

# **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Water Users Group, January 18<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 by Reeve Earl Marshall – County of Stettler and John Sparling – Town of Drumheller as Co-Chairs.

**Present:** Dug Major – Special Areas, Barry McLeod – Starland County, Rob Stoutenberg – Town of Stettler; Redford Peeples – Town of Stettler, Earl Kinsella – Red Deer County, Annon Hovde – Village of Linden, Al Kemmere – Mountain View County, Tim Ainscough – Town of Innisfail, Patt Churchill, Town of Innisfail, Cody Berggren – Mountain View Regional Water Commission, Ray Reckseidler, Village of Delburne, Lynda Fiedler, Town of Sylvan Lake, Wayne Richardson – County of Paintearth, Allen Eastman - County of Newell; Kris Bojda – Town of Olds; Bev Hughes – City of Red Deer; Cliff Soper – Lacombe County; Len Waters – Village of Big Valley; Glen Rieger – Village of Acme; John Van Doesburg – Mountain View Regional Water Commission; John Sparling – Town of Drumheller and Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller; Keith Ryder - RDRMUG

## **2.0 Introductions**

### **3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**Redford Peeples** that the agenda for the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

### **4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

**Lynda Fiedler** that the minutes of the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group be adopted as presented.

Carried

### **5.0 Correspondence**

Letter regarding RDRMUG's concerns relating to M.D. of Rocky View's application to withdraw water from the Red Deer Basin to serve a development in Balzac, Alberta was forwarded to Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Environment, with copies to the all RDRMUG's MLAs, and Members of Parliament, Bob Mills, MP Red Deer and Kevin Sorenson, MP Crowfoot.

### **6.0 Executive Director's Report**

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of his activities as follows: Enhance the website, attended meetings regarding the Balzac Development; worked with the Watershed Alliance (costing sharing project on overlay maps underway); worked with the Co-chairs on the letter sent to the Province on the Balzac Development; worked with Town staff on budget scenarios; worked on updating the membership list and carried out research.

**Glen Rieger** moved to adopt the Executive Director's Report as presented. Carried.

## **7.0 Review Current Financial Status**

### **a) Acceptance of financial statements**

R. Romanetz presented the financial statements to December 31, 2006 and noted there is a surplus of \$39,255.96. The revenue from municipal memberships received in 2006 is \$71,345.

**Lynda Fielder** moved the adoption of the financial statement report as presented. Carried.

## **8.0 Old Business**

### **a) Project Updates**

J. Sparling presented a letter from the Town of Drumheller and Kneehill Regional Water Services Commission requesting an urgent joint meeting with Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier to discuss significant concerns relating to the Water License Application for the Balzac Commercial Development. There has been no response to date from the Premier's Office. R. Romanetz advised that Alberta Environment is now reviewing the submissions and it appears that only direct parties will have an opportunity to intervene. The Town of Drumheller has received copies of all the submissions. Membership expressed concern that intervener status rights need to be available to all users. He further noted that the Town of Drumheller has hired a consultant to ensure that accurate information can be provided. If water is provided from Drumheller, the Drumheller Water Treatment Plant requires significant improvements. The pipeline built for Kneehill Water Supply Commission will not go beyond 5,000 cubic metres capacity per day. Discussion held on the lack of clarity on how water licenses are issued and the need to collate numbers from all the users of the Red Deer River, including the oil industry. Discussion held on inequity of water user rates.

### **b) Information on pending water applications**

Discussion held on developing a researched report to present to the Ministers. Discussion held on accumulating water usage for all users within the Red Deer River Basin. Membership agreed that the Red Deer River Municipal Users Group needs a position to lobby for future needs (30 years). It was agreed that the oil and gas industry has the power to lobby as well for future water protection.

**Patt Churchill** develop terms of reference identifying needs for municipalities and other users in the Red Deer River Basin to include policies principles to ensure the future needs of the Red Deer River Users are protected. Carried.

### **c) Water Atlas Project with RDRWA**

K. Ryder advised that work is in progress and a final product is expected in the Spring.

## **9.0 Review of Municipal Projects**

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

Stettler Water Treatment Plant Upgrading – 88% Provincial funding to supply water to the east central area. 15,000 cubic metres per day is the target.

Lacombe Water Line – now in a position to serve new develop.

Stettler to Consort Water Line – finalizing bylaws – formation of Commission status.

Acme – second year with quality water – now seeing steady growth with Heritage Estates Subdivision being developed.

Olds – Red Deer Pipeline South – preliminary design work approved.

Newell Feasibility Study – water to be taken from the Bow River and dumped Red Deer River.

Sylvan Lake – regional commission working around lake for water and wastewater treatment in Red Deer.

Starland – water line working good however a number of rural users have not tied on.

Stettler/Starland joint project to provide water to Endiang and Bymoor from the Craigmyle line.

Delborne – annexation in progress – new infrastructure built for 1200 residents.

Special Areas Water Supply Project – has received approval. Environment impact assessment study to be completed. Residential growth within the hamlets has been prohibited by the lack of water supply and now seeing renewed interest of repopulating the hamlets.

Kneehill – second year operations and seen an improvement in their development as well.

Innisfail – received approval for regional water supply study to be carried out.

Mountain View County – working with municipality to develop an agreement for residential development pressures west side of county. Regional water supply agreement to include intermunicipal agreement. Discussion with Sylvan Lake for possible water from Mountain View. Bio Fuel Plant located in Red Deer County awaiting funding approval on water line and acquisition of land. SCADA upgrade ongoing.

Drumheller – Rosedale to Cambria water line in the first stage of construction - \$4m dollar project. Removal of organic carbon on the Kneehill water line is being reviewed – looking at chlorination with UV as a possible solution.

Stettler Wastewater Project approved – requirement for a wastewater system on the south side of Buffalo Lake.

## **10.0 New Business**

### **a) 2007 Budget**

### **b) 2007 Membership Fees**

K. Ryder presented the 2007 operating budget for the membership's review. He reported that the Executive reviewed the 2007 operating budget and agreed to

keep the 50 cents per capita contribution for member municipalities at the same level.

It was noted that Mountain View Water Commission will be paying the Town of Innisfail's requisition.

**Lynda Fiedler** that the 2007 requisition be set at 0.50 cents per capita and an invoice be forwarded to each member municipality. Carried.

**c) Renewal of Executive Director Contract for 2007**

E. Marshall advised that the Executive recommended the renewal of K. Ryder's contract for a further one year term to December 31, 2007 at the same rate of wage and hours as negotiated in 2006.

**Patt Churchill** to renew Keith Ryder's contract to December 31, 2007 at the same rate of wage and hours as negotiated in 2006. Carried.

**d) Plan upcoming meetings to brief new Premier and Provincial Cabinet**

As discussed previously.

**e) Review upcoming conferences and seminars**

**11. Open Round Table Discussion**

**12. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Civic Centre, Drumheller, Alberta.**

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.