

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 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER D. Movald, PAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE Duane Movald, Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Graham Kathol, Member-at-Large
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large
Lawrence Strocher, Member-at-Large
Cliff Whitelock, Member-at-Large
Shirley Mahan, Councillor
Kerri O’Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish
Benjamin Misener, ALUS Program Coordinator
Sean Allen, Agricultural Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

ABSENT Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Jessica Watson, West-Central Forage Association
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Jennifer Caudron, Cows & Fish

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE none

INTRODUCTIONS PAC Members and administration staff introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA B. Misener requested the following additions to the agenda:

- Handout titled *“How to Conserve Biodiversity on the Farm: Actions to Take on a Continuum from Simple to Complex”* – add after item #7
- Email titled *“Well water study recruitment”* dated February 14, 2017 – add after item #7
- Update for project 16E-007
- Update for project 16E-012

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA **001-17** Moved by S. Mahan to approve the agenda with additions.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

002-17 Moved by G. Kathol to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016 PAC meeting as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

003-17 Moved by S. Mahan to adopt the 2017 PAC meeting schedule as amended with the addition of March 30, 2017.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFFER UPDATE

B. Misener advised that Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director of the Land Stewardship Centre, was not able to attend to provide an update on the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFFER) and Mr. Ilnicki will be invited to attend the next PAC meeting on March 30, 2017

HOW TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY ON THE FARM

B. Misener reported that he attended a webinar on biodiversity and provided a handout from the webinar. Members discussed the Biodiversity Continuum Chart. A pdf copy of the document and a link to the website will be provided to the PAC members via email.

WATER WELL STUDY RECRUITMENT

B. Misener distributed an email regarding a water well study for the University of Calgary. Members are encouraged to participate in the online survey and submit comments. We will see if we can put a link to the survey on the County website. Members discussed the effects of oilfield drilling, and also abandoned wells on homestead sites.

March 16, 2017 is the date set for the next "Working Well" workshop hosted by Brazeau County. Pre-registration is required by contacting the County office.

ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES DISCUSSION

B. Misener and K. O'Shaughnessy discussed an email dated November 28, 2016 that was distributed to the PAC regarding Ecosystem Services. The email was provided as additional information regarding the values of the program.

The participant agreement is worded that if the carbon market opens up, ALUS would have the rights to the carbon market credits. However, the participant agreement can be terminated by the participant should they wish. Members discussed the scenario of an oilfield company wanting to drill in an area where an ALUS project currently is. The project area and participant agreement could be modified if required. If the agreement was terminated, establishment costs would have to be paid back at a pro-rated cost.

WQM

**UPDATE ON WORKSHOPS /
OPEN HOUSE EVENTS**

B. Misener discussed the November 8, 2016 event at Lindale Hall and the January 11, 2017 event at Whitby Hall. The November 8, 2016 event had several attendees. The January 11, 2017 event had only two residents attend and it was decided to cancel the event. The next event is scheduled for March 9, 2017 at Funnell Hall at 6pm. We asked Whitby Hall to refund the cleaning fee since the hall was not used for the whole evening as planned, but they did not provide a refund.

**DECLARATION OF
CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST**

B. Misener asked that if there are any conflicts of interest, that they be declared prior to each proposal.

PROJECT UPDATE

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing
FILE: 16E-005

B. Misener provided an update on the above application advising that Council decided not to allow for a gate across the undeveloped Township Road. The applicants have been contacted to advise that fencing will have to occur along the property boundaries.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing, Solar Waterer
FILE: 16E-006

D. Movald asked if there are any conflicts of interest. None were noted.
B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 28.2 acres (260 m), project #2 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 14.47 acres (907 m), and project #3 for a solar waterer.

Members discussed the wetland features shown on the aerial map. Members asked about the AWE grant and what was covered. It was determined that AWE would potentially cover establishment costs, labor and waterers. By the end of March or beginning of April we should hear from AWE on what their budgets may cover. They are optimistic there may still be some funding coming through, but it is uncertain how much. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to AWE to have them in the queue, should funding become available.

It was confirmed the applicant has farm status and it was also confirmed the solar water is portable. It was noted the provincial government will not reimburse for the GST amount. It is up to the PAC to determine if they want to pay the GST. Project #1 should read anticipated completion for fall of 2017, rather than 2016. The mulching

was for project #2 that has already been completed. Grazing will be done in consultation with Cows & Fish through the ALUS Program Coordinator, and monitoring assessments will be completed by Cows & Fish as necessary.

004-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve project #1 of 16E-006 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (26.12 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (2.08 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

005-17 Moved by L. Strocher to approve project #2 of 16E-006 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (10.12 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (4.35 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

006-17 Moved by G. Kathol to approve project #3 of 16E-006 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the solar waterer establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Wetland Exclusion Fencing

FILE: 16E-007

D. Movald asked if there are any conflicts of interest. G. Kathol left the room at 10:23 am.

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for participant 1 for riparian/wetland exclusion fencing on 2.05 acres (455 m), project #2 for participant 2 for riparian/wetland exclusion fencing on 12.83 acres (815 m), project #3 for participant 2 for riparian/wetland exclusion fencing on 5.9 acres (502 m), and project #4 for participant 2 for riparian/wetland exclusion fencing on 38.71 acres (461 m).

SDM

It was noted that project #1 is proposed for 2017, not 2016. The proposed budget was added as a handout addition to the agenda package.

It was also noted that project #3 was proposed at 27% of the quarter to be enrolled in the program, which is above the percentage that was approved in PAC motion 034-16 on August 24, 2016. The recommendation by Administration is for approval of the entire project at 27%. It is at the discretion of the PAC to approve a project over 20%. Variances are granted on a case by case basis and it was felt that this variance is warranted, based on the terrain and the fact that there is a major drainage pathway into Buck Lake Creek from the NE parcel. There is connectivity to the quarter to the East, which is a Crown grazing lease with Buck Lake Creek running through it. It was confirmed the participant agreement would be signed for the whole project rather than each individual project.

007-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve project #1 of 16E-007 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.65 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.4 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

008-17 Moved by H. Hughes to approve project #2 of 16E-007 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (9.58 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (3.25 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

009-17 Moved by S. Allen to approve project #3 of 16E-007 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (5.71 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.19 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WDM

010-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve project #4 of 16E-007 as presented with the variance to the allowable project acreage and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (37 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.71 acres).

IN FAVOUR

H. Hughes
S. Mahan
C. Whitelock
L. Strocher
K. O'Shaughnessy

OPPOSED

S. Allen

CARRIED

It was noted that Administration are not voting members and a new motion on project #3 of 16E-007 was presented.

011-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve project #3 of 16E-007 as presented with the variance to the allowable project acreage and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian and upland pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (5.71 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.19 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was called at 11:00 am.

G. Kathol returned to the meeting.

D. Movald called the meeting back to order at 11:12 am.

012-17 Moved by S. Mahan to add #16 to the agenda as a discussion on policies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Wetland Exclusion Fencing, Water Well and Solar Waterer

FILE: 16E-012

D. Movald asked if there are any conflicts of interest. None were noted. B. Misener referenced the handout provided for 16E-012, noting that the recommendations in the handout should be labeled as #2 & #3. B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for riparian/watercourse exclusion fencing on 17.09 acres (1529 m), project #2 for riparian/watercourse exclusion fencing on 7.61 acres (473 m), and project #3 for a water well and solar waterer.

Members discussed the fencing cap at \$7/meter. Members also discussed the possibility that the applicant can look for additional funding for solar projects. The water well is proposed to be the water source for the solar waterer.

Members discussed the contribution of the project to the environment and the cost of the water well and solar waterer relative to the herd size and agricultural production on the lands. It was noted that the participants are new producers looking to expand. It was also noted that the participants meet the requirement for farm status. The remainder of the quarter is being utilized for grazing pasture and paddocks with wintering sites are located near the yard site. It was noted that mulching was not shown in the budget and it was confirmed that the budget included mulching and it was capped at \$7/meter.

Grazing possibilities would be made in discussion with and on recommendation by Cows & Fish. The creek is seasonal and intermittent. A long term water management program is in place in order to apply through GF2. For cost efficiency, it was suggested to run a water line from the existing well near the house rather than drill a new well.

013-17 Moved by H. Hughes to table the project to the March meeting with a recommendation to approach the producer to run a pasture pipeline instead of drilling a new well.

IN FAVOUR

None

OPPOSED

G. Kathol

S. Mahan

C. Whitelock

L. Strocher

K. O'Shaughnessy

DEFEATED

SEM

Discussion ensued on project #1 and project #2 timelines and further discussion on the water well and wintering of cattle. It was suggested that another option for project #3 may be a shallow well and frost-free nose pump at a lesser cost than proposed.

014-17 Moved by K. O'Shaughnessy to table file 16E-012 in its entirety to the March 30, 2017 PAC meeting and provide the applicant with alternative watering options.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A lunch break was called at 12:08 pm and the meeting resumed at 12:45 p.m.

VIDEO

B. Misener provided a YouTube video titled "*ALUS: Stewards of the Land*", produced by Red Deer County, Parkland County and the County of Vermilion River, featuring local ALUS staff and ALUS participants.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Misener discussed the submission of Expense Claims after each meeting and PAC pre-approval required for expenses claimed for any events outside of regular PAC meetings.

POLICIES

B. Misener discussed the ALUS-1 Guiding Framework policy and required amendments to it. There was a motion in the August 24, 2016 meeting regarding a maximum enrollment of 20% per quarter. This is contrary to the ALUS-1 Guiding Framework policy which states 20% of titled and/or leased land managed by the producer. It was noted that the PAC is still able to vary this percentage if warranted. This statement should be revised in the policy to be consistent with the motion.

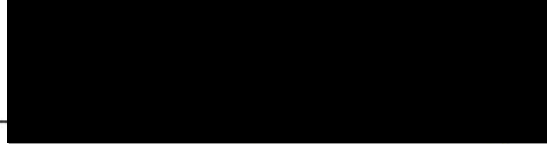
015-17 Moved by G. Kathol to put into the ALUS policy to allow 20% of the area of titled land within the quarter to be utilized by ALUS with the PAC's ability to vary it.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was noted by B. Misener that the rate sheet with fencing cap (Appendix A) of ALUS-1 Policy needs to go back to Council for approval. B. Misener will make the changes as required and present it to Council. If approved, a revised ALUS-1 policy will be provided to the PAC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.



Duane Movald
Chairperson



Nancy Chambers
Recording Secretary