

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 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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
Kerri O’Shaughnessy, Cows & Fish (via conference call)
Mary Ellen Shain, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (via conference call)
Candace Vanin, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (via conference call)
Christine Campbell, ALUS Canada Western Hub Manager (via conference call)
Corbyn Pankonin, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman / ALUS Coordinator
Dawnia McCann, Manager of Agricultural Services
Nancy Chambers, Recording Secretary

ABSENT Kara Westerlund, Councillor
Tonya Lwiwski, Cows & Fish

GUESTS Liz Pollock, Adaptation and Resilience Training Project Intern

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE None

INTRODUCTIONS Members and administration introduced themselves.

D. McCann left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

ADDITIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA **042-20** Moved by J. Watson to adopt the agenda with the following addition:
▪ 6a) Supply Discussion
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES **043-20** Moved by H. Hughes to adopt the minutes of the August 6, 2020, ALUS PAC meeting as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

Supply Discussion

Members noted difficulty in purchasing seven-foot fence posts due to lack of supply. Members are unsure of the reason, but it is perhaps due to production issues at mills or due to higher demand. Plastic posts are another option, but very expensive. Sucker rods are also an option for some areas.

ALUS CANADA UPDATE

ALUS Canada Update

C. Campbell provided a power point presentation with updates from ALUS Canada. Discussions included: the loss of a Parkland PAC member, new PAC Liaison, outreach videos, staffing, grants, handout information, grant deliverables, acre targets, and PAC training sessions.

Members asked about renewals and audits and if there are any specific steps that need to take place. It is a good time to talk with the producers and do extra monitoring to gauge interest in renewing projects. Independent third-party verifications will also take place to ensure we are paying for the appropriate areas. A new database system is in place for administration to track projects.

ALUS BRAZEAU UPDATE

Incentives for Signing Agreements and Completing Projects

C. Pankonin discussed a proposal to provide a 60/40 split for establishment costs with ALUS paying 60% of establishments costs for producers who sign their ALUS participant agreement within one month of PAC approval.

Members discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, mainly budget impacts. Incentives for putting the project in the ground within a certain time frame (eg. three months) would also be advantageous. Some members felt that deadlines may be more of an incentive than an extra 10% in funding. Another suggestion was incentives for completion, with an early completion bonus, or an up front progress payment to help kick start the project. Another suggestion is an application fee, with the fee being refunded or put toward the project costs upon completion.

In Ontario, ALUS program coordinators arrange for contractors, so that alleviates some of the time-related pressure off the producers.

Members discussed providing additional support to existing producers and potential applicants to assist them with the timing of projects. In particular, getting a good feel for how long it will take to complete the project, accurate budget information, and likelihood of completion. A farmer liaison role may help with this.

044-20 Moved by A. Goddard to receive the discussion for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ALUS BY THE
NUMBERS**

C. Pankonin presented the ALUS by the Numbers report. The target for 2020 is 200 acres.

045-20 Moved by K. O’Shaughnessy to receive the ALUS by the Numbers report for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Movald called for a break at 10:50 a.m. and C. Campbell left the meeting.

D. Movald called the meeting back to order at 11:01 a.m.

**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 declared.

**PROJECT
PROPOSALS**

a) File: 20E-005

C. Pankonin presented project #2 for file 20E-005 which was tabled from the August 6, 2020 meeting. Project #2 is for the creation of pollinator habitat on approximately 2.79 acres. C. Pankonin explained this site would make a good demonstration site. Tree planting would ideally take place in the spring, but could be ordered in about November. Members discussed the tree size, tree planting costs, soil conditions, site prep timing and costs, as well as maintenance and care. Site prep would be best in the fall or winter, with planting to take place in the spring.

Members discussed the quote for the labour costs and recognized additional labour costs for site prep will likely be required.

C. Pankonin will discuss recommendations from the PAC to plant in the spring; however the participant will have the discretion to plant when they feel they will have success.

046-20

Moved by A. Goddard that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the native flowers and shrubs with a recommendation for the participants to plant in the spring but to use the participant's discretion for timing, with a maximum of 50% of \$4198.50 payable to the producer, as well as annual payment at the pasture rate of \$37.50 contained within the fence (2.79 acres) for Project 2, File 20E-005.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) File: 20E-006

Projects 1 and 2 of File 20E-006 were approved by the PAC on August 6, 2020. The participant has asked for an additional component to be added. C. Pankonin presented file 20E-006 proposing project #3 for windbreak fencing of approximately 48 m to protect the newly developing trees and also act as a windbreak for the cattle.

C. Pankonin advised "livestock shelter" is a project type in the ALUS database, so it is a project recognized by ALUS. Members discussed the length of time the windbreak fencing would be required, which would be until the trees are established enough to provide protection. Members discussed the practicality of the panels, given there are existing trees in proximity. Members discussed moving the portable windbreak to run along the north/south fenceline that will be installed.

M.E. Shain advised Bucklake Creek is doing well in terms of intactness, so if we wanted to prioritize projects based on health of waterways, this project would not be a high priority.

By moving the windbreak away from the planted trees, it would move cattle away from the tree site so there would not be a nutrition overload.

Members asked if the proposal could go back to the participant to discuss the purpose, location and number of windbreaks.

047-20

Moved by J. Watson that the PAC approve a 50% cost-share for the windbreak fence costs for Project 3, File 20E-006.

A. Goerzen offered a friendly amendment to table Project 3 for File 20E-006.

J. Watson accepted the friendly amendment.

Members voted on the amended motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROJECT UPDATES

C. Pankonin reviewed the project updates for files 19E-001, 19E-003, 19E-004, 19E-005, 19E-007, 20E-001, 20E-002, 20E-004, 20E-005 and 20E-006.

048-20 Moved by K. O’Shaughnessy to accept for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS**

a) 2020 ALUS PAC Meeting Schedule

049-20 Moved by C. Vanin to approve the 2020 ALUS PAC Meeting Schedule.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

050-20 Moved by L. Gerwien to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Duane Movald
Chairperson

Corbyn Pankonin
ALUS Coordinator