



Voice of Community and Land Society
Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2008 7:00 PM at The House, Tofield

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

Guests: Devin Keay, Ryan Mason, John Parkins

Regrets: Owen Forster, Brian Schultz

A. Bill Sears called the meeting to order.

B. Agenda

MSC Stauffer/Maurer: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

C. Minutes – .

MSC Janzen/Stauffer: That the minutes from Nov. 10th be adopted as distributed.

D. Old Business, E. Reports, F. Correspondence – tabled until later in the meeting.

G. New Business

2. John Parkins – University of Alberta. John is proposing that he uses the Sherritt project in his class on Economic and Social Impact Assessment. They always have a project component and in the past it has been the Old Man River Dam, McKenzie Project. He says the students could visit the proposed site and engage with people in the community. The students will talk to VOCAL, RH-DAPA, Sherritt, AB Gov't to get different points of view. A project report could be delivered back to the community. Learning opportunity for the students is the first goal, but they could gather data which we might find useful. Ethics approval is necessary, so a consent form will be needed. A comparative case study will be done if they can find another community with a similar situation.

1. University of Alberta (Augustana Faculty) – Ryan Mason and Devin Keay are studying through the PACSE (Puebla-Alberta Community Service Exchange) program at Augustana. This program had them spend time in rural Mexico, and then rural Alberta. Devin and Ryan have been living near Ryley during their Alberta portion of the exchange and studying VOCAL as part of their participant action research. They are just about through making a mini-documentary (about 10 minutes) about VOCAL and the Sherritt project in general. They also told us about BALTA, a project that is putting together a database of services available in communities. They will be leaving Ryley on Friday.

Action: Julie will interview Ryan and Devin for an article she will write for the Tofield Mercury, Farm & Friends, Camrose Booster, Camrose Canadian and Morning News. An additional article might be just an update on what our Board has been doing – for example, on Nov. 26 th VOCAL board met with J. Parkins and Ryan and Devin.

Ryan and Devin suggested we find more groups that are doing similar things to VOCAL and team up with them. This might make a stronger argument to the Alberta Government. They acknowledged that it is difficult for VOCAL to maintain interest while the project seems to be stalled. Recommended continuing to have advertisements and information nights.

3. Alberta Environmental Network – Clean Air Energy Caucus Plan. Brian Stazinski is the contact here.

Action: Bill will contact him.

4. The other group interested in working with us is Alberta Surface Rights Federation (Glenn Norman).

5. Community Spirit Program. This was an idea presented by Harvey Nahirniak. This is a provincial grant program that perhaps we qualify for.

Action: Robert will look into this.

6. Billboard – should we do another one? We definitely got our money's worth out of the last one – as it was just recently taken down.

E. Reports

3. Treasurer's Report – **MSC Robert/Julie moved that the latest report be adopted.** Carried.

H. Next Meeting Date: Monday December 15th, 7pm in Round Hill. On the agenda will be final meeting with Devin and Ryan and the viewing of their video. (Note: *This meeting had to be cancelled.*)

by: Norma Williams