

## **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water User Group, January 21, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta**

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### **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Co-Chair Jim Lougheed, Red Deer County. Introductions were given.

**Present:** Jim Lougheed – Red Deer County, Rick Poole – Town of Blackfalds, Murray Marshall – County of Starland, Warren Smith – Town of Olds, Vanessa Vander Meer – Village of Linden; Everett Page – Mountain View County; Chris Reeds – Town of Trochu; Earl Graham – Clearwater County; Annon Hovde – KRWSC/Village of Acme; Rob Naylor – Town of Three Hills; Lynda Fiedler – Town of Sylvan Lake; Redford Peeples – Town of Stettler; Larry Pimm – City of Red Deer; Scott Dudley – Village of Munson; Dave Grover – County of Stettler; Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County; Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Kennis Kuiken – Village of Acme, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller; Keith Ryder – RDRMUG; Linda Handy – Town of Drumheller, Recording Secretary.

### **2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Pimm** that the agenda for the January 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **3.0 Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 26, 2009

**Poole** that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting minutes of November 26, 2009 be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **4.0 Guest Speaker**

4.1 David Bartesko, Sr. Consultation Mgr, Land Use Secretariat. Mr. Bartesko's presentation related to the SSRP's terms of reference and its specific reference to the Red Deer River Watershed. It provided RDRMUG members with awareness and discussion on moving forward within this framework.

A summary of the presentation is provided as follows:

- Terms of Reference for Developing the South Saskatchewan Region  
"although the Red Deer Region is distinct from the South Saskatchewan Region for land use purposes, water management policy for the Red Deer Region will be aligned and set within the overall planning context of the South Saskatchewan River Basin. The water needs of the Red Deer Region will therefore be considered in development of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan."
- Regional Plans approved by the Cabinet will become official government policy and have the force of law – municipalities will be required to comply with regional plans in their decision making.

- Regional Advisory Councils (RAC's) were set up for each land use region and their mandate is to provide advice to Cabinet regarding the regional plan.
  - RAC will provide advice on future development, regional outcomes, provincial policies, trade-offs, public input – there are limitations on issues such as municipal governance, aboriginal consultation, population limits, taxation, provincial royalties, government expenditures, existing laws and regulations and water allocation (everything water will be discussed – not changes to the water allocation system).
  - Water allocation is explained on p. 23 of the Terms of Reference – “*The Government of Alberta is reviewing the water allocation system in Alberta. The water allocation system project will initiate the review and renewal of Alberta's current water allocation system and develop recommendations on changes and improvements to meet present and future needs...*”.
  - Growth trend explained on p. 12 of the Terms of Reference – “*The significant growth is anticipated in the Calgary Metropolitan Region over the next 60 to 70 years. It is expected to add \$1.6 million residents by 2076*”.
  - (Phase 1) Public consultation: awareness, input and feedback on RAC's visioning document.
  - (Phase 2) May / June 2010 – draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan to be developed.
  - (Phase 3) final draft of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan to be submitted to the Cabinet for final review and approval.
  - Mr. Bartesko stated that it is important for the RDRMUG to provide advice on how this group can influence the SSRB on the water side. He stated that they are working with the Alliance as well.
- Land Use Framework – The purpose of the Land Use Framework is to manage growth leaving the local decision making authority with the same officials who currently exercise it however the decisions must be consistent with regional plans. The Land Use Framework consists of seven basic strategies to improve land use decision making throughout the Province. There are seven new land use regions with a regional plan for each. Mr. Bartesko explained that a formal regional planning system is the most effective way to implement provincial policy and will ensure that planning for land use, water and air quality are aligned with each other.
- P. 25 explains the land use process. Regional plans subject to review every five years – plan updates and reports on implementation; and every 10 years reapproved by the Cabinet.
  - The Regional Plans take priority over regulation (not the Act). After the Regional Plan is approved, municipalities must ensure consistency with all other plans (nothing will be grandfathered in).
  - Red Deer Regional Plan will start in 2011.

Mr. Dave Bartesko and Mr. Randy Leal were thanked for their presentation.

## **5.0 Financial Reports**

### 5.1 Balance Statement

### 5.2 Revenue and Expenses

### 5.3 Accounting Notes

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to December 31, 2009 as follows:

Balance Sheet – Total Current Assets \$109,770.08. Membership list reviewed and discussion held on extending an invite to those municipalities who are users of the Red Deer River and not currently members of the RDRMUG. The 2010 invoices have gone out mid-January.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses:

Revenue year to date \$60,147.07; Actual Expenses year to date \$50,217.03. Surplus (Loss) to date is \$9,930.04.

**Reckseidler** moved the adoption of the financial report as presented. Carried unanimously.

## **6.0 New Business**

### 6.1 Progress Report Water Assurance Committee

#### 6.1.1 Progress report on Crown Reservation request

#### 6.1.2 Review meeting held with Alberta Environment

K. Ryder advised that the new members should ask their predeceasers for the binder on the Water Assurance Study. He provided an overview of the Study that was commissioned by the group. He stated that future storage requirements and crown reservation were the most important priorities identified in the Water Assurance Study which were brought to the Provincial Governments attention. Although positive responses from the meeting held with the MLA's / Ministers, the group had more homework. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Executive met with staff from Alberta Environment to review the recommendations put forward in the Study. Discussion focused on the philosophy of the Watershed Alliance and how the two groups can work together to implement the recommends. Alberta Environment will take the leadership role for storage on and off stream as recommended in the MPE Study. The group engaged the services of Hart Management, following which a power point presentation was presented to the group at their November 26, 2009 meeting and which a copy is available on the website.

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

K. Ryder provided an overview of the RDRMUG website and highlighted areas of interest:

- the Water for Life Strategy;
- practical tips for households on water conservation;
- water allocations;
- water works systems,
- newsletter;
- links to informative sites, i.e. [www.everydropcounts.com](http://www.everydropcounts.com), Watershed Alliance.

## **8.0 Correspondence**

K. Ryder presented a letter from Warren Smith – Town of Olds to Mayor Earl Kinsella – Red Deer County expressing the Board of Directors of the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission's concerns about the proposed development in the alluvial aquifer at the confluence of the Red Deer and Medicine Rivers. Question: What is Watershed Alliance comments on gravel beds at the river – do they serve a purpose when the flow is diminished – do they feed the river – affect water flow, allocations? Discussion held on Environments' rules for gravel excavation (will gravel supply impact water quality and quantity). It was noted that Environment normally reviews the applications on a case by case basis. Members agreed to contact a guest speaker on this topic.

## **9.0 Review of Municipal Projects**

New information from members on new water projects and the status of projects in the works in their respective communities:

**Town of Sylvan Lake** – lower water consumptions with new rates – water additional \$0.98 per cubic meter and sewer rate at 80% of water charge.

**Village of Delbourne** – new well replacement.

**Kneehill County** – another water line for distribution this year – to serve southern end of the County.

**Kneehill Water Commission** – debt in excess of \$1M – working of proposal to Municipal Affairs to address debt – financial hardship to member communities – if Balzac water line was approved, the Commission would not be in this position.

**Stettler County** – final stage for rural water line.

**Starland County** – hooking up farmers from Craigmyle to Endiang.

**Town of Blackfalds** – new water bill program for spring.

## **10.0 Adjournment:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 PM at the Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM