

STATE OF THE REGION REPORT

PROJECT #001

PROJECT UPDATE

1. In Spring 2017, Mackenzie County, County of Northern Lights, Town of Rainbow Lake and Town of High Level received grant funding from Municipal Affairs under the Alberta Community Partnership grant funding stream.
2. As Clear Hills County became an NWSAR member in 2017, NWSAR increased the study area to include Clear Hills County.
3. After some progress, delays and timeline extensions, NWSAR officially kicked off the main body of this project in October 2019.
4. Working with Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and CMR Consulting.
5. ABMI delivering an environmental report: biodiversity intactness, historic/ current land conditions, wetlands type, status, trends, etc.
6. NRCan delivering an environmental report: wildfire “fuels” vegetation assessment, biomass at risk, historic snowfall and drought conditions, etc. NRCan will also deliver a scientific paper in collaboration with NWSAR, in late 2020.
7. CMR Consulting delivering a socio-economic report: review of existing social and economic data for the region, compiling new information, looking at historic trends, current needs/priorities, and opportunities.
8. ABMI and NRCan reports delivered to NWSAR by end of April 2020.
9. CMR’s report delivered to NWSAR by the end of April /early May 2020.
10. Mackenzie County submitted second project deliverable extension application on October 31st 2019 – no response received from Municipal Affairs yet.
11. Mackenzie County is managing the grant funding for this project, and have signed all the contract agreements with ABMI, NRCan and CMR Consulting agreeing to the terms and deliverables. NWSAR administration is the project manager.
12. NWSAR approved a budget of up-to \$6,500.00 for all open house costs (including food, door prizes, advertizing, and venue costs).

13. NWSAR approved \$15,800.00 from their 2020-operating budget to the State of the Region Report project.
14. Open house week was held during January 13th – 17th 2020.
15. NWSAR advertised the open house week for one week in the Echo Pioneer and Mile-Zero Banner Post newspapers, in the January 8th edition. Posters and events were also circulated in social media pages, and on community poster boards.
16. NWSAR is provide the final report deliverable to Municipal Affairs.

OPEN HOUSE WEEK SUMMARY

1. Administration drove up with CMR Consulting on January 12th to Grande Prairie.
2. January 13th open house in Eureka River.
3. January 14th open house in Manning.
4. January 15th open house in Rainbow Lake.
5. January 16th open house in Fort Vermilion.
6. January 17th open house in High Level.
7. January 18th CMR Consulting flew back to Calgary from Grande Prairie.
8. Participation varied at each event, but the engagement and quality of input was excellent at all events.
9. Each open house featured an overview presentation on the State of the Region Report project, a working session facilitated by CMR, surveys, a second NWSAR presentation on the Caribou Range Research project, and gift card door prize draw at the end.
10. All attendees participated in the CMR working sessions, and surveys. NWSAR gave out 14 gift cards over the 5 open houses.
11. Administration has provided the Echo Pioneer with information on the project and open houses; answering a series of questions – expect a story in the January 29th edition.
12. During the daytime, CMR also conducted in-person and phone interviews with many local residents/stakeholders.

13. Administration has a data collection summary meeting scheduled with CMR on February 7th 2020, in Calgary.

ACTION ITEMS

1. CMR will continue to conduct phone interviews to gather data and local context.
2. The anonymous online survey will launch on January 30th 2020, for 4 weeks – closing date is 11:59 p.m. on Saturday February 29, 2020.
3. Administration will do 4 gift card prize draws per week for the online survey.
4. Hardcopy surveys provided by contacting NWSAR administration, or NWSAR member municipalities.
5. Administration will do social media posts for the survey and gift card prize draws.
6. NWSAR to provide brief project updates to NWSAR member municipality CAOs for their Council packages.
7. Provide link and PDF of survey to the municipalities to help promote the survey.

BUDGET UPDATE

Reporting Month: January 2020 for the 4 years up-to December 31, 2019

CONTRIBUTIONS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Northwest Species at Risk Committee	70,000.00				15,800.00
Alberta Municipal Affairs		200,000.00			
<i>Carry Forward 2016</i>		<i>30,278.20</i>			
<i>Carry Forward 2017</i>			<i>178,879.83</i>		
<i>Carry Forward 2018</i>				<i>178,013.18</i>	
<i>Carry Forward 2019</i>					<i>177,013.18</i>
ANNUAL TOTAL	70,000.00	200,000.00			15,800.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$285,800.00				

EXPENSES	GOODS AND SERVICES	PROFESSIONAL FEES
2016	0.00	39,721.80
2017	224.00	51,174.37
2018	0.00	574.00
2019	0.00	1,292.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	224.00	92,762.82
COMBINED EXPENSES	\$92,986.82	
UNSPENT NWSAR FUNDS	\$15,800.00	
UNSPENT MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS FUNDS	\$177,013.18	
TOTAL UNSPENT FUNDS	\$192,813.18	

Link to online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Socioeconomic>

For questions: please contact Hayley Gavin on 780-502-0778
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