

# **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water Users Group, July 19, 2007, 1:00 p.m., Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta**

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## **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Co-Chair John Sparling – Town of Drumheller.

**Present:** Beverly Anderson, Manager - Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Dug Major - Special Areas Board, Ron Wilson – Three Hills, Earl Kinsella – County of Red Deer, Jim Loughheed – County of Red Deer, Marlene Koltzman – Village of Alix, Wendy Hillis – Village of Linden, Annon Hovde – Village of Linden/Mountain View Water Commission, Pat Burns – Town of Hanna, Tim Ainscough – Town of Innisfail, Art Grenville – Starland County, Barry McLeod – Starland County, Phil Frere – Town of Trochu, Patt Churchill – Town of Innisfail, Ray Kerber – Town of Blackfalds, Al Kemmere – Mountain View County, Warren Smith – Town of Olds, George Taylor – Town of Sundre, Len Waters – Village of Big Valley, Lynda Fiedler – Town of Sylvan Lake, Kevin Miner – Kneehill County, Tim Fox – Stettler County, Redford Peeples – Town of Stettler, Raymond Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Bev Hughes – City of Red Deer, Lorna Watkinson-Zimmer – City of Red Deer, Bill Shaw – BPS Consulting/City of Red Deer, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, John Starling – Town of Drumheller, Bryce Nimmo – Town of Drumheller, Keith Ryder – Exec. Director.

Invited Guests: (Arrived 2:10pm)

Honourable R. Renner, Province of Alberta, Minister of Environment  
Roger Ramcharita, Province of Alberta, Executive Assistant to the Minister  
Jeff Kasbrick, Province of Alberta, Assistant to the Minister

## **2.0 Introductions**

## **3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

No Additions

## **4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

- **Corrections as noted:**

- Under Item 9.0 Municipal Project Updates –should read: Town of Stettler (Not County of Stettler): Associated Engineering is surveying the water treatment plant site for the storage of raw water.
- Town of Stettler (Not County of Stettler): will be changing the filtering system from sand to membrane filters, scheduled completion by the fall of 2008.
- Last line: Red Deer County – Biodeisel Fuel Plant.....this line is to be removed from minutes.

**Redford Peeples** moved that the minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting of the Red Deer River Municipal Users Group be adopted as amended. Carried

#### **9.4 Correspondence**

Correspondence received included the 4 calls for proposal documents as discussed in the Steering Committee report. (9.2)

#### **6.0 Review current financial status**

K. Ryder Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to June 2007 as follows:

Balance Sheet - Cash on hand: \$19,268.04;  
Investments include \$140,000 term deposit  
    \$50,000.00 @ 3.1% Matures Sept. 14, 2007  
    90,000.00 @ 3.2% Matures May 17, 2008  
    (Both term deposits are cashable at anytime)  
Statement of Revenue and Expenses reviewed  
Financial notes reviewed  
Outstanding memberships reviewed.

**Ray Reckseidler** moved that the financial report be accepted for information.  
Carried

#### **8.0 Old Business:**

The Red Deer River Watershed Atlas project was completed and the Atlases were presented to the membership by Beverly Anderson of the RDRWA. This was a joint project with the Watershed Alliance, Alberta Beef Producers and RDRMUG. Copies are going to be placed in municipal libraries and additional copies may be purchased from the RDRWA.

## **9.0 New Business:**

### **9.1 Executive Director Report:** (Summary)

K. Ryder updated membership on:

- Arranged a meeting with Mr. Al Kennedy, Alberta Water Council and attended this meeting with RDRMUG Exec. Committee
- Attended Red Deer River Watershed Alliance AGM
- Worked with steering committee on Call for Proposal documents
- Prepared Call for Proposal documents and sent to selected firms for consideration
- Worked with Town of Innisfail to coordinated questions and details for Minister's visit
- Continued web-site research and updating
- Updated membership on web-site and links

**Wendy Hillis** moved that the Executive Director's report be accepted for information. Carried

### **9.2 Steering Committee Report**

The RDRMUG has identified a need to be proactive in ensuring a safe and secure water supply for the current and future needs of municipal, rural domestic and other purposes within and adjacent to the Red Deer River Basin. The study is to determine the security of water supply from the Red Deer River; also, to explore structural and non-structural means of increasing this security. The study to be commissioned will also indicate and supply data and information to demonstrate the necessity of securing future water supplies.

- a. After completing the needs and wishes of RDRMUG invitations for Calls for Proposals were sent to six firms that have demonstrated experience in this area.
- b. Four firms responded with formal Call for Proposals. (two of the Firms invited to submit a proposal combined their efforts and presented one document)
- c. The RDRMUG Steering Committee will now review these documents and recommend the successful applicant.

The Steering Committee is represented by members from the Town of Innisfail, Town of Drumheller, County of Lacombe, City of Red Deer and Special Areas.

### **9.3 Review of Municipal Projects:**

*(Members were invited to report on new initiatives that had not previously been documented)*

ALIX – their water treatment plant is to be decommissioned, concern was expressed that there does not appear to be any Provincial assistance for the decommissioning of un-used plants.

STARLAND COUNTY/MORRIN/MUNSON are all off of boil water orders. HANNA reported that pipeline construction is now underway from Craigmile to Endiang and Byemoor.

TROCHU is almost out of water and is presently hauling water by truck from Three Hills. Trochu is currently seeking permission to use wells.

INNISFAIL has started construction on their storage reservoir #3.

BLACKFALDS is in need of additional reservoir storage and is reviewing and looking for funding options.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY is very concerned about erosion problems in the Sundre area and expressed a need to discuss future storage issues that will impact the entire basin.

OLDS has had success with their water efficient toilet rebate program.

SUNDRE is working with Mountain View County on mutual issues in and around the Town of Sundre.

KNEEHILL COUNTY has a 3 phase plan in place to provide water to all residents in the southern part of the County. Kneehill County is working with the Starland County and Stettler County on a study of water related issues.

TOWN OF STETTLER still working on Regional Project and is currently reviewing available Provincial Funding Strategies. Discussion is taking place on pipe sizing.

DELBURNE is in preliminary studies relating to a second water treatment plant. This new plant would be looped to the existing plant.

CITY OF RED DEER “conservation is paramount”, the City is canvassing residents for suggestions and input that come from “outside the box”.

### **9.4 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT**

The Honourable R. Renner, Minister of Environment and staff joined our meeting at 2:10pm. Specific questions were presented to the Minister and his staff, this presentation was followed by a round table discussion with an opportunity for Minister Renner to discuss other questions and concerns from the members in attendance. Mr. Renner’s group left the meeting at 4:00pm.

Summary of Minister's Meeting:

*Question 1: How can RDRMUG obtain intervener status in future water issues that affect our members?*

*Response: Due to the "broadness" of the RDRMUG it is doubtful that our group would qualify for intervener status under the reference of "directly effected" party....However, RDRMUG was strongly urged to maintain a strong working relationship with AENV Staff in the South and Central Offices. Also, we should continue working closely with the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance and other groups sharing a responsibility in protecting the Red Deer River Basin.*

*Question 2: What consideration is being given to future on and off stream storage on the Red Deer River?*

*Response: Water for Life has had a study completed by MPE on future storage sites on the Red Deer River. 41 sites were identified on the Red Deer River that may be required for future storage due to climate change and other changes in water requirements. Follow up studies are underway to rank these suggested sites, these studies are scheduled for completion in 2007.*

*Question 3: A review of the variance of water costs within the Red Deer River is required with a view to standardize water costs provincially.*

*Response: The Province probably would not look at standardizing water costs due to the large variance of production and supply costs...some municipalities could face a significant increase in their rates to average down much higher costs.*

*Question 4: Discuss how political ramifications can be kept to a minimum in dealing with future issues.*

*Response: "Water by its nature is a political issue"...discussion ensued that supported this response.*

*Question 5: Update Special Areas Water Supply Project.*

*Response: This project has been approved in principle and is currently a project listed in the Province's Capital Plan. There are still studies and approvals required before this project can proceed.*

*A variety of questions were presented by RDRMUG Members to Minister Renner in a "round table" format. Several issues that related to individual concerns were discussed with information exchanged by the Minister, his staff and our members.*

*(A letter of thank you has been sent to the Minister*

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Drumheller Civic Centre.**