

**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, APRIL 5, 2018.**

IN ATTENDANCE

Sara Wheale, Councillor
Graham Kathol, Member-at-Large
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large
Duane Movald, Member-at-Large
Allan Goddard, Member-at-Large
Laina Wentland, Member-at-Large
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Kerri O'Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish
Jessica Watson, West-Central Forage Association
Benjamin Misener, Manager of Land & Environment
Warren Noga, Acting Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

Via conference call:
Christine Campbell, ALUS Hub Manager (West)

ABSENT

Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

GUESTS

Brian Ilnicki, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Centre

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

none

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mary Ellen Shain entered the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Partnership Advisory Committee members, guests and
Administration introduced themselves.

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA**

B. Misener requested the addition of ALUS Canada Updates as
item 6b. Review & adoption of 2018 PAC meeting schedule
would be item 6a.

**ADOPTION OF THE
AGENDA**

001-18 Moved by A. Goddard to approve the agenda with the
addition of ALUS Canada updates.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADOPTION OF THE
MINUTES**

002-18 Moved by G. Kathol to adopt the minutes of the December 21, 2017 ALUS PAC meeting as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

003-18 Moved by H. Hughes to adopt the 2018 PAC meeting schedule as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALUS CANADA UPDATES

C. Campbell shared a presentation via uberconference. A review of ALUS programs throughout the Country and the Province was provided. Approximately 19,000 acres are currently enrolled throughout Canada. Alberta contributed almost 10,000 of those acres with Brazeau County contributing 204.94 acres. C. Campbell reviewed the long range goals for ALUS Canada including enrolling acres, fundraising, communications, infrastructure, markets, and policy development.

A change to the Participant Agreement was made to ensure the projects are established by a certain date in order to secure and allocate funding. A Letter of Intent has also been created to address work being done up front prior to the contract being entered into.

On May 15 & 16, 2018 ALUS co-ordinators will get together in Flagstaff County. PAC members are welcome to attend.

It was suggested to enter into longer contracts, and then we don't have to try to secure renewal funds, which are not guaranteed. It was suggested that grant applications support renewals as well as new projects.

Members asked if we should be focusing on more infrastructure projects rather than exclusion fencing.

**INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES (INFFER)**

B. Ilnicki provided an INFFER update on the "Modeste Creek Project".

To recap, INFFER is a framework to assist decision making about investment in the environment and natural resources. It is based on a benefit:cost analysis. INFFER will help to determine how to get value for available budget money.



The Brazeau County PAC INFFER assessment focused on reducing impacts on water quality within the Modeste Creek and associated tributaries within Brazeau County. Water quality data was limited. Goals were reframed to look at water quality impacts through surrogate mediums such as riparian health.

NSWA can potentially present at the next PAC meeting to demonstrate riparian intact areas vs impacted areas.

Key threats were identified by the PAC, along with ranking and % of overall threat. Goals were identified on a 20-year planning horizon. The impact of the project estimated the current condition of the creek and an estimate on continued decline if no action was taken vs improvement if action is taken.

A Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) was determined for each scenario. If the BCR is at one, the benefit-cost ratio is equal. If the BCR is less than one, the cost is greater than the benefit and if more than one, the benefit is greater than the cost.

B. Misener left the meeting at 10:42 a.m. and returned at 10:47 a.m.

Clarification was provided that this assessment is not particularly about ALUS, but rather about environmental programming in Brazeau County.

The draft *Modeste Creek Project* report was provided to B. Misener and the final report will be available to B. Misener within a few weeks. It will be circulated to the PAC by B. Misener and then to Council after the PAC has time to review and comment.

004-18 Moved by S. Wheale to accept the report for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Movald called for a break at 11:23 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:28 a.m.

B. Ilnicki and M.E. Shain left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

LABOUR RATE CAP

B. Misener requested this item be tabled to the June 7, 2018 meeting.

005-18 Moved by S. Wheale to table Labour Rate Cap until the June 7, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TIME FRAME FOR ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS

B. Misener discussed how long an applicant has to initiate a project or enter into a contract once the PAC approves a project. B. Misener recommended that if the contract has not been entered into within one year after PAC approval, the project is closed and the applicant must re-apply. C. Campbell suggested the same field season in order to spend grant funds. However, if County funds are available, one year may be acceptable.

M.E. Shain returned at 11:34 a.m.

S. Wheale suggested within the field season due to impact with Council budget deliberations.

B. Misener suggested he would come up with some wording to bring back to the PAC for discussion and approval for the June 7, 2018 PAC meeting. B. Misener suggested he would like to have this written into the ALUS-1 Policy.

A definition of "field season" may be required.

Annual payments are distributed on November 30 of each year after the project has been started. Establishment costs are distributed once receipts are provided and the work is completed.

006-18 Moved by L. Wentland for an interim agreement to be drafted by B. Misener to be brought back for the June 7, 2018 meeting for review by the PAC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

007-18 Moved by L. Wentland for policy wording to be drafted by B. Misener to be brought back for review by the PAC at the June 7, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

008-18 Moved by K. O'Shaughnessy to bring forward item 12a for discussion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DECLARATION OF
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

D. Movald reminded PAC members if there are any conflicts of interest, they must be declared before proceeding to the discussion of the projects. No conflicts of interest were noted.

PROJECTS

**12 a) PROPOSAL: Riparian/Creek Exclusion Fencing and
Portable Solar Waterer
FILE: 18E-001**

B. Misener presented the above application proposing project #1 for fencing on 23.55 acres (1836 m), and project #2 for a portable solar waterer.

B. Misener clarified the unnamed seasonal creek in the project area flows into Buck Lake Creek, rather than Buck Lake. The proposed waterer is portable to be moved as required. Existing fence is shown in dark red on the map, while the new fencing is shown in bright red.

The cost estimate for the solar waterer may be high. If it is lower, the amount will be adjusted as necessary.

The AWE grant is complete so no funds are available to supplement funding.

The current grazing practice is to allow the cattle to graze throughout the parcel; however the participant noted calves were getting stuck in the low areas, so total exclusion is requested. J. Watson advised the Canadian Agricultural Program (CAP) funding is open for off-site waterers. Funding is contingent on an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) completed within the last 10 years. Applicants can contact J. Watson to complete and EFP on a one-on-one basis.

It was noted that wildlife-friendly fencing was discussed with the producer.

Members asked if the possibility of a water line from the existing well could be utilized. Due to the terrain, this is not feasible. The producer also requested a portable waterer.

The pump may be needed to be upsized based on the contours of the draw zone.

Confirmation the area was being used for grazing was provided based on B. Misener's field inspection observations and discussions with the producer.

009-18 Moved by G. Kathol to approve a 50% cost-share for the exclusion fencing establishment costs as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (22.27 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.28 acres) for Project 1, File 18E-001.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

010-18 Moved by L. Wentland to approve a 50% cost-share for the solar waterer establishment costs for Project 2, File 18E-001.

H. Hughes offered a friendly amendment to L. Wentland's motion to add "subject to CAP funding". L. Wentland refused the friendly amendment.

Voting ensued on the original motion 010-18.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

S. Wheale left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

RIPARIAN HEALTH REPORTS

K. O'Shaughnessy presented a sample Riparian Health Summary Report and reviewed the parameters and scores. Green represents the highest (healthy) score. Yellow is healthy, but with problems. Red is unhealthy. A total overall rating is also provided. The producer's score would be compared to the Provincial average. General management guidelines are provided based on the scores. Basic riparian management strategies are suggested. Aerial imagery and benchmark photography are also provided. Additionally, plant lists and canopy cover are also identified. The producer will receive a copy of the report, as will the PAC.

Re-assessments are recommended in five years, which coincides with the end of the 5-year ALUS Participant Contracts. Contract renewals can be discussed once the 5-year assessment is completed.

The ALUS Coordinator should also be doing assessments on a yearly basis.

Municipal funds are being used for assessments. Last year, we had budget for five sites.

011-18 Moved by A. Goddard to accept the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROJECTS

12 b) PROJECT UPDATES

B. Misener provided a verbal update on projects. 17E-004 approved by the PAC on December 21, 2017 is in the process of being signed. It was noted that today's project (18E-001) is a repeat participant.

BUDGET

B. Misener reviewed the budget summary, including revenue, expenses, committed funds for approved projects, and funding provided to participants through other grants.

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) grant of \$15,000 was not granted to the County for ALUS programs, however the County did receive funding for a dock via the Parks and Recreation department from ACA. Feedback was provided to be utilized for re-applying next year.

Weston funds of \$26,000 was confirmed for 2018. ALUS Canada continues to search for additional funding.

The 2018 funds of \$5600 & \$5000 noted in 2018 are funds for 2017 but received in 2018 so they are shown as 2018 funds. We pay \$5000 to ALUS Canada each year for their support (code 214).

012-18 Moved by J. Watson to accept the budget summary as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

B. Misener discussed the "Beavers in our Landscape" workshop which was held at the County office on March 22. Twenty seven members of the public were in attendance. Cows & Fish presented the workshop and the feedback was positive.

B. Misener discussed the AWES Facilitative Education Workshop (in conjunction with Cows & Fish) – Riparian Forest Enhancement & Restoration Project to be potentially held on July 19 & 20, 2018 in Brazeau County. Participants will be given tools and

education to begin to draft their own Management Plans. The workshop will include classroom and field time at an ALUS project site.

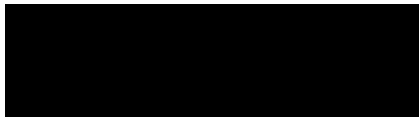
D. Movald discussed the County Eco-Fair scheduled for June 23, 2018. D. Movald asked if ALUS had promotional material and or a booth to have at the Eco-Fair. B. Misener advised he could provide ALUS information, and suggested combining with NSWA, Cows & Fish and West-Central Forage Association. B. Misener will look into this further.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS**

D. Movald reminded members to submit their Expense Claims at the conclusion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

013-18 Moved by M.E. Shain to adjourn at 12:48 p.m.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Duane Movald
Chairperson



Nancy Chambers
Recording Secretary