

## **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on December 1, 2011 at 1:00 PM, Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta**

### **1.0 Call to Order – 1:32 PM**

**Attendance:** John Kaster – Town of Hanna, Annette Clews – Town of Sundre, Derek Baird – Town of Innisfail, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Ken MacVicar – Town of Sylvan Lake, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Allen Eastman – County of Newell, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Dug Major – Special Areas, Jordon Christianson – Special Areas, Buck Buchanan – City of Red Deer, Bill Shaw – Red Deer (Advisor), Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Brenda Knight – Lacombe County, Les Hibbs – Village of Linden, Doug Lehman – Town of Oyen, Dwight Meers – M.D. of Acadia, Paddy Munro – Mountain View County, Earl Graham – Clearwater County, Dianne Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, George Gehrke – Red Deer County, Murray Ball – Town of Olds, Sandy Gamble – Town of Bowden, Dennis Kuiken – Village of Acme, Tony Nibourg – Paintearth County, Robert Painter – Kneehill County, Chris Reeds, Town of Trochu, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Linda Handy.

### **2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Gehrke** that the agenda for the December 1, 2011 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **3.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2011

Bill Shaw requested a change Under Item 5.2.4 - both he and Keith Ryder met with the Province.

**Graham** that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of September 15, 2011 be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

### **4.0 Presentation**

Future Storage – Mr. Dick Hart – Hart Water Management

The presentation included an update of the information from the Water Assurance Study and re-examined the need for water storage in the Red Deer River Basin to fully meet current and projected water demands. The update included new directives from Alberta Environment relating to the variability in natural flow and the Water Conservation Objectives.

Highlights of Mr. Hart's presentation include:

- Water Conservation Objectives (WCO) were established in 2007;
- These objectives relate to the volume and quality of water to remain in rivers for the protection of a natural water body and its aquatic environment;
- Approved Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB) by Cabinet in 2006 include restricted use of unallocated water in Oldman, Bow, Red Deer River and SSR sub-basins;
- There are concerns for meeting water demands;

- The WCO document charts flow targets under the priority water allocation system and will apply to all new licences and existing licences;
- The Red Deer River sub-basin WCOs is: *“From the Dickson Dam to the confluence with the Blindman River, the WCO for any applications received or licences issued after May 1, 2005 and for existing licences with a retrofit provision is: A rate of flow that is 45% of the natural rate of flow, or 16 cms (cubic metres per second), whichever is greater at any point in time.”*
- WCO Enforcement Issues - Deficits (means not sufficient water in river to meet demands) occur frequently in winter months. Regional municipal projects are included in the calculations for deficits. If minimum flow is enforced, may not be able to draw water from the river. The issue with enforcement is that Alberta Environment cannot publish flows timely because the flows are highly variable with ice coverage – Alberta Environment cannot enforce WCOs in winter months. Another issue is that flows are recorded flows not natural flows. Mr. Hart provided an overview of where individuals can access the flow charts / water levels on the Alberta Environment website. He stated that until Alberta Environment can get flows properly published they cannot enforce WCOs.

#### Summary of Issues

- WCO's are not enforceable; they may become so in the future;
- Storage will help to secure water for municipal use;
- Change operations at the Dickson Dam or develop more storage; and
- Environment should review Water Quality Study (1975) to determine if 16 cms is reasonable.

Discussion held on municipalities requirement for storage – expensive to buy the land – is it better than regional storage where the water is released back to the stream to supplement flow? Storage could be done at Buffalo and Sylvan Lakes. Offstream storage is difficult to get back without pumping.

## **5.0 Financial Reports to October 31, 2011**

### 5.1 Balance Statement

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to October, 2011 as follows:

Total Cash in Bank - \$131,897.90

Total Current Assets - \$146,899.25

### 5.2 Revenue and Expense

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the revenue and expenses to October, 2011 as follows: Revenue year to date \$51,640.72; Actual Expenses year to date \$29,789.24. Surplus (Loss) to date is \$21,851.48. K. Ryder explained that there is a healthy surplus because expenses have not been incurred for projects in 2011.

### 5.3 Accounting Notes

K. Ryder noted that one GST claim has been received in the amount of \$955.83. GST claims can go back to mid-2007.

**MOTION** Reckseidler moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 2012 Operating Budget**

Discussion held regarding the proposed operating budget for 2012. It was agreed not to increase the rate of per capita leaving it at .25.

Discussion held on the Crown Reservation project that has been delayed with the leaders campaign and change of Ministers. Once the group moves forward with the next steps costs will be incurred with the consultation and public meetings. The future storage project will require significant dollars. The target is \$100,000 for advocacy and lobbying for projects and studies.

**Baird** moved the operation budget as presented with the per capita rate remaining at .25. Carried unanimously.

### **6.2 Renewal of Executive Director's Annual Contract**

**MacVicar** moved to go in camera at 3:02 PM. Carried unanimously.

**Knight** moved to go out of camera at 3:07 PM. Carried unanimously.

**McVicar** moved to increase Keith Ryder's contract 3% over the existing 2011 rate. Carried unanimously.

### **6.3 Review 2012 Meeting Dates**

K. Ryder outlined the meeting dates as follows:

January 19, 2012	July 19, 2012
March 15, 2012	September 20, 2012
May 17, 2012	November 15, 2012 includes AGM

### **6.4 Meeting request with Environment Minister – Hon. D. McQueen**

K. Ryder advised that a letter was sent requesting a meeting to introduce the RDRMUG and provide information on the group's mandate. Areas of discussion will include:

- the status of the Crown Reservation (Section 9 of the Watershed Assurance Study) - A formal application for was submitted fo 60,000 dam3 for economic growth – hoping for a report on next steps from Mr. Lamb's office shortly;
- utilization of wastewater storage;
- disaster mitigation; and
- license changes;

A response was received from the Minister's office indicating that a meeting would be arranged in the early new year. It is proposed that the Executive will meet with the Minister / MLA's (date will be circulated to the members). A formal invitation will be extended to the Minister to meet the group in the future.

## **7.0 Executive Director's Report**

K. Ryder provided the following overview of his activities:

- Crown Reservation took significant time over the summer;

- Attended a Conservation Session in Wainwright in September; and
- Worked with the Watershed Alliance on the Water Assurance Study (Keith is open to making presentations to individual Councils).

**Painter** moved to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.  
Carried unanimously.

**7.0 Municipal Project Review:** *An opportunity for all representatives to share their current and future water/waste water projects.*

**8.0 Correspondence:**  
Various handouts were available.

**9.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** January 19, 2012

**10.0 Adjournment** – 3:35 PM