

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2016 at 1:00 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

Attendance:

Mark Garneau - Town of Trochu, Ross Rawlusyk - Starland County, Chris Lust - Town of Sylvan Lake, Lucy Ann Banbert - Village of Acme, Curt Maki - Clearwater County, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Ray Reckseidler - Village of Delburne, Tanya Meston - Village of Alix, Gordon Christensen - Village of Alix, Dave Brand - Town of Sylvan Lake, Josee Methot – RDRWA, Jeff Hanger – RDRWA, Leo Lazzari - Town of Oyen, Dianne Wyntjes - City of Red Deer, Tim Ainscough - City of Red Deer, Tom Marstaller - City of Red Deer, Bill Shaw - City of Red Deer, Robb Stuart - South Red Deer Wastewater Commission, Dave McPhee - Town of Ponoka, Brian Larson - Ducks Unlimited, Murray Holroyd - Town of Bashaw, Gerald Campion - Town of Hanna Kim Neill - Town of Hanna, Rick Poole - Town of Blackfalds, Myron Thompson - Town of Sundre, Terry Leslie – Town of Sundre, Bruce Beattie - Mountainview County, Lorelee Grattidge - Mountainview County, Harvey Walsh - Town of Olds, Jeff Cosens - County of Paintearth, Brian Bolduc – Drumheller, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Blayne West - Lacombe County, Steve Christie - City of Lacombe, Patt Churchill - Town of Innisfail, Travis Ryan - Town of Castor, Dave Grover – County of Stettler, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Ken Lewis - Red Deer County, Christine Campbell - ALUS Canada

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Executive Member A. Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Co-Chair P. Churchill took over the chair at 1:00pm.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: D. Wyntjes moved that the agenda for the January 21, 2016 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group be approved as presented. CARRIED

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION: R. Poole moved that the minutes of the December 3, 2015 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group regular meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED

3.1 There was no business arising from the minutes of December 3, 2015.

4.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

4.1 Balance Statement

4.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenses

4.3 Accounting Notes

MOTION: To accept the financial reports for information by R. Reckseidler. CARRIED

5.0 MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PLAN

MOTION: T. Yemen moved to accept the draft Municipal Water Quality Protection Plan summary of key goals and outcomes for information. CARRIED

6.0 MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PLAN CONSULTATION

R. Michalak, RDRMUG Lead Project Coordinator and J. Methot, RDRWA conducted the second group consultation. Details attached.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Overview of agenda and progress report on the Municipal Water Quality Protection Action Plan

Comments: A-Okay, OK, will the Land Use Framework proceed? (re: Integrated Resource Management Framework)

2) Background / Progress Update - Water Quality Protection Action Plan (RDRMUG)

Comments:

- I have a much better idea of the plan - I look forward to seeing it!
- I think the action plan will be a great basis from which the municipalities can work from (same song sheet)
- Source Water Protection – many resources AB Wetlands already have
- Very good presentation on our water quality action plan
- How are ground water wells protected from adverse affects of fracking related to oil and gas exploration and development?
- How are new council members updated to the value of the RDRMUG after an election? (i.e., how membership benefits the community)
- Deliverable Outcomes 5 – source water protection, Environmental Master Plan, next steps to Government of Alberta / Minister, Public Hearing Process and Crown Reservation Application
- Would be interested in more information on “Room for the River” idea / concept / approach
- Are the three goals of the Water For Life Strategy the goals of the Action Plan? It’s not clear.
- Need to check on the status of Land Use Planning Framework – regional plans

3) Update on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (RDRWA)

Comments:

- Clear that IWMP is everyone’s responsibility to implement – good job!
- good overview and excited to see how the IWMP will provide us with ideas for implementation
- please look for opportunities to share 3D modeling with SLMC group – might be useful for all municipalities around the lake – contact Keith Stephenson at Lacombe County (Councillor and Chair of SLMC)
- I would like to see more water testing on both the water and the watershed (e.g. Red Deer River)
- Good update, Josee!
- As a senior water operator for a small town this is the first time I’ve heard some of this information, how do we get informed if this is not passed down the line to operators?

4) Presentation from ALUS Canada and participating municipalities

Comments:

- unfortunate that ALUS presentation focused on the lands that are wetland and habitat as “not good

farmland”. I would have thought that ALUS would show that these lands are important from an ecological standpoint (missed learning opportunity)

- great examples of on the ground projects - water quality data missing - good quantitative data but what does this really mean? Indicators should show change that is impacted (e.g., # of cows affected)
- I think it is a great idea but the funding from Loudlaws Corp may not be stable for next 20 - 30 years
- increased projects seem to indicate that this program is growing in all counties
- not available to towns or villages
- advice on how to evaluate effectiveness of a program not just the need to tick the box and do an “on the ground project”. I am not discounting projects such as ALUS but we need to choose how to evaluate our programming properly to achieve our desired outcomes
- Conservation will boil down to the private landowner; should we actually have to pay people to do the right thing... I guess that’s our society.

5) Interactive discussion - review proposed goals, outcomes, key actions of MWQPAP

Comments:

- Diagram 2 is better (circles embedded) – much more intuitive
- I like the “Intro > Dip > Dive” approach but how do you know when to engage in each? Could you base this in a diagram of triggers and indicators? A trigger is when you reach a particular limit or indicator to tell you that you need a particular action (See SLMC as an idea of management strategies)
- Outcome 1 Intro - “Get water (DWSP) onto the agenda of municipalities”, “Support, listen to watershed stewardship groups”
- Outcome 1 – yes, understanding but an important component of that is gaining commitment
- Outcome 1 Dive – dovetail with education programs of others; but perhaps also municipalities need to hold workshops for residents, farmers, industry, etc. working together with other groups / associations to do this – e.g., Cattleman’s Association, etc.
- Outcome 2 scale is not clear; e.g., source water for Delburne, Eckville is “x” km around their wells; source water for Red Deer is the entire watershed upstream from the City; source water for Hanna is the entire watershed upstream of the Henry Kroeger Regional Line, etc. – how will you address this?
- Outcome 2 – needs to be clear how the Action Plan works with the RDRWA IWMP
- Outcome 2 Dip – are you going to address key components of a source water protection plan?
- Outcome 2 Dive – agree that wetland component is important but what about riparian – are there other programs and/or legislation to conserve and/or restore?
- Outcome 2 – Case studies – I ran across a supremely good one two months ago; I will try to find again and some others you can refer to
- Outcome 2 Dip – “Maintain wetlands and riparian areas”
- Outcome 2 Dive – “Is there a process to share water quality testing data from municipal staff with Municipality / Council?”
- Outcome 3 – Intro – built environments primarily means urban centres and industrial sites; by far the greatest portion of the watershed is farmland and forests; the introduction and Dip / Dive need to reflect this
- Outcome 3 – Dip – stakeholders include farm communities, local watershed groups, forest operation companies, key industries, etc.
- Outcome 3 Intro – “Research groups and support where necessary (WSG) support groups and people
 - are there or one or two easy actions across all outcomes that can be put into the Intro of each?

- Outcome 3 Dive – “Make mention of ALUS”
- Outcome 4 – many of the Dip and Dive statements are not reflected in the section title (Stormwater / Rainwater Management) – needs a broader title; e.g., wastewater is important (point source impacts)
- Outcome 4 – is not rainwater management a subset of Low Impact Development?
- Outcome 5 – “institutionalized” seems like a negative connotation; what about – Water and Watershed Conservation – a vital component in the ‘DNA’ of Municipal Culture?
- Outcome 5 – Dive – much broader and more detailed key actions – e.g., Environmental Master Plan; Open Space Plan; clean-up action plans; site restoration plans, farm environmental plans, municipalities working with forest operators to have demonstration ‘forests’ (operations, conservation, re-growth); the same with West Country oil companies re: access roads and pipelines)
- Outcome 5 Dip – “Standing agenda item on water – even more important on regional systems because operators may not be near the municipality”
- Outcome 5 Dip – “Not sure what annual presentation by RDRWA means; maybe through RDRMUG / partner events?”
- Outcome 5 Dive – “Mention of how to have input into Provincial level from a MUG level”
- Outcome 5 – Sustainability of implementation
- Yes, I would be in favor of the municipalities doing the sampling with the Government agencies or Health Services doing the testing, most municipalities already have stormwater and rainwater management and treating programs
- Outcome 5 – “What would a standing agenda item for council look like?”
- on our water safety plan we feel that maybe this should fall on the shoulders of local water commissions, more so than on the municipality (e.g., HKRWSC)
- this needs to be bought into by municipalities and to get that they need to understand the value of the programs
- name suggestion for the Plan, “Know Water” - have this somehow in the title
- try to reduce the acronyms – it is difficult enough to understand the content without having to translate the acronyms; in the final document have a glossary of terms and short description of the documents referenced
- I agree with the need to include advocacy role of the actions
- have a print version that is short – direct people to the long version on a website
- use plain language so an average person understands the basic concepts (use diagrams / images to explain concepts and action items)
- Include a table of where municipal water comes from for each community

6) Q&A and any additional items

General Feedback / Final Thoughts:

- key orgs need full names as well as acronyms

7.0 Agenda Additions

7.1 Flood Mitigation:

Councillor Myron Thompson – Town of Sundre and Mayor Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller provided an update in relation to flood mitigation issues within the Red Deer River Basin. The membership agreed that the matter is of urgent importance and the Province needs to move forward on flood mitigation projects and priorities and that the RDRMUG will collectively work together to ensure that the members' needs are articulated to the Province.

Executive Director will follow up to ensure that necessary information is coordinated and documented to provide RDRMUG's concerns and suggestions.

10.0 Correspondence & Articles:

1) Handouts at the meeting

11.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

13.0 Adjournment : 4:30pm