

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2015 at 1:00 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

1.0 Call to Order – Co-Chair Jean Boda called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Attendance: Co-Chair Jean Boda – Red Deer County, Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County, Gordon Christensen - Village of Alix, Ray Reckseidler – Village of Delburne, Les Stulberg – County of Stettler, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Terry Leslie – Town of Sundre, Gerald Campion - Town of Hanna, Thomas Tracy – Town of Oyen, Harvey Walsh – Town of Olds, Dianne Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, Curt Maki – Clearwater County, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Bill Shaw – City of Red Deer, Jay Slemp – Special Areas Board, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Danny Rieberger – Town of Innisfail, Sean McIntyre – Town of Sylvan Lake, Ray Romanetz – Town of Drumheller, Rene Michalak – RDRMUG, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Linda Handy.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Presentation moved to later in the meeting.

MOTION Stulberg moved that the agenda for the March 19, 2015 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 February 19, 2015

Omission – Bill Shaw attended the meeting.

MOTION Reckseidler moved that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of February 19, 2015 be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

3.2 Business arising from minutes of February 19, 2015

4.0 Financial Reports to February 19, 2015

4.1 Balance Statement

4.2 Revenue and Expense

4.3 Accounting Notes

K. Ryder, Executive Director provided an overview of the unaudited financial statements to February 19, 2015 as follows:

Balance Statement: Closing Surplus – \$150,797.85 (large surplus is to due to dollars not being expensed for special projects as of yet – Hart Management)

Statement of Revenue and Expenses – Revenue - \$16,282.74; Expenses - \$9,498.49.

Invoices have been mailed out at the 2015 budget approved per capita amount of \$0.25.

MOTION Campion moved to accept the Financial Report to February 19, 2015 as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.0 Review Action Plan

5.1 Lead Project Coordinator Position

K. Ryder introduced Rene Michalak as the new Project Lead Coordinator. R. Michalak provided a brief introduction stating that he is a marketing graduate from the Haskayne School of Business, a certified facilitator, permaculture designer and educator, rainwater harvesting professional, and avid urban farmer. He stated that he has worked with RDRWA since 2008, supporting the public consultations and Technical Team meetings for the Alliance's IWMP Planning process and continues to provide IT and communications support for the organization.

Rene presented an overview of the challenges to provide future generations with a sustainable supply of clean and safe water, in light of the growth predictions of 1800 new cities by 2050 at a cost of \$1 trillion dollars:

- Municipal challenges to build better, let the rain do the work and establish better government models;
- Rural challenges with the loss of wetlands and riparian areas, a cap on infrastructure costs, increase of well drilling / oil spills; hydraulic fracturing and First Nation rights;
- Water CEP planning challenges with fragmented governments;
- Water access challenges with first come, first serve philosophy with no priority for people or environment;
- Water innovation challenges with aging infrastructure and cost recovery systems; and
- Headwater protection planning challenges.

He provided an overview of areas where positive action is being taken as follows:

- Water safety plan manual needs to be delivered in an understandable means;
- Issuance of drinking water advisories by jurisdictions;
- Rainwater harvesting – use of grey water;
- Water permitting – an evolving process;
- Watershed Info Sheets – Project Blue Thumb (looking at water management issues in Alberta); and
- Improved monitoring stations.

Rene stated that he will provide a letter of introduction to municipalities with mention of the following:

- Actions to create an integrated Municipal Water Protection Action Plan (MWPAP) for RDRMUG members and enable collective action for the organization to achieve its goals of addressing water quality and source water protection in the Red Deer River watershed;
- Working with the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA) to develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) for the Red Deer River watershed, and that it will support the development of an MWPAP to advance collaborative approaches to watershed management between organizations and communities.
- Focus: "How to maintain the best water quality that reaches your treatment plant?"

He further stated that he will communicate RDRMUG work activities to ERSD and provide regular updates to the members.

6.0 Executive Committee Recommendations

K. Ryder provided an overview of the following upcoming conferences:

6.1 Canadian Water Resources Association – Alberta Conference: April 19 – 21, 2015 – Red Deer “Adapting to a Changing Environment”

6.2 RDRWA Spring Forum “724 kms of Water Quality and You” March 26, 2015 – Trochu Community Centre

6.3 Alberta Water Smart “Room for the River” – Review of current flood mitigation infrastructure May 8, 2015 – North Hill Quality Inn – Red Deer

Reckseidler moved to accept the Executive Director Report as presented. Carried.

7.0 Agenda Additions

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

9.0 Correspondence & Articles:

1) *Handouts at the meeting*

10.0 PRESENTATION

“Climate Vulnerability and Sustainability Water Management SSRB Project - Modelling Scenarios for the Red Deer River Basin”

Mike Nemeth and Clair Jackson – Alberta WaterSmart provided an overview of the newly created modeling software.

Highlights of their presentation included:

- Collaborative project of southern Albertans to explore opportunities in Red Deer River Basin, the land use based modeling impacts on stream flow and integrated river modeling;
- History demonstrates extreme climate variability on SSRB flows (Bow and Oldman) based on historic and tree ring data;
- SSRB experience provides a strong base of data and tools;
- RDR basin is unique because water management infrastructure is in place; not closed to new allocation;
- Focus on growth while maintaining environmental integrity;
- RDR Operational Model is a tool to discuss with stakeholders;
- Climate scenarios showed increase stream flow variability – indicates more water annually moving towards the future;
- 2005 flood worse than 2013;
- Impacts of climate scenarios show summer / fall have high stress points; and
- Land use change on stream flow using settlement, energy development, agriculture, logging and fire, and wetlands (how does it play a role in each scenario).

Software strategies available:

- Related to infrastructure operations; and
- Related to flood mitigation (with scenarios for increase local flood protection, dry dams,

upstream dams).

Most promising individual water management strategies:

1. Implementation of functional flows;
2. Dickson Dam operations to meet WCO;
3. Dickson Dam operations to restore WCO and meet new demands;
4. Look at additional storage;
5. Local flood protection;
6. Water conservation;
7. Application of land use best management practices;
8. Effective implementation of wetlands policies;
9. Solution through storage – additional storages required to eliminate shortages while operating Dickson Dam within preferred operating condition to support Scenario 3 and 4.

Summary of Findings:

- Stream flow in the basin will increase due to future climate change;
- The basin still prone to droughts and needs to build resilience to wet and dry conditions;
- Increased demands and maintain environment integrity; and
- Develop a common understanding about how shortages could be managed during periods of drought.

Next Steps:

1. Incorporate further flows into the day to day operation of Dickson Dam;
2. Confirm storage strategy for the Red Deer River Basin;
3. Continue the systematic assessment and implementation of flood mitigation options; and
4. Advance related Government of Alberta programs.

In conclusion, members were encouraged to attend Room for the River Project – how the river is being successfully applied to the Bow River Basin and is now leveraging that success for the benefit of the Red Deer River Basin. *“On May 8, please join the project organizers at the Raddison Hotel (former Holiday Inn 67th St location) for a working session from 1pm to 4pm facilitated by Alberta WaterSMART on behalf of ESRD's Resilience and Mitigation Branch”.*

Recommended link: The Alberta Water Portal website address is www.albertawater.com.

11.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION Bota moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 PM. Carried unanimously.