



Voice of Community and Land Society
Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2009 7:30 PM at Round Hill Leisure Centre

Present: Bill Sears, Scott Stauffer, Brian Schultz, Clayton Maurer, Robert Janzen, Julie Ishida, Jane Oracheski,

Regrets: Lonnie Lauber, Norma Williams, Jon Kauffman

RH-DAPA Members Present: Marj Nahirniak, Tom Nahirniak, Bob Anderson, Dale Campbell, Allan Tomaszewski, Casey Oracheski, Murray Graham

Guest: Lars Hallstrom, Director, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

A. Bill Sears called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

B. Agenda

Motion by Jane Oracheski: That the agenda be approved as distributed. Carried.

C. Minutes:

Motion by Maurer: That the Minutes of the last meeting be approved as distributed. Carried.

D. Bill Sears introduced guest Dr. Lars Hallstrom. Dr. Hallstrom just moved to Camrose to begin work at Augustana Campus, U of A, for the ACSRC – Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. The ACSRC will have a full time staff of one and a .5 part time person. It will focus on three activities:

1. Research: The acquisition and testing of knowledge in agriculture, the economy and public health, etc.
2. Knowledge Translation: making the knowledge accessible to the people.
3. Collaboration: build relationships and link entities.

Dr. Hallstrom's first steps will be to meet people in the Camrose area, find out where interests lie, find commonalities. The ACSRC is to help keep people in the rural communities, create positive environments and make them sustainable. Dr. Hallstrom asked VOCAL what we see ourselves doing now that Sherritt is on hold. Does VOCAL want students to help? Is funding a concern? VOCAL expressed interest in staying in contact with Dr. Hallstrom and continuing to find connections between us and ACSRC. Dr. Hallstrom's email is lars.hallstrom@ualberta.ca.

E. Old Business:

1. Stories for Newspaper: We're waiting for approval of the story of our meeting with the Premier. No word from Stelmach yet.
2. July 1, 2009 – VOCAL's booth in the Tofield Centennial was highly visible and well visited.

F. Reports:

1. Treasurer Jane Oracheski reported the balance of the \$9398.32 with no income and no outstanding bills.
2. Chairman Bill Sears stated that there is a problem with our financial reporting to the Alberta Government. The Alberta Society Branch wants some changes made to some of the wording in reports. The figures are correct. Jane will email the information required to Norma.
3. Meeting with Premier Stelmach. On July 27, 2009 Bill Sears, Brian Schultz and Julie Ishida, along with Kyle Nahirniak (RH-DAPA) met with the Premier in his Fort Saskatchewan office. He spoke with VOCAL representatives for one hour about carbon capture and energy sources.
4. Correspondence: Tom Nahirniak of RH-DAPA faxed Bill Sears a letter written to Mr. Ben Ludwig (Nov. 30, 2006) from Alberta Environment regarding EIA's. This letter was found on the internet.

G. New Business:

1. T-Shirts – Should we get T-shirts for VOCAL? RH-DAPA is discussing shirts. We'll wait to see what RH-DAPA decides at their Aug 20 meeting. We may be able to order at the same time and get a better price.
2. Future Strategies – Keep in touch with Dr. Hallstrom, suggest local incentives (water related), student projects. Clayton suggested giving a choice of three ideas for sustainable projects for the Town of Tofield to consider. Julie suggested a Solstia Gathering or Party. Clayton reported that the East Central Cumulative Effects Project is finished. Information is on a disk.

H. Next Meeting Time: TBA at the discretion of the Chair.

I. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Julie Ishida