

TOWN OF LUMSDEN
NOTES OF THE OXBOW AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 6TH, 2010

The Oxbow Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting at 215 James Street North on the evening of Monday, December 6th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. with Chairperson Jayne Liebel presiding.

Present: Chairperson: Jayne Leibel
Councillors: Al Sulma & Rhonda Phillips

Issues raised:

- Need a professional opinion on the water level given Lumsden's specific situation.
- Set a certain level and keep the Oxbow within 6 inches of that level at all times. This would help reduce drastic fluctuations and save aquatic life.
- Needs to be kept above the ground water level.
- Was the discharge pipe that was closed off impacting the water levels this year? Is this structure something that we do need to spend money on in order to maintain the levels?
- What levels do we plan to maintain...the average, the peak, or somewhere in between?
- Purpose of the Oxbow, in order of priority:
 1. accept water runoff
 2. manage the habitat
 3. aesthetics
 4. recreational use
- We need to find a level that works well for priorities 1 and 2. Harvesting duck weed off the Oxbow in the spring will also help the Oxbow reduce the smell because sunlight can't penetrate. We could use the excess duck weed for fertilizer or compost. It also provides food for wildlife in the area. This should be done by summer students once a season.
- While the ice is on the Oxbow, we can cut the excess trees down to the ice level to reduce the snags in the water and aid in removal of logs at a later date if needed. There are some large logs anchored behind Al's that should be removed. We would like the town employees to do this if possible; however, volunteers should be used if necessary.
- We believe that Lumsden should get an engineered opinion on the water level. Manage this within a level of plus or minus 6 inches. Recommend a motion to council to get an estimate on a professional, engineered opinion on the water level and have it included in the 2011 budget, if the number is acceptable to council.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.