

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council

February 21, 2013
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group Represented:</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Lindsie Fairfield	Watershed coordinator
Murray De Alexandra	Chairman
Jeff Cummins	MD Lesser Slave River
Bonnie Raho	ENGO's
Gary Couch	member at large
Guy L'Heureux	MD of Big Lakes
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Monica Dahl	ESRD
Mary Okonum	MSGC
Wilfred Willier	Town of High Prairie
Todd Bailey	Forestry alternate
Rob Irwin	Town of Slave Lake
Gordon Sanders	Forestry
Myles Brown	SRD
Sherrie Hay	Tourism
Myles Brown	ESRD
Kristy Wakeling	ESRD

Regrets:

Brian and Nona Elliot	Cottage owners
Carl Chykerda	Oil and Gas

Board Vacancies:

First Nations
Federal Government

Meeting called to order by Murray De Alexandra 6:05

1. Adoption of November 15, 2012 Minutes

WC12-16 - Irwin/Willier - Motion to adopt November 15th Minutes as presented
CARRIED

2. Adoption of Feb 21, 2013 Agenda

- Addition of round table discussion to item 10.

WC12-17 - Couch/Raho - Motion to accept agenda with addition

CARRIED

3. IWMP Presentation from Mike Henry and Susan Abells

- Mike and Susan prepared a power point that goes over the project work so far and discusses the next steps in the IWMP process for the LSWC.
- Copy of presentation is available from Meghan.

a. IWMP discussion and next steps

- Our project request to ESRD for 2013-14 is for \$150,000 to work on an IWMP. 2013 work will include developing a Terms of Reference, completing some outstanding technical work, and having a water quality model developed in kind by ESRD for the Lake and tributaries as well as the analysis and reporting on the 2012 sediment core samples that ESRD took last winter.

- At this point the project is pretty vague. We will have an IWMP team meeting to discuss technical work and stakeholder engagement strategy once we know if ESRD will fund the project and for how much. Should be determined by the end of March 2013 from what we have been told.

- Discussion: The IWMP process is voluntary so how are we going to make sure its followed. Down the road this plan could become regulatory under the land use framework and have implications for municipalities. It is important that municipalities are on board with the planning process from the ground up because they will have a large role in implementation of an approved IWMP.

- Side discussion: Guy wants ESRD to do water quality sampling on Mission Creek and the East Prairie River to identify where the source of lead contamination is coming from. Monica D. Will enquire with monitoring branch about this.

WC12-18 - Sanders/Willier - Motion to advocate to the province to have lead source tracking done on Mission creek and the East Prairie River in 2013.

CARRIED

5. Strategic Plan 2013-15

- Meghan re-wrote the LSWC strategic plan to better organize our goals and objectives.

- LSWC went through and discussed the plan and made changes as necessary.
- The document was tabled for review and will be discussed and finalized at the March meeting.

WC12-19 - Irwin/Willier - Motion to accept the Strategic Plan as information for the March meeting.

CARRIED

6. LSWC 2013-14 business plan & budget

- The LSWC's yearly operational plan has been reformatted to match the strategic goals and plan. This has been emailed to the board prior to the meeting for review.
- Board went over the 2013-14 operational plan as a group and discussed.
- The document was tabled as information for the March meeting where it will be discussed and approved.

WC12-20 - Irwin/Couch - Motion to table the operational plan as information until the March meeting.

CARRIED

7. Discussion items

a) Northern WPAC meeting with Minister of ESRD

- The 43 northern region WPAC's met with Minister McQueen and Ernie Hui on February 12th at the Legislature.
- Purpose of the meeting was to make the minister aware of the specific northern region challenges we face and stress that we need a sustainable plan for funding for us to carry out the work we have been given.
- Handouts of meeting notes available from Meghan.
- As of Feb 21, 2013 we haven't had a response from the minister's office but we have received a grant amendment for signatures that will grant us \$50,000 of our 2013/14 operational funds early in the fiscal year. Meghan signed this agreement and is waiting for a check in the mail.

b) Wet areas mapping in AB

- Meghan Attended a wet areas mapping workshop on Feb 11th.
- There were a lot of technical presentations on how the technology works and how it can be applied in all kinds of work including forestry, oil and gas, municipal development etc.
- Meghan has access to the wet areas mapping data for the portion of our watershed that has been completed.
- The LSWC should encourage MD's and industry to look into this technology for its benefits to the environment and for more efficient planning and operations.

c) Municipal waste water - Gary C.

- Gary has been looking at the option of using treated effluent from the municipalities as water for oilfield use. This would reduce phosphorous loading into the lake and fill a niche market for freshwater.
- What is the feasibility of this happening in our region? In Swan Hills they are using treated water and they are developing a pump station to load trucks.
- Gary is talking with ESRD staff to see what rules and regulations are involved and he will report back to us on his findings at the next meeting.

d) Water Conversations

- March 12, 2013 in Slave Lake at the SL Inn and Conference Center the GOA will be hosting a facilitated water conversation. We have 4 seats to fill because ALMS can not send 2 people to the discussion.
- People who can attend on our behalf:
 - Murray De Alexandra
 - Lynn Sandquist
 - Sherrie Hay
 - Todd Bailey
- Meghan will send out information and meeting details before the date and RSVP these people with the planners.

e) LSWC governing documents

- The LSWC has been operating as a society since 2007 and as a registered charitable organization since 2010 and there is a need for the development of governing documents that outline how the organization is ran, roles and responsibilities of board and staff etc.
- Meghan will work on a draft table of contents for an LSWC government document based on the contents of the NSWA and other WPAC governing documents.

f) TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

- TDFEF contacted Meghan and requested that she join the northern region advisory board for the granting program. They have restructured to include local people who work with environmental groups on the committee to enhance local knowledge and expertise on the committee.
- TDFEF will pay the travel and hotel expenses for Meghan to travel to the meetings 4 times per year in Calgary or Edmonton.

WC12-21 - Cummins/Irwin - Motion for Meghan to accept the request from TEFEF to join the grant selection board.

8. Conferences and Events

a. CWRA/WPAC conference - Red Deer March 12-14

- The 11 WPAC's and the Canadian Water Resources Association are co hosting a water conference.
- The conference will have a variety of speakers on topics ranging from stewardship, watershed planning, research and technology and more. Minister Diana McQueen will open the conference with an address on March 13 and Ernie Hui will present to us about ESRD's monitoring plans.
- Meghan, Lindsie and Murray and Wilfred are attending the CRWA/WPAC conference.
- Meghan will be presenting a discussion on the Lesser Slave River and the water management issues there have been to date.

b. Canada Water Week

- Meghan will Confirm if Brian can donate a chopper ride and if he can then we will have a poster contest advertised through the South Peace News.
- Groups discussed other ideas for water week. This year's theme is "Love your water body".
- Meghan and Lindsie will plan and coordinate water week activities and inform the board.

c. LSWC Watershed Forum (Spring 2013)

- What type of public events or open houses should we host in our communities?
- The board was in agreement that open houses are generally poorly attended in the evenings and we need to go to where the people are.
- Meghan and Lindsie have plans to be at the lake throughout the summer interacting with people who are lake lovers. We will have the lake stewardship handbook and other materials to distribute and we will be engaging new members and potential volunteers.

9. Treasurers Report

- ESRD sent a grant amendment for our operations. They amended the existing agreement to add \$50,000 as the first portion of the 2013-14 grant to be paid "in a timely manner". Meghan signed and returned the agreement and we await a check.
- There is approx \$10,000 of funds left in our project account from long ago that haven't been allocated. We can use this money for a project or keep it in the bank as a safety net.

- We are expecting \$15,000 from AESA in 2013 and only \$5000 has been allocated. What project do we want to spend the \$10,000 on? Has to be within the AESA guidelines.

WC12-22 - Irwin/Hay - Motion to accept the treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

10. Round Table & Meeting Adjournment

- Rob Irwin - the Town of Slave Lake and the MD are working on the fire smart program and are removing trees around town.
- Gordon Sanders informed the group that his workload has increased and he may not have the time to commit to the LSWC so at the AGM in June he would like to step down as the Forestry Rep and LSWC Secretary.
- March 21 is the regular meeting date but this falls on a TDFEF committee meeting so it will be postponed until the 28th.

Next Meeting Date: **March 28 , 2013**