



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)

Session #3 – MINUTES

August 26-28, 2014

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta



Session Objectives:

1. Identify approaches to be used to better integrate industrial access management
2. Recommend opportunities to improve the way working landscapes are managed to maintain ecosystem function and biodiversity
3. Develop strategies to minimize human footprint and fragmentation of landscapes
4. Provide advice on approaches to be used to improve the timely and progressive reclamation of disturbed lands
5. Identify potential new conservation areas to support biodiversity, specifically those that are managed to protect sensitive habitats and maintain ecological systems and processes

Attendance:

<p>RAC Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Boje (Chair) • Patrick Alexander • Cecil Anderson • Tim Burton • Nicholas Gafuik • Leslie Gammie • Rob Gibb • Ed Gibbons • Arnold Hanson • Lorne Hindbo • Tim Hofstra (<i>Days 2 & 3</i>) • Charles Newell (<i>Days 1 & 2</i>) • Ed Parke • Robert Phillips • Neal Sarnecki (<i>Days 2 & 3</i>) • Tracy Scott (<i>Days 1-2 & 3-am</i>) • Stephen Stanley • Peter Vana (<i>Days 2 & 3</i>) • Liv Vors • Robert Winship • Allen Wright • Marla Zapach 	<p>Government of Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal Damer (Land Use Secretariat - LUS) • Niki Atwal (Energy) • Jason Cathcart (Agriculture and Rural Development - ARD) • Cara Gill (Tourism, Parks and Recreation - TPR) • Tracy Howlett (Aboriginal Engagement and Planning – Environment & Sustainable Resource Development - ESRD) (<i>Days 2 & 3</i>) • Don Livingston (ESRD) • Scott Milligan (Environment & Sustainable Resource Development - ESRD) • Chris Spytz (Tourism, Parks and Recreation – TPR) • Joannes Wong (Municipal Affairs) <p>Consulting Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate Consulting <p>RAC Members Absent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stan Delorme • Cecil Janvier • Doug King • David Taylor • Leonard Wade
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Agenda Items:

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	
3.1 FORMAL WELCOME	Wendy Boje, RAC Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RAC Chair formally opened the third RAC Session.• RAC reviewed the Minutes from the second session.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Call for vote to accept the Minutes from the meeting held August 12-14 in Drayton Valley, Alberta</i>– <i>Passed</i>• RAC reviewed the Notes from the second session.• RAC reviewed the initial draft advice from the second session for the RAC Recommendations Report.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>RAC provided feedback and supplemental perspectives to be considered when RAC reviews the full Recommendations Report in the sixth session.</i>	
3.2 SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE REGION	Scott Milligan, ESRD; Elevate
<p>ESRD presented on <u><i>Supporting Biodiversity Across the Region</i></u>, which included an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Context description and current state of biodiversity in the North Saskatchewan Region– Land-use impacts on biodiversity– Policy and planning context– Biodiversity outcome the Government of Alberta is trying to achieve for the region– Biodiversity Management Framework– Biodiversity Management on Crown land	
3.3 RAC ADVICE ON SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE REGION	RAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through a facilitated discussion, RAC reviewed the eight Government of Alberta land management approaches and tools to address biodiversity on Crown lands in the region. RAC provided a number of considerations on the approaches and suggested new approaches. In RAC's deliberation, RAC considered the Government of Alberta criteria for selecting the approaches, the recommendations criteria, options, and implications of the approaches. RAC prioritized the approaches the Government of Alberta should focus their efforts, resources and funding to support biodiversity across the North Saskatchewan region.	



Wednesday, August 27, 2014 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	
3.4 RAC ADVICE ON SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE REGION (continued...)	RAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAC achieved full consensus on the recommendations for the Government of Alberta to address biodiversity on Crown Lands in the North Saskatchewan region.	
3.5 FIRST NATIONS LUNCH WITH RAC MEMBERS	RAC; LIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAC and LIT members attended a lunch at the Lou Soppit Community Centre with the Land Use Secretariat and First Nations. The lunch provided an opportunity for sharing of perspectives and learnings from an Aboriginal Peoples perspective.	
3.6 ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION NETWORK	Scott Milligan, ESRD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESRD presented on <i>Enhancing the Conservation Network</i>, which included an overview of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Context setting and current state of conservation areas in the North Saskatchewan Region– Existing policies and approach	

Thursday, August 28, 2014 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	
3.7 ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION NETWORK (continued...)	Scott Milligan, ESRD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESRD continued the presentation from the previous day on <i>Enhancing the Conservation Network</i> and presented RAC with 34 potential new conservation areas for consideration and voting.• Presentation topics included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Context setting and current state of conservation areas in the North Saskatchewan Region	



- Existing policies and approach
- Opportunities and challenges
- Criteria and considerations for conservation areas
- Three approaches that included a number of potential new conservation areas were presented for RAC to consider and vote on.

3.8 RAC ADVICE ON ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION NETWORK

RAC

- RAC considered the criteria used by the Government of Alberta to identify the new and enhanced conservation areas and also considered the recommendations criteria as RAC went through their deliberations.
- RAC reached full consensus on 24 out of 34 new conservation areas presented by the Government of Alberta. RAC provided additional considerations, insights, and contrasting perspectives on the remaining 10 recommended conservation areas and the overall layout of the new conservation areas.

3.9 CLOSING OF SESSION #3

Wendy Boje, RAC Chair

- RAC was provided the Agenda, Primers and Backgrounders for Meeting #4 in Banff which are to be reviewed prior to the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned by the Chair.
- Next Session – September 9-11 in Banff.