

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on May 21, 2015 at 1:00 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

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

Attendance: Co-Chair Patt Churchill – Town of Innisfail, Co-Chair Jean Bota, Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County, 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, Gordon Christensen – Village of Alix, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Jay Slemm – Special Areas Board, Rick Poole – Town of Blackfalds, Barb Shepherd – Lacombe County, Rocky Dahmer – County of Paintearth, Myron Thompson – Town of Sundre, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Danny Rieberger – Town of Innisfail, Rene Michalak – RDRMUG, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Linda Handy.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Presentation moved to later in the meeting. Note correction to date of next meeting should be July 16, 2015

MOTION Campion moved that the agenda for the May 21, 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 March 19, 2015

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

3.2 Business arising from minutes of March 19, 2015

4.0 Financial Reports to April 30, 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 April 30, 2015 as follows:

Balance Statement: Closing Surplus – \$147,882.94 (large surplus is to due to dollars not being expensed for special projects as of yet – Hart Management)

Statement of Revenue and Expenses – Revenue - \$21,875.58; Expenses - \$18,006.24

Surplus for Year - \$3,869.34.

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

5.0 Review RDRMUG Water Quality Action Plan

5.1 Review / update provided from Rene Michalak, Project Lead Coordinator as

attached to the meeting minutes. In addition, on July 16th a meeting will focus on the Municipal Water Quality Action Plan and will be in the format of a workshop facilitated by Rene Michalak, RDRMUG Project Lead Coordinator and Josee Methot, RDRWA – Watershed Planning Coordinator. This consultation is open to all municipalities in the Red Deer River Basin and supports RDRMUG’s current initiative to create a Municipal Water Quality Protection Action Plan. R. Michalak advised that he would be contacting member municipalities for a dialogue with the CAO / staff on municipal water / wastewater policies and actions.

6.0 Executive Director Report

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

6.1 Aggregate Exploration and Extraction Policy Workshop (for those affected by aggregate extraction operations, including industry and municipalities to begin a much needed dialogue about municipal policy) to be held on May 25th; this is a huge issue because of fracking and that there is little monitoring particularly on unknown quantity outside of the river; and that licenses are not being used for what was intended.

6.2 Red Deer Watershed Alliance General Meeting to be held on June 19th;

6.3 Alberta WaterSMART – Room for the River Report as directed to be prepared by the Province that focuses on strategy to improve flood mitigation measures in Alberta.

Comments were received from stakeholders and a draft document is available for review sometime in July, 2015.

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

7.0 Agenda Additions

8.0 PRESENTATION

“Judy Stewart: Municipal tools to protect Alberta’s water resources, such as wetlands and riparian lands. Ms. Stewart has a vast background in water and environmental service including the Alberta Water Council as an Alternate Director, Alberta Lake Management Society as a Director. Currently she chairs the Legislation and Policy Committee for the Bow River Basin Council and Chairs the Policy and Research Committee for the Calgary Region Airshed Zone. ”

Highlights of her 4 Part presentation included:

Part 1:

How Municipalities in the RDR watershed are affected?

- Only six (6) monitoring sites in the RDR basin (Sundre to Red Deer; non downstream to Drumheller;
- Environment Government Systems: IRMS; CEMS; WMS
- Systems (thinking and theory)
- IRMS and CEMS impact municipalities in a variety of ways (because of limits and brand new issues): regional LU plans; consistency with high level policy (gravel extraction, water, air, etc.), compliance with regulations, water supply and licensing (competing demands); water quality (total loading regional scale); air quality regulation (total loading – regional scale); total phosphorus loads in rivers / streams; wetlands, riparian land management; regional biodiversity management.

- CEMS – Cumulative Effects Management – LU Framework; Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP); SSRP; Management Frameworks for each basin; CEM principals: knowledge based; outcomes driven; future focused; comprehensive implementation; place based flexibility (where you are located – what happens in Drumheller might not work in another community); collaboration; adaption and continuous improvement (laws from “top down” fail; laws from “grassroots” there is commitment); CEM cannot be done without participation of municipalities, regional and local partnerships and stewards involved in Watershed Management
- SSRP – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
- EMF – Environment Management Framework
- MSO – Management Systems Objectives
- Wetlands
- AER – Alberta Environment Regulator (a brand new regulator)
- AESRD – Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (combined natural resources and environment)
- AEMERA – Alberta Environment Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting (New)
- ACO – Aboriginal Consulting Office (New)

Part 2

Definition of cumulative effect: a change in the environment caused by multiple interactions among human activities and natural process “over time”. Historical evidence illustrates a magnitude of cumulative effects.

ALCES Community growth simulator

<http://www.abll.ca/aref/>

PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT (Missing component – No Action)

Managing environmental outcomes – how can they be measured and

- How can they be enforced
- How can it be funded
- How can we reach consensus

Provincial LU Framework (2008)

GoA will use cumulative effects management at a regional level and it is emerging.

SSRB will be similar to RDR basin.

Indicators of water quality:

- Suspended sediments
- Nutrients
- Major ions
- pH's
- sediment loaders

No data so we do not know if exceeded limits. Significant historical data is available but no current data exists for RDR basin. Exceedance of the limits indicates that water quality may not be assured.

Example of management tools (municipalities to help Province achieve management).

Three levels of Management:

Level 1 Approval conditions to participate in regional initiatives

Level 2 Enforce regional, municipal and local programs

Level 3 New municipal bylaws (example: how to deal with run-off from agriculture)

Integrated Land Management Tools Compendium (“best practices” for municipalities):

- share existing footprint
- reuse old footprint
- remove old footprint (e.g. brownfields)
- co-ordinate development to minimize footprints

Part 3

SSRB – Efficient Use of Land Implementation Tools Compendium:

- regional scale
- fill policy gaps at municipal / Provincial interface
- use a governance model
- access to resources and new ideas
- growth at the periphery of the organization
- problem solving and dispute resolution

Part 4

Wetland Policy

Goal is to conserve, restore, protect and manage Alberta’s wetlands.

- Under Water for Life
- Implementation timeline June, 2015
- Qualified wetland scientific practitioners will be hired.

9.0 Municipal Project Review: *An opportunity for all representatives to share their current and future water/waste water projects.* Due to time constraints, municipal project reviews were postponed until a future meeting.

10.0 Correspondence & Articles:

1) *Handouts at the meeting*

11.0 Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, July 16, 2015.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION Churchill moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM. Carried unanimously.