



Voice of Community and Land Society
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009 7:30 PM at The House, Tofield

Present: Bill Sears, Owen Forster, Clayton Maurer, Jon Kauffman, Robert Janzen, Brian Schultz, Julie Ishida, Norma Williams

Regrets: Russel Stauffer, Brian Schultz

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

B. Agenda

MSC Ishida/Forster: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

C. Minutes – The minutes from our last meeting were not distributed.

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

E. Reports

1. Cumulative Effects Workshops. There will be an Open House on March 22nd (tentative date) at the Camrose County Office or Edgeworth Centre. Next meeting is Jan 22. Clayton discussed the Land Use Framework and suggested we all take a look at it. Meetings have been held 1 day month. It has been hard to keep a continuous commitment from participants. Owen is no longer attending.

2. Chair's Report. January 5th, 2008 VOCAL was formed – just one year ago! Thursday is RH-DAPA's meeting. They are encouraging their lawyer to contact Sherritt. Should we do anything? Bill will send an email to Bill McElhanney.

3. Treasurer's Report – Robert presented his report. **MSC Robert moved that his report be adopted. Carried.**

Jon advised that the website host needs a \$125 annual payment to continue to host our website. We would like this paid to continue the service. Robert will do so.

Action: Robert will see about finding someone to audit the books for this year. They are to be audited for our AGM. Bill will add to the agenda for that evening. Jon's brother is a CA. The books have to be audited by two members of VOCAL or a duly qualified accountant.

Action: We need to send a thank you to Wild Oats and Notes. Julie suggested we use the picture from Cheryl McCartney and will ask her for it. We could then mount it on card stock. Julie will see about making thank you cards.

F. Correspondence – Bill passed around articles that he had cut from the Journal on Sherritt's project.

G. New Business

1. John Parkins – University of Alberta. John has requested a field trip for Feb. 23, 2009. The class will arrive Feb. 23 at 3 pm in Tofield. They would like to talk to 2 or 3 farmers as well as the Mayor and Councillors.

Action: We will contact Lyle Voegtlin (Clayton) & Lonnie Lauber (Jon) and then advise Bill Sears, who is the main contact for John Parkins.

2. Alberta Environmental Network – Clean Air Energy Caucus Plan. Meeting in Calgary Jan 23. Tomorrow is the preparatory meeting via conference call. Brian Schultz suggested we participate and that we cover the costs of our attendee.

Action: Norma will participate in this conference call to find out more information. She is not able to attend the meeting in Calgary.

Action: Bill will write a letter to Premier Stelmach so we can keep him and ourselves up to date on the Sherritt proposal. He is, after all, our MLA!

Bill will also arrange a meeting with David Swann, the new liberal leader.

Action: Robert has been in contact with George Groeneveld, **Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**. We would like to know why the Agriculture Department is not part of the regulatory process for projects such as Sherritt's. Robert will check into this further.

D. Old Business

1. Stories for the newspapers – Julie will write about Ryan and Devin from Augustana.

2. Annual Meeting – Date February 25, 2009 at Bardo Hall.

Action: Bill will contact Warren about the Hall.

Discussion was held on our alternative energy speakers for the AGM. Jon has talked to Trevor Hoflin. Trevor has agreed to speak at our meeting. They are a couple living off the grid. They also have a DVD of the construction process.

Action: Norma will email members of VOCAL to advise about the meeting and send a mail out by the end of January.

Format of the meeting:

1. Short business meeting – election of officers, election of two people to do the financial audit for next year, Bill's report, Robert's report, show the boy's video.

2. Alternative Energy – Three twenty minute presentations. Ideas included Triline, Solar Alberta, Guy with windmill on Hwy16, John Blades, Bullfrog power, biodiesel generators, geothermal heating, solar hot water collectors, wind power, Lakeland College Dean of Env Science.

It was decided that we should go with: **1. Trevor Hoflin, 2. Lakeland Dean on Alternative Energy and 3. Bullfrog Power/feed in tariffs.**

Action: Jon has already contacted Trevor – will confirm with him. Bill will contact Lakeland. Owen is to contact Bullfrog.

Action: Julie will take care of the advertising for the AGM.

H. Next Meeting Date: February 4th at the House, 7:30 pm. Norma will check into Round Hill possibilities.

by: Norma Williams