

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council

February 13, 2014
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Lindsie Fairfield
Murray De Alexandra
Lynn Sandquist
Brian Panasiuk
Todd Bailey
Brad Pearson

Stakeholder Group Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Chairman/Commercial Fishing
Agriculture
Town of High Prairie
Forestry
MD of Lesser Slave (Alternate)

Regrets:

Brian and Nona Elliot
Tammy Kaleta
Gary Couch
Stefan Plouffe
Gary Braithwaite
Edna Willier
Sherrie Hay
Ed Pollodan
Kristy Wakeling
Monica Dahl

Cabin and cottage owners
Recreation
Member at Large
Town of Slave Lake
ENGO's
First Nations
Tourism
MD of Big Lakes
Fish and Wildlife
ESRD

Board Vacancies:

Oil & Gas
Metis Settlements

Meeting called to order by Chairman Murray De Alexandra 7:05 pm

*** Due to number in attendance quorum not obtained. Meeting continued for informational purposes. No motions will be made.**

1. Adoption of February 13, 2014 Agenda

Addition - 6.c) LSWC Staff employment contract

2. Adoption of January 16, 2014 Minutes

- January 16, 2014 Meeting minutes emailed and circulated for review.

3. Round Table

Feb 20th Planning session with Aquality Environmental - (Noon - 4 pm) Goals to review first draft of Terms of Reference

Change of Board seat

- Currently, ESRD has two board seats as outlined in Society Bylaws. Now that SRD and Alberta Environment have combined to become the same department, it is proposed that we change one seat and allocate it for the Trapping Industry through the ATA.
- It is proposed that Kevin Bell joins our board of Directors as an interim rep for the Trapping industry and at the June 2014 Annual General Meeting we will make the required update to our Society Bylaws and hold an election for the board seat at that time.

4. Aquatic Invasive Species

- Lindsie prepared a brief Power Point Presentation about invasive species formation and discussion focusing on Zebra/Quagga mussels and common aquatic invasive plant species.

5. Project Updates

a. IWMP contract

- Summary document of the Sept. session is available from Meghan.
- ESRD has paid the first invoice of \$20,000 associated with project costs up to this point.
- On Feb 20th Jay White and Amanda Cooper will be joining us for a half day in Kinuso to go over what we heard from stakeholders in regards to water management concerns and issues, to present the first DRAFT of the Terms of Reference for feedback, and to discuss the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the project.
- First round of feedback from LSWC Project team and workshop participants will be incorporated into the Final Draft Terms of Reference for the IWMP by March 15, 2014.
- 2014-15 project work will involve targeted stakeholder engagement and a commitment to working with the LSWC on the IWMP through endorsement of the Terms of Reference. The endorsed ToR will be submitted to ESRD for approval.

b. LSL Bathymetry

- The data collection and associated requirements completed as per the contract.
- 27% of the littoral zone of the south shore of LSL has been surveyed and mapped.
- Final report available from Meghan.
- Geodatabase has been uploaded for ESRD to work with. Future work includes comparing to the old lake bathymetry data to see if it is still valid, stitching the bathymetry data set with the existing LiDAR to establish habitat maps
- The LSWC requested \$150,00 for 2014-15 to continue with the shoreline bathymetry work after technical review of deliverables and needs.

c. SOW water quality report

- LSWC has requested \$15,000 in addition to \$30,000 in stakeholder funds to complete this project.
- LSWC Project Team members will play a big role in developing the RFP, evaluating proposals, selecting a contractor, and approving a contract for services.

d. Canada Water Week - Watersheds 101 March 17-23, 2014

- Facebook trivia contest with prize incentive
- Approached Grade 5 classes in High Prairie, Jousard and Kinuso, to participate in land use and ecosystem roles and impacts on the watershed session and waiting to hear back from majority of schools. Interest expressed from Slave Lake St. Mary of the Lake School.

e. Other

2014 ALMS Conference

Date: September 12-13, 2014

Where: Slave Lake Inn and Conference Center

- field component paired with presentation component
- potential for corporate sponsorship
- Board members brainstorm regional show case ideas

Living by Water

- Proposed for summer 2014 in partnership with Nature Alberta.
- We have applied to RBC Blue Water, TD Friends of the Environment for funding for outreach and stewardship projects including: Rain Barrels and urban water conservation, Green Acreages in our watershed, and funds to develop and distribute invasive species information.
- Specific details of these projects are final because of the pending applications and potential partner involvement may add to the scope.

Action Item: Board members will promote Living by Water and assist staff in signing up shoreline home owners for a consultation.

6. Executive Director updates

a. Jan 30 Meeting with ESRD Minister

- Meghan provided a summary of the January 30th meeting between ESRD Minister Robin Campbell and the Executive Directors from the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, the Beaver River Watershed Alliance, and the LSWC.
- Copies of the materials provided to Minister Campbell are available from Meghan.
- Minister Campbell has called another session on Feb 18th to meet with representatives from NGO's that ESRD partners with to deliver provincial goals. David Trew, Executive Director of the NSWC and Tim Romano, Executive Director for the MRWC

will be attending as the 2 selected WPAC representatives. Other groups invited include: the Alberta Airsheds Council, the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, the Alberta Lake Management Society, and the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association.

b. Upcoming WPAC managers meeting

- Meghan will be travelling to Red Deer for the upcoming WPAC executive Directors meeting.
- Robert Stokes, Executive Director for the ESRD Resource Integration Planning Branch will be in attendance to discuss the WPAC grant process. Some topics identified for discussion are:
 - Reliable, timely core funding.
 - Funding for implementation of IWMPs
 - Taking our input seriously. How many examples do we have where they actually listened to our input? One from the Bow (water quality thresholds). Are there any more? If we are advisors, who is listening?
 - True partnership? Involving us directly in Land Use Framework regional plans. They treat us like any other stakeholder group but aren't we supposed to be a partner who actually works together?

c. LSWC Staff employment contracts

- The LSWC Executive Director does not have an employment contract of any sort and one needs to be developed.
- The LSWC Executive Board members and the Executive Director will meet to discuss and develop a contract to be approved by the Board and signed off on by the Chairman and the staff.
- Obtain samples from other WPAC groups for guideline.

Action Item: Executive and Meghan set a meeting at the LSWC office to draft employment contract.

7. Treasurers Report

- The 2014-14 ESRD application package and all associated documents was submitted on Monday Feb 10th to Robert Stokes, Executive Director, Integrated Resource Planning Branch. The department has said that there will be a 60 day turn around on the applications. This has never happened in the past but would be a very welcomed change.
- The LSWC draft operational plan and budget has been updated to include new projects and operational work that has come forth since Jan 16, 2014. The BOD has been emailed a copy of the latest working draft plan. Meghan will email out updated draft to be approved next meeting.

- **Next meeting the last two most recent Treasurers Reports will be brought forward for Board Approval.**

8. Meeting Adjournment - 8:50 pm

Next Meeting Date:

March 13, 2014 at 5:30pm