

RDRMUG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes September 14, 2015

Meeting with Hart Water Management (Dick Hart)

Innisfail, Ab.

1. **Call to Order:** 1:00pm by Co-Chair P. Churchill

Attendance: P. Churchill, J. Bota, B. Shaw, G. Champion, J. Slemp, S. Grudecki, T. Ainscough (City of Red Deer) D. Hart, R. Michalak, K. Ryder.

2. **Purpose of Meeting:**

This meeting will be an opportunity for RDRMUG Executive to review and receive updates on the work that Dick Hart has completed and is working on to date. The meeting focused on the recent work provided titled "Red Deer River Contribution to SSRB Interprovincial Apportionment

3. D. Hart reviewed the above document in details and stressed the following:

- Red Deer River flow regulations were set in the 1970's and were set independently of the Old Man and Bow Rivers.
- The idea of 50% apportionment from each contributing river was not followed as the Bow and Old Man were at or above allocation limits.
- 70% apportionment was assigned to the Red Deer River
- Usually a surplus of water flowing except in dry years
- Currently the Red Deer River is providing 90%+ of Natural Flow
- Return flow is a large issue that hasn't been fully explored or accounted for
- Alberta Irrigation Association(s) have stated that they will not deprive non-irrigation users of water
- Irrigation expansion has reach one million hectares
- There are issues with the mechanics of how the WCOs were established with negative effects on the Red Deer River
- Revisit and amend the WCOs with up to date information (some sections still very confusing)
- Natural Flows are being monitored at Red Deer, Drumheller and Bindloss

4. Recommendations:

- Encourage Alberta Environment to re-establish some type of future planning group
- Work through/with the RDRWA to take the initiate on apportionment issues
- Request a Water Management Strategy document being completed on the Red Deer River to support growth and future wellbeing of the River
- Continue efforts for Crown Reservation
- Encourage the Province to seriously plan for future water storage. Start creating reservation for a dam and amass land now. (Storage requirements may be smaller that imagined)
- Check population growth estimates for the Red Deer River Basin. (Population appears to be growing at a much faster rate than projections – City of Calgary has never had less than 4% growth, regardless of oil prices).
- CONTINUE TO CONVINCING POLITICIANS of the need for a concentrated effort relating to future planning in the Red Deer River Basin.

5. Next Steps

- Have D. Hart prepare a list of questions for RDRMUG to use in requests to Alberta Environment
- Future work specifically related to current engagement
 - Update Crown Reservation Application
 - Continue dialogue with Alberta Environment
 - Water Sharing Strategy
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6. **Adjournment:** 3:30PM