

**Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water User Group, June 18, 2009  
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 Patt Churchill, Town of Innisfail and Co-Chair Reeve Earl Marshall, County of Stettler.

**Present:** Larry Pimm – City of Red Deer, Jim Lougheed – County of Red Deer, Rick Poole – Town of Blackfalds, , Murray Marshall – County of Starland, Warren Smith – Town of Olds, Al Kemmere – Mountainview County, George Taylor – Town of Sundre, Earl Marshall – County of Stettler, Cliff Soper – Lacombe County, Wayne Richardson – Paintearth; Venessa Vander Meer – Village of Linden; Wayne Garrison – Village of Big Valley; John Kaster – Town of Hanna; Richard Backs – Town of Sylvan Lake; Bill Cunningham – Town of Trochu; Doug Lehman – Town of Oyen;; Earl Marshall – County of Stettler, Patt Churchill – Town of Innisfail, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Bert McFadyen – MD of Acadia Valley (arrived at 3:00 PM), Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller (arrived at 3:00 PM); Linda Handy – Town of Drumheller, Recording Secretary.

**2.0 Introductions**

**3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Pimm** that the agenda for the June 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2009

**Corrections:** 6.3 Establishment of working group should include Patt Churchill and Warren Smith

**Correction:** Linda Fiedler – Town of Sylvan Lake was in attendance.

**Richardson** that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting minutes of March 19, 2009 adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Business arising from minutes

A. Kemmere stated that the group needs to pursue working in conjunction with the Watershed Alliance on their water conservation project. He further stated the RDRWA's funding has been reduced by 60%.

**5.0 Financial Reports**

5.1 Balance Statement

5.2 Revenue and Expenses

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

Balance Sheet – Total Current Assets \$145,160.54. Deferred Memberships – (amortized to revenue on a monthly basis) \$35,317.60.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses:

Revenue year to date \$25,514.38; Actual Expenses year to date \$11,555.60.

Surplus (Loss) to date is \$13,958.78.

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

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Report on Water and Wastewater Security Conference – Co-Chair Patt Churchill**

- 35 speakers with various topics covered;
- Security for utilities at the 2010 Olympics - report on security for the Olympics to be provided on their website.;
- homeland securities from Washington, DC (since the 9-11 and Katrina disasters, utilities securities have been at the forefront);
- WARIN – actively pursued by the States for registering operators, utilities, water tanks, equipment; Alberta has started a similar registries (Calgary and Edmonton have joined). There is an administration cost to sign on. Vision is to get all municipalities signed on a Provincial registries for emergency preparedness, i.e. contamination of watersheds and pandemics; regional inventory list is being prepared in Innisfail;
- Development of action security of water supplies (examples of what could happen if no backflow valves on regional systems) i.e. poisoning of water supply (Washington and Philadelphia examples shared); and
- Speakers provided insight on drought situations within the world, i.e. Israel water rationing.

### **6.2 Update on Audit of RDRMUG Financial**

K. Ryder stated that the audit went well with no additional information being requested however the audited financial statements are not ready at this time.

### **6.3 Discussion on Water Assurance Study**

K. Ryder presented the Red Deer River Basin Water Allocation Report updated as of June 17, 2009:

- Total number of licenses – 12,521 and total quantity 306,498 cu.dam;
- found discrepancies in water licenses (no allocation for Acadia Valley);
- Interim allocation limit is 545,000 cu.dam and maximum allocation limit is 600,000 cu.dam;
- Municipal allocation is 22% (no change on pie chart); and
- No return figures used.

Discussion held that there has been no formal meeting with Alberta Environment since last year, especially since there is a concern about crown reservation. P. Churchill stated that Bob Sandford, Conference speaker working with United

Nations, explained the regions need to reinforce that crown reservations need to be protected for food supply (not just in third world countries but the entire world). She further stated that allocations may not be there in the future (on and off stream storage is needed). The supply from glaciers to rivers is only 2%. Climate change is evident world wide and regions need to adapt – Melbourne has seen 11 years of drought in a row; Germany is experiencing flooding, etc. The evaporation of offsite storage is a concern.

Discussion held on the need for another dam in Alberta (Dickson Dam took 32 years to build). Columbia Icefield Glacier has receded more than 3 miles in the last century. E. Marshall stated that given the municipal share of allocated water left in the river there is a need for a ministry for water. Alberta is being pressure for off stream storage but confidence is lacking in government leaders. P. Churchill stated that 50% of the Red Deer River flow enters the Saskatchewan River Basin and it has been said that 90% of the river flow is entering Saskatchewan. Albertans need to realize the significance of this issue and there is need to continue the storage discussions with the Province leaders. A. Kemmere stated that the RDRMUG need to meet with the WPAC and have them on side. P. Churchill stated that the RDRMUG's mandate should be on and off stream storage specific to Red Deer River users. A. Kemmere to ask WPAC's their position on storage (meeting in Red Deer June 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Lougheed** moved that the RDRMUG provide a resolution for the AUMA Conference that the Province prepare an on / off stream storage plan. Carried unanimously.

A. Kemmere requested that a meeting be arranged with the Minister of Environment to ask for the crown reservation and storage be considered as it impacts the Land Use Framework Plan.

**Kemmere** moved that the Water Conservation Working Group develop a strategy and meet with the Minister of Environment to discuss crown reservation and storage. Carried unanimously.

The Working Group agreed to meet on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon in Stettler (Chamber Office). Watershed Alliance to be invited as well.

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

K. Ryder uploaded the website homepage and provided an overview of the dam update report: as of June 15 flow levels at 944.24 and as of June 17 levels at 944.95. He further noted that the SSRB study is available for the members review. He further noted that there are links to snow packs, water flows, water allocations, conference information, conservation tips such as CMHC tips for buildings, conservation books and websites available as well.

Members congratulated Keith's efforts on a very informative website.

**Kaster** moved the Executive Director's Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **8.0 Review of Municipal Projects**

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

**Town of Sundre** – undertaking engineering study on Red Deer River bank stability. Alberta Environment has to approve river work. Shovel ready project – received \$9M for w/s line under the river for those residents on the east side of the river.

**Town of Olds** – WTP pumping at capacity – level 1 water restrictions and may go to level 2 (no outside watering). Proceeding with twinning wastewater line (water may be included).

**Mountain View County** – did engineering work on armoring main artery to the west - \$2.6M project.

**Town of Oyen** – pumping water from lagoon for past three weeks. Serious drought situation will impact economy in the area. Camrose issued State of Emergency.

**Town of Blackfalds** – developing a policy on water conservation.

**Town of Trochu** – Trochu / Three hills ongoing discussions with ATCO to manage their system. It was recommended that Trochu and Three Hills talk to Strathmore. Water and energy conservation strategy being implemented. Discussion held on no standards set for energy efficient appliances – caution that appliances be looked at closely.

**Town of Hanna** – raw water supply going down. Ground water testing shows a high pH. Line completed to Endiang – testing being done now and residents will be hooked on shortly.

**Starland County** – awarded ditching contract.

**Village of Big Valley** – water restrictions in place.

**Town of Sylvan Lake** – dealing with development around the Lake. Trying to get Alberta Environment to identify what is acceptable standards so landowners have a better understanding of what is allowed.

**Village of Linden** – water tables are high. Road damage due to stream flow.

**M.D. of Acadia** – applied to the Henry Krueger Water Commission for potable water. Mayor upgrades on water distribution system and wastewater system – usage is high.

**County of Paintearth** – some federal dollars for two new reservoirs to serve Cornation and east / west half of county.

**City of Red Deer** – new water intake – no stimulus dollars for the project. North highway connector approved – right of way needed for pipeline.

**Town of Drumheller** – WTP completed – UV upgrade brought up to Alberta Environment standards which serves a regional system - Level 2 / 3 plant needs qualified operators. WWTP upgrades - \$6M CAMRIF / \$5M from Province and \$9M from taxpayers. Hoping for approval to complete the water extension to the entire Valley. Conservation measures moving forward.

**Town of Innisfail** – regional sewage project moving forward. Retreat held on water conservation – rebate program. Crushing program in place. Hoping to connect with surrounding municipalities on Alberta WARN.

**County of Stettler** – received \$1M for rural water distribution. Buffalo Lake – no approval for sewage lagoon.

**13.0 Adjournment:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 2:00 PM at the Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM