

**Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Stockmans Grill, Fort Macleod



**Board Representatives**

Brent Feyter, Fort Macleod  
 Brad Schlossberger, Claresholm  
 Sahra Nodge, Pincher Creek  
 Barbara Burnett, Cowley  
 Cam Francis, Cardston County  
 Rick Lemire, MD Pincher Creek  
 John Van Driesten, MD Willow Creek  
 Dale Gugala, Stavely  
 Barbara Clay, Waterton  
 Paula Brown, Cardston  
 Shauna Strong, Nanton

Mike Hegedus, Hill Spring  
 Shane Ford, Glenwood

**Resource Staff and Partners**

Marie Everts, JETI  
 Sacha Anderson, CF CNP  
 Lori Hodge, LRSD  
 Bryon Anderson, Lethbridge Polytechnic  
 Michael Vallee, Heritage Acres  
 Sean Miles, AlbertaSW  
 Bev Thornton, AlbertaSW

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|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Call to Order and Welcome   | Chair, Brent Feyter  |
| 2 | Approval of Agenda          | Bev Thornton added third quarter budget report to the agenda<br>Moved by Cam Francis THAT the agenda be approved with addition.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1001]  |
| 3 | Approval of Minutes         | Moved by Shane Ford THAT the Minutes of December 3, 2025, be approved as presented.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1002]  |
| 4 | Approval of Cheque Register | Moved by Dale Gugala THAT cheques #3618to #3628 be approved as presented.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1003]  |
| 5 | Third quarter Budget        | Board reviewed expenditures in all 3 Core Business areas; projects and expenditures are on track. The additional revenue from 2025 memberships and regional business license will serve to make 2027-2028 sustainable. Report accepted as information.   |
| 6 | Waste Management            | Further to discussion at the last Board meeting, Investment Director has contacted EndPoint Recovery, and the CEO will be available to make an information presentation on this technology and the opportunity. Discussion pointed out that there are significant potential barriers, but there is value in continuing the conversation.<br>Consensus to proceed to organize an information event.                             |
| 7 | Qatalyst Consultations      | Investment Director business and community visits have pointed up municipal airports as assets with potential to support economic development. Qatalyst has indicated willingness to help define the scope of a project to address issues and opportunities related to these assets and prepare information that would support a grant application.<br>Consensus to explore further, as it has relevance for the whole region. |

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| 8  | Green Destinations           | Maintaining ongoing membership is now an expense that does not offer sufficient value.<br>Moved by Cam Francis THAT we decline to renew membership and just participate in the Top 100 Good Practice Stories competition if and when appropriate.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1004]  |
| 9  | IEDC-AEDO<br>Reaccreditation | AlbertaSW is the first International Economic Development Council Accredited Economic Development Organization in the west, and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of now 6 in Canada. IEDC and Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) are entering conversations about how to add value to this designation and grow the certification in Alberta.<br>This is probably a good time to stay at the forefront of this new approach and maintain AlbertaSW leadership in this context.<br>Moved by Sahra Nodge THAT AlbertaSW apply for IEDC-AEDO Reaccreditation.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1005] |
| 10 | Investment Director Report   | Accepted as information  |
| 11 | Executive Director Report    | Accepted as information.   |
| 12 | Round table                  | Accepted as information.   |
| 12 | Upcoming Board Meetings      | ➤ Wednesday February 4, 2026 – Claresholm<br>Will include waste management information session earlier that same day.<br>➤ Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – TBD<br>➤ Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - TBD  |
| 13 | Adjourn                      | Moved by Mike Hegedus THAT the meeting be adjourned.<br><b>Carried.</b> [2026-01-1006]   |

**Approved February 4, 2026**

### Executive Director Report January 2026

#### MEETINGS and PRESENTATIONS

- Jan 5: Meeting with EDA CEO, Leann Hackman-Carty, Zoom
- Jan 5: Meeting with PrairiesCan North, Kamie Currie, re: SSRP, Teams
- Jan 6: Meeting with Sean and InnoVisions, Zoom
- Jan 7: Meeting with CFABSW, Fort Macleod
- Jan 7: Board meeting, Fort Macleod
- Jan 9: Meeting with Qatalyst, Zoom
- Jan 9: Meeting with Tourism Lethbridge
- Jan 9: Meeting with Anna Look, Teams
- Jan 15: Meeting with EDL re: Ukrainian newcomers

Jan 15: AEDO Program and Policy Advisory Committee Meeting, Zoom

Jan 16: Investment and Growth Fund Webinar, Teams

Jan 21: EDL Board meeting [regrets]

Jan 22: AEDO Review Board meeting, Zoom

Jan 27: AEDO Advisory Committee Meeting, Zoom

Jan 28: EDA Community Investment Readiness Tool Webinar, Zoom

Jan 29: Resilience Task Force check-in, Teams

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT and REPORTING**

- Website inquiries and referrals
- Collaboration with Investment Director and InnoVisions
- Tourism and Economic Summit event support
- InnoVisions advisory services meetings
- Invoicing and budget tracking

### **INVESTMENT ATTRACTION and REGIONAL PROMOTION**

- Updates on provincial and federal airports initiatives
- Collaboration with Investment Director
- IEDC-AEDO Advisory Committee input

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

#### **Southern Alberta Economic & Tourism Summit 2026**

Lethbridge Trade and Convention Centre, 101 Exhibition Way S, Lethbridge, AB

Enjoy one or two days

- **Tourism Summit Wednesday, March 25** from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm TICKET **\$80**
- **Economic Summit Thursday March 26** from 8:30 am to 3:30pm TICKET **\$80**
- TICKET for **BOTH days: \$140**

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/southern-alberta-economic-tourism-summit-2026-tickets-1976482149314?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/southern-alberta-economic-tourism-summit-2026-tickets-1976482149314?aff=oddtcreator)

### **INVESTMENT DIRECTOR REPORT - January**

[Sean.Miles@albertasouthwest.com](mailto:Sean.Miles@albertasouthwest.com) has supported business development in the region, meeting with provincial and federal agencies and municipal councils and partners.

- Engaging food scientists and federal partners to identify commercialization opportunities.
- Coordinating grants for regional aerospace strategies and advancing data center project.
- Presenting to Cardston, Claresholm, and Fort Macleod Councils.

Full report circulated as separate attachment.