

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 WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER D. Movald, PAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE Duane Movald, Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Graham Kathol, Alternate Chairperson & Member-at-Large
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large
Cliff Whitelock, Member-at-Large
Shirley Mahan, Councillor
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Jessica Watson, West-Central Forage Association
Benjamin Misener, ALUS Program Coordinator
Martino Verhaeghe, Director of Planning & Development
Shannon Campbell, Recording Secretary

ABSENT Lawrence Strocher, Member-at-Large
Kerri O'Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish
Jennifer Caudron, Cows & Fish
Christine Campbell, Hub Manager (West)
Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

GUESTS Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Centre
Anna Roberts, Natural Decisions
Geoff Park, Natural Decisions

INTRODUCTIONS PAC Members and administration staff introduced themselves.

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

- Budget discussion was added as agenda item 6 (b); and
- Wildlife and Fences Pamphlet as agenda item 10 (a).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA 036-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve the agenda with the additions.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADOPTION OF THE
MINUTES**

037-17 Moved by H. Hughes to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2017 PAC meeting as presented.

IN FAVOUR

**S. MAHAN
H. HUGHES
D. MOVALD
C. WHITELOCK**

ABSTAINED

G. KATHOL

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

038-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve the revised meeting schedule by removing the June 8, 2017 and July 6, 2017 meeting dates and adding July 19, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

M. Verhaeghe advised that administration was beginning budget preparations for 2018, but needed to forecast for 2019 as well. Administration can ask council for an increase to ALUS funding in addition to whatever can be obtained from the province. Wanted to know how the PAC would like to see the financial model presented, either we have a set amount of money and work until it is gone OR we allocate an annual acreage amount for projects and when that ceiling is reached stop taking in applications.

M. Verhaeghe also asked if there were any other programs that will be presented to Council for the same type of initiative, such as Green Acreages. If so then some budget would be requested for that initiative, which may affect the funding for ALUS. Administration advised the PAC Members to keep in mind that the amount budgeted includes staffing costs. S. Mahan advised that this program is very important to Council and there are funds available. She would like to see both Modeste preservation and other projects brought forward. Administration cautioned relying on a third party for funding which will determine the success of our programs.

Discussion returned to the type of model to be used for the allotment of ALUS funds. M.E. Shain suggested the second option identifying the acreage amount provides the best support ecologically and additional funding can be obtained from other sources as required. She suggested a 5 year plan, looking for a certain number of acres by a certain date. It is also an easier sell to funding sources, to show a quantified longer term goal.

DM

Whichever model the PAC chooses there will still be a budget to work within, however Administration suggested we could look for additional funds if required. Some members asked if there were a certain number of acres each year, do we need to look at the viability of each project and rate them before they are approved? If we hit our acreage cap and there are really good projects proposed, we can always try to add them and reallocate resources to make them work.

Administration suggested holding off on a decision until the Green Acreages discussion is held as it may impact the budget discussions and allocation.

INFFER - WATER DATA SOURCES

B. Ilnicki, Executive Director of the Land Stewardship Centre, welcomed A. Roberts and G. Park to the meeting and gave a brief description of their presentation. The PowerPoint presentation was provided to Brazeau County and PAC members for information.

INFFER program model is based on the premise that at the outset it must be very clear about the specific goal of the program, and the projects within the program must be very clear about their objectives and how they fit into the overall goal. The program budget must be costed to the program goal, if you set the goal based on a limited budget, you may never reach your program goal. There is a specific equation that is used to determine the Benefit Cost Ratio, which must be used for each project to determine its benefit to the program as a whole. These projects are then ranked to assist with determining the allocation of the program budget.

D. Movald called a recess at 10:22 am.

D. Movald resumed the meeting at 10:40 am.

INFFER - GENERAL DISCUSSION

G. Park gave an example of how to apply INFFER to the Modeste Creek watershed area. Step one was to determine what the asset is and identify its values. PAC Members continued through the assessment with guidance and A. Roberts plugged the Modeste Creek information into the INFFER model. They will refine the data and provide the PAC with multiple costs and scenarios.

D. Movald recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:12 pm and C. Whitelock left the meeting.

D. Movald resumed the meeting at 12:46 pm.

Discussion on the INFFER model continued with analysis of the actions and projects to achieve the program.

039-17 Moved by S. Mahan to move agenda item 16 forward to after number 8.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

040-17 Moved by S. Mahan to move agenda item 15 to under 8 and then carry on with number 16.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DECLARATION OF
CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

D. Movald reminded PAC members if there were any conflicts of interest, they must be declared before proceeding to the discussion of the projects.

H. Hughes declared a conflict of interest and left the room at 3:23 pm.

**NEW PROJECT
PROPOSALS**

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing
FILE: 16E-009

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 10.07 ac (871 m) and project #2 riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 13.57 ac (1249.03 m).

041-17 Moved by S. Mahan to approve submitting 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 (9.18 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.89 acres) for Project 1, File 16E-009.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

042-17 Moved by G. Kathol to approve submitting 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 (12.88 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.69 acres) for Project 2, File 16E-009.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing
FILE: 16E-010

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #3 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 10.52 ac (1147.03 m) and project #4 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 26.2 ac (2442.31 m).

043-17 Moved by M.E. Shain to approve submitting 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 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (0.52 acres) for Project 3, File 16E-010.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

044-17 Moved by J. Watson to approve submitting 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 (23.93 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (2.27 acres) for Project 4, File 16E-010.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing
FILE: 16E-011

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #5 for riparian/creek exclusion fencing on 27.69 ac (835 m).

045-17 Moved by G. Kathol to approve submitting 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 (26.28 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.41 acres) for Project 5, File 16E-011.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



PROPOSAL: Water Wells and Solar Waterers
FILE: 16E-009, 16E-010, & 16E-011

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #6 for water wells and solar waterers.

Members discussed the viability of needing that many wells and solar waterers. Discussion also ensued on looking for alternative funding sources for drilling wells.

046-17 Moved by S. Mahan to table recommendation #6, until the project can be reviewed again with the applicant to determine the need for the number of water wells and solar waterers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Hughes reentered the room at 4:00 pm.

ALUS BUDGET SUMMARY

B. Misener presented the budget summary with the addition of the "Committed Funds" data.

PROVINCIAL STANDARDS FOR FENCING

B. Misener presented the fencing standards used by the local Provincial Grazing Reserves (PGR).

Discussion was held on if the PAC would like to have fencing standards. Discussion identified that in heavy wildlife corridors, producers could lower the top wire or clip it to the next one down and put a reflective item on it to make it more visible to wildlife. It was also suggested that producers should be required to use new materials for fencing, as old posts and wire would not last as long. Members discussed if fencing standards should be an addendum to the current ALUS-1 Policy or create a separate fencing standards policy, which would be used as a minimum standard.

047-17 Moved by S. Mahan to add an appendix to ALUS-1 Policy to include fencing standards as per provincial standards.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRODUCER IN-KIND LABOUR

B. Misener discussed producer in-kind labour costs and the costs specific to project 16E-012. Members discussed the cost of materials.

048-17 Moved by G. Kathol that fencing shall be \$7.00 per meter all in.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

049-17 Moved by S. Mahan to refuse costs for in-kind labour for file 16E-012.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROJECT UPDATES

B. Misener presented a report providing project updates on files 16E-005, 16E-006 and 16E-007.

PROPOSED VS ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

B. Misener discussed what variance authority the PAC would be willing to consider when actual establishment costs vary from the approved proposed establishment costs.

050-17 Moved by G. Kathol that projects that are over the project budget come back to the PAC for approval, if it is under budget it can be approved as is.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AWE GRANT APPLICATIONS

B. Misener discussed if a project is refused by the PAC do we want to direct them to the AWE Grant or if it is refused by the PAC should they be discouraged from submitting to the AWE Grant.

S. Campbell left the meeting at 4:32 pm and B. Misener assumed the role of recording secretary.

051-17 Moved by J. Watson that if the project meets its original intention as per the project description, that any overages can be submitted to the AWE grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

052-17 Moved by G. Kathol that if any projects are rejected by the PAC that they not be forwarded to the AWE grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GREEN ACREAGES OR SIMILAR PROGRAMS

D. Movald discussed the Green Acreages program as residents have approached him about other options for acreage owners.

Funding opportunities are limited and would be largely County dollars. Consider a three year program to determine whether there is interest from the public.

There will be additional resources and staffing that may be required but that will be considered as part of a budget process.

053-17 Moved by H. Hughes that the Green Acreages program be considered for the 2018 to 2020 budget year.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VIDEOS

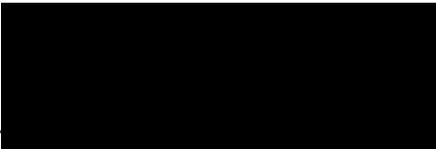
Saved for next meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS**

B. Misener discussed the submission of Expense Claims.

ADJOURNMENT

054-17 Moved by S. Mahan to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 pm.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Duane Movald
Chairperson



Shannon Campbell
Recording Secretary

SEM