B.C.- Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA)

Project Proposal B8-2009 - "Social Economizing" Sustainability

A. [Working] Title of project: "Social Economizing" Sustainability: A cross-project analysis & synthesis of research findings

B. With which BALTA SERC Is this project associated? Or is it a cross cutting project? This project is primarily focused on SERC 2, but will also cut across the entire BALTA project.

C. Lead researcher, organization name and contact information:

Mark Roseland
Sean Markey

D. Names of other researchers and organizations involved:

Since this project is intended to serve the needs of SERC 2 and of BALTA, all other SERC 2 members (Hannah Wittman, Karsten Mundel, Will Low, Sandy Lockhart, Noel Keough, Douglas Gordon, Mike Gismondi, Mary Beckie, Herb Barbolet, Michele Aasgard, and Paul Cabaj) will be informed of progress and invited to serve as project advisors.

E. Description of project, including objectives, outputs and intended outcomes:

Building on project B2–2007, Sustainability and the Social Economy (Mike Gismondi and Lena Soots), the hypothesis behind this project is that the critical task ahead is not "greening" the social economy so much as it is "social economizing" sustainability, i.e., bringing the concepts and tools of the social economy and economic democracy to bear as a desirable and effective way of addressing sustainability challenges in community development areas such as food and energy.

This project will 1) pull together work from BALTA, primarily but not necessarily exclusively from SERC 2, related to "social economizing" sustainability, 2) identify gaps in the research; 3) coordinate responses to those gaps (e.g., inviting papers from non-BALTA researchers), and 4) synthesize the research into a cohesive and comprehensive report and related knowledge mobilization products.

F. Purpose and significance of the research, including congruence with the strategic research objectives identified for the SERC and BALTA. Why should this project be approved, given BALTA's limited resources? [Refer to the project criteria in the BALTA Workplans and Project Proposals Policy.]

SERC 2 has discussed a book project from its earliest meetings, to the point of agreeing on a title and chapter outline, but the actual unfolding of SERC 2 research projects has not developed in quite such a strategic and focused way. While the original SERC 2

book focus has changed somewhat, there is enough good material from SERC 2 and other BALTA projects to justify an ambitious project that aims to analyze and synthesize findings across the SERC, determine their implications for future research and knowledge mobilization, and produce research products toward those ends.

G. Will the project involve student researchers in a paid or unpaid capacity? If yes, will they need to be recruited or have they already been identified? Briefly describe the roles and responsibilities of students involved in the research project, the skills/experience they will acquire, and how this will complement their academic training. Explain as well how adequate supervision and support of the student will be ensured.

Sean Connelly is completing his PhD this summer, and is proposed as a post-doc to work on this project. He has worked successfully with both Roseland and Markey previously; this is a team with a proven track record.

H. Research activities, plan of work and timetable:

This is a 12-month project, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Research Activities and Timelines

1) inventory work from BALTA, primarily but perhaps not exclusively from SERC 2, related to "social economizing" sustainability; Months 1-2

2) develop project report outline*; Month 2

>*For example, a possible project report outline might look something like this:
>
>Chapter 1   Why "Social Economize" Sustainability?
>   (building on overall BALTA material, in particular D1-2006, Preliminary General Literature Reviews for Three BALTA SERCs, and B-2, 2007, Sustainability and the Social Economy)
>
>Chapter 2   Community Mobilization Processes (including CURAs, and BALTA)
>
>Chapter 3   The Social Economy in BC and Alberta: Results from the BALTA Mapping Project
>
>Chapters 4-9 Lessons from the BALTA Project, e.g.:
>
>>Advancing Rural Revitalization and Development
>>Sustainability and the Social Economy
>>Farmers' Markets as Social Economy Drivers of Local Food Systems
>>Municipal Government Support of the Social Economy Sector

Land Tenure and the Social Economy
Mapping – Neighbourhood Case Study

Chapter 10   Implications and Directions for Future Research
e.g., collaborative research networks

Chapter 11   Knowledge Mobilization
e.g., in academia; in practitioner settings; in policy circles; etc.

3) identify gaps in the research; Month 2

4) coordinate responses to research gaps (e.g., inviting papers from non-BALTA researchers; conducting targeted research as appropriate); Months 3-6

5) synthesize research into a cohesive and comprehensive report; Months 4-8

6) produce specific research products (e.g., policy papers, journal articles, an edited book, a web reader, curriculum materials, etc.); Months 8-12

I. **Describe plans for communicating research results within the academic community. Indicate audience and specific output(s) i.e., refereed journal articles, conference presentations or other appropriate channels.**

Research products will include powerpoint materials that can be used by SERC 2 and other BALTA members at conferences. See also research products described above.

J. **Describe plans for communicating research results outside the academic community to practitioners, policy makers, and other people for whom the research results could be significant. Indicate audience and specific output(s).**

Research products will include powerpoint materials that can be used by SERC 2 and other BALTA members at conferences. See also research products described above.

K. **Describe your plans for monitoring and evaluating your research project. Feel free to consult with BALTA's Coordinator on designing possible approaches. (Note that monitoring and evaluation are extremely important both for ensuring the success of the project as well as satisfying reporting to SSHRC.)**

In addition to the project timelines (see H above), the research supervisors will submit a quarterly progress report to SERC 2 and to BALTA. As noted under "D" above, SERC 2 will be asked to serve as project advisors.

L. **What are the research tools you propose to use in your project?**
   NOTE: If your research involves human subjects, you MUST provide copies of your proposed research tools (as well as your research plan) prior to commencing research. Please see the document *"BALTA Ethical Review Process – Simplified"* for information about ethical review requirements.

This project will not focus on primary research; if research gaps identified by the team indicate a need for primary research involving human subjects, the researchers will create tools for ethical review before commencing.

M. Budget and Contributions

Information can be both dollar figures and anecdotal, including in-kind contributions and requests for BALTA support (eg. staff support for dissemination).

Category	Requested of BALTA	Other Contributions
Student salaries	$38,000	
Student benefits/overhead costs (if the student will be a CCCR hire, add 10.5% of the student salaries amount; if the student will be employed by another institution, add the relevant amount)	$3,990	
Researcher Release Time		
Research Support Costs (e.g. supplies, communication costs)	$5,000	$3000
Knowledge Dissemination		$8-10,000
Travel		
TOTALS	$46, 990	$11-13,000

Budget explanation

Student salaries & benefits
The current SSHRC rate for a post-doc position is $38,000 per year plus a $5000 research cost allowance.
Researcher release time
Travel
Researcher Support Costs
SFU CSCD will provide in-kind support such as office space, computer accounts, telephones, printers, meeting rooms, etc.
Knowledge dissemination
Mike Gismondi has mentioned that Athabasca University might contribute $8-10,000 toward development of an inter-institutional or shared on-line social economy course