MARIGOLD REPORT

Notes to Councils and Special Areas Board
August 2008

Marigold Board held its 110th Board meeting in the Village of Rockyford on Saturday, August 23, 2008. It was a well attended meeting, with thirty-seven delegates, guests, and staff enjoying Rockyford's hospitality. This is the seventh time that the Marigold Board has met in Rockyford (the fifth meeting held in August).

Chair Lynda Lyster called the meeting to order, and introduced a number of new delegates: Barb Archer (Cochrane), Lisa Constantini (Irricana), Marilyn King (Chestermere), Marj Olafson (Acme), Erica Dodge (Kananaskis), and Leigh Somers (Carbon). During the meeting, Carol Anne Maisey was reaffirmed as Vice Chair, this was business tabled from the Annual General Meeting in April. Carol Anne is the Board member from the Town of High River.

Lynda started off the 'what is your favourite book?' segment by reading an excerpt from Carl Lewis' book 'Inside Track'. (Just for the record, 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Five Smooth Stones', and 'A Fine Balance' each got two mentions!) Mary Marshman (Rockyford library board chair) welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Village of Rockyford, and was presented with certificates for the Rockyford Library Board and the Village of Rockyford.

The revised 2008 budget was discussed, including a separate bank account for the RISE funding (as per Executive Committee recommendation), and the movement of funds to the book budget. Director Rowena Lunn gave some background on RISE, and the funding process. 2009 budget estimates were also addressed.

Revised Board Member Compensation and Finance policies (both from the Executive Committee), and a Communication Plan (Advocacy Committee) were presented by Sheila Macklin, Carol Anne Maisey, and Helen Veno respectively. Karen Labuik gave a brief definition/description of e-consulting, an addition to the Communication Plan.

Lynda Lyster reported that amendments to the Marigold Agreement have passed under the 60/60 rule. Those municipalities that have not responded will be encouraged to have their vote recorded. Kristen Anderson presented Governance Committee work on the Constitution and Bylaws. The Committee will bring the recommended amendments to the November Board meeting. Karen Labuik, on behalf of the Advocacy Committee, discussed crafting better lobbying arguments, and presented a 5 minute group hands-on assignment on 'active' writing. Ian Morgan presented a synopsis of the ALTA (Alberta Library Trustees Association) meeting in Edmonton at the end of June.

As part of the Consent agenda, the Board received (as information) Committee, Staff, Facility, TRAC, and RISE reports, and the financial statements to June 30, 2008.

Chair Lynda Lyster declared October as Canadian Library Month ("Your library, your world") throughout Marigold, and signed the proclamation. The proclamation was drafted by Karen Labuik, who mentioned there will be information packages for libraries and municipal councils. (Watch for Political Action Day, as part of Library Month).

The next Marigold Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22 and will be hosted by the MD of Rocky View; while the January 2009 meeting will be a video link between Airdrie and Hanna.

Municipalities Represented, August 23 , 2008

Lynda Lyster	Bighorn M.D. (Chair)
Maxine Booker	Acadia M.D.
Marj Olafaon	Village of Acme
Judy Dufort	City of Airdrie
Diane Osberg	Towns of Black Diamond/Turner Valley
Carney Raitz-Wakaryk	Town of Canmore
Elaine Michaels	Village of Cereal
Ruth Wright (alternate)	Town of Chestermere
Barbara Archer	Town of Cochrane
Lisa Myers-Sortland	Village of Consort
Donna Isaac	Village of Delia
Ingrid Thornton	Town of Drumheller
Sheila Macklin	Foothills M.D.
Carol Anne Maisey	Town of High River (Vice Chair)
Kristen Anderson	Village of Hussar
Lisa Constantini	Town of Irricana
Glen Keiver	Kneehill County
Kathie Putman	Village of Linden
Leslie Duchak	Town of Okotoks
Alison Roppel	Village of Rockyford
Helen Veno	Special Area #2
Rosana Ramos	Special Area #4
John Getz	Village of Standard
Kevin Edwards	Town of Three Hills
Frank VanderKley	Town of Trochu

Guests:

Ian Morgan	Alberta Library Trustees Association
Phyllis Deines (Alt.)	Village of Acme
Mary Marshman	Rockyford library board
Jo Kelleher	Sheep River Community Library
Margaret Hubarewich	Calgary

Staff:

Rowena Lunn	Director
Karen Labuik	Assistant Director
Linda Williams	Consultant/Library Services
Laura Taylor	Consultant/Library Services
Shona Gourlay	Consultant/Member Services
Art Knight	Consultant/RISE
Sarah Stephens	Administrative Assistant (recorder)

New siding and windows for the north wall / headquarters

RISE: Rural Information Services initiativE

RISE is a collaborative approach to enhancing local community services through a “partnership of partnerships”. Regional Library Systems are partnerships of the member municipalities. RISE is a partnership of three regional library systems: Marigold, Chinook Arch and Shortgrass.

Using the Alberta SuperNet, the RISE videoconference network will reach more than 450,000 people in 89 rural municipalities throughout southern Alberta, enhancing and adding to existing library services. The service will be particularly beneficial to the many remote communities which currently have no other publicly accessible facility for distance education, government information and resources, and other initiatives which attempt to reach those in rural communities.

RISE addresses all pillars of the Alberta Rural Development Strategy by bringing new services to rural communities to improve community capacity and quality of life; assisting rural health delivery; improving learning and skills development; and fostering economic growth through enhanced local library service.

To date: staff have been hired, the Phase one pilot libraries identified in each system, an RFP for equipment supply and installation drafted, and discussions begun with libraries identifying community needs and establishing community partnerships.

The pilot libraries for the Marigold Library System are: Airdrie, Drumheller, Hanna, Okotoks, Rockyford and Trochu. The pilot experience will then help RISE staff determine the standards and requirements for rolling the service out to the remaining libraries.

RISE has secured funding for three years to increase rural library capacity by establishing this videoconference service. An agreement with Rural Alberta’s Development Fund (RADF) is providing most of the funding. Other sources include the Public Library Development Initiative (PLDI) from Alberta Municipal Affairs, and The Alberta Library (APLEN).

Your letters of support for RISE were instrumental in securing funding. Thank you. We will keep you informed as the service is established and grows.

Art Knight
Consultant/RISE

Board and Committee Meeting Dates

Sept. 27	Executive, Headquarters
October 8	Standards & Services, Hanna
October 16	Advocacy, Drumheller
October 18	Governance, Headquarters
Nov. 22	Marigold Board, Rocky View MD (host)