

Minutes of:  
**Lesser Slave Watershed Council**  
**April 14, 2016**  
Slave Lake Town Council Chambers

**Present at meeting:**

Name:

Meghan Payne  
Kaylyn Jackson  
Tammy Kaleta  
Todd Bailey  
George Gross  
Mark Missal  
Joy McGregor  
Jamie Bruha  
Tony McWhannel  
Robert Nygaard  
Brian Rosche  
Shane Knutson  
Murray DeAlexandra  
Edna Willier

Sector Represented:

Executive Director  
Watershed Coordinator  
Tourism and Recreation, Chairperson  
Forest Industry  
Forest Industry (alternate)  
Town of Slave Lake  
Town of Slave Lake (alternate)  
Alberta Environment and Parks  
Member at Large  
Big Lakes County  
MD of Lesser Slave River  
Cottage and Cabin Owners  
Commercial Fishermen  
First Nations Member at large

Guests

Ernie Hui  
Peter Freeman  
Murray Kerik  
Sandy Willier

Alberta Environment and Parks  
Driftpile First Nation  
MD of Lesser Slave River Reeve  
Sucker Creek First Nation

Regrets:

Scott Mayston  
Michael Long  
Bob Popick  
Claude Smith

Trappers  
Town of High Prairie  
Oil and Gas sector, Vice Chair  
Agriculture

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large  
Environmental Non-Government Organization  
Federal Government

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Tammy Kaleta.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

**2. Adoption of April 14, 2016 Meeting Agenda**

- Chair called for additions or amendments to the agenda.

**Motion 15-36: Bailey/Nygaard** – *Motion to adopt the April 14, 2016 meeting agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

**3. Adoption of March 17, 2016 meeting minutes**

- Chair asked the board to review the March 17, 2016 draft minutes.

**Motion 15-37: Rosche/Knutson** – *Motion to adopt the March 17, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.*

CARRIED

**4. Ernie Hui – Special Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Parks**

- Ernie Hui was recently appointed to Environment and Parks as the Special Advisor on Water Quality. He has extensive experience with environmental issues, especially as it relates to water though his almost 30 year career with the Government of Alberta.
- Ernie has been visiting all WPAC's across Alberta over the last couple of months.
- LSWC Board was prepared with speaking points that highlight our accomplishments and what our needs from the GOA are going forward.
- Meghan prepared a take home package with more detail about the LSWC's activities.

Discussion highlights:

- Ernie is visiting all of the WPAC's in Alberta as a part of a much larger review of external agencies and groups that the GOA funds and works with. The Department would like to strengthen their relationship and support of WPACs and by hearing from each of them they will get a better idea of the needs and opportunities that exist.
- Water for Life strategy - The province is the leading jurisdiction but to be effective problem solvers they need branch out rather than doing work solely within the department of environment. Hence, the partners like Alberta water Council and the WPAC's.
- He listed off what he sees as the four foundational functions of WPAC's
  - WPACs raise local issues and identify local priorities.
  - Lead the development of Integrated Watershed management Plans for their respective watersheds.
  - Develop State of the Watershed reports and share this information.
  - Public outreach, engagement, and education.
- Concern expressed to Ernie – We need clarity from the province on first nations engagement and a statement about how the province will use WPAC information regarding First Nations. The idea that what happens at the WPAC table could be used by the province at the court level regarding consultation is a barrier for some nations to getting involved with us.

- His main focus was on how we needed to have a discussion on rolls and responsibilities and where everyone fit in in the larger picture of water management.
- The value of collaboration and addressing local issues has been highlighted by other WPACs and he doesn't think government hears that enough. We need to stress in our own words the benefit and value we observe on local level and what benefits that it brings to the reason.
- Think about the Future: it is an opportunity Ernie would like WPACs to comment on.
  - Think past the IWMP; what our role will be once the IWMP has been finished.
- There was talk of WPACs continue as advisory bodies which everyone was in favor of. It was mentioned however that if we are going to remain advisory only then we need either the province or someone to back us up and act as the teeth.
- We need to think about what type of external governance we need from the GOA to become more successful.
  - Suggestions brought forward included: more clear direction, a unified reporting system so that all WPACs are on the same page, a better system for funding that does not leave us waiting and wondering and a plan one how we fit into regional and sub-regional plans.
- He would like to ask us to have feedback forwarded on to him by the end of May.

**Action: Meghan will prepare a draft response based on the themes and topics identified and send to the BOD for review prior to submission.**

- Ernie will be compiling a document of all the WPAC feedback he has received and we will get a chance to review it prior to submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks.

##### **5. Treasurers Report**

- Notified that the department has made a decision regarding WPAC grants, but the official release of this information has not happened yet.
- Operational account only has \$27,600 left. Grant needed By May 15 or we will be using previously allocated funds from our project grants to support operations.
- Meghan distributed copies of the Feb 15- March 15 Treasurers report.
- By June 30th we need all the reporting for the previous year. In October we give an update and then reapply for funding in February.

**Motion 15-38: Bruha/Missal** – *Motion to adopt the February 15 to March 15, 2016 treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

## 6. Review Actions Items from January – All

March 17, 2016 Action Items	Who	By When	Comments
LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016.	Meghan	Before June 2016	June 30 <sup>th</sup> is our reporting deadline.
Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places as well as placemat coloring sheets for restaurants.	Kaylyn	April 2016	In progress- time permitting
<del>Meghan will revise draft governance manual and send to the BOD to review and provide comment. Goal of adopting it as policy by June AGM.</del>	Meghan	April 1, 2016	Draft 1 available. Subcommittee needs to review and make suggestions. Guest Speaker coming to do a governance and policy workshop with BOD.
<del>The LSWC will encourage the local Municipalities and First Nations to get involved with the Water North Coalition.</del>	Meghan	Ongoing	Sent out update on March 22, 2016
<del>Reach out to the Slave Lake OHV club to talk about opportunities for education around OHVs and watersheds.</del>	Kaylyn	April 2016	Done and collaboration in progress Potential BBQ or meet and great?
Work with Environment and Parks to get a firm statement around First Nations engaging with WPAC's and that this does not constitute any form of official consultation	Meghan	ASAP	E&P soon releasing statements regarding WPACs and FN engagement.
Register before and prepare parade floats for the High Prairie Elks parade and the Slave Lake River Boat Dayz parade.	Kaylyn & summer student	July-August	IN progress
<del>Meghan will prepare a list of speaking points for the BOD and send them out a week prior to April's meeting. Meghan will also prepare a document highlighting the LSWC's achievements for Ernie to take back as information.</del>	Meghan	April 7, 2016	Done
<del>Action: Meghan will send the LSWC the 2 ABRI project documents and outline the type of feedback asked of us from Mike Nemeth. BOD is asked to have feedback to Meghan via email by April 13, 2016.</del>	Meghan	March 22, 2016	Done, no feedback received from BOD
<del>BOD made a motion to send a letter to the 5 First Nations presenting 2 options for board level participation and requesting that they discuss and determine steps forward that would work for their Nations.</del>	Meghan, Lisa, Tam, Edna	March 24, 2016	Sent, no responses
LSWC will send a letter to municipalities and towns requesting that their committee appointment to our BOD be for the full 4 years of a municipal term rather than changing members annually. They may also appoint a staff person if this is desirable and will improve the communication between organizations.	Meghan Tammy	April 2016	

## 7. By Law Review/update

- LSWC Bylaws were last reviewed and updated in 2014.
- Meghan has prepared a document with suggested revisions for the board to review.
- At the May Board meeting we will revisit the proposed changes and agree upon changes to put forward for the June 9<sup>th</sup> AGM.

**Action item: Board members will review the By Laws and suggested edits and be prepared to discuss and agree upon changes at the May 12 LSWC Meeting.**

- We need to decide what we are doing in regards to the seat for federal government and commercial fishermen. This will be discussed further.
- We proposed having a seat created for utilities. We will contact Atco and see if this is something they would be on board with and move forward from there.

## 8. First Nations and the LSWC

- Letter was sent to all 5 First nations asking them to discuss and determine how they would like to be involved with the LSWC.
- 3 options were presented in the letter:
  1. LSWC Board member
  2. Advisor to the Board
  3. Watershed planning advisory role
- No response received from any of the Nations at this time.
- Meetings with Region 5 Metis and Sucker Creek have been postponed and we are working to reschedule.

## 9. Executive Director Updates

### a. IWMP project

- Steering Committee members reviewed 5 proposals and determined that we will offer the contract to Sandi Riemersma of Palliser Environmental. She has very relevant experience and is familiar with the WPAC system.

**Motion 15-39: Bruha/Missal** – Motion to award the Watershed Planning contract to Palliser Environmental Services, as recommended by the IWMP Steering Committee; pending approval of grant funding

CARRIED

- Project Kick off meeting will be 1<sup>st</sup> week in May.
- Cannot officially sign the contract and start work until we receive confirmation of our grant.

- Alan Dolan and Associates will be working with us to deliver the communication and engagement part of the IWMP work. Meghan is working with Alan to put together a detailed work plan and a draft contract for signing once our grant is confirmed.

**b. Governance and Policy Manual**

- BOD has been struggling with this for a while; we need to start off with some conversations about governance, what it means to us, and how our policies will follow our governance model.
- Proposed 1 day governance workshop with Hugh Sanders, Chair and David Samm General Manager from the Battle River Watershed Alliance. They will spend a day with us and work through governance and management themes with us and help us chart out our next steps. They have done a really good job on this with their organization and get where we are coming from because they are also a WPAC in a smaller watershed.
- Board is not in favor of a governance workshop.

**Action: Tony, Tammy, Jamie, with support from Meghan will form a subcommittee. Jamie will look to colleges for someone to review. We will have a conference call to decide on the next step.**

**c. June 9<sup>th</sup> AGM**

- Slave Lake Inn and conference center 6pm – 10pm
- Keynote – working on finding someone to talk about Traditional ecological Knowledge projects and how we can incorporate into WPAC work. Art Thoreburn.
- Hoping to have our First Nations and Metis attend.
- Buffet dinner will be provided for everyone.
- If anyone is planning to leave then we need notice so that we can find replacements.
- We will all have to fill out a membership and pay the \$5 membership fee

**d. Riparian Projects**

- Waiting for confirmation of WRRP funding in the amount of \$38,000
- 4 potential projects lined up and PCBFA is talking to more producers.
- Providing the Big Lakes Ag Service Board with an update on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Have completed a project MOU for producers to sign with the LSWC. Outlines process, their commitment, financial responsibilities, roles of LSWC, PCBFA and Cows and Fish, etc.
- Cows and Fish will schedule a few days in June to do health assessment at confirmed project sites.
- If you know people with potential projects let us know we can meet with them.

## **10. Education and Outreach updates – Kaylyn**

### a. Green Acreage Guide Workshops

- So far we have had a good number of people signing up for Slave Lake and High Prairie
- We are expecting more people to sign up next week

### b. Rain Barrel Sales

- Lots of interest but so far low sales
- We will be selling at the gun show and both Green Acreage Guide Workshops

### c. Trade Shows

- Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to come and help out
- Gun Show is this weekend and we are expecting a big turn out
- Slave Lake trade show is May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

### d. LSFES

- Starting in mid-May we will be doing classroom and field trip presentations with grades 3, 5 and biology classes in the watershed.

### e. Little Green Thumbs

- Kaylyn has been doing classroom presentations and has so far been to two schools and will be going to a 3<sup>rd</sup> next week.
- Teachers are starting to plan out there year end celebrations
- We have interest for two possible new schools for next year. East Prairie and Gift Lake School have both been in conversation with me.

## **11. Review Action Items, upcoming meetings and events, meeting adjournment.**

- High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show – April 16-17
- Green Acreage Workshop – High Prairie Agriplex – April 21 6pm-10pm
- Green Acreage Workshop – Northern Lakes College, Slave Lake – April 23 10am-3pm
- WPAC Quarterly managers meeting – Red Deer – April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Water North coalition – Athabasca – April 27<sup>th</sup>
- IWMP Project Kick off meeting – Edmonton – May 2
- Slave Lake Chamber of Commerce Trade Show - May 6-7
- Next Board Meeting - May 12th - Kinuso Senior Centre.
- Dirftpile pow-wow June 24-26th everyone is invited. June 21st aboriginal day we may set up a booth.

**Motion 15-40: Missal/Bailey – Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:50**