

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**ON ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES (ALUS) PILOT**  
**PROJECT IN PARKLAND COUNTY**

This Memorandum of Understanding made in duplicate as of the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012

**BETWEEN:**

**PARKLAND COUNTY,**

A municipality incorporated pursuant to the laws of the Province of Alberta

**OF THE FIRST PART,**

-and-

**DELTA WATERFOWL,**

A wetland and bird habitat conservation organization

**OF THE SECOND PART.**

WHEREAS, environmental sustainability has become a major priority for Parkland County;

AND WHEREAS, there has been a decline in both the quantity and quality of environmentally sensitive and significant areas in the County due to settlement and development over the years;

AND WHEREAS, regulatory approaches to environmental protection and/or restoration are often costly and time consuming to enforce, and difficult to secure landowner compliance;

AND WHEREAS, Parkland County is committed to finding innovative ways to protect environmentally sensitive and significant environmental features on privately-held land that respect and maintain existing landowner rights;

AND WHEREAS, Delta Waterfowl has a long history of undertaking science-based environmental conservation and restoration projects, including establishing ALUS projects in other provinces; and

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto wish to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an ALUS Pilot Project in Parkland County and agree as follows:

## **A. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to:
  - a) Establish an Alternate Land Use Services Pilot Project for delivering ecological goods and services in Parkland County, in partnership with landowners (agricultural producers) within the County;
  - b) Create awareness of ALUS as a community-led, producer-delivered environmental solution for working landscapes in Parkland County and ultimately throughout Alberta;
  - c) Build community capacity in Parkland County to plan, manage and deliver an effective ALUS program.

## **B. PROJECT TIMELINE**

The first phase of the ALUS project in Parkland County will be an initial period of three (3) to five (5) years from the Memorandum of Understanding date. Experiences garnered over this timeframe will provide the evaluation information needed to adapt the Project as required and establish a model for extending the ALUS program province-wide. While Phase 1 of this Pilot Project is for three (3) to five (5) years, both parties envision this Agreement extending beyond this initial timeframe assuming program growth each year and/or continued interest by both signatories of this Agreement.

## **C. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

Administrative arrangements for the Project, and initial contracts for demonstration parcels and other services from agricultural producers / landowners will be developed and refined each year in partnership between the parties. Parkland County will issue project payments to landowners following the receipt of funding from ALUS. Fundraising for the Project launch will begin immediately, using this proposal as a guiding resource for the planning and implementation of the Project. The financial contribution from Parkland County will be \$33,000.00 per year, and from Delta Waterfowl will be \$33,000.00 per year, both subject to the parties' respective annual budget review and approval.

While the initial project coordination workload is expected to be low enough to be covered by existing Parkland County staff in the first year of the Pilot Project, this workload will grow in subsequent years as the ALUS Pilot Project expands in the County. When this occurs, an ALUS Project Coordinator position will be created and funded through a joint process between parties using core funds outlined above as well as additional future funding sources. Parkland County will provide the ALUS Project Coordinator with in kind office space and office services.

## **D. PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) will be established by Parkland County to guide the delivery of this ALUS project in Parkland County. All other aspects of project implementation,

including defining new markets and packaging for ecological services will be undertaken on an ongoing basis. Project details will be determined by the Partnership Advisory Committee in consultation with ALUS MOU parties listed above and related stakeholder interests.

#### **E. SEVERANCE OF AGREEMENT**

Either party may terminate this Agreement upon 180 days written notice to the other party.

Signed:

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Rob Olson, President ALUS

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Rodney Shaigec, Mayor Parkland County