



Lesser Slave Lake
Economic Alliance

**Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance (LSLEA)
Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2010
Town of Slave Lake, 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
Miles Auger – EDO, M.D. of Opportunity
Brian Holmberg – EDO, Town of High Prairie
Karina Pillay-Kinnee – Town of Slave Lake
Annie Aarts – Slave Lake Chamber of Commerce
Randy Renauer – Lesser Slave Lake Community Futures
Brian Rosche – M.D. of Lesser Slave Lake
Linda Cox- Project Manager, LSLEA
Darcie Acton –LSLEA Consultant (Milestone Consulting)

2. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order 10:45 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.

**18- 2009/10 Motion to adopt the agenda with amendments. Moved by Arnie Aarts.
CARRIED**

5. Minutes:

19- 2009/10 Motion to adopt the Minutes from the December 17, 2009 meeting as presented. Moved by Gary Pollack.

CARRIED

6. Correspondence:

Review and discussion of correspondence received.

**20 – 2009/10 Motion to adopt correspondence. Moved by Karina Pillay-Kinnee.
CARRIED**

7. Executive Report:

No cuts anticipated to 2010-11 grant received from province.

Position for LSLEA funded by province has been released from hiring freeze and will be filled in first quarter of fiscal year.

Financial Reports circulated.

21-2009/10 Motion to adopt Financial Reports. Moved by Arnie Aarts.

CARRIED

8. Project Updates

a) Pennycress Project:

Initial findings show encouraging results as an attractive industrial crop alternative; researchers have been successful in treating seed to obtain 95% germination. There will be an information presentation to PREDA in next month; LSLEA will forward invite to our members.

b) Wood Center of Excellence Implementation

Application of Rural Alberta Development Grant – letter refusing application at this time.

Darcie Acton of Milestone Consulting, hired to help LSLEA move forward with implementation strategy, will be working on planning and strategic alignment. This involves consultation with key stakeholders. Northern Lakes College is one of the post secondary stakeholders and Darcie will ensure alignment of project goals with the college's core business. NLC may be an interim home for the Centre of Excellence.

The Woodland Operations Learning Foundation, using simulators, trains equipment operators to meet a specific need in the forestry industry. This business mode has demonstrated success and could be used as a template for the Centre of Excellence.

Greg and Darcie are meeting with the MLA to discuss moving the project forward in the Provincial government.

Possibility of funding through Western Diversification Fund, FP Innovations, private and corporate foundations is also being explored.

c) Agri-Food & Services Directory

Sample pages were distributed. Publication anticipated in April.

d) Tourism Video Project:

Work is continuing with anticipated winter shots and some Slave Lake events this summer.

e) Next Place Publication:

Booklet should be available late March/early April.

f) Lake Access & RV Needs Assessment

Ongoing this summer.

g) Regional Food Processing & Business Incubator Proposal

Waiting for grant response from the Rural Community Adaptation Grant Program for preliminary implementation. Discussion on proceeding with initial planning phase of Value Added Food Center.

22- 2009/10 Motion to amend the operating plan to move \$15 000 from the Bus Study to Value Added Food Center Project. Moved by Georges Jadot.

CARRIED

h) Mitsue Cogeneration

Phase II Terms of Reference is being completed and will be implemented shortly.

i) Socio-economic Profile

Production of investment attraction documents for 4 regions/communities will be a part of profile.

9. New Business

a) LSLEA Profile

Insert that formed part of Alberta Venture publication was provided.

b) Federal Railway Service Review

Letter to Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties from LSLEA and updated Rail Transport in Northern Alberta report distributed.

c) Study to Determine the Feasibility of Supplying Green Energy to the Petroleum Industry – Request for Funding

23- 2009/10 Motion to table for review and discussion at next meeting. Moved by Georges Jadot

CARRIED

d) Building Northern Economies & Partnerships Conference March 15-17, 2010 – Request for Funding

24- 2009/10 Motion to support REDI by becoming a Coffee Break sponsor in the amount to \$1000. Moved by Arnie Aarts.

Carried

Board members are invited to attend.

e) Immigration Portal on Website

LSLEA has received tentative approval for \$40,000 from Alberta Employment

and Immigration to update website to accommodate immigration information.
Possible start date will be April 1, 2010.

f) **Growing the North Conference – January 21-22, 2010 Grande Prairie**
Attendees gave compliments on organization and speakers.

g) **2010–13 LSLEA Strategic Plan**
Greg will start to gather information for developing our next three year plan.
More information will be brought to next meeting.

h) **2010-11 LSLEA Operations Plan**
Next meeting will cover the projects LSLEA members would like to do in
2010-11. Board members are requested to canvass their communities for
possible economic project ideas.

10 Adjournment:

25- 2009/10 Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:45 PM. Moved by Arnie Aarts.

Carried

Next Meeting:

Date: March 18, 2010

Time: 10:30AM

Location: M.D. of Big Lakes Board Room
High Prairie, AB

Chairman Alvin Billings

Secretary/Treasurer or Vice Chair