

## **Minutes of the Red Deer River Municipal Users Group**

### **Regular Meeting – Annual General Meeting**

**January 21, at 1:00 PM - Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** T. Leslie – Town of Sundre, D. Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, A. Campbell – Town of Stettler, R. Poole – Town of Blackfalds, G. Bates – Town of Innisfail, P. Massier – Red Deer County, D. Drohomerski – Town of Drumheller, B. Windsor – Town of Didsbury, B. Gartside – Village of Donalda, A. Kemmere – Mountain View County, G. Parsons – Town of Sylvan Lake, R. Kasco – Town of Oyen, W. Blatz – Town of Olds, J. Slemp – Special Areas, C. Reeds – Town of Trochu, R. Wildeman – Town of Three Hills, D. Wyntjes – City of Red Deer, A. Monkman – City of Red Deer, B. Shaw – City of Red Deer, T. Besuijen – Village of Alix, G. Champion – Town of Hanna, R. Hoyt – M.D. Acadia Valley, B. Kulyk – Village of Consort, K. Ryder – RDRMUG

Presenter(s): Ken Lewis, Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS)  
Carolyn Ross, Cows and Fish

**Joined Meeting at 2:30:** Co-Chair J. Ireland – Lacombe County, J. Methot – RDRWA, M. Swanson – Clearwater County, B. Beattie – Mountain View County, D. Kuiken – Village of Acme, R. Hunter – Town of Didsbury,

#### **Alberta Environment and Parks:**

Deputy Minister Bev Yee

Keith Pridgen, Senior Policy Advisor to Minister

Rena L'Abbe, Chief of Staff to Ministry of Environment and Parks

Morgan Cameron, Ministerial Assistant

#### **1. Call to Order:**

Co-Chair T. Leslie called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**Meeting Preamble:** In view of several Member's concerns and questions relating to the recent Government of Alberta's coal mining issues Co-Chair T. Leslie advised that he has arranged through Minister J. Nixon's office to have representatives from Alberta Environment and Parks join the meeting at 2:30 to present information and take questions on these issues. As these arrangements were made after the meeting agenda was provided Co-Chair Leslie asked the Groups permission to adjust the agenda to accommodate this presentation. The agenda would be adjusted as follows:

- The presentations on the agenda from ALUS and Cows and Fish would commence at 1:00pm.
- The RDRMUG Annual General Meeting would follow.
- At 2:30 representatives from Alberta Environment and Parks would join the regular meeting for a 45 minute session.
- The regular RDRMUG meeting would follow the Alberta Environment session.

No objections or comments noted.

#### **2. Adoption of Agenda:**

**2.1. Additions to Agenda:** as noted in meeting preamble.

**Motion:** G. Champion moved that the agenda for the January 21, 2021 RDRMUG regular meeting be adopted as revised. **Carried**

### 3. Presentation(s):

3.1. Mr. Ken Lewis, Alternate Land User Services (ALUS) [www.alus.ca](http://www.alus.ca)

3.2. Ms. Carolyn Ross, Cows and Fish [www.cowsandfish.org](http://www.cowsandfish.org)

Provided an update to the overall riparian health of the Red Deer River Basin and highlighted several projects and ongoing work that both Groups are engaged in.

### 4. Alberta Environment and Parks Presentation:

Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks, Ms. Bev Yee and supporting staff (as listed in attendance) joined the meeting via Zoom at 2:30. Deputy Minister Yee provided an update and briefing relating to the recent changes/actions in the coal mining industry.

4.1. Open letter from Hon. J. Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks

4.2. Letter from RDRMUG Co-Chairs to Members

4.3. Meeting notes and Zoom recording has been sent to all Members under separate cover.

### 5. Minutes:

5.1. Confirmation of Minutes of November 19, 2020

5.2. Business arising from Minutes of September 17, 2020: None

**MOTION:** M. Swanson moved that the Red Deer River Municipal User Group Meeting minutes of November 19, 2020 be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

### 6. Financial:

6.1. **Financial Statements to December 31, 2020:** ([Click here](#) for copy)

Executive Director Keith Ryder provided an overview of the financial statements to December 31, 2020 which is the end of the RDRMUG fiscal year and highlighted the following:

- Balance Statement: Current Assets - \$ 64,714.88
- Closing Surplus – \$ 57,529.63
- Statement of Revenue and Expenses – Revenue - \$ 67,675.05
- Expenses - \$ 57,185.08

Surplus (Loss) for Year to-date – \$ 10,489.97

**MOTION** T. Besuijen moved to accept the Financial Statements to December 31, 2020 as presented. **Carried**

6.2. **2021 DRAFT Operating Budget:** ([Click here](#) for approved copy)

Executive Director, K. Ryder reviewed the DRAFT operating budget for the RDRMUG year ending December 31, 2021 as was presented November 19, 2021. He reviewed the line items individually with the following highlights and recommendations:

- Request for member's contribution to remain at .25 cents per capita.
- Any changes to project amounts would be brought to the Membership for approval prior to any financial commitments being made.
- Discussion on identifying a "reserve type" of funding in the budget for the purpose of an external financial audit which according to RDRMUG bylaws is required every four years. The next external audit is scheduled for 2022.  
K. Ryder stated that he would look into this item with the accounting staff at the Town of Drumheller.

**Motion** by D. Drohomerski to accept the 2021 RDRMUG Operating Budget as presented. **Carried**

## 7. New Business:

### 7.1. Special Committee – RDRMUG Handbook

Bill Shaw, (BPS Consulting Ltd.) presented the "final" edition with edits from previous meeting(s) included. The following recommendations were tabled for consideration:

- Adopt the following as the RDRMUG Vision Statement:

*"An enduring healthy Red Deer River system with sufficient flows through all seasons to sustain communities, the economy and healthy aquatic environments".*

This Vision Statement will be used in all RDRMUG documents, reports and communications.

**Motion** by B. Windsor to approve the RDRMUG Vision Statement. **Carried**

- Adopt RDRMUG Handbook "Looking Back – Moving Ahead" to become part of the RDRMUG mandate and resources.

**Motion** by A. Campbell to approve the adoption of the Handbook. **Carried**

- Members of the "Next Steps" Committee have offered to continue their services as a "Steering Committee" to move forward the actions and recommendations detailed in the Handbook.

**Motion** by G. Bates to approve that the Members of the "Next Steps Committee" to become the "Steering Committee" with duties as stated.  
Steering Committee Members: Co-Chairs Leslie and Ireland, R. Poole, W. Blatz, G. Parsons, A. Monkman, B. Shaw, J. Slemph, K. Ryder.

### 7.2. Executive Committee Recommendations:

**Proposed meeting dates** for 2021: January 21, 2021, March 18, 2021, May 20, 2021, July 15, 2021, September 16, 2021, and December 2, 2021\*. Meetings will be held face to face when possible – details to be determined.

\*The regular November meeting date for 2021 has been changed to accommodate the AUMA and RMA fall conferences. (AUMA Nov. 17 – 19, RMA Nov. 22 – 25)

**Motion** by R. Poole to approve the 2021 RDRMUG meeting dates as presented.

**Carried**

### **7.3. Renewal of Executive Director Contract**

A request was sent to all RDRMUG members to provide input into the renewal of the Executive Director's annual contract.

- Co-Chair Leslie advised that the Executive Committee has reviewed Member's input.
- K. Ryder advised that would be pleased to offer his service the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 at the current rate of remuneration.
- He also stated that it would be appropriate for RDRMUG to begin the succession process for his position and that he would be pleased to provide all assistance to ensure a smooth transition to a successor by the end of 2021.

**Motion** by D. Wyntjes to renew the contract with the Executive Director, K. Ryder at the current rate for the year ending December 31, 2021.

**Carried**

### **8. Executive Director Report:**

K. Ryder advised that due to the length of meeting and time, he would share his report electronically with the members and include year-end review in minutes.

No objections noted.

### **9. Correspondence & Articles:** Posted on [www.rdrmug.ca](http://www.rdrmug.ca)

### **10. Next Meeting:** March 18, 2021 (Format to be confirmed)

### **11. Adjournment:** 3:25

**Motion** by A. Campbell to adjourn RDRMUG regular meeting.

**Carried**

