

LOWER PEACE REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Town of High Level Office
High Level, AB

Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 4:00pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes Page 3
4. Delegation: MP Arnold Viersen (4:00 – 5:00pm)
5. Administration Caribou Range Planning Presentation
6. Alberta Energy Regulator Regulations Page 7
7. Federal Guidance: Suggested Caribou Range Plan Content Page 9
8. Draft Little Smokey and A La Peche Caribou Range Plan Page 11
9. Information Sharing Updates/Discussion (Applicable Municipalities)
10. Terms of Reference Discussion Page 13
11. Next Meeting Date(s)
12. Adjournment

LOWER PEACE REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Town of High Level Office
High Level, AB

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 3:30pm

PRESENT: Lisa Wardley Chair, Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County
Crystal McAteer Vice Chair, Mayor, Town of High Level
Jacquie Bateman Councillor, Mackenzie County
Leigh Bateman Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake
Linda Halibisky Councillor, County of Northern Lights
Eric Jorgensen Councillor, Mackenzie County
Chris Mitchell Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake
Mike Morgan Councillor, Town of High Level
Wally Olorenshaw Mayor, Town of Rainbow Lake
Terry Ungarian Councillor, County of Northern Lights

ADMINISTRATION: Adam Clarkson CAO, Town of High Level
Dan Fletcher CAO, Town of Rainbow Lake
Hayley Gavin Planner, Mackenzie County
Bill Kostiw Inter-governmental Relations and Special
Projects Coordinator, Mackenzie County
Byron Peters Director of Planning and Development,
Mackenzie County

MOTION

1. Call to Order

Bill Kostiw called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

16-11-001

MOVED by Wally Olorenshaw

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Elections

a.) Chair

Bill Kostiw called for nominations for the position of
Chairperson.

First Call: Wally Olorenshaw nominated Lisa Wardley.
Accepted.

Second Call: No further nominations.

16-11-002

MOVED by Eric Jorgensen

That the nominations cease for the position of Chairperson.

CARRIED

Bill Kostiw declared Lisa Wardley Chairperson by acclamation.

b.) Vice Chair

Bill Kostiw called for nomination for the position of Vice Chairperson.

First Call: Linda Halibisky nominated Terry Ungarian.
Declined.

Second Call: Linda Halibisky nominated Crystal McAteer.
Accepted.

16-11-003

MOVED by Jacquie Bateman

That the nominations cease for the position of Vice Chairperson.

CARRIED

Bill Kostiw declared Crystal McAteer Vice Chairperson by acclamation.

Bill Kostiw turned the meeting over to Chair Lisa Wardley.

16-11-004

MOVED by Eric Jorgensen

That Byron Peters be named administrative lead for the project.

CARRIED

4. General Discussion

a.) Sub-committees

The following sub committees have core members but are open to any affected committee members and/or

stakeholders impacted by applicable range plans. The range specific working groups were agreed upon consensus:

First Nations Engagement

- Crystal McAteer
- Eric Jorgensen
- Leigh Bateman

Federal Government Engagement

- Lisa Wardley
- Crystal McAteer
- Terry Ungarian

Provincial Government Engagement

- Eric Jorgensen
- Chris Mitchell
- Mike Morgan

Oil & Gas Industry Engagement

- Lisa Wardley
- Leigh Bateman
- Jacquie Bateman

Forestry Engagement

- Crystal McAteer
- Terry Ungarian
- Eric Jorgensen

Agricultural Engagement

- Eric Jorgensen
- Terry Ungarian

Service Industry Engagement

- Jacquie Bateman
- Leigh Bateman
- Crystal McAteer

Reiterated the three purposes of the committee as previously set by Tri – Council:

- Complete a Socioeconomic Study

- Separate Working Group for each Range
- Northwest Alberta has enough protected land

Administration to create a terms of reference as discussed. Name will be finalized at the next meeting.

Consensus Model.

Create separate electronic Dropbox and share with committee.

5. MEETING DATES

- ❖ December 20, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m. in High Level or via tele-conference

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Tri – Council SARA Meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

9.1. SPECIES AT RISK

Desired Outcomes

1. Reduce human caused mortality of Species at Risk.
2. Reduce increased predation associated with anthropogenic features.
3. Conserve and protect critical habitat.

9.2 CARIBOU RANGE

Desired Outcomes

1. Reduce all sources of human-caused direct mortality associated with anthropogenic features (i.e., hunting, poaching, and vehicle collision).
2. Reduce excessive predator-caused mortality for both calves and adults (i.e., related to predator abundance, distribution, ease of travel, and hunting success).
3. Reduce habitat loss (i.e., due to habitat change or conversion).
 - a. Avoid habitat changes which negatively affect caribou population growth.
 - b. Avoid development within key habitats (local and landscape scales) and key seasons.
 - c. Increase harmonization with forest industry operating ground rules and long-term spatial forest harvesting plans.
4. Reduce the partial avoidance (i.e., reduced use) that caribou demonstrate in relation to industrial features.
5. Reduce potential increases in the distribution and productivity of other prey species.

Best Management Practices

1. Information about operating in caribou ranges should be obtained from the issuing regulatory body.
2. To the extent possible, newly constructed linear features should be located on or beside existing disturbances.
3. Operations should be planned to avoid high quality and/or effective caribou habitat types.
4. Coordinated access and industrial development strategies, which integrate the sequencing (time and space) of activities, should be used to minimize human footprint on caribou ranges. Amount of cumulative clearing can be minimized through an integrated review of planned disturbance between all land users. Applicants should contact other companies operating in the area.
5. Reforestation should occur within 2 years of pipeline construction and should match the adjacent forest type across the entire width of the pipeline cover, with the exception of 1.5 metres on each side of the trench-line (Note: tree planting densities should be consistent with the 'Timber Supply Analysis' for the area). Reforestation should occur using an ILM approach.
6. Work should be planned and implemented so that disturbances furthest from arterial all-weather access roads are completed in early winter.
7. The area required for facilities, wellsites, multi-well pads, and exploration wellsites should be as small as practical. Number of well pads should be minimized by directionally drilling as many wells as geology and drilling technology will allow from one site.
8. Oil and gas wells should be remotely operated and wellsites should have sufficient resources (e.g., methanol, tanks) on-

Species at Risk Act – Subsection 61(1):

No person shall destroy any part of the critical habitat of a listed endangered species or a listed threatened species that is in a province or territory and that is not part of federal lands.

SUGGESTED RANGE PLAN CONTENT

- A CONTEXT SECTION 1**
- 1 RECOVERY PLANNING IN [province/territory] 1**
- 2 RANGE PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS 1**
- 3 LOCAL POPULATION SELF-SUSTAINABILITY STATUS 1**
- B HABITAT SECTION 2**
- 4 CURRENT HABITAT CONDITION AND IMPORTANT AREAS FOR BOREAL CARIBOU 2**
- 4.1 Habitat condition and disturbance levels 2
- 4.2 Important areas for boreal caribou 3
 - 4.2.1 Biophysical attributes 3
 - 4.2.2 Patterns of habitat use 4
- 5 MANAGING THE 65% UNDISTURBED HABITAT 4**
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Draft Little Smokey and A La Peche Range Plan Contents Page

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

LOWER PEACE REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Background:

The Lower Peace Region of Alberta encompasses high economic development value in a variety of natural resource sectors. Notwithstanding this, the region is requested to carry the highest burden of environmental protection of any other region within Alberta. Current and proposed Provincial policy and strategies requires the Lower Peace Region to subsidize economic activity in other regions; to allow, both, the Federal and Provincial governments to achieve conservation targets for the natural environment.

Cumulatively, multiple conservation initiatives and species at risk recovery strategies have the ability to negatively impact the rural communities of the Lower Peace Region. We, the local tenants of the Lower Peace Region have collaborated; in an attempt to secure smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and well-balanced environmental protection for our future generations. Through the use of optimal adaptive management, transparent stakeholder engagement, and effective environmental stewardship; we endeavour to achieve this purpose.

Purpose:

To collectively provide and share information, ideas and resources; relating to the continued and future prosperity of the Lower Peace Region. Instill effective regional adaptive management and transparency which allows all stakeholders to play a vital role in shaping our collective future. Form solutions founded upon an evidence-based approach, to ensure a balance of smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and an enhanced natural environment; for all of our businesses, communities and wildlife.

Responsibilities: (requires revision?)

To work towards obtaining a socio-economic impact study for the implications of each of the five Boreal Woodland Caribou Range Plans.

To proactively work with all other levels of Government including the First Nations; to create well-balanced working groups from key stakeholders relevant to each Caribou Range Plan.

Emphasizing that the Lower Peace Region already encompasses a vast amount of protected lands; Caribou Range Plans should aim to enhance the value of these areas for species at risk recovery, rather than seeking to protect unjustifiable additional areas of land.

Structure:

Two councillors and an alternate appointed by each of the founding municipalities.

Alternates may attend all meetings.

Founding municipalities consist of:

- County of Northern Lights
- Mackenzie County
- Town of High Level
- Town of Rainbow Lake

Mackenzie County is the administrative lead for the committee, with administrative support from each of the founding municipalities.

The administrative lead will prepare and provide the agenda for all meetings.

Meetings are open to the public as per Section 197 and Section 198 of the Municipal Government Act.

Meetings may, in part, be closed to the public if matters to be addressed are recognized under; Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, and/or Division 2 – Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The committee shall pursue grant opportunities to fund any larger projects, with Mackenzie County as the grant sponsor and/or lead.

Quorum and Costs:

Decisions shall be reached by consensus, consisting of two appointed members from each of the founding municipalities. Alternates shall not be considered for consensus unless standing in for an appointed member.

Meetings shall be hosted by the Town of High Level, at the Town of High Level Office.

Meeting costs will be shared by the founding municipalities.

Each Municipality and other delegates are expected to cover the costs of their members. Additional costs, such as those derived from Committee motions, will be subject to additional discussion and approval from each of the founding municipalities.

Decisions made by the committee are binding on all municipalities.

Communication:

An electronic data sharing forum will be created and maintained, with access for all of the Committee members.

Meetings will be scheduled quarterly, or as required by the Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEES

First Nations Engagement

Committee Members: Crystal McAteer
Eric Jorgensen
Leigh Bateman

Purpose: To engage all local Indigenous communities in a manner that is clearly represented as transparent engagement, rather than consultation.

Key Considerations: To determine what each community would consider as acceptable land use management.

To learn how each community plans to sustain/become economically and socially viable over the longer-term.

To determine what roll each community is willing to play in ensuring the long-term enhancement and existence of our boreal ecosystems.

Federal and Provincial Government Engagement

Committee Members: Crystal McAteer Eric Jorgensen
Lisa Wardley Chris Mitchell
Terry Ungarian Mike Morgan

Purpose: To engage the Federal and Provincial governments on matters within their jurisdiction; including action under the Species at Risk Act, cumulative effects of multiple recovery strategies and environmental initiatives, and [their] implementation in response to legislation.

Key Considerations: Engage the Government of Alberta at the political level; to seek a written commitment to working with the key stakeholders of Northwestern Alberta in the development of all future land-use planning documents.

Engage the Government of Alberta at the bureaucratic level; with a view to ensure our collective voice is heard, and to ensure our participation in all future land-use planning processes.

Engage the Federal government to reiterate to the Government of Alberta that;

- There is flexibility in meeting their October 2017 timeline for Caribou Range Plans;
- To name all the municipalities of the Lower Peace Region as key stakeholders, which are required to be engaged;

- To mandatorily bring all key stakeholders together for the development of interjurisdictional Caribou Range Plans.

Industry Engagement Oil & Gas and Forestry

Committee Members: Lisa Wardley Eric Jorgensen
 Leigh Bateman Terry Ungarian
 Jacquie Bateman Crystal McAteer

Purpose: To engage all the oil, gas and forestry companies actively operating within the Lower Peace Region; to encourage transparent communication, with a view to informing [them] on the potential implications of Caribou Range Planning, and to gain a full understanding of their key concerns.

Key Considerations: To encourage all the companies to work collectively with all other stakeholders; communicating that effective collaboration is our only option in securing future investment, economic growth, and practical Caribou Range Plans.

Inform the companies on the factual processes and considerations of Caribou Range Planning, and to highlight all the crucial unknowns and/or uncertainties relating to potential implications.

To gain a complete understanding of the land and infrastructure required by the companies; to enable [their] sustained long-term smart economic growth, within and surrounding the Caribou ranges.

Community, Agriculture, and Service Industry Engagement

Committee Members: Eric Jorgensen Jacquie Bateman
 Terry Ungarian Leigh Bateman
 Crystal McAteer

Purpose: To ensure appropriate information is provided publicly to all members of our communities, and to work with our agriculture, hunting/trapping and small business sectors; to ensure their concerns are fully considered by the Committee, and any relevant willingness to contribute is thoroughly considered.

Key Considerations: To encourage all the sectors to work collectively with all other stakeholders; communicating that effective collaboration is our only option in securing future investment, economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and practical Caribou Range Plans.

Inform all sectors on the factual processes and considerations of Caribou Range Planning, and to highlight all the crucial unknowns and/or uncertainties relating to potential implications.

To ensure all relevant concerns are brought to the Committee's attention, if necessary, to reassure concerned sectors that future consideration will be given; in an attempt to mitigate the implications of these concerns in future Caribou Range Plans.

Any relevant willingness to contribute towards the Committee's fundamental purpose and responsibilities should be thoroughly considered.

SUB-COMMITTEE'S OVERALL DIRECTION

Process:

Every Sub-Committee, through their administrative support, will report back to the administrative lead with information acquired from all meetings, in a very timely manner. The administrative lead will be responsible for processing all information, and providing strategic recommendations to the Committee.

Responsibilities:

Every Sub-Committee must ensure that administrative support is present for all meetings.

Strategic Direction:

Every Sub-Committee should ensure that all meetings are guided by the applicable key considerations; this will allow for information and findings acquired at meetings to contribute towards the Committee's fundamental purpose and responsibilities. Thus allows for any commitment and/or willingness to contribute by stakeholders, including the Federal and Provincial governments; provides essential support to the Committee's outputs.