

# **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water User Group, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 1:00 p.m., Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta**

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## **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Co-Chair Patt Churchill, Town of Innisfail and Co-Chair Reeve Earl Marshall, County of Stettler.

**Present:** Redford Peeples – Town of Stettler, Blaine McDonald – Town of Drumheller, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Tim Ainscough – Town of Innisfail, Murray Marshall – County of Starland, Lynda Fiedler – Town of Sylvan Lake, Ron Wilson – Town of Three Hills, Jim Lougheed – Red Deer County, Al Kemmere – County of Mountain View, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, George Taylor - Town of Sundre, Wayne Richardson – County of Paintearth, Warren Smith – Town of Olds, Annon Hovde – KRWSC, Dennis Kuiken – Village of Acme, Bob Cammidge – Town of Bashaw, Rob Stoutenberg – Town of Stettler, John Koster – Town of Hanna, and Keith Ryder – Director.

## **2.0 Introductions**

### **3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

Addition to Agenda: 8.0 Financial Review.

**Smith, Lougheed** that the agenda for the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting be adopted as amended. Carried

### **4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

Correction to Minutes: Under 7.0 Review of Municipal Projects – the sentences “The Mountainview Water Commission are discussing including wastewater as part of the Commission. The wastewater would be directed to the City of Red Deer via Olds, etc”. should be deleted. Spelling on page 4 – “there” should be “their”.

**Smith, Lougheed** that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting Regular Meeting minutes of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 be adopted as ammended. Carried

## **5.0 Old Business**

### **6.0 New Business**

6.1 Review Water Assurance Study recommendations (report binders were available for members; CD's are available; the Report has been posted on the Website since May 1<sup>st</sup>). The top nine recommendations (along with a brief proposal) included: 1. Crown Reservation, 2. Municipal License Growth Projections and Licence Terms, 3. Net Diversion Licensing, 4. Water Storage Emergency Measures, 5. Regional Water and Wastewater System Funding, 6. Water Licence Transfer Rebate Program, 7. Water Conservation Grant Program, 8. Water Reuse Grants and 9. On Site Raw Water Storage Grant.

The group reviewed all 17 recommendations as presented in Section 9 of the Water Assurance Report. The group agreed to include recommendation #10 to the summary: On / Off Site Storage.

## 6.2 Discuss strategy to implement recommendations

K. Ryder presented a draft letter to be sent to all the MLA's attached to the Red Deer River Basin, with copies to the Premier and Minister of Environment, advising of the scope and details of the Water Assurance Study. The letter would also ask the Government of Alberta to review the recommendations and provide an opportunity for the RDRMUG to present the advantages and benefits of establishing a Crown Reservation for future water allocations within the Red Deer River Basin.

K. Ryder advised that meetings are being arranged with the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance for their support and assistance.

## 6.3 Select priority recommendations

Following a round table pole of the 10 recommendations presented, the general consensus of the RDRMUG members at the May 15, 2008 meeting was that the Crown Reservations and Future Storage Requirements issues were the most important to bring to the Provincial Government's attention and request Government direction in RDRMUG assisting in the implementation of these recommendations.

### 1. Crown Reservation (as per recommendation 9.1.1)

Establishment of a "Crown Reservation" for a portion of the remaining Red Deer River's allocation be dedicated exclusively for future Municipal use. The Report commissioned provides support and background that will enable RDRMUG to proceed to request the Government of Alberta to consider this proposal.

### 2. Future Storage Requirements (as per Technical Memorandum 8)

RDRMUG considers that future storage sites are of utmost importance to the future needs of municipalities within the Red Deer River Basin. It was suggested that additional storage above the Dickson Dam would be of the most benefit to the Basin.

K. Ryder reiterated that the letter to be sent to all MLA's in the RDR Basin would outline the importance of the Study and request an opportunity to meet with each of them to share the document. It would further offer RDRMUG's assistance in working with them to provide future water assurance to municipalities.

The RDRMUG group also agreed that several of the recommendations would be dealt with on an ongoing basis, and in conjunction with the priorities of Crown Reservations and Future Storage Requirements.

**Reckseidler, Fiedler** that the RDRMUG forward letters to the MLA's attached to the Red Deer River Basin, with copies to the Premier and Minister of Environment, advising of the scope and details of the Water Assurance Study. Carried.

Minister of Transportation Luke Ouellette and Minister of Infrastructure Jack Hayden have been invited to the next RDRMUG meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>. K. Ryder advised that both offices have asked for the agenda in advance. It is hopeful that they will attend but no confirmation has been received to date.

It was suggested that the RDRMUG meet at a suitable location for the Ministers which may not be Drumheller. K. Ryder to advise the membership as soon as confirmation has been received.

Discussion held on the need for another dam (potential storage sites), the Dickson Dam and Glenifer Dam operations, and the fact that headwaters run through Big Horn and Clearwater County and the need for their membership to the group.

DICKSON DAM – A request is to be sent to the operation staff at Dickson Dam to invite them to a future RDRMUG meeting to provide an update of dam's operations.

CLEARWATER COUNTY AND MD OF BIG HORN representatives to be invited to RDRMUG future meetings to discuss merits of these municipalities joining RDRMUG.

## **7.0 Executive Director Report**

### **7.1 Review Alberta Environment Conference**

K. Ryder attended the Alberta Environment 2008 Conference from April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Edmonton. He provided an overview of two workshops:

- Alberta Water Council – Presenter: Gord Edwards, Executive Director. This Council's role is as follow:

- leads the renewal of the Water for Life strategy;
- is tasked with developing a provincial Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan
- is undertaking a review of the provincial policy regarding the movement of water between sub-basins, with the same major basin
- is developing a shared governance and watershed planning framework;
- is developing a document to assist sectors in developing and implementing sector-specific water conservation, efficiency and productivity plans with two pilot projects currently underway: Municipal Sector and Irrigation Sector;
- is developing a Terms of Reference for the creation of a new Project Team for healthy aquatic ecosystems; and
- is developing a Terms of Reference for the creation of a new Project Team for water licence markets.

K. Ryder recommended that Gord Edwards be invited to a future RDRMUG meeting.

The second workshop dealt with Healthy Watersheds through Sustainable Land Use Planning from Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP). Their mission is to protect and maintain the integrity of the natural environment while promoting the growth, prosperity and quality of life of Alberta's urban centers. Their site includes access and links to relevant policies, standards and guidelines for LID (low impact development) initiatives.

## 7.2 Update Society Status

K. Ryder advised that the RDRMUG will be registered as a society by the end of May.

## 7.3 Meetings attended

K. Ryder advised that he met with the MLA Jack Hayden on April 11<sup>th</sup> to advise of the study recommendations and invite him to a future RDRMUG meeting. At that time, Minister of Infrastructure Jack Hayden stated that he recognizes that the group's work will definitely have future merit. He also had an opportunity while attending the Alberta Environment Conference from April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the study again with Hon. Jack Hayden and he intends to include it on his infrastructure portfolio. He once again stated that the future use of the Red Deer River is a high priority.

**Peebles, Fiedler** moved the adoption of the Executive Director's report as presented. Carried.

## **8.0 Financial**

### **8.1 Review Current Financial Status**

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to April 30, 2008 as follows:

Balance Sheet - Total Current Assets \$122,825.55. \$3,736.00 is outstanding from membership requisitions

Statement of Revenue and Expense: Revenue year to date \$18,965.82; Actual Expenses year to date are \$49,606.93. Surplus (Loss) to date is (\$30,641.11).

**Smith, Fiedler** moved the adoption of the financial statement report as presented. Carried.

## **9.0 Review of Municipal Projects**

### **Updates from members on water projects in their respective communities**

**10.0 Adjournment:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 1:00 PM at the Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM