

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve General Meeting Minutes 2008

November 13, 2008

RM of Park Boardroom

7:30 pm

Attending: Ray Frey (Chair), Roger Schroder (Parks Canada), Ilse Ketelsen (RM of Rossburn), Martin Woodley (RM of Strathclair), Nick Fiarchuk (RM of Grandview), Glen Campbell (MCPA), John Hogg (RM of Shoal Lake) Daryl Nuestader (RMBR Executive), Sharla Boychuk (PHP) and Valerie Pankratz (Executive Director).

1. Agenda for the meeting was adopted. John Hogg, Martin Woodley
2. Minutes from May 08, 2008 were approved. Ray Frey, Ilse Ketelsen
3. Business Arising
 - Signage – This topic has been discussed for a number of years with no real resolution for the best placement of a RMBR sign. It was suggested that for the purposes of public awareness of the RMBR in 2009, the RMBR design, and purchase a sign with the RMBR logo and tag line that would be given to each paid RM member. This sign would be placed beneath an existing RM sign. The exact placement of the sign would be up to the discretion of each RM however an area of highest traffic would be suggested.
 - Valerie Pankratz, Ray Frey, John Hogg and Martin Woodley will form a committee to research the cost of this sign and suggested tag line
 - Each Rural Municipal member will look into the regulations regarding putting RMBR signage on the RM Sign and communicate via email if there are any potential difficulties.
 - Weed Control and Invasive Species – a funding program is in place through ???. This information was sent to RM prior to the meeting and the handout was available at the meeting as well. Discussion concluded that it would be beneficial if all RMs within the RMBR apply for this funding so that a more comprehensive program can be established to control weeds such as burdock, scentless camomile, leafy spurge, cleavers, Caragana and Purple Loosestrife.
 - The RMBR will, if requested, write a letter of support for any RM that is interested in applying for this funding.
4. Financial Report - may be requested

Motion: Nick Fiarchuk, Daryl Nuestader

“That the Financial Report be accepted as circulated.”

Carried

5. Executive Directors Report – see attached report

6. Chair Report

The RMBR is working with the Tb Stakeholders Advisory Committee to move this committee forward and have this group be officially recognized by Manitoba Conservation and the Minister of Conservation. Ray has met with Stan Struthers and he seems to be very receptive to the idea however it was noted that there seems to be a lack of communication between the lower and higher levels within the department. We will continue to work on this. The next TbSAC meeting will be December 1, 2008.

7. Committee Reports

Mountainside Community Woodlands – Daryl Nuestater

The Mountainside Community Woodlands committee worked to provide a number of opportunities for the general public, both landowners and cottagers, to participate in FireSmart workshops over the summer. This fall a two-day tour “From the Forest to your Home” incorporated sustainable woodlot management practices including a tour of a forested area, the decisions regarding marking trees for removal, a sawmill demonstration and a display of products made from local lumber obtained from sustainably managed woodlots. The committee will be looking into the cost of signage for individual farms that are a part of the Mountainside Community Woodlots program using the newly created logo. They will also look into signage that can be taken to various trade shows to start building awareness of the program.

8. Reports

Parks Canada – Roger Schroeder

Roger and Valerie have been working on a strategy to strengthen the RMBR. Because we know that federal funding is not likely always going to be available it is important that a committee be struck to look further into creating an endowment fund for the ongoing operations of the RMBR as well as new and continued projects in the future. It is important to find the right people to help us with this. Three service contracts were put together with Parks Canada and were recently signed. These contracts will reinforce the good things that biosphere reserves are doing around the world.

Parkland Habitat Partnership – Sharla Boychuk

The RMBR/PHP has hired Sharla to collect and summarize past research and GIS data sets created through past field work. She will assist the PHP in meeting its GIS data needs by acquiring and organizing existing data layers, and by synthesizing new data layers where appropriate. Sharla will produce maps as required for partners and prepare and conduct presentations on the GIS work as well as attend meetings/workshops when requested. She will assist in the preparation of proposals for funding for PHP and assist in planning the annual PHP workshop.

* note – RMBR has been administrating PHP grant proposals and funding for the past number of years. A sub-account in the RMBR’s Erickson Credit Union account for PHP has been set up to manage these funds.

9. New Business –

- Increase in Executive Director Wage

Motion: Ray Frey, Nick Fiarchuk

“That the Executive Directors salary be increased from \$14.00 to \$17.00 per hour”

Carried

- Online Banking

Motion: Ilse Ketelsen, Daryl Neustader

“That online banking for the RMBR Credit Union account in Erickson be pursued.”

Carried

- Next Meeting

The next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting. If there any other folks you know that might be interested in becoming a part of this organization, general public or councilors, please feel free to invite them and bring them along to any general meeting.

10. Adjourn – 10:00 pm - next meeting date January 08, 2008 - Annual General Meeting

2009 RMBR Meeting Schedule – TBA

January 08, 2009 – Annual General Meeting

March 12, 2009

May 08, 2009

July 09, 2009

September 11, 2009

November 12, 2009