



Understanding Industrial Development In Alberta's Rural Communities

Project Advisory Committee

**April 3rd, 2003
1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance:	Yvonne Sinkewich	Peace River Organic Producers Association
	Anne Browne	Heartland Citizens Coalition
	Murray Kerik	Alberta Cattle Commission
	Larry Wall	Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
Regrets:	Duane Yaworski	Alberta Surface Rights Federation
	Ward Toma	Alberta Canola Producers Commission

Introductory Remarks

- Welcomed everybody and thanked them for taking the time out of busy schedules
- Two main objectives for first meeting: (1) get to know who else is on the committee and the organizations they represent, and (2) tell those who are not as familiar with the project as others a little bit more about our research goals, objectives, and activities
- Received CARCI funding just this week

Introductions of advisory committee members

- Yvonne: Central Peace region farmer for 36 years and recently began transition to organic farming. PROPA began 15 years ago as a certifying body but has shifted lately towards more of a promoting role.
- Anne: The Coalition is concerned with issues around safety for rural subdivision residents, as well as issues of agricultural land preservation including the local microclimate associated with industrial development within the Heartland region.
- Murray: Has been an active member of the Alberta Beef Producers for a long time, the ACC has over 34,000 members across the province. His involvement

has focused on research applications, so he finds this study very pertinent to his activities in the organization.

Project Overview

- Why am I doing this project?
 - Looking at technological development, risk, and communities in Alberta from the perspective that as our society continues to develop its resources and intensify industry, it is going to become increasingly difficult to find ways to meet the concerns of individuals, groups, and communities who may be affected by the increased activities and their associated risks. Such risks can include things like SAFETY, LIVELIHOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL, among others.
 - Heartland is a good case study to examine community consultation to at how such activities operate at the local level and to see if there are ways in which research can help to improve such processes
 - Went through goal, objectives, background, and methods of the study
- Timeline of project
 - Began summer 2002
 - Research Proposal by December
 - Began Phases 1 and 2 beginning in January
 - Now completed 17 interviews
 - Looking to complete remaining interviews over next month
 - Will do Phases 3 and 4 this summer
 - Report writing this fall, and project completion by end of year
 - Hope to launch website as soon as possible

Roles and responsibilities of advisory committee

- a. Recruitment
 - Already had very helpful assistance from both Anne and Larry
 - Continuing to recruit participants to be interviewed, including local officials, industry representatives, media, etc.
- b. Relevance
 - Important to make the project seem CREDIBLE to the local community
- c. Dissemination
 - Providing results to internal and external stakeholders will require strategic thinking about appropriate formats, etc.
- d. Transferability
 - Especially pertinent to our external stakeholders...how can we ensure that the results of this case study will be relevant in a broader context?

Who else needs to join?

- Recognize that this is an important limitation of the project
- But people are very busy, and my experience is that it is very difficult to get people to commit to yet another committee
- Best strategy? Not too many meetings, short, lots of communication by email/web announcements?
- Who else? Other local stakeholders, general public
- Yvonne added: people from the municipal district, people from the provincial level, and the community health sector
- Larry made the point that our strategy should fit with what we view the study to achieve. If it is to be an objective process with definitive outcomes then the primary importance is to have appropriate representation from local stakeholders to ensure that it remains instructive to the local context.

Next meeting date

- TBC via email follow-up