

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve General Meeting Minutes 2008

May 08, 2008

RM of Park Boardroom

7:30 pm

Attending: Ray Frey (Chair), Dennis Tokar (RM of Dauphin), Roger Schroeder (Parks Canada), Ilse Ketelsen (RM of Rosburn), John Whitaker (RM of Clanwilliam), and Wayne Kowalchuk, Martin Woodley, Nick Fiarchuk, Glen Campbell, and Valerie Pankratz (Executive Director).

1. Minutes from March 13, 2008 were approved. Ilse Ketelsen and Dennis Tokar
2. Chairs Report
 - Intergovernmental Affairs – Ray met with David Nuefield who is very interested in the Biosphere Reserve in our request to appoint a representative member for the RMBR. Ray will still need to touch base with David again.
3. Financial Report - may be requested

Motion: Nick Fiarchuk, Martin Woodley

“That the Financial Report be accepted as circulated.”

Carried

4. Executive Directors Report – see attached report
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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