

# **Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve Annual General Meeting Minutes 2009**

January 8, 2009  
RM of Park Boardroom  
7:00 pm

Attending: Ray Frey (Chair), Roger Schroeder (Parks Canada), Shirley Schroeder (Parks Canada), John Hogg (RM of Shoal Lake), Daryl Nuestader (RMBR Executive), Cheryl Penny (Parks Canada), Ken Kingdon (guest), Rudy Usick (RM of Clanwilliam), Sandy Walter (RMBR Executive) and Valerie Pankratz (Executive Director).

Regrets: Ilse Ketelsen (RM of Rossburn), Martin Woodley (RM of Strathclair)

1. Words from Cheryl Penny - RMNP Superintendant

Cheryl Penny has replaced Greg Fenton as Superintendant for Riding Mountain National Park. Cheryl worked in RMNP about 29 years ago and started as a Park Naturalist. She saw the start of the RMBR and has been reading and being updated by park staff about our past and future projects. Cheryl noted that she was very proud to be working in a National Park that is part of a Biosphere Reserve. She mentioned that she thought the RMBR was going in a good direction and as Superintendant of RMNP would be supportive of the RMBR.

2. Financial Report - may be requested

3. Executive Directors Report – see attached report

4. Chair Report

The RMBR is working with the Tb Stakeholders Advisory Committee and continues to facilitate this committee.

- Thanks to Ken Kingdon and Roger Schroeder for all the help in developing the Parks Canada Service Contracts. We have three separate service contracts which deal with Research, Ecological and Community Integrity, Stakeholder Consultations and Regional Cooperation, and Communications and Education Outreach.
- Work on the budget for the federal funds noted in the 2008 Federal Budget has been completed however due to process issues with the Environment Canada who the funds will be issued through we are still waiting for these. Year one funding should be received by mid-January and must be spent by March 31, 2009 therefore there have been some changes to the projected budget and work plan. (See attached). Projects cannot move forward until funding has been received.
- Four main projects have been identified for initiation or completion prior to March 31, 2009

- Office space for the RMBR and furnishings – lease of office space in Erickson is in the works
- Hire a Fund Raiser to create an endowment fund campaign
- Website Development
- Signage/Logo/Branding Development

## 5. Committee Reports

### Mountainside Community Woodlands – Daryl Nuestater

On November 19 and 20 a tour, “From the Forest to Your Home – Locally-produced forest products” was held. Demonstrations included tree selection, and marking of trees, and sawmilling to maximize profit. Local producers brought examples of some of their products. Approximately 25 people took part over the two days. A logo for this project was developed and an article was produced for the 2009 winter edition of Conservation Magazine.

## 6. New Business

### New Trails in RMNP – Shirley Schroeder (Parks Canada) – see attached

RMNP is looking for input on trails in the park. The park will be redoing some of the trail and realize that access to the different areas of the park may be an issue. They would like to get input from rural municipalities on what would bring folks out to the park. There will be community based meeting in February and March. Shirley would like to get information from RMBR members as to people or groups that should get a personal invitation to attend these meetings that would have ideas that they would like to share with RMNP staff.

Signage to existing trails was noted as an issue. It was suggested that trails outside the park could be connect to trails inside the park including the Rossburn subdivision trail.

### Wind Farm/Alternative Energy Seminar – Ken Kingdon

In recent discussions Ken has had with a variety of people the issue of wind farms has come up. A company has been in the RM of Clanwilliam area wanting to sign people up to sell the rights to the wind on their property, controlling access and to perhaps setup wind turbines on their property. There are apparently approximately 29 different groups/companies and these companies are not affiliated with Manitoba Hydro. The province is looking at establishing a second wind farm in St. Agathe. There was a meeting in Erickson and it seems that everything south of Mountain Road to the 262 was being considered for the setup of wind turbines.

Would a seminar on the pros and cons of wind farms be appropriate for RMBR to hold?

- If farmers are being asked to sign up sight unseen then there may be some benefit to having folks know what we are getting into
- Do we invite some folks from the St Leon area to discuss pros and cons?

Discuss this further at the next meeting.

7. Elections – Due to the small number of members attending this meeting elections have been deferred until the next regular meeting.

8. Next Meeting – next meeting date March 12, 2009 - General Board Meeting

**2009 RMBR Meeting Schedule**

**March 12, 2009**

**May 08, 2009**

**July 09, 2009**

**September 11, 2009**

**November 12, 2009**