

B A S I C

Bifrost Agricultural Sustainability Community Service Cooperative Inc.

Growing Forward 2, Growing Actions Program – Milestone Report November 1, 2016 To March 31, 2017

Activities, Achievements, Results and Deviations – November 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 – Summary:

- Project Manager and Project Administrator Letters of Understanding signed and approved.
- Job descriptions finalized and approved for Project Manager, Project Administrator, Project Finance and Municipal Public Works as they relate to BASIC.
- Develop criteria and outline responsibilities for a proposed part-time Grants Officer to source potential grants and to manage the granting process.
- Research potential grants, work with the Municipality & others to begin preparation of preliminary applications.
- Memorandum of Understanding between BASIC and Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton approved.
- Participate in discussions with Municipality and lawyer regarding Farmers' Levy.
- Terms of Reference finalized and approved for Water Management, Stewardship, Human Resources, Agronomy/Crop Trials, Funding, Communications and Executive Committees.
- Strategic Planning session held with BASIC Directors, Municipal Councillors and other stakeholders on January 6, 2017. Presentations included a "Report Card" summarizing activities to date, a "Future Blueprint" covering preliminary plans for 2017, confirmation of Mission and Vision, LIDAR content and access and the results of a pre-session survey. The half-day session concluded with attendees participating in a "travelling brainstorming" exercise whereby those present moved around to four "stations" and provided suggestions, concerns, comments on plans for Water Management, Agronomy, Stewardship and Special Projects. A Report of Proceedings was prepared and sent to all attendees and comments made during brainstorming session were sent to each committee for further discussion and implementation where appropriate.
- Summary of committee activities:
- **Water Management** – Completion of 2016 construction including 34 miles of drainage rehabilitation and 206 miles surveyed.
- Work with Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton to establish East and West Drainage Committees, including Councillors and citizen representatives to identify high-priority areas of local economic and social impact as related to the 2017 and 2018 drainage rehabilitation work plans.
- Develop preliminary 2017 detailed work plans in conjunction with regional drainage committees.
- Hosting and data reduction of LIDAR information by Northern Plains Drainage Systems to ensure long-term accessibility and user-friendliness for Municipal residents. Access to this data will assist individual farmers plan in-field drainage more easily and quickly as well as assisting BASIC, the Municipality and Provincial and other bodies plan for effective drainage. The use of the cloud based storage system will allow immediate, efficient access to drainage profiles whether in the office or on an actual construction site.
- Work with Mark Lowdon of AAE Tech Services regarding acquiring grants and developing plans to protect and improve local fish habitats.

- Obtain past paper-copy survey information (1950-present) for digitization and utilization in order to maximize cost efficiency for 2017 and future projects. Work with Municipality regarding hiring an summer-student archivist to accomplish this.
- Meet with MIT regarding third-order drain rehab, survey work and 2017 Provincial work plans.
- In conjunction with consultant engineer complete hydrology study of Finns area and seek Provincial support to upgrade Provincial infrastructure re flood mitigation.
- Survey, design and Provincial proposal of a pilot project submitted to rehab one mile of Vidir Road third order Provincial drain on a 1/3 cost share between Province, Municipality and BASIC.
- **Agronomy/Crop Trials** – work with PESAI to plan crop trials; discussions with commodity groups regarding their participation in, contribution of funds and donation of seed for trials.
- Assist PESAI to design improved irrigation and water management system and consider increasing land availability.
- **Stewardship** – with the assistance of Eastern Interlake Conservation District, plan five “demonstration plots” in a visible area highlighting different methods of erosion control. Work with Municipality and BASIC Communications committee to plan signage and communication to farmers about erosion control regulations, suggestions and consultation and assistance available. Work with local ag producer volunteers to develop and maintain plots and acquire donations of materials required.
- **Communications** – update BASIC membership list to prepare for e-mail communications; research written communications vehicles and reach agreement with regional newspaper for four, full-page articles before March 31, 2018. (First article published April 6); develop plan for articles; begin development work on a proposed BASIC website.
- **Executive** – meet once or twice between monthly Board meetings to deal with committee recommendations and activities and other issues as they arise. Plan communications and/or meetings with Provincial and Federal representatives and other stakeholders as necessary.

Financial Report – submitted separately.

March 31, 2017