

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2011 at 1:00 PM, Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta

1.0 Call to Order – 1:04 PM – Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: John Kaster – Town of Hanna, Annette Clews – Town of Sundre, Derek Baird – Town of Innisfail, Bob Kesler – Village of Acme, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Ken MacVicar – Town of Sylvan Lake, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Chris Reeds – Town of Trochu, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Rick Kargaard – Village of Big Valley, Allen Eastman – County of Newell, Scott Dudley – Village of Munson, Mary Jane Harper – Town of Olds, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Jim Wood – Red Deer County, Sandy Gamble – Town of Bowden, Michele Poivier – Town of Stettler, Melissa Robbins – Town of Stettler, Lois Bedwell – Town of Oyen, Dug Major – Special Areas, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

MOTION Baird that the agenda for the March 17, 2011 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Annual Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

3.0 Guest Presenter: Mr. Chris Teichreb, Limnologist
Alberta Environment, Central Office

K. Ryder explained that the Water Quality (Contaminants) Committee comprised of Bill Shaw, Dug Major and Bob Kesler was established in December by the RDRMUG to explore and develop a strategy to examine the state of contaminants in the Red Deer River. The Committee has studied the matter and prepared a report dated January 20, 2011 on the concerns. The Committee recommended that Chris Teichreb, a water quality specialist with Alberta Environment be invited to speak with the RDRMUG.

C. Teichreb's presentation included:

- Overview of water quality sampling on the Red Deer River;
- Current water quality pressures on the river;
- Overview of current conditions on the river;
- Emerging issues and responses; and
- Future work

He stated that their work includes a variety of water quality sampling programs to assess the current conditions of the Red Deer River. The samples include nutrients, inorganic constituents, bacteria, metals, pesticides, and other organic / inorganic components (e.g., pharmaceuticals). Samples are taken at four stations (upstream of Red Deer, Nevis, Morrin and Jenner). The annual data is summarized in a water quality index (WQI) and is available from Environment's database. He explained that the current water quality pressures are broken down into two categories: point and non-point sources. Point sources include municipal and industrial discharges to the river and any other "end of pipe" discharges. Non-point sources include overland runoff from agricultural lands, urban runoff and any other diffuse sources. Factors considered in

this category include water use (by category), population growth rate, livestock intensity, manure production, confine feedlot operations, fertilizer use and the oil and gas density. He stated that in general, the Red Deer River is in good shape but has pressures from the above noted areas. There is still an increase in nutrients as sampling moves downstream. It has long been know that there have been pharmaceuticals, personal care products, endocrine disrupting compounds and other constituents entering the water from point and non-point sources. These components are difficult to detect in small quantities and are expensive to analyze. It is also difficult or next to impossible to treat (both in wastewater and drinking water) so one does not know the effects on humans or the environment. Environment is dedicated to analyzing samples for emerging contaminants and the list is expanded on a regular basis. Environment has partnered with Dr. Habibi's work.

In conclusion, C. Teichreb stated that Environment will continue to monitor for foundational work and will continue to address emerging contaminants. Environment supports research through grants and other support to research institutions. They are moving forward with the Land Use Framework and Regional Plan for the Red Deer River Watershed including development of water quality objectives. He stated that there is a need for additional biomonitoring information (benthic invertebrates), sediment monitoring and monitoring in headwater areas (near Sundre).

Several questions were discussed. The members thanked C. Teichreb for his presentation.

4.0 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2011

MOTION Reckseidler that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of January 20, 2011 be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

4.2 No business arising from the minutes of January 20, 2011.

5.0 Financial Reports to February 28, 2011

5.1 Balance Statement

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to February, 2011 as follows:

Total Current Assets - \$171,181.06

GST Clearing - \$14,315.89 (Town trying to resolve that the RDRMUG is a municipal entity – it was suggested that Palliser Regional Municipal Services may be able to offer some advice in this regard)

Accounts Payable - \$2,860.00 (one month payable to Keith Ryder)

5.2 Revenue and Expense

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the revenue and expenses to December, 2010 as follows: Revenue year to date \$10,287.98; Actual Expenses year to

date \$4,752.41. Surplus (Loss) to date is \$5,535.57.

5.3 Accounting Notes

K. Ryder noted that RDRMUG memberships paid to date for 2011 is \$59,326.75.

MOTION Eastman moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Update from Committee re contaminants, etc. in the Red Deer River

D. Major advised that the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance held their annual meeting on April 7th, 2011. The RDRWA focuses on building relationships. The RDRWA and the RDRMUG compliment each other's activities. The RDRWA is the designated group responsible for the Red Deer River while the RDRMUG focuses on lobbying. Under Alberta's Water for Life strategy, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are multi-stakeholder, non-profit organizations that assess the conditions of their watershed and share the responsibility for identifying solutions to address water shed issues.

He provided the following overview:

The Water for Life and WPac's will:

- Lead in watershed planning;
- Develop best management practices;
- Foster stewardship activities within the watershed;
- Report on the State of the Watershed (each municipality has this report);
- Educate users of the water resource.

The Integrated Watershed Management Plan's recommendation for implementation includes:

- Stakeholder implementation;
- Support Land Use Framework;
- Support Water for Life Strategy.

The Watershed Data Gaps:

- Look at each watershed and ask where are the gaps;
- Minimal flow information lacking, etc.;
- Total of how many gaps for each watershed;
- Charts are available that show the data gaps.

IWMP Committee Structure:

- RDRWA Board of Directors
- IWMP Steering Committee
- Project Management Unit
- Public Consultation
- Technical Advisory Committee

- As it relates to the Land Use Framework, the IWMP will form a key foundation piece in the Red Deer River Regional Plan.

Recessed at 2:20 PM

Reconvened at 2:35 PM

6.2 Goals and Strategy Update Workshop for May 19, 2011 Meeting. RDRMUG Mandate / Goals

MOTION Kesler that the RDRMUG members hold a full day strategy and goal session on May 19th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Carried unanimously.

6.3 Terms of Reference for Executive Committee

K. Ryder presented the draft terms of reference for the members' review. Any comments or changes are to be forwarded to Keith.

MOTION Reckseidler that the Draft Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee be accepted in principle and to be ratified (with any changes) at the next meeting. Carried unanimously.

7.0 Executive Director's Report

K. Ryder provided an overview of his activities as follows:

- Work in progress on the Crown Reservation (formatted stages);
- Contact with Director of Watershed Alliance
- Several communities have excellent water conservation tips and he recommended the members send them to Keith for posting on the website
- Current river advisories are on the website
- Encouraged use of members' page to share information with Council and / or constituents
- Encouraged members to let Keith know their information needs.

MOTION Major moved to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

8.0 Municipal Project Review: *An opportunity for all representatives to share their current and future water/waste water projects.*

9.0 Correspondence: Handouts

Water Act: Allocation of Water

Water Quality and the Red Deer River

10.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: May 19, 2011

11.0 Adjournment – 3:07 PM