

Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting Location: Cardston	
Date: May 16, 2007	
Start and end time: 6:00 – 8:30pm	
Number of Attendees from the Public: 13	
Community Features Identified	Recommendations from Community
<p>Social and Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Family Ties – Cardston is a good place to raise families; youth grow up with good work ethic and as a result are the area’s greatest export • Strong Roots – pace of life is “laid back”; what is here has always been here – some resistance to change within community • Religion – has a large influence on the county • Aging population – area is becoming popular for retirement and for those wanting to move from cities; recognized that this will affect area infrastructure such as hospitals; also affects ability of youth to stay in area. However, new modular and log home building industry has brought younger families into the area. • New subdivisions – recognition that changing demographic will have an impact on area social/cultural values. • Recreation and infrastructure assets – good education system, community hospital, sports oriented community, close to Waterton and Glacier parks, many rivers, lakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community is looking for opportunities for area youth to remain or return to area once they receive their education. • The community needs to find the balance between leaving things as they are and moving forward in economic development.
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism – Waterton close by; area attracts visitors from U.S. and Canada; not commercialized like Banff or Jasper. However, some potential tourism developments have gone elsewhere due to “dry” legislation. • Agriculture Tourism – guest ranches and outfitters in the area • Acreages/new subdivisions – community is on the cusp of changing; people moving to area who will work via internet in remote locations – not necessarily bringing jobs to area • Barriers for development – no rail access; limited expansion possibilities as bordered by the Blood Reserve and U.S. border; conservation land and easements – result in fragmented landscapes and somewhat limit development • Lack of electrical transmission – difficult for wind energy development; recognition that some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardston owns their electrical distribution lines, but can only supply their own buildings; should be able to sell to residents too • People need to be able to feed into grid and make money; need sufficient reward to make this worthwhile • Explore possibility of co-ops to supply energy • Would like to see Aboriginal groups involved in development • Do not want any one group to delay progress • Consumers/community needs to have economic benefits to development • Community could build transmission line and export wind energy into the U.S. • Potential for solar farms • Ethanol – not ideally located here as area is

<p>residents do not want transmission facilities on their land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging agricultural community – economic pressure to be a large, corporate ranch or subdivide the land into acreages. Four large ranches own a great deal of land in the county. • New light industry in community – modular and log home building – directly employ approximately 130 people; community also seeing spin off economic opportunities 	<p>mostly ranching, rather than grain producing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste to energy – not enough feedlots – mostly cow-calf operations • Windmills generate economic returns for a much greater time than pump jacks – the EUB needs to develop regulations and standards around wind towers and land use to make this an attractive investment.
<p>Environment and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good water and air quality, quiet environment • Views, unique landscape – key appealing factor for the area; town is growing to the west because of the view • Agriculture – farmland and ranchland is valuable • Local initiatives – working with Levitt Irrigation Authority to bring in untreated water for non-residential use, e.g. parks, golf courses; alternative energy in by-laws; 3 turbines in town in the past year • Cottages/acreages increasing – bring in dollars and different expectations; also draw on energy resources • Land stewardship groups – active in the region • Weather – area enjoys open winters and moderate temperatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development will need to protect the clean air, water quality and the outstanding views in the area • Do not want smokestack industries • Do not want wind turbines west of Cardston • Solar/geothermal may be appealing to community since there is less aesthetic impact • Need a land use plan to determine where and when to use different energy sources • New industry should be held to a high environmental standard
<p>Other Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need clear, objective information about alternative energy options and implications for consumers in Cardston • Very difficult for small communities to deal with new technology issues • The local community may be underestimating the impact it's making on the environment 	<p>Recommendations</p>