

## CPAA 2010 EDUCATION SESSION ROUND-TABLE NOTES

**Question One:** What will need to be included in these tools to provide sufficient incentives for land owners to conserve ecological goods and services, improve environmental performance, while ensuring Alberta remains competitive? Why?

Simplicity in whatever system is put in place - clarity

Economic/financial incentives – need to be well thought out

Voluntary ability to participate in conservation

Provincial legislation – so municipalities or regions don't give in to local public pressure

Measurement system to determine progress, successes, and fairness

Funding to educate (about existing funding opportunities) and enhance performance of existing ecological areas i.e. alternative and sustainable use of lands for cattle watering

Solve how to preserve agriculture, if agriculture operations are not economically feasible

Respond to market, or create a market with willing buyers and sellers?

Willing buyers should be legislated

Money available through these programs must be very competitive with alternative land uses

Provincial legislation to set standards and keep everyone honest

Encourage hamlet restoration with mandated boundaries to save agriculture lands

Let's learn from Ducks Unlimited – promotions, etc.

Actually do them

Fair value and assessment

Different focus on what needs protection

What's this going to do to enhance municipal sustainability – identify growth areas for both urban and rural as a fair trade-off system

Land Titles have to be involved – central registry

Limit subdivision of unsubdivided quarters

Create a more fair taxing system, with more categories, to create a better tax base

Create a wealth transfer system for income to rural municipalities.

Limit urban annexation unless they can prove the density targets – maybe set by the province?

Province needs a heavy hand.

Province needs to step up to the plate on such things as: wetland compensation, conversion of crown land to private, cross border trade/ inter region transfer, energy companies provide bonds by legislation, equalization payments

**Question Two:** Which tools do you think are highest priority for further development and implementation? Why?

Conservation easements – allow those prepared to volunteer to move forward now. More work needed to provide a market. Maximize flexibility.

Conservation directives – establish major features for compensation and identify ecological capacities as “base” e.g. aquifers. Non-voluntary so must be set by regional plans.

Conservation offsets – already under way – need clarity as to effectiveness and function of this system

TDC – complex with much administration and ongoing operation costs and capacity needs. Need to focus on ensuring working systems operate while developing this. Mechanisms are unclear.

TDCs are highest priority for further development and implementation – nervousness about how it will work. Need to be very careful about sending and receiving areas.

**Question three:** How best to deal with stakeholders concerns, educate and inform stakeholders and the public about these conservation and stewardship tools?

Create a Provincial Government campaign.

Municipalities need to be fully informed then they will take it to the stakeholders. Must be community involvement and consultation.

Start in the schools.

Lots of urban education needed.

Needs to be driven by the province to ensure a consistent message.

Regional services provides synergy groups for information and capability of addressing concerns.

All information must be available at application stage – a user-friendly door at municipal offices.

Municipal link to federal websites as a start for all – one set of rules for food, air, ground.

Actually engage/collaborate to create feeling of opportunity under TDCs. E.g. demonstrate evaluation of lands.

**Question Four:** From the rural municipal government point of view, which has preserved the ecological goods and services over the long-term, how will they be kept viable?

Encourage value-added agricultural operations.

Use smart growth – up not out

Lock em out.

Annexation does not create a “benefit” from an urban?

All rural developments – acreage, gravel pit, pipeline right-of-ways – create added tax – so what’s the problem?

Restrict land base of urban growth. Restrict growth of urban municipalities to force development into rural municipalities as a type of forced revenue sharing.

Introduce an environment fee on the urban tax notices e.g. \$100 – people will talk about it when they are hit in the pocket book.

Wake up all – urban and rural. What would happen if the borders were closed? Where would food come from? People would no longer be too busy to be aware.

New tax policy – sufficient and permanent compensation.