

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2014 at 1:30 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

1.0 Call to Order – 1:30 PM

Attendance: Earl Graham – Clearwater County, Patt Churchill – Town of Innisfail, Sean McIntyre – Town of Sylvan Lake, Bob Long – Kneehill County, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Gordon Christensen – Village of Alix, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Joe Gendre – County of Stettler, Richard Poole – Town of Blackfalds, Barb Shepherd, Lacombe County, Susan Grudecki – M.D. of Acadia, Jean Bota – Red Deer County, Gerald Campion – Town of Hanna , Gates Bilodeau – Town of Stettler, Mark Garneau – Town of Trochu, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Bill Shaw – City of Red Deer, Harvey Walsh – Town of Olds, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Rocky Dahmer – County of Paintearth, Wayne Hammergrew – County of Newell, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Myron Thompson – Town of Sundre, Jodi Orr – Town of Sundre, Cliff Soper - Resource, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Linda Handy.(28)

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Additions to Agenda: 6.1.1 Discussion of the “Draft” South Saskatchewan Regional Plan; and 6.1.2 Review RDRMUG River Disaster and Hazard Committee

MOTION McIntyre that the agenda for the January 16, 2014 Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2013

MOTION Reckseidler moved that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of November 28, 2013 be adopted as presented. Carried unanimously.

3.2 Business arising from minutes of November 28, 2013

4.0 Unaudited Financial Reports to December 31, 2013

4.1 Balance Statement

4.2 Revenue and Expense

4.3 Accounting Notes

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the financial status to December 31, 2013 as follows:

Total Liabilities and Surplus - \$143,566.99

Revenue - \$62,563.46 (\$0.25 per capita plus interest throughout the year)

Expenses – actual \$49,790.57 compared to budgeted \$99,050.00 (project work in conjunction with government agencies such as flood mitigation, water assurance study and crown reservation did not require dollars this year but will in the near future)

Surplus - \$12,772.89

MOTION Walsh moved to accept the Financial Report to December 31, 2013 as presented. Carried unanimously.

K. Ryder advised that he will attend Council meetings to provide an overview of MUG activities as well as providing a MUG 101 session for new members.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2014 Operating Budget / 2014 Per Capita

K. Ryder advised that 2014 revenue is based on current membership (2013 Municipal Affairs population figures). All projects must be approved by the RDRMUG membership prior to being committed and any expenditure that is not covered in the approved budget must be approved by the membership prior to any financial commitment being made. K. Ryder recommended continuing with the \$0.25 per capita, which provides for approximately \$90,000 - \$100,000 for specific projects under professional services. Potential new memberships: Red Deer North Water Services; Hwy 21 Project and Shirley McClellan Project.

5.2 Review 2014 Proposed Meeting Dates: March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, November 20

MOTION Howe moved to accept the meeting dates as scheduled. Carried unanimously.

5.3 Renewal of Executive Director Contract

MOTION Graham moved to increase K. Ryders' wage by 3% effective January 1, 2014. Carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Primer on the Science of Water in the Red Deer River Basin: Cliff Soper, PhD

C. Soper advised that as a former Councillor with Lacombe County he sat on the MUG group in 2012 and he stated that the quality of work being done by MUG is admirable. He advised that he is currently a Board of Director with ABC Technologies. He offered his services should there be a need for a chemist or bio-chemist. He stated that he has extensive background on water issues and he will be open to presentations and / or finding speakers able to offer educational insights into water issues. He also advised that he owns a multimedia production company and would be able to offer literature searches, provide insight into atmosphere and water energy in the long term, waste reduction technologies or provide knowledge on transportations. Co-Chairs thanked Cliff for his offer of services to MUG.

6.0 Executive Director's Report/ Admin Items:

6.1 Update Alberta WaterSMART meeting

"The team at Alberta WaterSMART is one of the most passionate, experienced and knowledgeable in their field. They are dedicated to providing innovative solutions to complex water management issues in the province of Alberta."

- working as a model to use for Red Deer River basin;
- up and running this spring
- model based on scenarios (comparisons on water intake and outflows)
- K. Ryder will be attending a future meeting.
- offices located at the U of C Campus.

6.2 Water Assurance Study (2008 and updated in May, 2013 – both documents available on RDRMUG website) by Associated Engineering and Hart Water Management

K. Ryder provided an overview of the principles behind the report. He further stated that the report is the Bible of the organization and it needs a new testament in the near future. He stated that the group needs to identify the areas where dollars need to be allocated. MUG's mandate is to be proactive in managing water in the Red Deer River and advocate on what we want to see. Crown reservation for municipal use (which will require public consultation and open houses) and to ensure proactive measures and adequate funding are in place for future water need.

"Despite the instream flow needs constraint, it was determined that existing allocations and current applications of 329,046 cubic decameters (dam₃) could be increased to a maximum of 550,000 dam₃ before constraints on further allocations would be considered. Municipalities in the basin understand that this provides room for more allocations but also recognize that under the Alberta "first in time - first in right" priority allocation system, there could be increased risk for their current residents and for future growth. As a result, the Red Deer River Municipal Users Group (RDRMUG) commissioned this study in 2007 to explore means of increasing water security for municipalities. The RDRMUG decided to take a proactive approach to securing water for municipalities. They recognized that long-term water issues in the basin were complex and needed to be analyzed and presented in a credible manner to give their sector of water users every advantage in reducing the risk of not having sufficient water.

The study approach first evaluated the state of water in the basin, current water usage and municipal planning information. A survey of municipalities was conducted and Alberta Environmental were interviewed. As a result of the survey and review of provincial databases, population forecasts were made for 25 and 50 year periods. These projections were used to forecast municipal water demands. At the same time, forecasts of water demands for other sectors were conducted. These demands were then used to assess the magnitude and frequency of water supply deficits and the size and feasibility of water storage infrastructure required to eliminate the deficits. The study then reviewed other water topics that are unique to municipalities. These evaluations and relevant data were presented in eight technical memorandums. Observations and conclusions from the technical memorandums were then grouped into four themes and recommendations were developed as an outcome of the study. Each recommendation was laid out in a concise briefing format with sufficient information so that it could be presented in any forum."

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

Additions to the Agenda

6.3 Discussion of the "Draft" South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

B. Shaw provided an overview of the draft SSRP. He presented an overlapping map of the basin showing 15% of Red Deer River Watershed is addressed in the SSRP. Based on his review of the plan, there is a negative effect with regards to water quality and flow. A storage study will be done in 2014 – upstream and downstream of Sundre – government is open to the ideas for flood mitigation. P. Churchill stated that there is a 15% reduction in water conservation. B. Shaw stated that they are trying to encourage each sector to come up with 30% however no information to date. P. Churchill asked what tools are used for measurement. The closing date for submission was January 15th and he encouraged members to submit their responses.

6.4 Review RDRMUG River Disaster and Hazard Committee

K. Ryder advised that committee members were struck last year based on West Country concerns however with the new election, members need to be reappointed. He further advised that their mandate is to identify action items to adopt a healthy aquatic ecosystem as a top priority, motivate the government of Alberta and recommend a partnership (financial and communications) on the Groeneveld's recommendation with the three levels of government (Federal / Provincial / Municipal) as well as include the Alberta Water Council who has identified mitigation as one of their priorities. Other activities include advocating for a Red Deer River contaminates (pharmaceuticals) report based on Dr. Hebbe's presentation. Priorities of the committee include: flood and drought mitigation, industrial impacts, and riparian health (water discharge from forestry and agriculture, and beavers destroying trees causing damage to municipal water supply systems).

New Committee struck as follows:

Mayor Terry Leslie, Town of Sundre
Councillor Jean Bota, Red Deer County
Councillor Murray Marshall, Starland County
Councillor Mark Garneau, Town of Trochu
Reeve Bob Long, Kneehill County
Mayor Terry Yemen, Town of Drumheller
Mr. Paul Goranson, City of Red Deer
Mr. Gates Bilodeau, Town of Stettler

MOTION Campbell moved to accept the appointments as identified to the RDRMUG River Disaster and Hazard Committee. Carried unanimously.

K. Ryder advised that he will arrange a presentation on the West Country concerns in the near future. Members to meet in the next month through the co-ordination of K. Ryder.

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

Discussion held on Mountain View / Sundre / Clearwater's need for MUG's support to address concerns from the Flood Mitigation Studies within the Red Deer River Basin. Concerns regarding a newly released report that disagrees with previous mitigation studies, it does not address river erosion and contaminates loss of bridges along Hwys 22 and 27 and no accountability for government action.

K. Ryder advised that this topic will be added to the next River Disaster and Hazard Committee's agenda.

8.0 Correspondence:

1) *Handouts at the meeting*

9.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Thurs., March 20, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Badlands Community Facility in Drumheller.

10.0 Adjournment – 3:30 PM