

Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting Location: Lethbridge	
Date: May 22 and May 23	
Start and end time: 6:00 – 9:00	
Number of Attendees from the Public: 45	
Community Features Identified	Recommendations from Community
<p>Social/Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Centered – great involvement in social/cultural aspects of community ● Clean, beautiful, and quiet ● Recreation opportunities – mountains, skiing, hiking, sailing, wind surfing ● Rich cultural scene – art galleries, theatre ● Strong spiritual/church community ● Education – very important – highest number of PhD's per capita in country ● Small city atmosphere – safe, lifestyle ● Agricultural community – community culture is to support farmers by buying locally ● Preservation of Unique Landscape – community culture of preserving unique characteristics such as Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developers would need to make an investment in the social/cultural aspects of the community ● The community wants no “social deficit” from development ie. Developers should use local work force to the greatest extent possible. ● Encourage developers to form a partnership with SAAEP so that community is involved in advancement of projects. ● Form partnerships with the church community to explore ethical decisions such as future land use and the ethics of using “food for energy”. ● Communities within the city need to determine the optimal size for growth so as to maintain the community feeling ● Get the public on board
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post secondary education – University and College form large part of economic base, approximately 30%. LCC creates training opportunities – Pratt & Whitney training center, Wind Turbine training center. This develops a trained, local work force who would service and maintain alternative energy projects. Can respond quickly to changing needs ● Qualified and trained work force ● Abundance of agricultural land ● Feasibility of alternative energy is high compared to other parts of the province – wind and solar in abundance ● Potato production also a feedstock for energy and in abundance ● Clean air 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote Lethbridge area as a centre of research and education with respect to alternative energy. ● Create synergies between education and research and tourism. Eco Tourism could be built by showcasing alternative energy demonstration projects. This could be linked to the Native communities and Hutterite colonies so as to include all members of the community. ● Consider possible synergies/partnerships between different sectors ● Promote local use of locally produced energy – like “Alberta Beef”. ● Provide incentives, not disincentives for people to be self sufficient in energy. This could include tax incentives for

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water • City and region is a stable economic entity • Inexpensive energy costs • Research station • Stable work force, but not excess capacity • Tourism • Value added agri-business located here • There is not a waste reduction mentality here yet. 	<p>personal shifts to alternative energy usage and education about possible incentives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to have a well rounded approach to alternative energy development rather than a focus on just one segment. • Any dramatic shift toward alternative energy must be sustainable – it should not create an unnatural draw on the community. • Review municipal bylaws and change if necessary to allow for use of alternative energy or waste systems. • Need infrastructure support at the commercial/consumer level – biofuels for vehicles. Also needed is encouragement and support at the consumer level – currently it is a financial penalty to build a house with solar or geothermal technology – the government needs to show leadership. • Recognition that increased development will create an impact on infrastructure – roads, traffic, etc. How will this cost be supported? Be aware of all possible outcomes and plan accordingly, e.g weather, population growth. • Producing ethanol from potatoes efficient – fewer barriers and potatoes produce more energy than other crops. Southern Alberta farmers could be pioneers in this field and become world leaders. • Cost of using water in all of these processes needs to be well understood. • Provide a reward for conservation of water – processes which do not use water as input should be rewarded; consider planning now to increase storage capacity. • Use revenues from hydrocarbon production to support Alternative Energy Development – legislated policy regarding exceeding pollution limits would be directed to alternative energy
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	<p>systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use residential waste to create energy • Use or re-use what we now consider waste; divert or recycle; explore biomimicry • Alternative energy development could help smaller communities which may be struggling economically. Strive to achieve balance in the economic base, ie. Not just one industry per town – look for value-added developments • Put in place a straightforward policy and process to get projects on stream on a smaller scale • There is an education deficit on this topic. Need a local, massive public awareness and education program. Develop marketing program to educate. Use the Herald, the City newsletter, internet – make it prominent • Subsidies to encourage alternative energy production (as sued in EU countries. Subsidy to producer (not for infrastructure); consumer has choice between conventional energy or alternatives at different price • Look at successful models elsewhere (EU) where there is integrated political, social and economic approach • Consider models of ensuring benefits flow through the region; not to a few large scale producers • Municipalities need to lead by example; vehicles and fuel used, recycling • Need more water storage capacity to ensure stable supply
<p>Environment and Land Use Environment and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean air, clean water, good climate – attracts people to the area • Views, unique landscape • Water – key resource; need water plan at local and provincial level, e.g. new industry in Taber getting water from Taber Irrigation District – is this a good idea? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need land use plan that includes locations for windmills, pedestrian/recreation use, agriculture; how windmills and aerial agriculture applications can co-exist; siting for future plants • Start with a local plan and build up to provincial plan; encourage communities to review provincial government's proposed land use plans; review MD of Pincher Creek's land use plan

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windmills are a distinctive feature between Lethbridge and mountains – how many will be too many? • Agriculture – increasing pressure on agricultural land (e.g. for windmills, city encroaching on country) • Concentration of food production plans – about 2 dozen in the area; waste streams are a potential energy source • Generating plant in area – methane • Feedlots – potential energy source for bio-mass; bio-digester • Reservoirs – recreation use • Cheap land and large amounts available – especially valuable for bio-diesel • Solar, wind and land resources – can take advantage of different energy sources when they are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider target siting for windmills where people in radius of windmill get some compensation • Development will need to protect the clean air, water quality and the outstanding views in the area; “visual pollution” from windmills will become a bigger issue as more are in place • Need balance between aesthetics and dollars • Be aware of increasing pressure on land for different purposes as people seek country life; has impact on grassland and sloughs • Nature Conservancy has prevented some alternative energy development, e.g. wind farm; conservancy easement sometimes removes land from productive use. • Conservation should be at the top of the list of priorities, e.g. house construction, land development, heating; needs to apply to everyone; need standards and enforcement • Need to change attitudes about conservation; use education, consider incentives, create standards for better labeling, e.g. show country of origin • Development should consider climate change footprint, wildlife impacts • Development should factor in full lifecycle costs, e.g. production, transport miles, packaging, use of product, disposal • Need to educate about impact of choices on food prices, e.g. bio-fuels • Need information on implications of different energy sources, e.g. wind reliability, environmental impacts, costs/benefits, e.g. used to think that whale oil was a good energy source • Need information specific to each community • Government should provide incentives for residential use and businesses, e.g. models in Germany and U.S.; need both carrots and sticks • Consider Advanced Renewable Energy Tariff (Germany) – pay premium for green power produced instead of subsidizing set up • Explore co-generation: Use waste by-products from ethanol production in bio-digester; then use gas from bio-digester to
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	<p>fuel ethanol production (instead of using natural gas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethbridge should protect and grow trail network • Look at landfills as energy sources • Protect archeological sites and wildlife • Alternative energy should be part of environmental farming plan in Alberta; would result in energy use reductions for agriculture operations • Other ideas for Lethbridge: ban plastic bags and give away cloth bags; promote 100 mile diet (would result in more greenhouses – what are the impacts of greenhouses?) • Regulate packaging, e.g. biodegradable packaging, ban plastic cups in hotels • Consider carbon credit options; make sure they do not just move pollution around • Ensure landowner rights are protected • Change the color of wind turbines so that they blend in with landscape • Consider sharing transmission lines or share right of ways • Look at co-ops for producing and using energy
<p>Other Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “As a consumer, do I have all of the information I need to make informed decisions about alternative energy?” • Are alternative energy processes actually beneficial for climate change? • How will potentially increased input costs affect farmers’ ability to produce for alternative energy? • Need clear, objective information about alternative energy options and implications • How can individuals have an impact on this process and benefit from the process? • Would like to see clarity in big picture goal for SAAEP? Is the focus on dollars? Climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more information available to people about the payback potential of changing to alternative energy sources. • Need more information regarding the Trade and Labor Mobility Act – may have an impact on community decisions which could be overturned as a result of this act.