

MINUTES OF THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES (ALUS) PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC), HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, POPLAR RIDGE MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER G. Kathol, PAC Alternate Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE Graham Kathol, Alternate Chairperson & 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
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Jessica Watson, West-Central Forage Association
Benjamin Misener, ALUS Program Coordinator
Martino Verhaeghe, Director of Planning & Development
Sean Allen, Agricultural Fieldman
Tara McGinn, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

ABSENT Duane Movald, Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Centre

INTRODUCTIONS PAC Members and administration staff introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- B. Misener requested the following addition to the agenda:
- Verbal update on the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Conservation, Community and Education (CCE) Grant application – to be added as item 6b.
 - Handout - Additional budget information for project 16E-008 – to be added with item 12.
- B. Ilnicki requested to add item 6c – Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network Workshop

ADOPTION OF THE

AGENDA

016-17 Moved by L. Strocher to approve the agenda with the additions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

017-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017 PAC meeting with the following changes:

- Motion 007-17 corrected to reflect project 16E-007
- Motion 008-17 corrected to reflect project 16E-007
- Motion 010-17 corrected to reflect project 16E-007

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

No changes were noted to the meeting schedule.

B. Misener discussed the result of the \$30,000 grant application to ACA, advising that Brazeau ALUS program was not successful in obtaining a grant this year.

B. Ilnicki discussed upcoming workshops on ecosystem services and biodiversity. He will forward the information to B. Misener to distribute to the PAC. Of particular interest to this group, there is an agricultural sector workshop to be held in Nisku in April 26, 2017.

INFFER UPDATE

Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director of the Land Stewardship Centre, presented a handout from the Land Stewardship Centre, along with a power point presentation, for discussion on the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFFER) system. The INFFER system compares the benefits to costs of projects to determine its value in the form of a benefit: cost ratio. Values may include environmental, social or economic factors. An online process generates the value as a number. A detailed benefit and expense analysis can be derived and ranking and prioritizing can then be done.

The goal is to ensure we get the best value for our program dollars. The analysis tool will help to determine the best way to spend funding dollars to achieve the desired outcomes of the group.

In the handout package was a series of questions to consider as a PAC. It was suggested that the PAC consider the questions individually and another session for INFFER can be scheduled to discuss as a group at a later date.

It was noted that the money for the INFFER program was received by Brazeau County through a provincial grant.

B. Ilnicki advised that the INFFER team from Australia (Natural Decisions) will be in Alberta sometime in July. Their websites are: www.naturaldecisions.com.au and www.inffer.org.

A break was called at 10:55am and the meeting resumed at 11:05am.

ALUS 1 POLICY

B. Misener discussed the revision to the ALUS 1 Policy as approved by Council on March 3, 2017 allowing for the PAC to update Appendix A for the annual payment schedule and establishment costs as required.

UPDATE ON WORKSHOPS / OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

B. Misener discussed the open house / workshop event held at the Funnell Hall on March 9, 2017. The turnout included four new residents.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

G. Kathol reminded PAC members that if there were any conflicts of interest they must be declared before proceeding to the discussion of the projects. None were noted.

FENCING CAP ISSUE

FILES: 16E-005 & 16E-006

B. Misener advised that the \$7 per meter cap for fencing was not adhered to for files 16E-005 and 16E-006 which were previously approved. Members asked what the dollar difference was on the two projects approved. Members asked that it be made clear to the two project holders that an error was made but since it was approved, the decision by the PAC stands. It was noted that fencing and mulching costs should be separated in costs per meter in the future.

018-17 Moved by S. Mahan that the projects be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

M. Shain was not in attendance for the vote.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

**PROPOSAL: Riparian/Watercourse Exclusion Fencing,
Riparian/Wetland Exclusion Fencing, Water Well, and Solar Waterer
FILE: 16E-012**

B. Misener presented the above application which was tabled from the February 16, 2017 meeting.

B. Misener will confirm that the fencing costs for projects #1 and #2 are capped at \$7 per meter.

M. Shain entered the meeting at 11:21 am.

B. Misener reviewed the original project #1 proposing 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.

B. Misener advised that the applicant stated in an email dated March 9, 2017 that they wished to continue forward with the original proposal for the water well for project #3.

Members discussed the fact that with such a small herd, this is a significant amount of money to potentially spend on the projects. Members discussed the contractual agreement that would be entered into with the landowner.

B. Misener offered to bring project #1 back with a further breakdown of budget.

019-17 Moved by S. Mahan to table project #1 for B. Misener to bring back budget amounts for the next meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

020-17 Moved by K. O'Shaughnessy to approve project #2 of 16E-012 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the exclusion fencing establishment costs and a 50% cost-share up to \$7 per meter on the 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 (4.34 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (3.27 acres).

IN FAVOUR:

K. O'Shaughnessy

L. Strocher

C. Whitelock

J. Watson

H. Hughes

G. Kathol

OPPOSED:

S. Mahan

ABSTAINED:

M. Shain

CARRIED

021-17 Moved by L. Strocher that project #3 of 16E-012 be refused.

IN FAVOUR:

L. Strocher
C. Whitelock
M. Shain
J. Watson
H. Hughes
G. Kathol

OPPOSED:

S. Mahan

ABSTAINED:

K. O'Shaughnessy

CARRIED

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing, Solar Waterer and Pipe, and Bridge

FILE: 16E-008

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 8.07 acres (1378.23 m), project #2 for a solar water and pipe, and project #3 for a bridge.

B. Misener handed out additional budget information received for project 16E-008.

Members discussed budget numbers and B. Misener advised the quotes were verbal and were not received from contractors or businesses. For project #2, it was identified that the applicant is asking for a variance of \$10 per meter, which is in excess of the ALUS 1 policy.

B. Misener advised that final receipts must be provided prior to payment. B. Misener asked if for new projects, the PAC would consider approval in principal, then the firm numbers would be obtained for the PAC to review again and approve or refuse. Members responded that they would prefer to see actual budget numbers up front.

Members asked if maximum caps should to be set for other items such as pumps. Members felt that caps would be difficult to set because of the variables. Members also discussed why two waterers are being requested in project #2.



Municipal, provincial and federal environmental permits and approvals would be the responsibility of the landowner prior to installation and prior to payment. This can be included in the motions for clarity.

022-17 Moved by L. Strocher to approve project #1 of 16E-008 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 up to a maximum of \$7 per meter 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 (7.8 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.27 acres).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

023-17 Moved by L. Strocher to approve project #2 of 16E-008 as presented up to a maximum of \$6000 and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of one solar waterer, one pump, two piping systems, and two troughs for establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

024-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve project #3 of 16E-008 as presented and submit the application to the AWE Grant for 100% coverage of the bridge establishment costs and a 50% cost-share of any remaining amount, and should any municipal, provincial or federal permits or adherence to legislation be required, they are the responsibility of the applicant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VIDEOS

Videos will be brought forward to the next meeting if time permits.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Misener discussed the submission of Expense Claims.

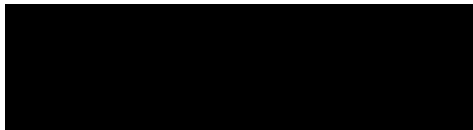
The next meeting will be scheduled for a full day on April 13, 2017. The PAC will discuss INFERR in more detail and a questionnaire will be distributed to the PAC in advance for their consideration and discussion at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

025-17 Moved by S. Mahan to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 pm.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Graham Kathol
Alternate Chairperson



Nancy Chambers
Recording Secretary