

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on May 15, 2014 at 1:00 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

1.0 Call to Order – 1:30 PM

Attendance: Patt Churchill – Town of Innisfail, Sean McIntyre – Town of Sylvan Lake, Bobby Painter – Kneehill County, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Gordon Christensen – Village of Alix, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Richard Poole – Town of Blackfalds, Susan Grudecki – M.D. of Acadia, Gates Bilodeau – Town of Stettler, Mark Garneau – Town of Trochu, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Gerald Champion – Town of Hanna, Thomas Tracy – Town of Oyen, Dianne Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, Angela Aalbers – Mountain View County, Wayne Hammergrew – County of Newell, Earl Graham – Clearwater County, Myron Thompson – Town of Sundre, Terry Leslie – Town of Sundre, Ray Reckseidler – Town of Delburne, Jean Bota – Red Deer County, Bill Shaw – (Advisor) City of Red Deer, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Linda Handy.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Deletion to Agenda: 5.1 Stantec's Report on Provincial Flood Mitigation

Additions to Agenda: 5.2 Dianne Wyntjes - Watershed Alliance; 5.3 Bill Shaw – Water SMART; 5.4 Keith Ryder - Crown Reservation

MOTION Reckseidler moved that the agenda for the May 15, 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 March 20, 2014

G. Champion requested a correction to his name (no "H").

MOTION Poole moved that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of March 20, 2014 be adopted as amended. Carried unanimously.

3.2 Business arising from minutes of March 20, 2014

4.0 Unaudited Financial Reports to April 30, 2014

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 April 30, 2014 as follows:

Balance Statement: Total Liabilities & Equity and Surplus - \$192,819.01

Revenue - \$21,763.37 (memberships based on \$0.25 per capita plus interest throughout the year)

Expenses – actual \$11,385.50 compared to budgeted \$110,770.00 (project work in conjunction with government agencies such as flood mitigation, water assurance study and crown reservation)

Surplus - \$10,377.87

MOTION Campion moved to accept the Financial Report to April 30, 2014 as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.0 PRESENTATION

5.1 Dianne Wyntjes – Watershed Alliance

D. Wyntjes provided an overview of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance programs and the acronyms associated with this group.

- The RDRWA is a multi-sector, non profit organization (registered as a charity) that promotes the good use and proper management of water within the Red Deer River watershed. The group provides a forum for information exchange, raises awareness on watershed issues and promotes the use of best practices and integrated management of land and water resources. The Water for Life Strategy is their key prevailing document. They are not a lobby group.
- The RDR watershed is connected by three main components: wetlands, riparian buffers and uplands.
- Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) – identifies issues impacting the natural resources of the watershed and recommends solutions that will benefit the community, economy and environment. The IWMP Steering Committee is composed of nine members of the RDRWA Board of Directors representing watershed interests. The Steering Committee is responsible for the project and is accountable to the RDRWA Board of Directors.
- Watershed Ambassador Program actively recognizes contributions being made to watershed stewardship and promotes efforts towards improving watershed management, such as RBC Blue Water Project.
- IWMP Public and Stakeholder Workshops to be held on June 23rd in Red Deer, June 24th in Sundre and June 25th in Drumheller.
- Connected Through Water Day (joint venture with RDRMUG and RDRWA) to be held on June 13th in Red Deer.
- Follow on: social media and twitter.

5.2 Bill Shaw – Water SMART

B. Shaw provided an overview of the Water SMART river modeling session he attended on May 13th:

- Models run a variety of scenarios, using in some cases well over 80 years of gauge data will help decision makers understand the possible outcomes and impacts of a flood or drought event (e.g. the OASIS model is being applied by Alberta Water SMART in the SSRB);
- Provides opportunities to understand the basins through increased modeling and data management (include drivers of economics, i.e. refineries which can determine the aquatic health of the rivers);
- By establishing a term of reference the RDRMUG may be able to cut costs on future projects through modeling scenarios.
- Next meeting will be June 9th.

5.3 Keith Ryder – Crown Reservation

K. Ryder provided an overview on the Request for Proposal to be received from Hart Water Management based on three of the nine priorities set out in the Water Assurance

Study (crown reservation, storage and conservation):

- Crown Reservation – RDRMUG is asking the government to bank water strictly for municipal use for population and economic growth; use David Thompson Health for predicting future populations, currently can not exceed allocations of 550,000 (we are at 56% of allocation limits); municipal usage is at 11% of the allocation pie – current municipal licenses are 130; water sharing plans for periods of deficit, update statistics, allocation licenses and priorities in comparisons with SSRB Management Plan; water sharing strategies, mean flows – characteristics of river; in-stream flow and objectives, and implications of flood planning and mitigation
- Storage - update on Dickson Dam, identify potential storage needs, drought, SSWM Plan (RDRMUG does not want to duplicate what other groups are doing).
- Conservation - all municipalities need to have their conservation plans in place.

6.0 Executive Director's Report/ Admin Items:

6.1 Water Assurance Study Update - Hart Water Management

Next steps include: When the RFP is received from Dick Hart, RDRMUG will work within the set budget and priorities. Once the updated Study is approved by Alberta Environment RDRMUG will proceed with public consultations. Key message is that municipalities want an assured water supply and licensing priority dates (not based on first in time – first in right; need to set new perimeters on water sharing).

Members agreed that RDRMUG needs to do a formal presentation to AUMA and AAMD&C on water priorities.

Water licensing tool (link on RDRMUG website page).

6.2 Water Connections Day – June 13, 2014

K. Ryder encouraged attendance by elected officials at the RDRMUG & RDRWA “Connecting Through Water Day” on June 13, 2104 in Red Deer with keynote speakers Robert W. Sandford – “Come Hell or High Water” and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Hon. Robin Campbell.

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

8.0 Correspondence:

1) Handouts at the meeting

9.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Thurs., July 17, 2014 (Dickson Dam – yet to be confirmed).

10.0 Adjournment

MOTION Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM. Cd.