

**Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water Users Group, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 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 Co-Chair John Sparling – Town of Drumheller.

**Present:** Dug Major – Special Areas, Barry McLeod – Starland County, Redford Peeples – Town of Stettler, Ken Van Dewark – Red Deer County, Annon Hovde – Village of Linden, Tim Ainscough – Town of Innisfail, Patti Churchill - Town of Innisfail, Ray Reckseidler - Village of Delburne, Lynda Fiedler - Town of Sylvan Lake, Warren Smith – Town of Olds; Cliff Soper – Lacombe County; Len Waters – Village of Big Valley; Ron Wilson – Town of Three Hills; Pat Burns – Town of Hanna; Phil Frere – Town of Trochu; George Taylor – Town of Sundre; Marlene Kortzman – Village of Alix; Wendy Hillis – Village of Linden; Allan Eastman – County of Newell; Robb Stuart – Town of Bowden; Wayne Richardson – County of Paintearth; Al Radke – Town of Bashaw; Al Kemmere – Mountain View County; John Van Doesburg – Mountain View Regional Water Commission; John Sparling, Bryce Nimmo, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, and Keith Ryder, Executive Director.

**2.0 Introductions**

**3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Additions as noted.** 8d) Ministers Visit: Ministers Rob Renner and Luke Outellette – July 19, 2007; 8e) Meeting Structure; and 8f) Meeting with Al Kennedy of the Alberta Water Council

**Redford Peeples** that the agenda for the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group Meeting be adopted as amended. Carried

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

**Corrections as noted:** Under Item 9.0 Municipal Project Updates - Mountain View County should be Mountain View Regional Water Commission; Starland – funding received for ICAP project from Craigmyle to Bymoor to Endiang; Olds - should read Sundre is hopeful for a WTP by 2010.

**Ken Van Dewark** that the minutes of the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 2006 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group be adopted as amended. Carried

**5.0 Correspondence**

**6.0 Review current financial status**

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

Balance Sheet - Cash on hand: \$112,056.04; Investments include \$50,000 term deposit @ 3.1% and the membership approved an additional \$90,000 investment at their meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> for a total investment of \$140,000.

Outstanding Memberships reviewed. Sundre requested a second invoice to be forwarded to their office. Memberships are budgeted on a 1/12 basis.

Statement of Revenue (based on 5 months) and Expenses (based on 4 months).

**Warren Smith** accepted the financial report information. Carried.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **a) Executive Director Report**

K. Ryder provided an update and report on the Canadian Water Resources Conference held in Red Deer from April 22-24. He provided a power point presentation on the conference highlights as it relates to RDRMUG. The CWRA's mission is to promote effective water management. Some of the conference topics included: Alberta Water Council Role in Water for Life; Alberta Ingenuity Fund (use as a model for the RDRMUG's proposal); Water Use in the Oil Sands; Current and Future Water Use in Alberta; The Value of Water Study; Pricing to Manage Water Scarcity; The Risks of High Intensive Livestock Operations and The Sustainability of Agriculture and Water Quality.

He further reported that the City of Red Deer and Watershed Alliance have kicked off their study on conservation and best practices. Their conservation strategy includes: unpredictability water supply, increased water allocation and other conservation strategies.

He advised that Alberta Environment's flood planning program information and the high water advisories are available on the [www.rdrmug.com](http://www.rdrmug.com) website. He encouraged more membership use on the RDRMUG website as it is the central data base for communications and several presentations are posted under the resource section. He stated that some presentations have a direct influence on what the group is working on.

### **b) Steering Committee Report**

#### **i. Presentation of Call for Study**

K. Ryder provided a history of the group formation, their mandate and ideology. The Steering Committee have met twice to provide input into the Call for Study proposal. The purpose is to hire a consultant to prepare the report that is relevant to the RDRMUG and will be presented to the provincial government. It is recommended that the call for proposal be by invitation and advertised on the RDRMUG website.

**Patt Churchill** moved that the Call for Proposal be by invitation and advertised on the website. Carried.

The membership reviewed the document in detail and discussed the following:

- The word “self funded” in the second paragraph to be changed to “solely funded by”.
- Item #3 (first page) “to include from all sources of water”.
- Deliverables – what is expected of the word “review”. It was agreed that the word “Identify” and “Review” to be eliminated from Items 4-8 (second page). Patt Churchill advised that clarity on deliverables should be supported by the motion as stated on page 1 of the document.
- Item #6 (second page) “on and off” should be changed to offsite storage (reservoirs).
- Clarification on Item #8 (second page) “municipal conservation strategies” – Patt Churchill stated that this will affect best practices as growth of population in basin increases.
- The Steering Committee agreed not to specifically address agriculture use in the proposal.
- Item #7 (page 3) – it was agreed that a fee should be set.
- Under Contract Management (page 3) Item 1 – words to be added at the end of the sentence “before work is carried out”.
- Items #1-3 on page 4 support Items #1-3 on page 2.
- It was agreed not to use advertising due to the cost; contact Alberta Environment for their contact list; possible contact – consultant with Special Areas; and the Steering Committee to brainstorm other possible contacts.

**George Taylor** moved that the terms of reference be amended in accordance with the recommendations agreed to by the membership and further that the Steering Committee be authorized to make the changes and proceed with the Call for Proposals. Carried.

**George Taylor** moved that the upper limit for fees for the study be set at \$75,000.00.

Discussion on the Motion regarding setting an upper limit may restrict the end result. Patt Churchill stated that all submissions will be evaluated as well as the costs attached.

Vote on Motion: Carried.

#### **c) Watershed Atlas**

K. Ryder stated that the production is now complete and a copy of the Atlas will be given to each member of the RDRMUG. The Atlas will be available at the Water Shed meeting to be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> or at the RDRMUG July meeting.

#### **d) Ministers Visit: July 19, 2007**

K. Ryder advised that Ministers Rob Renner and Luke Ouellette have agreed to meet with the RDRMUG on July 19, 2007. It was agreed that this General Meeting will commence at 1:00 PM. Discussion held on the agenda items: 1)

Background information on the group formation; 2) Draft policy in place – concise draft of report – require their support; 3) Offer services for future intervener status (reviewing how this process works); and 4) Question/Answer Period (Water for Life Strategy, On / Off Storage, Water Allocations). K. Ryder to forward the agenda to the Ministers' offices and to the RDRMUG membership prior to this date.

**Patt Churchill** moved that the Executive Director develop the agenda and forward a copy to the Ministers' offices and to the RDRMUG membership prior to July 19, 2007. Carried

**e) Meeting Structure**

K. Ryder advised that the Executive Committee has agreed to eliminate the Executive Meetings and just hold the general meetings at 1:00 PM bi-monthly as scheduled. He explained that if there are issues requiring the executive's input, these will be at the call of the chair(s).

**Ray Reckseidler** moved that the General Meeting be held at 1:00 PM and the Executive Meeting will be called by the Chair(s) as required. Carried.

**f) Meeting with Al Kennedy of the Alberta Water Council**

K. Ryder advised that the Executive Committee will meet with Mr. Al Kennedy of the Alberta Water Council to provide input on the AWC study on intra-basin transfers. The date of the meeting is May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Mountain View County Office or June 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at the Red Deer Office. K. Ryder will let the Executive know of the preferred date.

**9.0 Review of Municipal Projects**

**a) Updates from members on water projects in their respective communities**

County of Paintearth – preliminary work ongoing for the treated water pipeline to Village of Consort.

Starland – Criagmyle to Endiang came in under the engineering estimate.

Town of Stettler – Associated Engineering is surveying at the plant site on the Red Deer River for raw water storage – area of 74 acres. They are proceeding with plant upgrading on production phasing as needed, to supply demands as new communities come online. Phase 1 for 2007 will take up to 9000 cubic meters/day; Phase 2 for 2012 will take up to 15,500 cubic meters/day; Phase 3 for 2017 will take up to 30,000 cubic meters/day. The Town of Stettler will be changing the filtering system from sand filters to membrane, which should be completed in fall of 2008 (this may be able to handle 30,000 in meters per day). The Town has a reservoir capacity of 4500 cubic meters and this will go to 7900 cubic meters. Stettler water charge is \$1.08 per cubic meter plus flat rate charge of \$10.00 per month.

Innisfail – tender awarded for #3 reservoir at \$6 million.

Special Areas – Dug Majors requested agenda item to invite Regional Director to a future meeting to discuss water allocations.

Drumheller – Boil Water Advisory has been lifted for areas with the exception of Munson, Morrin and Morning Glory.

Olds – shared water line with Mountain View for future application for growth.

Big Valley – well working good (anticipate a 10 year water supply); upgrading lift pumps.

Three Hills – allocation problem with rural customers; wastewater situation remains a problem – working with Environment for approvals.

Alix – Hwy 21 Water Commission supplying water. Cost of water pipeline to their new subdivision too costly.

Trochu – tender awarded for pumphouse upgrades.

Sylvan Lake – Regional Commission discussions ongoing for the supply of water from City of Red Deer.

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**Adjournment:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.