



Executive Director Report

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This past month was a wonderful month for our outreach and stakeholder engagement. All events have been determined to be successes. As with all event planning, few see the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and I am so proud of Marie and Lisa in their efforts. We are truly closing the year out with a high-five!

Municipal Forum – I truly cannot say any more about how well this went. Subsequently, I have been able to connect with some of those that were unable to attend and we will be sending the Forum Final Report (hopefully with the 'ask' letters) to all the municipalities shortly. Looking forward – how often should we have a forum?

It was suggested every two years – once right after the elections and their organizational meetings and then again after two years. Other ideas?

The Science Outreach/Athabasca Watershed Council partnership – With two events now successful (both in Athabasca) and folks getting to know us, this has been very successful. Expansion into the other areas is now something we will be looking at. We are also looking at how we can stretch these to accommodate the younger generation.

The AGM – May 25, 2019

Hinton and Area. I have spoken to the town manager of Hinton and he is helping me to determine the place and assist in the arrangements. There have been some ideas brought forth from board members that perhaps the AGM should be a full day with an educational session or a guest speaker. The Board meeting following would then be about a month later to give any new board members time to orientate themselves through the online board orientation and familiarize themselves with the history (minutes etc).

Moonlight Madness!

Robert Holmberg had a vision and had talked Marie into it a long time ago. It turned out to be a fantastic success. People do not just want to come to an open house of the AWC...but add some professional photos of the Watershed, some hot chocolate and cookies, cold evening, they will come! We had over 70 people with some even staying to watch the repeating slideshow that Robert gave at the forum. Take-aways... shorter slideshow, more photographers, more



advertising, and longer exhibit time (days instead of just an evening) as the set up and take down is so much time.

Tourism Athabasca

I presented, along with Bill Grieve (wearing the Mason's hat), Margaret Anderson (Heritage Society) and Lisa (giving her experience from the Chamber of Commerce in Lloydminster). We thought it was a great idea however, they have turned us down. No worries though as there are other ways to get our information out and we are still at the train station where folks stop. ☺

Woodland County/Rotary Club

This presentation went very well to Woodlands County after a very foggy drive to Whitecourt. Dan Moore met me there and the council had very complementary words for us and especially for Dan! After the presentation Dan and I talked with the two members of the Rotary club which had presented prior to us. The Rotary Club in Whitecourt has since scheduled us to give a presentation to the Club on February 21.

The Train Station

Renovations are certainly moving along now as the Heritage Society received their casino money. The floors are being refinished upstairs and the trim is all being installed. Lastly will be the finishing painting. Everything is covered in dust! I expect they will want us moving upstairs in January.

The Ecoaction Grant (federal)

We are preparing documents to apply for the Ecoaction grant to assist in funding the Pembina Project. Much of the work has already been done with the WRRP grant. This is a matching grant and thus we are limited to what is secured at present. Details were sent in the email to you.

Administrative Support

I am pleased to announce that Paula Sawatzky will be joining us as a casual administrative coordinator. With Marie leaving on maternity leave a bit earlier than we had budgeted for, we have a small amount of money to use toward this. Over the past year, Marie, then Lisa and I had been inundated with the amount of administrative work required taking us away from what we were hired to do. Even though Paula has a Bachelor of Arts degree and her Instrumentation Engineering Technology Diploma (NAIT), she wants to work with us! She retired a while ago and just wants something one or two days a week. She is more than qualified from her being a team lead at Alberta Pacific Forest Industries. Please welcome her!