



Lesser Slave Lake
Economic Alliance

**Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance (LSLEA)
Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2009
Town of Swan Hills, Swan Hills, AB**

1. Present:

Alvin Billings - M.D. of Big Lakes
Greg Radstaak - Alberta Finance & Enterprise
Georges Jadot - M.D. of Opportunity
Gary Pollock - Town of Swan Hills
Arnold Aarts - Town of High Prairie
George Wright – Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism
Rick Noskey - Peavine Métis Settlement
Joan Kuntz - EDO, Town of Swan Hills
Pam Marriott – Town of Swan Hills
Annie Aarts – Slave Lake Chamber of Commerce
Linda Cox- Project Manager, LSLEA

2. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order 11:00 AM

3. Introductions:

Chair Billings asked for introductions and a brief review of activities of their organizations.

4. Agenda:

Chair Billings asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda.

13- 2009/10 Motion to adopt the agenda with amendments. Moved by Georges Jadot.

CARRIED

5. Minutes:

14- 2009/10 Motion to adopt the Minutes from the October 15, 2009 meeting as presented. Moved by Rick Noskey.

CARRIED

6. Correspondence:

a) South Grow Regional Initiative – Conference Invitation

7. Executive Report:

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta government has been signed.

There may be a reduction in the budget of 15% for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

8. Project Updates

a) Pennycress Project:

News articles will be appearing in Alberta Venture and Alberta Farmer. Pennycress has been removed from the Alberta noxious weed list and removal has been requested from the Canadian noxious weed list.

b) Tourism Video Project:

LSLEA will be continuing to work on this as we wish to include Riverboat Days and the fall foliage which could not be filmed this year.

LSL Regional Tourism is working with Let's Go Outdoors and Access Alberta TV to develop 30-60 sec spots plus some longer vignettes which they will be able to use elsewhere. There may be some overlap/coordination possibilities with LSLEA. George Wright will investigate further.

c) Next Place Publication:

Some articles require a major rewrite. A page will need to be added for Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism. The Town of Swan Hills would like their page to be updated.

d) Agri-Food & Services Directory

Publication is anticipated in late January/early February. Response has been very good and concept well received by the participants.

e) Lake Access & RV Needs Assessment

Project activity will be moved to next operational field season to coincide with the summer tourism season. RFP will be distributed in early 2010 with completion date in the fall.

f) Mitsue Cogeneration

Phase I is completed. Phase II will investigate feasibility of a gasification component. Work to be completed by March 31, 2010 and will allow application to BioEnergy program for grant monies. Sandwell Engineering with be doing this work.

g) Socio-economic Profile

RFP sent out; one proposal was received. Western Sky was hired and is now doing data collection.

h) Wood Center of Excellence Implementation – Final Report

15 - 2009/10 Moved by Annie Aarts to receive for information.

Carried

Darcie Acton has been hired to help Greg Radstaak write proposals arising

from the report to access grant monies available for this fiscal year. Peter Woodbridge (Consultant) suggested sending some sample containers to China, dried to the specifications required by possible customers.

i) LSLEA Infrastructure Assessment Communication

Gilles Lussier has been contracted for the next three months to work on this.

j) Regional Food Processing & Business Incubator Proposal

Western Sky completed the proposal. Based on the report, we will be applying for a grant from the Rural Alberta Development Fund for preliminary implementation.

9. Business Arising

1. Supporting Agriculture Through Community Economic Development

This course was presented as part of the Community Economic Development Training Program. Attendees were positive in their assessments.

2. Alberta Finance & Enterprise

A Trends Presentation was given to the Slave Lake Chamber of Commerce on November 30, 2009 as part of their regular meeting.

10. New Business

1. 2010/11 Projects

Board requested to think about new projects for upcoming year. One possibility is an Immigration Portal on the Alliance website.

2. Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Plan for the Athabasca Oilsands Area

Georges Jadot attended this symposium December 10, 2009 on behalf of LSLEA. He felt that the participants seemed to focus on the Hwy 63 corridor to Fort McMurray and were not aware of the east-west development taking place between Red Earth-Wabasca-Fort McMurray.

3. Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism Membership

16 – 2009/10 Moved by Arnie Aarts to accept LSL Regional Tourism as an associate member.

Carried

11. Treasurers' Report:

Review of income and expenditures.

17-2009/10 Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with amendment to coding of one expenditure. .Moved by Georges Jadots.

CARRIED

10. Next Meeting:

Date: February 18th, 2010

Time: 10:30AM

Location: TBA in Slave Lake

11 Adjournment:

3:00 PM

Chairman Alvin Billings

Secretary/Treasurer or Vice Chair