

**MINUTES OF THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES (ALUS) PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC), HELD IN THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020.**

**CALL TO ORDER** D. Movald, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Duane Movald, Chairperson & Member-at-Large  
Henry Hughes, Member-at-Large  
Allan Goddard, Member-at-Large  
Lois Gerwien, Member-at-Large  
Art Goerzen, Member-at-Large  
Jessica Watson, West-Central Forage Association (via conference call)  
Tonya Lwiwski, Cows & Fish (via conference call)  
Corbyn Pankonin, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman / ALUS Coordinator  
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT** Dawnia McCann, Manager of Agricultural Services  
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance  
Candace Vanin, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Kara Westerlund, Councillor  
Christine Campbell, ALUS Canada Western Hub Manager

**GUESTS** None

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE** None

**INTRODUCTIONS** No introductions were needed.

**ADDITIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**029-20** Moved by H. Hughes to adopt the agenda with the following changes:  
▪ Remove 10b) 20E-003  
▪ Move 20E-004 to 10b)  
▪ Move 20E-006 to 10c)  
▪ Add 10d) 20E-005  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

M.E. Shain joined the video conference at 9:07 a.m.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**030-20** Moved by A. Goddard to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2020, ALUS PAC meeting as presented.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**BUSINESS ARISING** none

**ALUS BRAZEAU  
UPDATE**

**Video Series Update**

C. Pankonin met with a photographer/videographer who is willing to work with us to create a video mini-series. Video footage will be gathered throughout the summer and fall and completion of the videos will be done through the winter, ready for release in the spring. A short video clip was played to show some of the footage he has already captured.

**Revised Parameters for RBC Funding**

C. Pankonin explained the RBC funding parameters have been revised for the \$1700 we are expected to receive. Provided we hold one or more outreach activities, we may use \$700 for unrestricted administrative costs and \$1000 toward outreach activities, including projects. Previously, the \$1000 was to be directed to outreach activities only.

**ALUS BY THE  
NUMBERS**

C. Pankonin presented the ALUS by the Numbers report.

C. Campbell joined the video conference at 9:19 a.m.

**031-20** Moved by A. Goerzen to receive the ALUS by the Numbers report for information.

**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.

A. Goerzen declared a conflict of interest for file 20E-001 and left the room at 9:22 a.m.

**PROJECT  
PROPOSALS**

**a) File: 20E-001**

C. Pankonin presented file 20E-001 proposing project #1 for tree planting on approximately 17.23 acres, project #2 for solar waterers and riparian fencing on approximately 0.77 acres, and project #3 for wildlife habitat creation on approximately 10.83 acres.

K. Westerlund joined the call at 9:29 a.m.

The Public Works department confirmed there is no conflict with potential road widening along the southern boundary of the parcel for project #1. Project #2 is on Crown Land and discussion with the Rangeland Agrologist for

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry indicated they are in favour of exclusion fencing and the approval of a Range Improvement Form would be required.

Members confirmed the fencing is already in place so no funds are required for fencing costs, other than the proposed electric fencing around the beaver pond. The totals for project 3 on page 13 should read \$650, with the ALUS portion being \$325.

Members asked about the timing of keeping cattle out of the area where the trees will be planted. The ALUS Coordinator will consult with the landowner to determine when the trees are adequately established and cattle can return to the area.

Members asked about comparable pricing for solar waterers in other projects and asked if the reason for the pricing difference is the portability of the system, the lift power, or perhaps the hoses.

Under the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program with Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), there is funding available for offsite watering systems on a natural waterbody, but not a dugout, and provided they have a valid Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). However, funding is very near the end of its period.

Planting of willows will also help with bank stabilization. Pollinator habitat can also occur with additional species added to the area.

**032-20** Moved by L. Gerwien that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the tree planting costs as well as the annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (15.80 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.43 acres) for Project 1, File 20E-001, providing there are no conflicts with the caveat.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Members asked about ownership of the solar waterer once the grazing lease and ALUS agreement is over. Typically, the contract would be offered for renewal and continuation of the waterer would be used for the project. The ownership of the solar waterer would remain with the participant at the end of the five year period, the same as any other establishment materials such as fencing, for example.

**033-20** Moved by A. Goddard that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the solar waterer and fencing as well as the annual payment at the wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland contained within the fence (0.77 acres) for Project 2, File 20E-001, subject to provincial approval.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**034-20** Moved by H. Hughes that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the bird and bat houses, as well as annual payment at the existing wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the area contained within the forested wetland area (10.83 acres) for Project 3, File 20E-001.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A. Goerzen returned to the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

**b) File: 20E-004**

C. Pankonin presented file 20E-004 proposing project #1 for exclusion fencing on approximately 24.67 acres and project #2 for two solar waterers.

An additional quote of \$3000 for digging and backfilling of the lines from the dugout to the solar waterer was received from the participant yesterday, so this quote is requested to be added to the budget presented.

It was confirmed that two separate herds are kept in each quarter so two solar watering systems are required.

Members noted that if the fenced area can be wider, that would help to capture more of the total riparian zone. Members asked if the participants would be willing to have a riparian assessment done next year to help establish the riparian boundary. The participants are hoping to get the fencing done this season.

**035-20** Moved by L. Gerwien that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the fencing costs as well as the annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (23.17 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (1.5 acres) for Project 1, File 20E-004.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Members discussed CAP funding. A Long Term Water Management Plan (LTWMP) is required to access CAP funding for watering systems on dugouts. It is not known if these participants have a LTWMP yet.

**036-20** Moved by A. Goddard that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the two solar waterers and a 50% cost-share for the trenching and site prep costs for Project 2, File 20E-004.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. Movald, Chairperson called for a break at 10:40 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.

**c) File: 20E-006**

C. Pankonin presented file 20E-006 proposing project #1 for exclusion fencing on approximately 31.4 acres and project #2 for tree planting.

Members confirmed a typo on page 45 and should indicate the producer meets all 3 criteria. Consultation with the Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society of Alberta (AWES) can be done if required for the tree planting project. Natural re-growth of aspen will likely occur. However, planted spruce trees will provide windbreak.

**037-20** Moved by A. Goerzen that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the exclusion fencing establishment costs, as well as annual payment at the existing forest rate of \$15.00 per acre for the area contained within the exclusion area (31.4 acres) for Project 1, File 20E-006.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**038-20** Moved by J. Watson that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the tree planting costs for Project 2, File 20E-006.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**d) File: 20E-005**

C. Pankonin presented file 20E-005 proposing project #1 for exclusion fencing on approximately 69.38 acres and project #2 for pollinator habitat on approximately 2.79 acres.

Members asked if wildlife friendly fencing can be done by putting the wire lower near game trails, or using a smooth top wire. Gates left open in the winter can also allow for movement of game through fields where cattle are not wintered.

Members noted the cost estimate for fencing materials is quite low due to the nature of some of fencing just requiring upgrades rather than completely new fence.

**039-20** Moved by T. Lwiwski that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the fencing and refurbishing costs including labour, as well as the annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 per acre for the riparian pasture area contained within the exclusion fencing (67.08 acres), and annual payment at the existing permanent wetland rate of \$20 per acre for the wetland area contained within the exclusion fencing (2.3 acres) for Project 1, File 20E-005.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Members discussed the low area north of the planting site, where the County removed some soil to use for road construction. The topsoil has been removed and clay remains. Due to a current weed problem in that area, establishment of wildflowers may not work well. However, spruce seeds in bare clay should likely establish. Members discussed using the area as a test plot for shrubs or grasses. A buffer of shrubs closer to the road might protect the rest of the area, and then wildflowers closer to the fields might work. Consultation with AWES might be beneficial to determine what species might work and what site prep might be required.

**040-20** Moved by H. Hughes to table Project 2, File 20E-005 to the next available meeting to gather further information and insight from other sources and the producer.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PROJECT UPDATES**

C. Pankonin reviewed the project updates for files 19E-001, 19E-002, 19E-003, 19E-004, 19E-005, 19E-007 and 20E-002. A typo on page 55 indicated project 20E-001, but should read as 20E-002. Members asked about the protocol for touching base with participants with pending projects. C. Pankonin advised that emails and phone calls are made to encourage participants and remind them of deadlines.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

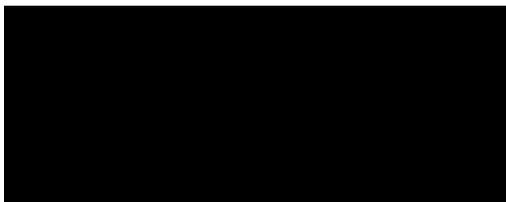
**a) 2020 ALUS PAC Meeting Schedule**

A doodle poll will be distributed to determine a September meeting date.

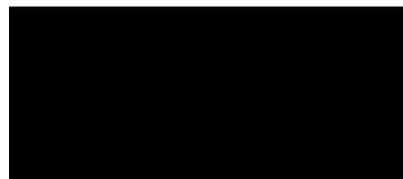
**ADJOURNMENT**

**041-20** Moved by H. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



Duane Movald  
Chairperson



Corbyn Pankonin  
ALUS Coordinator