIRPERSON**

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called for nominations for the Chairperson of the Brazeau County ALUS PAC.

S. Mahan, PAC member, nominated Duane Movald, PAC member, for Chairperson.

R. Moir, PAC member, nominated Graham Kathol, PAC member for Chairperson. G. Kathol declined the nomination.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called a 2nd and 3rd time for nominations. Hearing none, B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called for a motion to appoint a Chairperson.

003-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC member to appoint Duane Movald, PAC member, as Chairperson of the Brazeau County ALUS PAC.

CARRIED

**NOMINATION OF
VICE CHAIRPERSON**

D. Movald, PAC Chairperson, asked B. Misener to continue with the call for nominations for Vice Chairperson. B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called for nominations for the Vice Chairperson of the Brazeau County ALUS PAC.

S. Mahan PAC member, nominated Graham Kathol, PAC member for Vice Chairperson.

C. Vanin, PAC member moved that nominations cease.

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, called for a motion to appoint a Vice Chairperson.

004-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC member to appoint Graham Kathol, PAC member as Vice Chairperson of the Brazeau County ALUS PAC.

CARRIED

BRAZEAU COUNTY ALUS

B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator presented information on Brazeau County's ALUS budgets and projected targets.

Brazeau County has applied for grant monies through the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement (AWE) and Watershed Resiliency and Restoration (WRRP) Programs. The grant application was submitted as the "Modeste Subwatershed Renewal Project". More details with a formal announcement will follow. B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, reviewed the grant application with the PAC to familiarize the group with the scope of the projects for which the funding may be provided. A copy of the grant application will be provided to PAC members for their information. For Year 1 (2016), the target is 3 participants, 6 projects and 25 acres enrolled. Additionally, Brazeau County is contributing \$200,000. ALUS Canada is providing \$2000, while NCP is providing \$5000.

The ALUS program is open to all County residents provided they meet the grant criteria. For landowners within the Modeste Subwatershed, 100% of establishment costs may be covered by the AWE / WRRP grant. Outside of the Modeste Subwatershed, the PAC can determine what funds will be allocated for establishment costs. Annual payments come from County funds and are not covered by grant monies.

The question of eligibility for Crown leased lands was discussed. B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator will investigate and advise.

A Communications Plan has been established and is included as part of the AWE / WRRP grant application which will be sent to PAC members. B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, will be meeting with the Brazeau County Corporate Communications Coordinator regarding advertising, website, etc. They will explore the potential to mail out advertisements with the tax notifications.

An open house will be planned for this summer. More details will follow.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS**

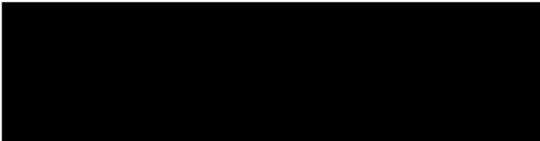
B. Misener, ALUS Coordinator, and Nancy Chambers, ALUS Program Assistant, discussed the Board Honoraria / Expense Claim Form and will provide current rates for mileage and per diem. A PAC contact list was reviewed and will be provided to PAC members accordingly.

In addition to the 2016 PAC meeting schedule that was adopted, it was identified that additional meetings will be set up as required. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 30, 2016 at 9am. A doodle poll will be distributed to confirm attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

005-16 Moved by S. Mahan, PAC Member that the Brazeau County ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee meeting of May 10, 2016 adjourn at 1:41 p.m.

CARRIED



Duane Movald
Chairperson



Nancy Chambers
Recording Secretary

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