

Faye McGhee Division 1

Kneehill Regional Partnership

Meeting Date: October 17, 2023, Trochu

Educational opportunities coming up will include:

1. Municipal Enforcement for Elected Officials in November: This session would give Councils and Senior Administrators more knowledge about the process and legalities of conducting different types of municipal enforcement.
2. Economic Development for Elected Officials in first quarter This session would focus on expanding the awareness of elected officials regarding Economic Development philosophies and the Council's role in Economic Development.
3. A form of Elected Officials Education Program on Municipal financials in the first quarter.

Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP)

Meeting Date: October 19, 2023

CAEP is holding the FGM at the Setters Place, Red Deer, AB, November 16. Elections for some of the positions will be held. My position as director will have completed its first of 3 years.

No formal business was completed as we unexpectedly did not get quorum.

Power of Place Lunch, Innisfail

With guest speakers: Todd Hirsch and Justin Riemer

Todd Hirsch, speaker, (author and economist). gave a relatable and practical presentation where he shared his five things he learned about economy are:

1. It's all about choices; millions and millions of choices.
2. Economy works; market base or supply and demand structure is efficient but cruel.
3. Relationships matter.
4. Disappointment is a certainty.
5. Show up!

He spoke about what the past state, current state and possible future state looks like. He calls our current state the liminal space - a transition between the old economic order and a new one. That we are in a place of great changes and issues: including climate, technological, neonationalism, geopolitical, etc.

He encouraged us by sharing the tools for growing local economy:

1. Know who you are. Know your story and reason.



2. It's all about relationships. Emphasized this position by sharing that when he researched the small businesses that survived and or thrived through the pandemic the highest ranked relational quality in their stories was that of Trust.
3. Prepare for anything. Do some form of scenario planning.
4. Most importantly: Show Up. Show up with Kindness as it matters in economy.

Justin Riemer, (CEO, Emissions Reduction Alberta), shared many amazing stories of the innovative projects Alberta companies that make Alberta a leader in Carbon reduction; reinforcing that our stories matter and bring opportunities. Overall messages were that we must take risks, failure is not fatal but good part of the process and that Alberta needs to do a better job of branding our innovative and exceptionally talented a skilled business force.

“ERA was created in 2009 to help deliver on the province’s environmental and economic goals. ERA takes action on climate change and supports economic growth by investing in the pilot, demonstration and deployment of clean technology solutions that reduce GHGs, lower costs, attract investment, and create jobs in Alberta.” ERAAlberta.ca

ERA has two funding streams to help Alberta prosper while reducing emissions; innovative technology projects; and infrastructure upgrades for Alberta businesses. For every ERA dollar committed to advancing new technologies, \$7.20 has been invested by funding partners.

Round table discussion: The highlight of the day was the discussion opportunity with both speakers together with attendees where local questions were answered and discussed. Points made and discussed were:

1. Cluster development permitting.
2. It takes having industry first in order have thriving small business community.
3. Regional work creates success for each other.
4. Alberta is the place to be. Largest factor to retaining and keeping employees is the lifestyle available in your community.
5. Find your strengths, communicate them, and build them.
6. Community is the power because of the lack of partisan politics. Great power also in gathering as one for one purpose.
7. How we define “job” and workplace is changing.
8. Our biggest risk is the lack of Trades people.
9. Artificial Intelligence needs to be utilized and accepted as opportunity. The idea being “if you fear it, you will lose”

