

VOCAL minutes November 17, 2010

In attendance: Bill Sears, Jon Kauffman, Jane Oracheski, Clayton Maurer, Robert Janzen, Brian Schultz, Scott Stauffer, Norma Williams, Julie Ishida, Evangeline Zubryckj

- A. MSC Julie Ishida moved the agenda be approved as distributed.
- B. Minutes: MSC Scott Stauffer moved the minutes from June 9, 2010 be adopted as distributed.
- C. Business Arising from the minutes: Jane looked into getting charitable status. She discovered it was likely not worth it. Perhaps we could team up with a charitable organization. It is possible, but our assets are limited, so it's likely not worth the trouble.
- D. Old Business:
 - 1. Stories for newspapers – Clayton's attendance at the Taking the Next Steps Conference.
 - 2. They have not established the Regional Advisory Council as yet. We should follow up on this and be sure, first that one of us is willing to be on this council. Did Stelmach promise us a seat or just some input? We need to call his office and ask what the process is and see if someone could be on this council.
 - 3. Alberta Registries – annual report – Norma will take care of sending the financial report to Ackroyd Law Office. Jane is working on getting the financial report signed by the two members who checked the books.
 - 4. Coal Leases – LeRoy Whillans did look into this. The coal leases are tied up likely by someone. It would take a lot of time and money to do this. They will still be held by Marathon or Luscar. We would have to go quarter by quarter. \$25/quarter is the cost. Should we still pursue this? Perhaps some strategically located quarters? What if our few members looked into it. Where do you go – AMA. Coal rights are different than mineral rights. Prairie Mines and Royalties are aligned with Sherritt, Jane thinks. Sponsorship from a company to finance this? The Carnegie Foundation to purchase the coal rights and leave it in the ground.
 - 5. Foipping the environmental assessment report – you have to keep paying for the information they send you. Environment Alberta has a website and you can see where the project is at – updated on October 28. Sherritt has not done anything since its Terms of Reference. www.Environment.alberta.ca/01497.html. Jane doesn't think we need to Foip, but we can check this site and see if there is any changes.

E. Reports:

- 1. Treasurer's Report – We will be sending the financial report to Alberta Registries. In the meantime, the books have been in review. \$7427.18 right now in our bank account. We owe Round Hill \$65/meeting. At The House, Tofield it is \$50.
MSC Jane moved her report be accepted.
- 2. Chairman's report – news about Epcor's Genesee plant and the change of standards that has now been asked for because their competitors are not meeting the same environmental standards.
- 3. Clayton Maurer represented us well at the Taking the Next Steps Conference at Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, Oct. 22, 2010. Groups were varied, people attended from across

the country. John Parkins discussed his research involving rural communities and Clayton told the story of VOCAL. Jon's story was again a success. Discussed definition of governance. We all thought Clayton should submit this to the newspapers. **ACTION: Norma will ask Ryan Mason for a picture of Clayton at the event.**

F. New Business

1. Annual Meeting: We should start thinking about this. When? February? April? April is likely better. Speakers? Joe Anglin? Do we need these projects like the power lines and carbon capture that we are all paying for? Joe would come and he would like a debate. Where is the need? AESO? ATCO? **ACTION: Bill will ask Joe who would represent the other side.** We could have local officials/politicians for sure. What about Andrew Nykyforuk? He would be excellent. **ACTION: Evangeline will check that out.** Perhaps we can have another night and sponsor a speaker.
 2. tabled
 3. Community Spirit Program Grant – Don't know if we qualify. Everyone gets this letter.
 4. Mercury bill for power line meeting. We put an ad in the Tofield Mercury – we sponsored it. MSC Clayton/Julie Bill should be reimbursed for the costs of these ads.
 5. Battle River Watershed Alliance annual meeting is tomorrow in Wetaskiwin. Bill will try to make it for the afternoon. Let Bill know if you can attend.
 6. Battleford Trail meeting Nov. 25th. Norma, Jane, Clayton will be trying to go.
 7. Alberta Surface Rights Federation – In Camrose at the Norsemen. Check out the Round Hill School website.
2. What else should we be doing for VOCAL? Photo display/project. Photo voice. Tell your story through photography. Could we do that for our VOCAL community? Round Hill Bench show – could we sponsor something?

Do we need to do more? November is annual meeting month in Round Hill.

Next meeting time/date:

Wednesday, January 12, 2010. At The House. **ACTION: Jon will book it.**

Meeting adjourned 9.15 pm.