

Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Regular Meeting held on September 19, 2013 at 1:00 PM, Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta

Call to Order – 1:00 PM Co-Chair D. Baird

Attendance: Derek Baird – Town of Innisfail, Ray Olfert – Town of Blackfalds, Ron Howe – Town of Three Hills, Murray Marshall – Starland County, Dug Major – Special Areas, Gordon Christianson – Village of Alix, Earl Graham – Clearwater County, Doug Lehman – Town of Oyen, Al Campbell – Town of Stettler, Les Hibbs – Village of Linden, John Kaster – Town of Hanna, Terry Yemen – Town of Drumheller, Dianne Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, Clifford Soper – Lacombe County, Jerry Wittstock – Kneehill County, George Gehrke – Red Deer County, Ray Reckseidler – Delburne, Paddy Munro – Mountain View County, Myron Thompson – Town of Sundre, Keith Ryder – RDRMUG, Recording Secretary – Corinne Macdonald

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Reckseidler to accept with no additions. CARRIED

2. New Business:

2.1. PRESENTATION(s)

Alberta Water Smart (Mike Nemeth – Mike Kelly)

Explanation of Alberta Water Smart/Projects & Objectives

Mike Kelly, Flood Recovery to Mitigation for Alberta Water Smart made a presentation. They are rebuilding what happened during the 2013 flood; weather conditions, the rain was significant and snow melting all came down at once. He noted that they are looking for patterns that we may see more of these kinds of floods. He also showed graphs showing that the Elbow River from 1908 to 1032 had a number of floods, 2005 flood was significant and 2013 was off the map. We need to plan for droughts and floods. Keith Ryder advised he had sent a link to the RDRMUG website on this matter.

Mike Nemeth, Climate and Water Management Projects for Water Smart, made a presentation. He advised that a report was finalized for the Bow River about 2010, the South Saskatchewan is being worked on and they will also be looking at the Red Deer. He noted that stakeholder participation is essential for the protection of water for people and municipalities. He advised that what we hope to produce is shared knowledge, specific recommendations and a credible set of adoption tools. He noted that he hoped that the RDRUG would look at future opportunities to work with Alberta Water Smart.

Mike Kelly noted that you can not manage land until you manage the water.

Mike Nemeth stated that everyone needs an understanding of what is happening and you need good data. It was suggested to consult with John Pomeroy. The timeframe for the first working group for stakeholders is schedule for early 2014.

Both presenters left the meeting

2.2. Bob Savage, Alberta Environment, Flood Recovery Task Force, Mitigation Team.

The 2013 Great Alberta Flood: Actions to Mitigate, Manage and Control
Future Floods

There are risks with climate change, which we need to manage. This group is supportive of Water Smart as they are getting out talking to people. 2013 flood - 10,000 homes were evacuated, 30 roads closed, 100,000 people were evacuated, 3,000 businesses affected, 400 bridges had to be inspected and 200 were damaged. Some recovery elements that need to be considered are environment, people, reconstruction and economy. Key elements of mitigation are overall watershed management, flood risk management, police, community mitigation options, erosion control, local mitigation initiatives and individual mitigation measures for homes. Mitigation activities are in progress; floodway relocation, future floodway development restrictions, minimum individual mitigation measures, updated flood hazard mapping, flood mitigation and framework.

Les Hibbs left the meeting.

Bob Savage noted the next steps will be to get Government approval, pursue short term mitigation and continue discussions; each Municipality should contact the Government advising they want to have a conversation with them regarding this matter; you have to look after your own business.

Bob Savage noted that we need to take control of our plans for the long term. Climate Change is a debatable issue, however he says “there is a risk”.

Bob Savage left the meeting.

2.3. K. Ryder provided a video of Dr. Bob Sanford’s report on the 2013 floods.

2.4. Request from the RDRWA for funding assistance.

Dianne Wyntjes spoke on behalf of the RDRWA and stated that they are requesting funding support in the amount of \$10,000 to be used by March 31, 2014. These funds would assist with developing the last two project related technical reports; draft Surface Water Quantity and Groundwater and Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity components. The funds also would support hosting meetings and workshops.

Chairman D. Lehman advised that there was consensus of the Executive Committee not to approve this request.

T. Yemen left the meeting.

D. Wyntjes noted that she sits on the Watershed in Red Deer and this money is required to finish work that is already in progress. The Province has cut back on their money. D. Major noted that this work is well on the way and it is important to the Watershed Alliance to get the final Technical Reports completed.

Discussion on Motion:

The Watershed is doing good work, however the RDRMUG is a funded group not a funding agency. If we start funding others we will lose what we are doing.

MOTION: Wyntjes moved to support the Watershed request for fund in the amount of \$10,000.

3 voted in favour, 12 voted against.

DEFEATED

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2013

Motion: Campbell CARRIED

4.2. Review of summary of Sundre Meeting, July 18, 2013

4.3. No Business arising from minutes 4.1 & 4.2

5. Financial Reports to August 30, 2013

5.1. Balance Statement

5.2. Revenue and Expense

5.3. Accounting Notes

MOTION: Accept for information Lehman CARRIED

6. Committee Updates:

6.1. **Executive Committee** Sept. 19, 2013 meeting highlights

1) Review RDRMUG Action Plan

2) Discuss request for funding from RDRWA

3) Discuss November meeting date

6.2. **River Disaster and Hazard Committee** Sept. 19, meeting highlights

1) Concerns relating to the physical location and condition of river flow and height monitors. *Some discussion that these have not been updated or repaired after the 2005 flooding.*

2) Recent reporting that referred to the monitors did not appear to be accurate. *Ab. Envir. was issuing "High Stream Flow Advisories" after the actual flooding was occurring.*

3) Need to be sure that the Operation Information of the Dickson Dam is current. *Drumheller noted that they were contacted by the Dam that the release from the Dickson Dam was going to be increased to 1700 cubic metres per second. This would have created severe flooding in Drumheller.*

4) Erosion Control dollars should be the Government of Alberta's responsibility.

5) Question arose as to who is responsible for any erosion control that has been constructed and requires repairs.

6) Flood Area Mapping is not consistent with some Municipal Maps. *Ab. Envir. has requested the use of some maps directly from the Municipalities.*

7) Attendees suggested that there should be a series of recommendations will be made relating to many of these issues at the upcoming AAMD&C and the AUMA conferences.

7. Executive Director's Report

K. Ryder provided the following updates and presentations:

- 7.1. Ab. Env. 2013 Wetlands Policy
Update on new Wetlands Policy – sent out, policy overview not a lot of new items, few under the technical notes.
- 7.2. Update from GOA Water Conversations
Update on the Water Conversations – there is background information available through our website.
- 7.3. Water Shed Management – water quantity – Stakeholders meetings on September 24th in Red Deer, September 25th in Sundre and September 26th in Drumheller. So far the attendance is very light.
- 7.4. Attended a presentation by Dr. Robert Sandford and the U of C and shared a video with some of Dr. Sandford's thoughts relating to the 2013 flooding.

MOTION: Accept Executive Director's report for information.

Soper

Carried

G. Christensen left the meeting.

8. Municipal Project Review: *An opportunity for all representatives to share their current and future water/waste water projects in an open round table format. If a member has a report that they wish to have included in the minutes we would ask for a written copy*

9. Correspondence & Articles:

The following had information attached in the Agenda package.

- 9.1. Life on the Flood Plains
- 9.2. Connected in the Country
- 9.3. The Toilet Toll
- 9.4. Power Tool: Helping utilities evaluating long term infrastructure spending.
- 9.5. WIN– Down the Drain!

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: November 28, 2013 (to accommodate AUMA Convention).

11. Adjournment – 4:23 PM