

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on January 20, 2011 at 1:00 PM, Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta

1.0 Call to Order – 1:34 PM

Attendance: Earl Graham - Clearwater County, Bill Shaw – Advisor, City of Red Deer, Annette Clews – Town of Sundre, Derek Baird – Innisfail, Bob Kesler – Acme, Paul Harris – City of Red Deer, Todd Pawsey – County of Paintearth, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Gerald Campion – Town of Hanna, Ken MacVicar – Town of Sylvan Lake, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Harvey Walsh – Town of Olds, Doug Lehman – Town of Oyen, Matthew Kreke – Starland County, Chris Reeds – Town of Trochu, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Tim Fox – County of Stettler, George Gehrke – Red Deer County, Sheila Church – Town of Bowden, Al Radke – Camrose County, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Venessa VanderMeer – Village of Linden, Paddy Monro – Mountain View County, Cathy Perry – Village of Alix, Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Rick Kargaard – Village of Big Valley, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Baird that the agenda for the January 20, 2011 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Annual Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2010

Campion that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of December 2, 2010 be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

3.2 Business arising from minutes of December 2, 2010

Members agreed to only one motioner with no seconder.

4.0 Financial Reports to December , 2010

4.1 Balance Statement

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to October, 2010 as follows:

Total Current Assets - \$117,939.54

GST Clearing - \$14,315.89 (Town trying to resolve that the RDRMUG is a municipal entity)

Accounts Payable - \$2,770.00 (one month payable to Keith Ryder)

4.2 Revenue and Expense

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the revenue and expenses to December, 2010 as follows: Revenue year to date \$61,250.22; Actual Expenses year to date \$51,894.88. Surplus (Loss) to date is \$9,355.34 (was not spent in 2010).

4.3 Accounting Notes

Deferred Memberships - K. Ryder noted that all RDRMUG memberships for 2010 have

been paid, \$60,518.50. It was confirmed that Bashaw will not be participating this year. There may be new members from Red Deer River North.

Reeds moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.0 Guest Presenter: Carolyn Campbell
Conservation Specialist, Alberta Wilderness Association

Carolyn Campbell provided an overview of the concerns at the Headwaters of the Red Deer River as follows:

- 1) Headwaters Management Principles – definition of headwaters is the heights of the land (mountains / foothills) where water originates;
 - Develop good data
 - Acknowledge hydrology (snow pack, forest disturbance, ground water)
 - Water is scarce;
 - Maintain ecosystem services;
 - Use science / research / communicate.
- 2) AWA Bighorn Recreation Trail Study
 - Eastern Slopes Policy developed in 1977 – priority uses for recreation and water protection;
 - From that Study prime protection zones and critical wildlife zones were designed (restricted oil and gas activity);
 - In 1986 the Bighorn Wildlife Recreation Areas was designated;
 - In 2002, ASRD created six (6) Forest Land Use Zones;
 - In 2002, the Plan protected areas containing sensitive areas;
 - Study goals – motorized users / land zone uses;
 - Landscape damage results presented – most damage caused by water drainage issues;
 - Water bodies damaged by crossings and upland erosions.
- 3) RD Headwaters Recreation
 - Forest Land Use Zones: Panther, Dormer-Sheep and Ghost; should be more enforcement in these areas;
 - Little data on wetland loss in sensitive areas;
 - Extensive linear disturbance.
- 4) Species at Risk Implications
 - Grizzle mortality and road studies carried out;
 - Recreation and fish (Bull Trout) in the Red Deer River at risk;
 - Strong evident OHV activity has affected water quality.
- 5) Management Recommendations
 - Remove or curtail motorized recreation in Prime Protection and Critical Wildlife Zones;
 - Restore degraded habitat, decommission roads;
 - Use effective public lands, OHV enforcement strategies.

Summary

Effective OHV management – six strategies for success (pamphlet available);

ARSD trying to be more engaged in local organizations;
Link ground water and wetland issues – local organizations need to advocate for the best use of our headwaters.

The members thanked Carolyn for her presentation.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Update from Committee re contaminants, etc. in the Red Deer River

Bill Shaw explained that the purpose of the Committee was to assess the cost of a feasibility study for contaminants in the Red Deer River. Dr. Habibi made a presentation to the group in the fall on this matter citing that the majority of contaminants are caused from pharmaceuticals. B. Shaw stated that the study will take 2-3 years at a cost of \$120,000 per year. In order to reduce the costs of the study, it may be possible to use graduate students to do the analysis and / or test a limited number of chemicals. The nature of this type of study is supported by government dollars. He stated that Cliff Soper is a chemistry professor who may be available to offer some assistance. He stated that the process would include the development of a thorough set of terms of reference. The key costs will be in sampling the river as well as sediment sampling. He foresees that many partners are likely – industry that wish to do their own due diligence and / or Red Deer College. He stated that there was a prior Alberta Environment Study done in 2005. This study did confirm the existence of contaminants in the river. Their study is on the website. He stated that there should be continual monitoring and studies carried out as it is not clear within the water quality guidelines for the Province of Alberta. He further noted that Mr. Lamb has expressed an interest to work with RDRMUG in pursuing this topic. He encouraged water quality specialists to speak with the group. He recommended that the Committee still be empowered to continue working on the feasibility of a study and suggested that a speaker attend the March meeting.

Reckseidler moved that a speaker attend the March meeting on the water quality guidelines. Carried unanimously.

6.2 RDRMUG Mandate / Goals

6.2.1 Discuss the necessity of a future session to review and confirm RDRMUG's strategy and mandate with professional facilitator

Keith Ryder stated that it may be necessary to conduct a session for new members – possibly do a SWAT analysis and develop a strategy for the future. K. Ryder to set the date with a facilitator.

6.2.2 Terms of Reference for Executive Committee

Keith Ryder explained that the RDRMUG have developed the Terms of Reference which includes the legislative empowerment to make decisions. He further explained that there is a well structured Board of Directors who has the authority to carry on business.

7.0 Executive Director's Report

7.1. Review current RDRMUG membership policies

K. Ryder presented some matters of administrative housekeeping:

- Members of RDRMUG who have incurred expenses on behalf of MUG's business will be reimbursed from MUG's expense accounts;
- Municipalities to cover the expense for members to attend regular meetings;
- In accordance with the Framework for the RDRMUG the following statement details membership entitlement: *"a municipality is entitled to become a member of the RDRMUG if: (a) the municipality located within the RDR Basin, or (b) the municipality receives water from the RDR for municipal or other purposes"*.

7.2 Update future water related conferences / workshops

K. Ryder advised that Alberta Environment updates on projects and other documents are available for information on the RDRMUG's website:

- *Pesticide Index on RDR*;
- *River Quality* link;
- *Water Used for Oilfield Injection Purposes*;
- *Allocation of Water under the Water Act*;
- *Water Conservation Objectives*;
- *Gravel Mining Excavations*;
- *Water Assurance Study* (working document).

Conferences:

Zero Flow Workshop – February 23-25;

Canadian Water Resources – April 10-12

7.3 K. Ryder will update the RDRMUG contact list.

8.0 Renew of Executive Director Contract

Reckseidler moved to go in camera at 2:43 PM. Carried unanimously.

Baird moved to revert to regular meeting at 2:51 PM. Carried unanimously.

Campion moved to increase Keith Ryder's rate to \$45.00 per hour plus GST retroactive to January 1, 2011 and further that the contract be renewed annually. Carried unanimously.

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

10.0 Correspondence: RDRWA Community Forums / Handouts

11.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: March 17, 2011 @ 1:00 PM

12.0 Adjournment – 3:40 PM