

Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
 Wednesday, February 5, 2025,-REO Hall, Fort Macleod



Board Representatives

Brent Feyter, Fort Macleod
 Brad Schlossberger, Claresholm
 Barbara Burnett, Cowley
 Cam Francis, Cardston County
 Blair Painter, Crowsnest Pass
 Rick Lemire, MD Pincher Creek
 Sahra Nodge, Pincher Creek

Victor Czop, Nanton
 Tim Court, Cardston

Resource Staff and Partners

Lori Hodge, LRSD
 Marie Everts, JET
 Mark Brown, CF ABSW
 Bev Thornton, AlbertaSW

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| 1 | Call to Order and welcome | Chair Brent Feyter called the meeting to order |
| 2 | Approval of Agenda | Moved by Blair Painter THAT the agenda be approved with addition of First Nations MOU and municipal collaboration.
Carried. [2025-02-941] |
| 3 | Approval of Minutes | Moved by Cam Francis THAT the Minutes of January 8, 2025, be approved as presented.
Carried. [2025-02-942] |
| 4 | Approval of Cheque Register | Moved by Blair Painter THAT cheques #3485to #3503 be approved as presented.
Carried. [2025-02-943] |
| 5 | NRED Grant Final Report | The Manufacturing Energy Construction Ag Processing (MECAP) has completed project plan funded by Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) grant. Final report is submitted. Some metrics will be share din February Bulletin. A second NRED grant has been applied for. |
| 6 | Year End report clarification | It is confirmed that Jobs, Economy, and Trade will require a Financial Audit for year ending 2024-2025. This is an unexpected added expense, as a Review Engagement has been acceptable in the past. Avail CPA has been advised of this requirement and will provide an estimate. |
| 7 | Qatalyst Consultation and REDA transition | Consultant report summarized interview and workshop discussion, reflecting some options to increase revenue and reduce expenses.
Board will consider options with intent to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o create a recommended plan by October 2025; o conduct orientation and recommendations to present to new Councils; o approve a transition and operating plan by August 2026. |
| 8 | Southern Alberta Economic Summit | This is a partnership event to be held Thursday March 27, 2025 8:30am to 3:30pm at the Agri-Food Hub.
SouthGrow staff leads planning; sponsors include AlbertaSW, Community Futures, Economic Development Lethbridge, Tourism Lethbridge, and PrairiesCan |

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| 9 | Blackfoot Signage update | There are still funds available in phase 1 of the project, and municipalities and businesses are encouraged to apply.
This has been a successful initiative, and an application will go forward for phase 2, and extend further through the partner regions. |
| 10 | CEDI | Brandie Lea, PrairiesCan, provided information about the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) that has a specific focus on connecting First Nations and Municipalities to identify common issues and partner on projects. |
| 11 | MOU with Kainai First Nation | February 9, 2024, Cardston, Cardston County, Fort Macleod ,Pincher Creek, and MD of Pincher Creek entered into a memorandum of respect, understanding and partnership with the Kainai/ Blood Tribe.
Continued conversations have been positive. |
| 12 | Indigenous Tourism Alberta (ITA) Mini gathering | The first event was a success in 2024, and the second annual event will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 9:00am to 4:00pm Tickets \$150.00
Agri Food Hub, Lethbridge, |
| 13 | Executive Director Report | Moved by Rick Lemire THAT the Executive Director report be accepted as information.
Carried. [2025-02-944] |
| 14 | Round table | Accepted as information. |
| 15 | Upcoming Board Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wednesday, March 5, 2025-TBD ➤ Wednesday, April 2, 2025-TBD ➤ Wednesday, May 7, 2025-TBD ➤ Wednesday, June 4, 2025-AGM |
| 16 | Adjourn | Moved by Tim Court THAT the meeting be adjourned.
Carried. [2025-02-945] |

Approved March 5, 2025.....

Executive Director Report February 2025

MEETINGS and PRESENTATIONS

- Feb 4: RINSA meeting, Zoom
- Feb 4: Geography 4700 student mapping project, Zoom
- Feb 5: Board meeting, Fort Macleod
- Feb 7: Agency meeting with entrepreneur, Zoom
- Feb 7: Meeting with InnoVisions, Zoom
- Feb 11: Alberta Chambers Pilot Project Proposal, Teams
- Feb 11: Meeting with MP Barlow office, Zoom
- Feb 12: EDA Webinar, Zoom
- Feb 12: University of Lethbridge student meeting, Anderson Hall

Feb 13: Travel Alberta Strategic Insights Advisory Committee, Zoom
Feb 13: Highway 3 Twinning Development Association Board meeting [regrets]
Feb 14: Interviewed by Rob Kerr, Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST Canada), Zoom
Feb 14: Meeting to discuss REDA and rural economic development issues, MLA, Zoom
Feb 14: EMC, MEEC, InnoVisions meeting, re: entrepreneur support, Zoom
Feb 19: EDL Board Meeting, Tecconnect
Feb 20: Fort Macleod Chamber Awards night, Fort Macleod
Feb 21: Multi-agency meeting with entrepreneur, Zoom
Feb 25: Economic Resiliency Task Force meeting, Teams
Feb 28: RINSA Goes Rural road trips planning meeting, Alberta Innovates and partners, Teams

PROJECT MANAGEMENT and REPORTING

- Submit MECAP Project for EDA Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Award , medium-sized community
- Provide support letters for other EDA award nominations
- Consult with Avail re: year-end requirements
- Continued input to Blackfoot Signage pilot project
- Review of Qatalyst report
- Grant program information inquiries; Succession Planning for Non-Profits inquiries

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION and REGIONAL PROMOTION

- Set up agency Resource Meetings for new local business operations
- Support planning for agency outreach in communities (NRC, Alberta Innovates, PrairiesCan, JET, etc)
- Invest /Xperience Alberta magazine 2025 is available on line <https://www.edaalberta.ca/Invest-In-Alberta>
- Meet with new uLeth student team re interactive mapping project (GEOG 4700) MECAP data

UPCOMING EVENTS

Indigenous Tourism Alberta (ITA) Mini-Gathering

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

9:00am to 4:00pm - Lethbridge Agrifood Hub

Tickets \$150.00 available at this link:

The event promotes networking, story sharing, and engaging with tourism professionals to celebrate the accomplishments and partnerships that support the development of indigenous tourism.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ita-regional-gathering-lethbridge-tickets-1200505657739?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Southern Alberta Economic Summit

Thursday March 27, 2025

8:30am to 3:30pm – Lethbridge Agrifood Hub

Tickets - \$80 available at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/southern-alberta-economic-summit-2025-tickets-1058509342939>