



Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes – Meeting #5

Date: July 8-9, 2009

Place/Time Lakeland Inn, 5411 – 55 Street (Hwy. 28), Cold Lake, AB.

Next Meeting: August 4-6, 2009

Radisson Hotel, Fort McMurray, AB.; Fort Chipewyan, AB.

Attendees:

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members:

Lanny Coulson, Roy Vermillion, Hildy Hanson, Heather Kennedy, Clarence Makowecki, Doug Parrish, Rick Pawluk, Cecilia Quist, Glen Semenchuk, Dave Theriault, Howard Ewashko, Marc Stevenson, Melissa Blake, Don Pope, Archie Collins

Regional Planning Team:

Morris Seiferling, Simon O'Byrne, Bonnie McInnis, Terry Koch, John Steil, Randy Hills, Scott Milligan, Selena Cole, John Zylstra, Randall Barrett, Bob Nichol, Ken MacDonald, Mel Miller, Jennifer McGill

Introduction

The Chair, Heather Kennedy, called the meeting to order, introduced the agenda and requested acceptance of the June meeting minutes.

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss:

- Finalize RAC's preferred Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) Vision and Outcomes.
- Make recommendations to Regional Planning Team (RPT) on the preferred LARP Objectives.
- Finalize RAC's recommendations to RPT and Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on the Conservation map and strategies.
- Finalize RAC's opinions on the Base Case model.
- Make recommendations to RPT on social considerations pertaining to population growth, labour requirements and Aboriginal communities.

LARP Report Update

- Members were advised the terms of reference were awaiting Caucus approval (Tuesday July, 21) prior to public release.
- Heather Kennedy to provide LARP progress update to MWG.
- The Draft Table of Contents will hereafter be referred to as the Draft Plan



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(confidential) and will be updated and populated on a weekly basis and posted to the Sharepoint site.

- RAC discussed a letter from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation requesting the RAC cease discussions until an Aboriginal Consultation process has been initiated. RAC agreed to continue their deliberations.
- The revised project schedule was couriered to Members prior to the July RAC meeting.

Aboriginal Consultation Plan

- Hard copies of the Aboriginal Consultation Plan were distributed to Members and presented by Morris Seiferling. Digital copy to be posted to the Sharepoint site.
- Members were advised that a letter from the Government of Alberta (GOA) was sent to the First Nations confirming that participation on RAC is not considered to be consultation.
- GOA has committed to writing a letter to the First Nations that will be sent at the time of the terms of reference public release.
- Link to federal report provided by Lanny Coulson: [Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation - Interim Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Legal Duty to Consult \(February 2008\)](#)

LARP Vision and Outcomes

- The Draft Vision and Outcomes were further revised by Members and edited in real time. As agreed by Members, the Vision and Outcomes were now deemed to be complete. A copy of the Final Vision and Outcomes is on the Sharepoint site.

LARP Objectives

- RAC members reviewed the Objectives prepared by RPT and were asked to refine and revise the Objectives and consider trade-offs that may need to be made in order to achieve the Outcomes. The revised Objectives are now reflected in the Draft Plan available on the Sharepoint site.



(For reference purposes, all power point presentations can be found in the RAC meeting #5 folder on the Sharepoint site)

Responsible Actions: A Plan for Alberta's Oil Sands

- This strategy coincides with Strategy 7 in the Land-use Framework.
- The content portion has been completed and is being edited.
- Next Steps: Implementation of the Plan.

Social Considerations Workshop

- RAC members discussed concerns in each of the municipalities.

Conservation of Lands

- The land areas were further analysed from three perspectives: Low Economic Impact, Maximum Biodiversity and 'Best Fit.' (Supporting materials were supplied at the meeting and are also posted to the Sharepoint site.)
- RAC wanted future analysis to be broken into two tasks: 1) 20% and 2) 20% plus.

Business As Usual Model Conclusions

- Pace of development is not as important as how development occurs on the landscape.
- Capacity of existing projects refers to Plants already constructed.
- Request that the speaker's notes also be provided to the RAC Members.
- Request for the production levels at two, four and six million barrels per day (mbd). How much is Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)? How much is mining, etc?
- State of the regional water report and groundwater aquifer maps to be provided.
- RPT will provide air dispersion modelling analysis – working with Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) to determine limits on air emissions

Best Practices Model

- Will explore opportunities that influence how development occurs on the



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landscape, particularly ways to minimize disturbance footprints.

- Best Practices: leverage best available and economically achievable technology.
- Focus will be on four million bpd bitumen production scenario.

Agricultural Issues

- The Land-use Framework identified an Agricultural Policy gap. GOA preparing a policy to reduce fragmentation and conversion of agricultural land to be completed by 2010.
- Canada Lands Inventory (CLI) classification currently being changed to land suitability. Will provide a map showing the land suitability of the region at the next meeting. A new measure to determine quality of agricultural land.

Closing

Documents that are to be treated as *confidential*:

- Draft terms of reference.
- Profile of the Region.
- All presentations given and accompanying handouts.

The meeting adjourned Thursday July 9, at 3 p.m.

The next meeting to be held August 4-6, in Fort McMurray/Fort Chipewyan, AB.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Randy Hills, CPT
 Planning Technologist
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Action Items from Meeting:		Lead	Due Date
Final Vision & Outcomes	Posted to Sharepoint site	Stantec	July 17
ALSA legislation and summary	Posted to Sharepoint site	Stantec	July 17
Public Release - LARP terms of reference	Distributed in hard copy	LUS	August 4
Preparation for Next Meeting			
Background information to be reviewed prior to RAC Meeting #6 as	Posted to Sharepoint site	Stantec	July 31





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provided on the Agenda			
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