



Bulletin - April 2017

from pete.lovering@southgrow.com

South Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP)

The website is nearly complete. We encourage you to take a look at the test version available at this site: www.saaepinfo.wordpress.com. If you have any edits, please refer them to us for changes. On April 28, we will be meeting with a representative of a Shanghai company interested in investing in large scale utility wind and solar projects. More on that later. We are also considering a basic course for municipal employees and councilors on evaluating wind and solar projects. Please contact me if you would be interested. We would need 20-40 attendees at a cost of \$250 - \$500 per person.

We have still not given up on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for the region. A meeting is scheduled in early May to decide how to proceed given the fact that grant funding from NRCan is not going to happen.

Broadband

Kimberly and her team are almost finished and should be contacting your municipal offices to discuss individual reports before they finalize the report to SouthGrow with recommendations for next steps. If you have any comments, please direct them to us. We expect that the final report should be in our hands by mid-May. Part of the project recommendations include how to proceed with an education event. We would certainly invite Service Alberta, Innovation, Science & Economic Development Canada and the CRTC to participate. We are also hopeful to have some companies present on their plans for the future and where technology will play a role.

Investment Attraction

The Manager is meeting with his Economic Development colleagues on June 16 to discuss moving forward with a project that will see Investment Marketing plans developed for SouthGrow members.

Chinese Business to Business

Aside from the meeting with the Shanghai company mentioned above, we have been in contact with a couple of trade organizations in China to ensure that we remain in their sights for potential partnership opportunities. Manager has continued to be in contact with a few businesses still interested in trade. These include a Farm Equipment manufacturer that does not have a presence in North America as yet, a manufacturer of Agricultural Drones looking for a company to sell their product, a steel company, and others. There is still an above average interest in Canadian honey and Canadian food products as we are considered to have excellent food quality and health standards. One company is also interested in importing juices and red wine. Starfield Magrath is attending an Agricultural Expo in Neihuang County and more possibilities for trade may present themselves as a result. Some other businesses may also come over individually upon our invite if we have some solid proposals to present.

Information for Members

We would be happy to reach out to Councils and Staff of any of our members to update them on the progress we are making. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to schedule a visit or a meeting with your organization.

13 Ways to Kill Your Community

I thought that this was too important not to mention again. Doug Griffiths will be coming to Milk River in November and this may be a good opportunity for those that were unable to attend, to go. Also, it is very good for new councilors. If you have any questions, you should contact the Milk River Town Office.

On Farm Energy Reduction Extension program

Our work on this project continues. If you wish to contact Vern Steinborn for a presentation on the captioned program, you can e-mail him at vern.steinborn@southgrow.com. This program is part of Growing Forward 2. Vern will be going around to various Counties and MDs with some literature soon. You can also use him as a valuable connection to others that work in the GF2 area,

Save the Date: SouthGrow AGM and Recognition Event – June 15, 2017 at Anton's Ballroom in the Lethbridge Lodge.