

# **Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve General Meeting Minutes 2008**

March 13, 2008

RM of Park Boardroom

7:30 pm

Attending: Ray Frey (Chair), Ken Kingdon (Parks Canada), Dennis Tokar (RM of Dauphin), Roger Schroder (Parks Canada), Ilse Ketelsen (RM of Rosburn), John Hogg (RM of Shoal Lake), John Whitaker (RM of Clanwilliam), Herb Goulden (RM of Park), Glen Campbell, Mosheh Ravensong, Reg Kucey, Jamie Kucey and Valerie Pankratz (Executive Director).

1. Minutes from January 10, 2008 will be adopted at the next meeting.

2. Presentations

Mosheh Ravensong – Onanole Community Garden

- Development of a green space in the heart of Onanole to bring together many groups
- Create an ecological alternative to green space by constructing a meeting place that would be a community garden
- Community members would volunteer time to plant, maintain and harvest. Produce would be sold to community members
- Goal of the project is to develop the infrastructure so other can take over the project. This could be a model that could be utilized in other areas of the RMBR
- Looking to develop a partnership with RMBR where in data could be collected from the project and shared and shared with other communities
- Hoping a communal vegetable garden and perhaps a future local food market
- Connections for students and seniors

Jamie and Reg Kucey – Use of RMBR Logo – Branding

- Local stakeholders/business from the Rosburn area
- Produce chocolates and wood and antler art pieces from locally harvested material
- Would like to use RMBR logo as marketing tool
- Would the RMBR be interested in producing a brass or copper plate that could be affixed to art or a sticker for other items?

Valerie and Ray will look further at the RMBR logo and the legal aspects of utilizing it as a marketing tool.

3. Chairs Report

- RM Visits – Ray and Valerie have been meeting with member RM Council to discuss the new constitution. At this time they have visited 7 of the 15 member RMs. At this point no council has declared that they would not support the membership fee structure of the revised RMBR Constitution. Each member RM has also been requested to submit 4

locations for the upcoming Caching Riding Mountain Adventure Quest due to be held June 7-8, 2008.

- Dwayne Blackbird has informed us that he will be the First Nations representative for the RMBR Board of Directors.
- The RMBR has sent a request to the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs to appoint a representative member for the RMBR. Ray will meet with David Nuefield in Winnipeg.

4. Financial Report - may be requested

**Motion: Ilse Ketelsen, Denis Tokar**

**“That the Financial Report be accepted as circulated.”**

**Carried**

**Motion: Ilse Ketelsen, Denis Tokar**

**“That Valerie is reimbursed for gas costs incurred while doing RMBR work up to \$300.00.”**

**Carried**

5. Executive Directors Report – see attached report

6. Committee Reports

Rosburn Biodiesel Workshop – A biodiesel workshop is being organized in Rosburn sponsored by Manitoba Canola Growers. The RMBR would be interested in including this as part of the Seminar Series only if there were a broad picture which included opposing viewpoints. The Seminar Committee will need to explore this and other topics for upcoming seminars but at this time cannot commit to the Rosburn Biodiesel Workshop.

Climate Change Workshop – It was suggested that the proceedings of the Climate Change Workshop be available perhaps for a nominal fee of \$10.00.

Woodlot Seminar – the attendance to this seminar was very good and the presentations were well received.

RMBR Signage – signage was discussed in order to promote and raise awareness. This may be an addition of the RMBR logo to already existing RM signage.

7. Reports

Parks Canada – Roger Schroeder/ Ken Kingdon

- Twinning of Biosphere with China - there is no federal policy for international exchanges. RMNP can help put with a person to be a liaison for a few weeks but not longer. There is a Chinese Association in Brandon that could be consulted to see how they could be utilized.

- East Side Development – the RMNP Management Plan was approved and tabled in parliament and hard copies will soon be available. With the closing of the Agassiz Ski Hill the park has met with various groups of people from McCreary to search for alternative uses for the side. It was suggested that maybe the RMBR could Chair and exploratory meeting to help bring together people to talk about other ideas of what might be able to be done in the area to enhance economic development.
- Snowmobile trails – the park is working with the RM of McCreary and Rosedale to designate portions of the RMNP boundary for snowmobile use. The park is hoping to work with the RM of Park and Rossburn on this issue as well.
- Total Count Survey – The elk population is estimated to be 2300 and the moose population is estimated to be 3000.
- Blood Test Program – The Park has blood tested 100 elk and has removed just over 10 elk. They have blood tested 150 WTD and have removed two of these animals. One cow seemed positive on the rapid test and was taken out. Five other animals that were suspicious on the rapid test were also taken out. Results are not yet know.
- Work on mustering fees continues with MCPA giving \$1.00 and MAFRI giving \$6.00 for each animal that was tested in the past two seasons.

8. New Business –

Weed Control – there is strong concern regarding the weed species Burdock which is native to Russia, in the Shoal Lake area. It was noted that this weed species is an issue in other areas of the Biosphere Reserve including the park. Angela Spooner has been given the task of writing the management plan on weed species and will be looking into this.

Encouraging Population Growth – the question was raised regarding how to promote population growth in the communities of the Biosphere Reserve. Suggestions of encouraging council to allow subdivision of old farmyards were brought forward as where there was once 30 farms there now are 5. As well RMs may have to look at promoting other forms of economic development than agriculture.

9. Adjourn – 10:00 pm - next meeting date May 08, 2008

**2008 RMBR Meeting Schedule - TBA**

May 8, 2008

July 10, 2008

September 11, 2008

November 13, 2008