

## Public Consultation Meeting Summary

<b>Meeting Location: Claresholm</b>	
<b>Date: April 25, 2007</b>	
<b>Start and end time: 6:00 – 8:30</b>	
<b>Number of Attendees from the Public: 15</b>	
<b>Community Features Identified</b>	<b>Recommendations from Community</b>
<b>Social/Cultural</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly town, low crime rate, no traffic jams</li> <li>• Community spirit is good- “cowboy town”</li> <li>• Community well supported by local press</li> <li>• Large number of religious affiliations</li> <li>• Good local health care system</li> <li>• Recreation facilities – campground, indoor pool, 18 hole golf course, active Agriplex, facilities for children such as soccer, ball diamonds, skating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development needs to be in keeping with the rest of the community – visually appealing and enhances the community</li> <li>• Would not want huge growth explosion</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge agricultural land base</li> <li>• Space for development</li> <li>• Forward thinking town administration and council</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Town is situated on a major transportation route and between two large urban centers</li> <li>• Larger center than other neighboring urban centers</li> <li>• Community has a well maintained and underused airport with heated indoor terminal and accommodation for pilots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor force – development would provide a means of keeping youth in the community and keep the labor force local</li> <li>• Recognition that there is a balance in spending and saving – consumers need to know what the benefits are for them.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Land Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Supply</b> – Willow Creek Basin provides water supply for all towns in MD except Ft. Macleod. Springs from foothills flow into creeks and aquifers. There are intertwined impacts between flowing water and ground water.</li> <li>• In five years the community will want to know that they have wisely protected the water supply. Everyone needs to be diligent and active in protecting the water supply</li> <li>• <b>Rough Fescue</b> – naturally grows in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not fence creeks, but pump water up from them for cattle</li> <li>• Encourage irrigation with sewage (grey) water</li> <li>• Community need to be stewards of the land and set standards</li> <li>• Southern Foothills Study – should be used in conjunction with all other information to implement actions.</li> <li>• Land use – need to work with landowners in areas that could be developed. May need to provide</li> </ul>

<p>foothills – natural carbon sink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about incremental, cumulative impacts of natural features</li> <li>• “Growing Energy” changes land use, watersheds, food prices and land prices</li> </ul>	<p>incentives not to develop for people owning land in certain vulnerable areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are wind turbines white? Could they be a color that blended better with the landscape?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Issues Raised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about ethanol and how “green” it really is – lower BTU value, means more consumption and more energy to produce it.</li> <li>• Concerns over changing land use – land turned into acreages and away from agricultural uses may not be maintained as well, causes a risk to the landscape and to the Eastern Slopes</li> <li>• Barriers to using green technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing government programs do not support building houses with alternative energy systems;</li> <li>• Governments seem not to understand what energy efficiency is – they should be encouraging the production of something from nothing;</li> <li>• It is just as important to conserve energy as it is to produce it from alternative sources.</li> <li>• Geothermal technology is very effective, although more expensive up front – incremental cost to home of \$16,000 – monthly power bill of about \$210/month;</li> <li>• Other jurisdictions – B.C., Ontario, California are much more supportive;</li> <li>• Concern that provincial government is conflicted due to the amount of money provided by fossil fuels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concern over remote electrical generation – significant line losses through transmission – need smaller, local production.</li> <li>• Concern over maintenance of electrical transmission lines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community education needed</li> <li>• Need easy access to consumer information – how can residents access alternative energy technologies?</li> </ul>