



Bulletin - July 2017

from pete.lovering@southgrow.com

South Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP)

July has been busy with meetings. We finalized our project and a final report was submitted to our working group by the contract, Solar Optix. It will be sent to our funders (Ec Dev & Trade) as soon as our working group signs off on it. All funds (\$50,000) have been received.

I have also met with at least 5 firms that are interested in Renewable Energy. The biggest of these firms is Samsung. We have tried to interest these companies to consider builds in SW Alberta. Each megawatt of electricity costs between 1.5 – 2.5 million to build when jobs, equipment and land are factored in. Considering that we already have projects in the queue of more than 2,000 megawatts, the potential for this area is huge. Of course, not all of these will be built but there is a good chance that several will come onstream by the end of 2019.

Our work on a system of Electric Vehicle Chargers continues and our partnership with Calgary and Region along with Alberta SouthWest will hopefully bear some fruit and result in a network of chargers that will allow travelers with EVs to get to any place throughout the region and connect with the same type of network currently being built in SE BC.

Broadband

The final draft of the report has been presented to the Board and copies sent out to members. I plan on visiting around the region this summer and will bring with me a hard copy of the report. We expect an announcement from Service Alberta about the future of the SuperNet any time now. SouthGrow is planning a Summit where all the players will come together and discuss Alberta's future in Broadband.

Investment Attraction

I have recently sent out an RFP to find a consultant willing to work with our members on community plans for Investment Attraction and a community Marketing Plan. We hope to be able to let this contract by mid-August. Look for more information as the summer progresses.

Chinese Business to Business

I continue to work on the list of businesses that contacted us during our China visit and afterward. By far the most interest has been by Renewable Energy companies.

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.

AGM

Our AGM went very well and we have two new Management Board members replacing Mayor Maggie Kronen and Gayna Welsh. They are Norbert Altvater from the Town of Coaldale and Councillor Rick Howard from the Town of Vulcan. Unfortunately, Councillor Ken Galts from Coutts will not be running for re-election this fall and we are looking for a representative from our Village members to round out the board. As I am visiting with members this summer, I will bring along a hard copy of our Annual Report for your files.

On Farm Energy Reduction Extension program

Vern has been busy meeting with Ag Boards and even presented at a Trade Show in Olds this month. If you wish to contact Vern Steinborn for a presentation on the captioned program, you can e-mail him at vern.steinborn@southgrow.com or phone him at 403-894-0050. This program is part of Growing Forward 2 and will soon be replaced with the next Ag Policy framework. Funding for that program will begin on April 1, 2018. Until then, there are still a few programs being supported and you can find out which programs here <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/>. Look for Vern as he goes around to various Counties and MDs with his presentation. You can also use him as a valuable connection to others that work in the GF2 area,

All for now. Look for our next bulletin near the end of August.