

Community Advisory Committee - Engagement Report

For the Period Ending January 31, 2022

Prepared for: Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Program Office, Mayor and Council and the CAO

Community Advisory Committee: Purpose

- Work with the Flood Mitigation Office to learn and understand the reasons for the Flood Mitigation Program and the scope of the project to guide engagement with the public.
- Connect with the community affected by the Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Program, and report back to the Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Office on the concerns of the community.

Operational Process

- Meet weekly in person.
- Review input from residents (obtained through one-on-one meetings, casual discussions, telephone interviews, feedback from public information sessions, and letters we receive or are copied on).
- Formulate questions (refine and further clarify to ensure answers meet the needs of those asking them and others who may come to us in the future).
- Submit questions to Communications Team or FMO
- Review answers from FMO and communicate back to those who asked us the questions.

Summary of Committee Activities during this Period

Formation and Training:

- Committee named Sept 30/21
- Refined Terms of Reference
- Project orientation and training Oct 19 – Oct 27 (6 sessions – approx. 10 hours)
- First Committee meeting Nov 15, began weekly meetings Nov 24
- Committee Strategy and Operations Model Creation
 - mission statement
 - engagement model
 - tracking tools

Operational Activities

Attend Preview of Community Engagement sessions and provide feedback:

- Midland - Nov 16
- Newcastle – Nov 23
- Land Acquisition Strategy and Tree Strategy – Nov 24
- Dike D and MDP/LUB – Nov 30
- Lehigh – Dec 7
- Lehigh – Discuss Strategies – Dec 17

Attend Community Engagement sessions:

- Midland (Virtual and Town Hall) – Nov 18
- Newcastle (Virtual and Town Hall) – Dec 1
- Dike D (Virtual and Town Hall) – Dec 9
- Lehigh (Virtual / Closed Town Hall – Jan 6
- Dike D (Downtown Virtual Open House) – Jan 13

Conduct Research and Propose Solutions:

- Researched strategies for dealing with communities impacted by flooding where decisions to Retreat were chosen. Identified the PARA Adaptation Options Framework.
- Identified contacts from Ft McMurray who had experience dealing with Retreat.
- Reviewed in detail the nine wildlife, vegetation surveys and inventories conducted in 2021/22 and discussed with the Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Office on how the public will be kept informed.
- Researched and created an outline of Tree Strategy Program to engage community.
- Engage with community through email, in person, radio interview, etc
- 17 questions were identified and forwarded to FMO for further research and direction.

Accomplishments

- Provided input for the Improvement of Community Engagement sessions via feedback the CAC had received and interpreted to be the resident perspective.
- Working with an increasing number of community members to listen to their concerns, help them formulate their questions and communicating these to the FMO.
- Preparing Q&A questions from resident input.

Key Observations

- The FMO utilizes the input we provide and questions we ask to improve public presentations.
- The one hour per member per week expectation of our time that was identified in our interviews has likely expanded to 5-15 or more hours per week, but our committee is very committed to the project.
- While there are some opportunities for community involvement, the CAC believes that the public perception is that many decisions are made without opportunity for community engagement, involvement or feedback. This is based on numerous emails and conversations with more than one hundred people across the entire Drumheller community.
- Despite significant efforts by the Communication team, the Flood Mitigation Office and the Town of Drumheller, to communicate information about the Flood Mitigation Project, it appears that many people in the community are unaware of the project or have chosen not to be involved.
- There are many ongoing projects and visions for the valley (such as Tourism, Downtown Area Revitalization, and Community Development such as the new SL4 facility). It cannot be easy to juggle all of these areas of interest along with the impact of the Flood Mitigation Project.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Community Advisory Committee**