

## Mayor's Report October 28 - November 8, 2020

### OCTOBER 28

### REDI MEETING

- The REDA's are looking at what a sustainability model would look like, with only \$50,000 in funding from the Alberta Governments
- No CARES Applications for 2020, but might be available in 2021
- Letter sent to Minister Doug Schweitzer and local MLA's to reinstate a 5-year contract with \$100,000 in funding to each of the REDA's.
- Andrew did a presentation introducing value-added agriculture projects in the NW Region. The presentation included Canola crushing and Hemp processing, and on our Pea Processing Plant, Organic sourcing and Oat Processing
- Discussions on A2A with the proponents of the planned Alberta-to-Alaska rail link.
- The company hopes to have the 2,570-kilometre line operational by 2026.
- The project is being spearheaded by Edmonton-based businessman Sean McCoshen, CEO of the McCoshen Group.
- Potential cargo will go beyond bitumen destined for international markets.
- Other items include grain, potash, sulfur, gravel, food and machinery.
- Passenger lines might also be considered.

#### Listed Below are the Core Activities of REDI:

##### 1. Webpage and Marketing Material Development

- REDI is launching a new webpage that will showcase the main economic pillars of our region.
- The website will have short video clips, updated regional statistics and downloadable copies of recent studies.
- New community profiles of each community within our region will be developed, along with updates to maps that identify infrastructure development over the past ten years.
- REDI is creating new profiles for Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism.

## **Activity 2 - FDI Attraction – CanExport Grant**

- Focus on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), particularly in value-added agriculture. The Mackenzie region of the province is the most northerly agricultural land in the country.
- The project will improve our capacity to attract, retain and expand FDI through the development of Value-Added Agriculture Business Case snapshots, which will be distributed to qualified investors and companies that have an interest in our region.
- Work will be completed on website development and the production of material that translates into four foreign languages, which will allow us to work with the Government of Alberta International offices to market opportunities to targeted countries.

## **Activity 3 – A2A & NADC (Utility & Transport Corridors)**

- Partner with the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) to encourage new Utility and Transportation Corridors through our region. Examples include; The Fort McMurray to Alaska Corridor and The Northern Transportation Corridor.

## **Activity 4 – Building NWT Relationship**

- REDI has made headway in building its relationship with municipal leaders in the lower NWT.
- Joint meetings and sharing of information will be held. We anticipate our partnership opportunities with the NWT.

## **Activity 5 - Networking and Advocacy**

- REDI maintains an active membership in the Alberta Association of Urban Municipalities, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, The Alberta Economic Developers Association, the British Columbia Economic Developers Association, and the Economic Developers Association of Canada.
- Currently, REDI participates in REDA Manager and Regional Economic Development meetings coordinated by the Alberta Department of Jobs, Economy and Innovation; has partnered with PREDA on transportation priorities for the northwest; and attends/invites key stakeholders from the North Peace Economic Development Commission (Fort St. John & Dawson Creek) to address regional

issues such as airport services, rail capacity, industrial workcamps, and cross-border roadways.

#### **Activity 6 – MoveUp Magazine**

- MoveUp Magazine articles on REDI initiatives (4 Editorials) over the course of the year. Examples of this include; Pea Processing article, Shop Local article, New Website article and possibly an article about recent investments in the REDI region such as the Tolko Pellet Mill and Richardson Pioneer grain terminal.

#### **Activity 8 - Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association**

- Partnership with Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association (MFTA) to work on a tourism identification project, which will build on from last year's My Freedom, My Frontier, Tourism report.
- The Initiative supports MFTA with funding to survey tourism operators to understand how multiple operators can contribute to the overall tourism destination.

#### **Activity 9 – Broadband**

- Assist local municipalities interested in exploring further their fibre and broadband ISP option.

#### **NOVEMBER 3**

#### **SPRING 2019 WILDFIRE REVIEW**

- I was invited by the province to validate the “Review” prepared by MNP regarding the wildfires of 2019.
- There are 15 recommendations on how to improve, but the one that threads itself predominantly throughout the report is better **”COMMUNICATION”**

#### **NOVEMBER 4**

#### **CEDI**

#### **N’deh Update:**

- Renovation and expansion on hotel is in progress; should be complete by end of January
- Demolition of the trailer park is underway, wiring, clean trailers, removing asbestos from two buildings and trailers; should be complete by end of November.

## **Town of High Level**

- Received A2A presidential permits.
- Hopeful that A2A will come to High Level in the end of November, and engage Dene Tha', Beaver, Little Red and REDI
- Grain elevator and pellet plant will be operational by end of November
- Park Plaza development is moving along
- Consultants are looking at the way the rates of utilities are calculated. High utility rates affects everyone. We will keep the WG informed about how this is moving along

## **CEDI Updates**

- Only six remaining months of the CEDI program
- Confirmed that CEDI can support DT – HL with facilitation and program participation until the end of April (instead of original end of March date).
- CEDI will facilitate the final workshop in March and final WGM in April; there is also an extension of the use of the grants until February 2021.
- Looking at different models for workshops

## **Shared Vision Statements and Partnership Agreement**

- Feedback, preferences and next steps to be summarized in Workshop Report
- Smaller sub-committee will work with the CEDI team and draft agreement and vision statement to create a second draft to be shared with WG and Councils for review.
- Partnership Agreement sub-committee will include: Mayor McAteer, Councillor Jan Welke, Jordan Asels, Councillor Jeff Chonkolay

## **Update from Sub-Committees**

### **Waterline + Wastewater Infrastructure Sub-Committee**

- Pipe all laid this week, pump shack all should be in ground by Nov 6

### **Joint Regional Emergency Plan Sub-Committee**

- The HIRA has been completed.
- Debrief meeting with Sandhurst mid-October. Sandhurst found it very beneficial to know the level of knowledge in our two communities and it will help to inform the draft report.

- The sub-committee is committed to reviewing this report and we will bring back the next version of the document to the WG in the beginning of December.

### **Multi-Use Centre (evacuation + recreation)**

- Design: small changes, looks better than first go-around, costly – price has increased
- Working on funding; Mayor, CAO and Consultants met with PMO and asked for help, specifically for funding resources
- PMO shared that there may be another funding source coming.
- The province may have some funding.
- PMO shared that the projects fit into their funding parameters.

### **REMAINING CEDI DELIVERABLES**

- To complete two workshops/celebration
- W4: Joint Strategic Plan and Work Plan design
- W5: Partnership Celebration/Graduation and Review of Joint Initiatives and Partnership Best Practices (joint strategic plan, WG ToR, etc.)
- To update and ensure Working Group ToR are passed by both Councils
- To have completed a joint strategic plan and updated annual work plan
- To have created, signed and planned for celebration of Partnership Agreement
- To have completed Indigenous Corporate Training and planning for KAIROS Blanket Exercise (when COVID allows)
- To be prepared to continue monthly WG meetings with administrative and chairing support; guided by ToR
- To prepare the partnership to be resilient through turn-over
- To have accessed CEDI grants

### **Revised Participation Deadlines**

#### **CEDI Facilitation: Available until end of April 2021**

- Final Workshop/ Graduation in March
- Final WGM in April

#### **CEDI Grants:**

- Use by end of February 2021

- Apply by December 15, 2020 need confirmation of use of funds

#### **NEXT WORKSHOP DATE**

- Tentatively hold January 19th and 20th for Workshop #4

#### **Indigenous Corporate Training**

- Date Preference for November or December

#### **NOVEMBER 5**

#### **VIRTUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SPEECH**

- Recorded my speech for the virtual day.

#### **NOVEMBER 5**

#### **NWSAR**

- Lisa Wardley was acclaimed as chair at the organizational meeting and Crystal McAteer acclaimed Vice-chair.
- George Duffy and Jennifer Renton (GOA planners) provided a verbal presentation and a virtual tour of the Access Management Planning portal.
- Administration provided project update
- State of the Region Report (Project #001) a. Project Update
- NWSAR members who participate in additional meetings via Zoom for the State of the Region Report project will be compensated from NWSAR's "State of the Region Report" project budget, as a lot of time is being put into the report from members.
- Administration provided a project update on the Caribou Ranges Research (Project #002)
- Bistcho Lake Sub-Regional Task Force (SRTF) – Update - Expected delivery of the Bistcho Sub-Regional Plan for public input and engagement is January 2021.