

**TOWN OF LUMSDEN**  
**MINUTES OF THE OXBOW COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2011**

The Oxbow Committee held a meeting in the Centennial Hall in Lumsden, on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at 6:35 p.m. with Chairperson Jayne Leibel presiding.

**Present:**            Chairperson:            Jayne Leibel  
                          Mayor:                        Bryan Matheson  
                          Councillors:             Al Sulma, Rhonda Phillips

The Oxbow Committee met to discuss the creation of a policy for water levels in the Oxbow and other issues.


- Jayne provided the observations of the oxbow committee walk-around in June
- Bryan provided comments as to his walk-around
- The committee would like to provide a policy for public works to follow yearly
- Discussion took place regarding water table science and how it plays into the oxbow levels; water will migrate sideways and doesn't always go down only (Rhonda and Doug)
- Lumsden has received 123mm of precipitation to date, according to Environment Canada
- Managing the water level at the TransCanada Trail level will benefit residents and users of the park
- The committee needs to determine if a screw-gate will indeed work for high water levels; if the river is higher than the oxbow, a screw-gate may not work
- The committee needs to determine if the residents that back onto RiverPark Oxbow have water in their sump holes/basement
- The water is presently 15<sup>1/8</sup> inches higher than it was on May 25, 2011
- The committee has decided that public works will not pump water into the Oxbow to keep it artificially high – pumping will only be done to reduce levels to a safe level
- The water level needs to be determined so it may be pumped down to in the fall to accommodate spring run-off

**Recommendations:**

1. Ask Public Works to get the elevation as of June 23. This will be our benchmark as this is the level at which residents backing the oxbow noticed water in their sump holes/basements
2. Have public works to continue to monitor levels bi-weekly and record
3. Have public works to record precipitation levels
4. Have public works to pump as needed right now to bring the level back down to the TransCanada Trail level. Record how long the oxbow takes to return to the high water mark
5. Recommend to council that the water level be maintained at 4-6" below the low point on the TransCanada Trail

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

  
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 Chairperson

  
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 Administrator