

Parkland ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 18th, 2017

Call to Order

*Unadopted
minutes*

John called the meeting to order at 9:12am with the following members in attendance:

Committee members

John McNab- Councillor, Parkland County
Gerry Taillieu- Parkland County ALUS Producer
Candace Vanin- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Tyler Kueber-Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta
Lynn- Director of Operations, ALUS Canada

Guest

Eldon Greanya- Agriculture & Rural Life Advisor Committee

Absent

Roy Schmelzeinen- Alberta Conservation Association
Kerri O'Shaughnessy- Cows and Fish
Mike Hittinger- Growing Forward Extension Specialist, Alberta Agriculture
Brendan Ganton- Alberta Conservation Association

Administration

Jenny Arts - ALUS Coordinator
Krista Quesnel - Community Sustainability Manager
Megan McFall- Community Sustainability Coordinator
Laura Duncan- Rural Extension Coordinator

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by John, seconded by Candace
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.
Add award info and Candace's new topic

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Gerry, seconded by (all in favor, no second)
Tyler put under Committee members, not administration.
That the minutes be adopted as presented

CARRIED

Round of introductions.

New Business

5. Project Proposals - Jenny
a. 2017-1

Jenny gave background on location of the project within the county. She explained the producer is looking to protect the waterbodies adjacent to their pasture area, and provide alternative watering in the future (not part of this proposal) to better utilize the pasture area. Current fencing and proposed fencing was explained, along with exclusion areas. Altalink will be contacted to attain approval for fencing which could block the utility right of way. Landowner has approximately 240 acres, near Jackfish Lake and Mayatan Lake.

Grazing exclusion of 3 wetlands and lake area
 1032 m fence along lake area ALUS share 3872 and wetland area Alus share is \$2,850
 Annual payments total \$567.50 (wetland riparian, wetland upland, wetland permanent, etc.)

The committee had the following comments:

- County approved lake management plan for that lake in development, was that consulted? Talked to the management teams?
- A couple years ago we were approached about concerns for that land and that landowner was contacted about ALUS then. New landowner is now present. Stewardship society has flagged this land as a concern.
- Fence placement along lake looks too close, how was that determined?
- Placed along the floodplain water mark, could be adjusted if needed
- Cattle used to run [JA1] across a culvert area to access southwest pasture
- Looking at 100 m setback but its arbitrary at the moment (ECMP)
 - Check with ECMP about buffers or talk to our Biologist
- Landowner interested in crowding the lake or providing more space?
- Conversation didn't broach that but will inquire as to their expectations. Would recommend fencing just past the riparian area, set back from the steep bench/embankment.
- AltaLink line- ALUS paying for fence in that easement area
 - They just require gate access and grounding provided for the fencing crossing the AltaLink line
- Growing forward money available to help fence and provide a watering system for south of the lake? It's a different landowner there and he would prefer not to participate in ALUS.
- Middle wetland in crop field will be a recommendation to be fenced in the future. Cattle graze stubble in crop field during the fall.

Recommendation: Motion to talk to landowner about riparian area along the lakeside to determine setback and recommend looking at the ECMP and following the BMP's outlined in the document. Use the matrix so that the setback choice is a defensible decision and we've done our due diligence. Have a conversation with the landowner.

- Inquire if funding can be covered by GF2, they may be full for projects this year.

- What kind of fencing type?
- 3 or 4 strand barb wire fencing. Just recommend raising the bottom wire and lowering the top wire for wildlife passage.

Recommendation: Maybe the lake group would be willing to provide some financial contributions toward this project. And talk to David Trew from NSWA.

Gerry motions to approve project with the recommendations.

Group is not ok to blanket approve project, since changes can greatly change the costs. Recommend doing a site visit to help determine fence placement along bluff/lakeside. If dollars change significantly, bring proposal back to council. If dollars don't change much with the recommendations from the matrix setback, the council is ok with the project approved as is. Provide feedback to PAC on outcome and ensure the principals of why this was done are correct.

Gerry moved that the project be approved as presented.
Tyler seconded. In favour: ALL
CARRIED.

6. Project Updates – Jenny?

Moved to next meeting.

A discussion was included in regards to staff change over moving into the new year for the PAC's information.

7. Year in Review: - Krista @ 10 am

ALUS 2016-over 200 projects, \$200 000 spent, 13 000 trees planted, Lake Isle on 2nd year of 3 years. Implemented 4 projects (fully paid for- total \$32 000 spent).

Communications- 1st of the Sustaining agriculture workshop series (held again this year), 2nd annual ALUS tour with ALUS Canada media launch (65 participants). Green Acreages- held 2 workshops (1 lake front related), 11 projects planned (upgrade outhouses to septic tanks). Septic Sense workshop and Love your Lakes workshop planned for this year- people can access their reports from the LYL assessment. Shoreline restoration projects funded federally through GA program. Clarifying what GA is funding now (target areas).

Financial- ended many grants that funded projects (NCP 106 000 total, roughly 5000 left over) ACA grant fully utilized, AWES funding still available for Lake Isle

Lynn- last year of funding from Weston's, Weston has asked to co-brand with ALUS program comes with \$5 M (ends 2017), secured funding for next season and some funding from a philanthropist in Calgary (\$1/2 Million)

NCP- \$2 M

Trying to regroup with the liberals, beaurocrats not happy with ALUS

Looking into green infrastructure dollars

New hire to talk/lobby with government to aggregate access to important individuals and groups and line up money where possible

Parkland will get some money from ALUS Canada for upcoming year

Krista- grant to quantify financials to determine what is being saved downstream, possible infrastructure dollars (how much does natural capital save for downstream infrastructure) to access green infrastructure dollars

-Challenge grant is getting cleaned up, County reserve available, Wildlife habitat Canada grant \$30 000 application sent in, wetland restoration fund looking into accessing it

-ALUS is continually expanding between years, expanding funding sources

The Committee had the following comments:

- Water issues for downstream, high color issues, only have capacity for 3-4 days use of water plant
- Where does the County tax \$ come from/what is it? Reserve fund from the initial start of the ALUS program
- How to clean up fields if not able to be harvested? Has ALUS or County considered funding the aid of cleaning the fields that have been hit hard by this year's climate?
 - Conversation is being had, no plan in place. Looking at getting individuals hired to help open doors to start conversations (kind of a lobbyist). ALUS could be a part of this. Advice can be what is supplied, doesn't have to be a dollar value.
 - Leduc is having one of these talks but it got cancelled. Workshop may be held in February to help deal with spring harvest.
 - Issue of Public safety, dollars lost, loss of habitat, etc.
 - Producers won't burn until they can see if crop insurance will tell them to harvest or scrap the crop.
 - Defer to Ag department and council, we're willing to help in whatever capacity we can.
- Wording is important-statistical operations, etc. This conversation needs to be had soon!
- Eldon wants to point out concern is ok but it is not on our level of responsibility to deal with this.
 - Not much of our funding could be used for this kind of work since those acres would be back into production
 - Write up a simple paragraph outlining our concerns, environmental and economic impacts and circulate that through the organization. Our due diligence is done by raising our concerns to the County.
- Ag provide services and workshops but not funding either. Act as more of a resource.

Gerry motion for let to be drafted to council and Ag department expressing our concerns about environmental disaster. Circulate letter to PAC for approval via email.

Candace seconds. All in favor: CARRIED

Break at 10:48 am

Return from break at 11:02 am

8. Strategic Plan: - Krista

Differences- prioritization mapping

Objectives-Increase diversity and implementation for ALUS (increase or maintain momentum)

-improve admin efficiency

-move toward wetland restoration

-Increase rolled acres and distribution of projects

-increase number of targeted projects to be enrolled

-increase producer awareness and resident participation

Targets- enroll 600 new acres, more staff help (farmer liaison-Darren), utilize database, communicate to residents priority areas, partner on outreach events, expand producer representation on the PAC

Tactics-tie up unfinished projects, implement 2017 projects, develop new communications campaign to reach new goals, utilize prioritization map, set wetland restoration priority areas, targeted outreach materials, utilize grazing management principles, utilizing farmer liaisons as producer to producer contacts, work with enrolled ALUS producers to get PAC Involvement, Utilize committee liaisons/ champions, Increase leverage partnerships (other levels of government, non-governmental organizations, Inter-departmentally, with private sector).

The Committee had the following comments:

- Instead of cattle grazing say livestock grazing in the strategic plan
- Modified Ag Practices
 - going to be developing these
 - need to start selling ourselves as a part of a landowner's toolbox when it comes to modified agricultural practices.
- Biophysical assessments – agricultural assessments are not defined as of yet, there may be overlap with ALUS
 - We need to make others interdepartmentally to ensure that they know about the program, ALUS may have some input into agricultural assessments?
 - Will fit into the municipal development plan somewhere.
- Gerry – Monitoring needs to be added to the Strategic Plan
 - Krista said that Louise (biologist) is reviewing how monitoring is going to be completed (Cows and Fish currently, have had summer students they did some photo-monitoring)

- Need to review what we want to monitor, how, and why we want to monitor.
- ALUS Canada should be included on this conversation
 - Maybe producers, farmer liaisons, other PAC members to do monitoring/ review project.
 - Speak to hub manager about monitoring options.

Strategic Plan approval was tabled until the next meeting.

9. Communication Plan – Krista

Differed to next meeting

10. Terms of reference Review

To be reviewed annually, was brought to Legislation and administration department

- Some committees were dissolved

Changes made:

- Delta waterfowl to ALUS Canada, Department names, Terms from 3-4 year terms, number of reps from each stakeholder (up producer representation from 4 to 7) 1 to 2 reps from ag service board (Once committee dissolved from rural life committee, they were no longer considered committee members as they need to be appointed by Council)
 - Krista suggested to bring names forward to Council for approval
 - Eldon & Darren
 - Other interested parties list from Darren
- Who makes up our board
 - 7 producers
 - Economic development and Community Sustainability committees are in the process of recruiting members, Chair makes suggestion to have representation from these committees on the PAC

Comments:

- Krista – we need to have more producer representation on the PAC
 - Eldon says he is open to continuing on the committee for now, but would be open to other people to take his place, he has also put in an application
- Chair – Suggests that the list should be brought forward to council ASAP
- Allow for representation to the committee from 3 other county committees
- Do we need a workgroup or a sub-committee?

- John says that they can be effective. Something to think about in the future.
 - Krista is going to bring this suggestion forward to Legislation and Admin department.
- Need to change front end of terms of reference
- Max of 4-10 times per year for PAC meetings.

Tyler moved to approve changes to the Terms of Reference with the addition of the ability to strike sub-committees and the change of 1-2 representatives from the Agricultural Service Board to up to 3 representatives from Parkland Committees.

Candace seconded. In favour: ALL
CARRIED.

11. Workshops - Candace

- She will send info on all the workshops coming up.
- Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture: Knowledge Discovery Workshops/ Webinar
 - March 14 – In person workshops for Holos Model Users & LCA for Agriculture Datasets
 - March 15 – Webinar/ Workshop on:
 - Canadian Roundtable on Sustainable Crops/ beef
 - Sustainability metrics Updates
 - Lifecycle Analyses (LSA) for Agriculture
 - Holos model new releases/ updates
 - Carbon credit reporting
 - Put on by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
 - Location: Executive Royal Inn – Calgary, AB
 - RSVP by March 3rd

12. Awards

- Gerry was presented an award by ALUS Canada
 - Weston family wanted a launch at the winter fair in Toronto
 - Researcher has done lots of work on tall grass prairie in Manitoba
 - Gerry received the producer award
 - 4 members of Weston family showed up to awards
 - They wanted to know if it was effective at the local level, if the farmers are able to implement what they want to do on their land – Gerry answered them, and they were pleased with the answers he gave them.

Comments

- Chair (John) suggested to speak to the Weston family about the success of the projects we are implementing

13. Membership Appointments

- Names forward
 - Eldon & Darren have put their names forward for PAC members

Comments

- Candace asked if we could possibly ask Dave again if he wants to still participate later in the year (if he wants to come back)

Gerry moved to nominate Darren and Eldon be appointed as PAC members by Parkland County Council. Tyler second. ALL CARRIED

15. Adjournment – Chair

- John adjourned the meeting at 12:15.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Megan McFall