



Voice of Community and Land Society
Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2009 7:30 PM at The House, Tofield

Present: Bill Sears, Scott Stauffer, Clayton Maurer, Lonnie Lauber, Jane Oracheski, Jon Kauffman, Robert Janzen, Julie Ishida, Norma Williams

Regrets: Brian Schultz

A. Bill Sears called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

B. Agenda

MSC Ishida/Lauber: That the agenda be approved with the addition of Item #9 Tofield Centennial and #10 MLA Meetings under New Business. Lonnie needs to leave early, so we will proceed with Bill 19 information (E. 2) first in our meeting.

C. Minutes

MSC Maurer/Janzen That the Minutes of the February 4th meeting be approved as distributed.

D. Old Business – tabled until later in the meeting.

E. Reports

1. Cumulative Effects Workshops. Tabled until later in the meeting.

2. Bill 19 - Lonnie Lauber reported about Bill 19. Recently meetings took place in Ryley and Round Hill over this contentious bill. The Minister of Infrastructure and 5 more MLAs were in attendance at the Ryley meeting. It was thought they were poorly prepared. Approximately 75 were in attendance. The Surface Rights Association has been involved in opposing this Bill. Joe Anglin is also opposed. We need to continue to put pressure on our MLAs. There are two key things to focus on improving in this bill: 1. Definition of what a public project is. 2. More protection for landowners.

**MSC Williams/Maurer That we write a letter on behalf of VOCAL expressing our concerns over Bill 19. This letter will be addressed to Premier Stelmach and copied to all members of cabinet.
ACTION: Norma will write a letter expressing our concerns over Bill 19.**

WELCOME to our new board members, Jane Oracheski, Scott Stauffer and Lonnie Lauber! It is very much appreciated that you have volunteered your time and energies to being on the Board of Directors of VOCAL.

D. Old Business

1. Stories for newspapers. We have been submitting stories to the newspapers. Any story ideas should be brought forward.

ACTION: Julie will keep a press package binder with all of our stories and a list of the MLAs.

2. Thank You Cards. We would like to develop these with the picture we had on the billboard. Julie presented information from Cheryl McCartney photography including prices. Jane suggested that we order fridge magnets in addition to the cards.

MSC Ishida/Janzen That we order cards at \$100 + GST.

MSC Oracheski/Ishida That we look into ordering fridge magnets.

ACTION: Jon will check with Windwood Signs about the fridge magnets. Julie will see if we can use Cheryl McCartney's image on these. She will also check with Camrose Booster to find out a price.

E. Reports

(continued)

1. Cumulative Effects Workshops. The Cumulative Effects group met January 19th. Clayton thinks that the new Land Use Framework arm of the government wants the results of our pilot project. This project has now been wrapped up, MUCH earlier than was indicated.
3. Treasurer's Report – Robert already had last year's books audited by Tony Derby and May Korobko. They found the books to be in good order. At this time we have not found a replacement for Robert Janzen as our Treasurer. Robert graciously agreed to continue until we find a replacement.

MSC Janzen/Ishida That the treasurer's report be adopted as presented.

ACTION: We need to send thank you cards to Tony and May as soon as they are available.

4. Chair's Report – Bill passed around correspondence that he found. Jon will put a link on our website to the Genessee article. Bill has a new contact at the Edmonton Journal as well as a Canadian Press reporter.

F. Correspondence – Already discussed under Bill's report.

G. New Business

1. Jon will check with his Mom to see if she would consider acting as our treasurer.
2. Monday March 30th there will be a Common Concerns Water meeting at Bardo Hall. Bob Kushnerik has been organizing this and has a package of information for those who will be attending. Clayton Maurer, Jane Oracheski and Scott Stauffer agreed to attend on VOCAL's behalf.
3. UofA Social Impact Assessment Presentation – will be attended by Julie and Bill on April 6, 2009.
4. Sierra Club Landowner's Conference – This is a multi-group meeting that involves landowners groups from across the province. It was really beneficial to attend last year. Tentative dates are April 17 – 19, May 1-3 or May 8-10. It would be a good idea for us to go. Likely will be a Friday and Saturday.
5. Letter to Premier Stelmach – Bill will take his letter to Stelmach's constituency office. He has not received any response as yet.
6. Future strategies – Julie suggested we host an actual trade fair for green energy. We should also make a point of doing a quarterly newsletter – even if it is brief. Jon and Julie volunteered to help Norma with this.
7. Alberta Surface Rights Federation meeting - upcoming meeting in Penhold
8. Alberta Environmental Network – Brian Stasnisky – We hope that Brian Schultz will be interested in attending/being part of this network.
9. Tofield Centennial - We should participate in the Centennial celebrations of Tofield. There is a parade that has as its theme 100 Years - Forever Young.

ACTION: Julie will complete the application to get VOCAL a table in the Tofield trade fair during their centennial celebrations homecoming. We can have information and literature and our fridge magnets available!

10. MLA meetings – It was felt these were very worthwhile. We will make plans to meet with Jack Hayden, Evan Berger, Diana McQueen, Ray Prins and Arnold Doerksen.

Cathy Brown's grade six class in Tofield is going to write to the Town of Tofield in regards to the mine. Bill will get a copy of the letter(s). We should think about making presentations at the schools of Round Hill, Ryley and Tofield.

H. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday April 30, 2009 at 7:30 pm

ACTION: Norma will book a meeting room at the Round Hill Rec Centre.

Respectfully submitted by: Norma Williams