



The Wood Buffalo Monthly

Volume 13, July 2008

RMWB – Wednesday Closures

Please be advised that effective July 23, 2008 the current planning and development branch of RMWB will be closing on Wednesdays until further notice, to process the high volume of permit applications.

Welcome our newest Member

Reid Worldwide Corporation – Greg Hembroff

Committee Reports:

Builders/Trade: Builders should be informing all of your contractors and sub contractors that the current practice of allowing items to be washed into the catch basins, especially cement paste from newly poured driveways, is illegal and must stop. UDI has had discussions with the municipality and recommendations going forward are to provide silt protection at the catch basin and enforce this under the Roads and Transportation Bylaw that could result in stop work orders and/or fines in the magnitude of \$2000.00.

Government Bylaws: The offsite levies went to council on July 8th, for the first reading. It will again be on the agenda for 2nd and 3rd reading on August 26, 2008. UDI-Wood Buffalo has had several meetings and is pleased with some of the changes. We are still waiting for an update on the recoveries; the committee will meet again on July 30th.

Land Developers: Met recently with the RMWB engineering department to go over FAC issues and to clarify miscommunications. The group met on site to go over what is acceptable and what is not acceptable with regards to concrete replacements. Much work has to be done to improve the communication and cooperation between the RMWB and the development industry.

Shallow Utilities: The most recent meeting for the shallow utilities was on July 14, 2008 to go over the construction process and identify any obstacles. This process has proved beneficial with positive changes being introduced along with more cooperation and communication being observed. ATCO Electric is ironing out the details with regards to smaller releases, and we are also working on a template to allow service line installations at the time the foundation excavation is open.

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Land Release Announcement:

With the announcement of the Saline Creek and Parsons Creek land release, it does appear that some of UDI-Wood Buffalo's concerns have been heard. UDI is pleased that North Parsons is to be developed on a free market basis and with the implementation of the Community Development Board this should keep local stakeholders involved in this process. This announcement helps with the residential land /housing shortages unfortunately it does not help with the commercial and industrial shortages facing our community. UDI-Wood Buffalo appeared before council on July 8, along with the Chamber of Commerce, to bring forward our concerns with the critical shortage of Industrial and Commercial properties. We requested Council look at some solutions we provided for the short term that can be advanced quickly without compromising good planning.

UDI Alberta AGM

Steve Cook attended the UDI-Alberta AGM on June 17th. The existing UDI-Alberta board will remain the same with the exception of Rick Schroeder, who completed his 2-year term; Russell Dauk of Rohit Communities will replace him. This name may seem familiar to some of you; he used to work at the RMWB. UDI Alberta provided excellent representation at the provincial level this year and assisted with issues such as inclusionary zoning, wetlands policy, Land Use Framework and the continual MGA issues our industry faces. After 50 years UDI Alberta is still recognized as a collection of professionals looking after industry in a responsible manner. Since the majority of development related issues occur at the municipal level, local chapters such as ours are the most active bodies of our association.

The Golf Classic on June 18th was attended by a full slate of golfers, sunshine and good company, what a great way to spend the day. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all who attended along with a special thanks to our sponsors and our partner Fort McMurray Construction Association for making this a successful event.

Our next Event will be a builder's information BBQ with the board members barbecuing your lunch. More details to follow

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Quote of the Month

When you do something right, people might
not even know you did anything at all.
Author: Unknown