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**These notes are not official minutes and are provided to assist Board members in reporting to their organizations.**

**Claude Mindorff, Valhalla Solar Energy, PACE Canada** Claude spoke about opportunities to develop solar projects and the Valhalla site at Viking. From there he moved on to present other alternate energy developments that could benefit rural Alberta. Those included green hydrogen, agro-tunnels and direct air capture. He finished with a review of green community funding streams.

**Kayla Law and Ryan Donald, Fortis Alberta** Kayla and Ryan reviewed Fortis' community engagement programs and successes in funding projects in the BRAED region. They noted the tremendous success of the streetlight mapping and repair response program. Communities who have a project they need support for should contact Kayla at [kayla.law@fortisalberta.ca](mailto:kayla.law@fortisalberta.ca)

**In-Kind Contributions Policy** In order to recognize the contribution of BRAED member communities to its success, BRAED started recording meeting attendance of representatives. This policy defines that contributions will be recognized based on the compensation policies of each member.

**New GOA requirement for annual audits** As a condition of receiving operational funds from Alberta Jobs Economy and Trade, all nine REDAs are now required to undertake full financial audits. Preliminary estimates for BRAED are \$15-20,000. An RFP process will be undertaken.

**Election of Executive Member** Lional Williams, Councillor Beaver County has joined the Executive as Member-at-Large.

**BRAED Sustainability Administration** and the Executive continue to work with the GOA appointed consulting team on a model to move forward past GOA funding ending in 2026-27. Qatalyst Consulting is working with all nine REDAs. The Board has asked to see a delivery model that is project based.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tourism Forum, October 22, 2024 in Forestburg** was very successful with 45 attendees and several follow-up online coaching sessions on marketing and outstanding customer service.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture Forum, March 13, 2025 in Galahad** planning is underway and marketing will begin shortly.

**Local to Global Conference, April 23-25, 2025 in Medicine Hat** is a project of the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor (EATC). BRAED is a partner and is assisting in the delivery of the event.

**Lunch and Learns online** BRAED has hosted three workshops, averaging 8 attendees, targeted to build economic development capacity in the region. The next session is about the Wonder Valley AI data bank in Greenview County.

**Management and Communications** Monday Starting Line was relaunched and is well received with a 42.35% open rate. This a BRAED member exclusive offering. The Town of Daysland thanked BRAED for hosting the Stakeholder Barbecue there on September 6, 2024 which was a tremendous success.

**Financial update** BRAED anticipates a surplus of about \$10,000 at yearend. 2025-26 fiscal forecasts are not positive with the JET operational contribution dropping to \$37,000. This will create a deficit to current operational costs. The Board is focused on retaining reserves which should be around \$80,000 for April 1, 2025 and keeping the legal entity viable.

**Next BRAED Board Meeting March 20, 2025 in Edgerton.**

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