



Communiqué – Summer 2007

This is the second communiqué prepared by the Partnership to ensure our stakeholders are informed about and can become involved in actions and activities associated with Low Impact Development. The communiqués are sent out twice each year (i.e., in July and in December).

Our first communiqué of December 2006 indicated that the number of stakeholders had more than doubled in 2006. We are pleased to announce that the ALIDP has continued to grow! Our recent stakeholder meeting was attended, either in person or by phone, by stakeholders from all across the province. The next stakeholder meeting is slated for early fall 2007.

Our first communiqué provided insight into how 2006 was a year of soul-searching to determine and focus what the Partnership is all about. In the first half of 2007, the Steering Committee has worked through our stakeholders' feed-back with respect to desired outcomes, expectations and priorities. A formal Governance Model with bylaws was presented at our June 19 stakeholder meeting, see attached. After incorporating a few minor revisions suggested by our stakeholders, we will submit it for formal ratification at the next stakeholder meeting. The current Steering Committee will step down at that time and be replaced by an elected Board of Directors. Formalizing the Partnership is a significant step towards increasing the desired profile and credibility of the Partnership. This transformation from a loose-knit group of volunteers into an organization that has the vision and means to educate our stakeholders and the public-at-large about how one could and should go about the implementation of LID initiatives will help move our project goals and objectives forward.

A Strategic Action Plan, budget and preliminary membership fees were presented at the June 19 stakeholder meeting as well, see attached. The Action Plan has six main themes: (1) communications and outreach; (2) guidelines, standards and policy; (3) design issues and implementation; (4) tools and techniques; (5) monitoring and performance information; and (6) funding. The first theme of communications and outreach will be developed to present the findings of themes (2) through (5). The ALIDP's ability to secure additional funding and in-kind contributions, support and volunteers to accomplish key tasks and research will be the next steps towards building the organization's capacity. One of the first tasks to be undertaken upon formalization of the Partnership will be to retain the services of a part-time coordinator. A coordinator is highly desirable to fulfill the vital roles and administrations functions necessary to implement the operations of the Technical and Communications Committees as well as to assist with the operation of our upcoming website, and the organization of workshops and seminars, conferences, etc. For a sneak preview of the first screen of our website, see <http://www.alidp.org>

The Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP)

Membership in the Partnership has privileges, benefits and responsibilities. The main responsibility is to actively facilitate and implement the development of an Alberta Strategy to protect and maintain the integrity of the natural environment while promoting the growth, prosperity and quality of life of Alberta's communities. The privileges and benefits will be manifested through an ALIDP membership that will seek to encourage and enable members to direct the actual implementation of ideas and initiatives. Membership will also provide enhanced access to the necessary tools and background information to ensure successful execution. On a monetary level, the savings that will be generated by multiple partnership access to information and resources will result in many cost saving opportunities that would otherwise not be incurred by individual member organizations if they were to attempt to initiate and implement LID projects on their own.

One of the current initiatives that demonstrates the benefits and opportunities of ALIDP membership and multiple partner action will be the fall 2007 Alberta Low Impact Development Conference to be hosted in Edmonton. The tentative date for this conference is November 27 - 29, 2007. In direct response to requests by several stakeholders in central and northern Alberta, the ALIDP is currently planning a conference with speakers and activities that will continue the public information, education aims and outcomes of the October 2006 *Cochrane Low Impact Development Conference – Innovations in Urban Development*. Those who were fortunate to attend last year's conference in Cochrane will remember that the 2006 Low Impact Development Conference was a great success with over 170 participants. To receive a copy of the 2006 conference presentations, please contact Bert van Duin at bert.vanduin@westhoff.ab.ca.

One positive experience from the Cochrane conference we intend to adopt for the 2007 ALIDP conference is the opportunity to interact with peers through break-out sessions. Also included is a Question and Answer session with an Expert Panel. The purpose of this session is to encourage participants to engage in challenging dialogues that will enable frank and honest discussions between LID experts about potential issues associated with the introduction of LID initiatives in Alberta. At the conference, we also hope to officially launch our website and appropriate tools that can be used in the analysis of systems with LID features. The conference will discuss issues associated with impacts on streams, as well as provide opportunities to explore issues associated with lake environments. Presentations will also provide participants with the latest and practical information from ongoing research activities with respect to green roof systems, permeable pavement, etc.

While we are very grateful to the City of Edmonton for providing us with \$30,000 in seed money for the organization of this conference, this conference cannot happen without the support of many volunteers. Please contact the Conference Chair, Lyndon Gyurek at lyndon.gyurek@edmonton.ca if you would be able to help us out in one capacity or another. We definitely hope to see you in Edmonton in late November.

We realize the envisioned initiatives of the ALIDP are ambitious; however, we recognize also immediate action is required now to help stakeholders and partnership address the tremendous growth pressures in our province. We continue to be convinced through the input and support that we have received so far from stakeholders that many of the ALIDP actions and activities can be accomplished with your help.

The Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP)

On behalf of the Steering Committee, thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Liliana Bozic, City of Calgary Water Resources
Co-Chair

Lyndon Gyurek, City of Edmonton
Co-Chair

Attachments:

Record of Meeting of June 19, 2007

Draft of Bylaws

Draft Strategic Action Plan and Budget (see PowerPoint slides)