

Minutes of:  
**Lesser Slave Watershed Council**

January 8, 2015  
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

**Present at meeting:**

Name:

Meghan Payne  
Tammy Kaleta  
Bob Popick  
Robert Nygaard  
Gary Braithwaite  
Murray DeAlexandra  
Claude Smith  
Jamie Bruha  
Brian Rosche  
Todd Bailey  
Constance Chan

Sector Represented:

Executive Director  
Chair  
new member  
MD of Big Lakes  
  
Commercial Fishermen  
Agriculture  
ESRD  
MD of LSR  
Forestry  
West Fraser guest

Regrets:

Michael Hunka  
Stefan Plouffe  
Shane Knutson  
Edna Willier

DFO  
Town of Slave Lake  
Cabin and cottage owners  
First Nation member at Large

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large  
ENGO  
Trappers

Meeting called to order by former Chairperson Tammy Kaleta at 7:00 pm

**1. Adoption of January 8, 2014 Agenda**

**Motion 14-28: Smith/Bruha** - Motion to adopt agenda

*CARRIED*

**2. Adoption of November 13, 2014 minutes**

- correction - spelling of Shane K's name.
- correction: Todd Bailey was in attendance but not listed.

**Motion 14-29: Bailey/Nygaard** - Motion to adopt November 13, 2014 minutes as amended.

*CARRIED*

### **3. Treasurers Report**

**Motion 14-30: Rosche/Smith-** Motion to accept treasurers report as presented.

*CARRIED*

### **4. Round table discussion**

#### **a. New Members**

- Bob Popick has become a LSWC member in interest of becoming the oil and gas board rep. He has worked in the industry for numerous years and has served on several boards. Bob works for Tribal North located in High Prairie.

**Motion 14-31: Smith/Bruha** - Motion to accept Bob Popick as the interim oil and gas board representative until the June AGM.

*CARRIED*

- Meghan P - McGill Course finished in December. Final paper was submitted, waiting for final grade. Course was worthwhile and informative and all of the resources are available for future use and as reference material.

- Jamie - Bev Yee has moved to Municipal affairs after championing Water for Life for years.

- Staff Wages - Tammy presented information from the other 10 WPAC as to the pay of their Executive Directors. The LSWC may not be on point with the other WPAC's based on the experience and roles of the staff.

- the Board will have an in camera session at the February meeting with new information from the WPAC's, and review LSWC staff wages.

### **5. Action item follow up**

#### **a. U of L Proposal**

- Meghan distributed the proposal for the GENESYS project to the board containing details on objectives, deliverables, and cost.

- As conference call with Dr. Byrne took place on December 1, 2014 and Jim explained the GENESYS model, its capabilities, and how it would be applied to our watershed.

- The modelling scheme is well suited to nutrient management. They run a water balance within a watershed using high resolution land cover and soils data, and that allows them to develop a nutrient balance model for watersheds at the same resolution. This would be a much more specific means to control algae blooms, toxins and associated poor water quality as we hope we can define where the nutrient load is coming from and going to.

- Jamie Bruha shared the information with the LUF technical team and provided their feedback to the group:

- there are existing free source models that can do relatively the same type of work. We would need to hire a contractor to calibrate and run the model for our watershed

and proposed scenarios to evaluate IWMP proposed management actions.  
- once the project is complete the LSWC won't have any ownership over the model and won't be able to run additional scenarios.

**Motion 14-32: Rosche/Bruha** - Motion to decline the GENESYS model proposal from the University of Lethbridge.

*CARRIED*

**b. Weir update**

- Chaudhry Ali, Infrastructure Manager, Central Northern Operations is the project lead going forward.
- Alberta Transportation has put RFP out for retaining a consultant to review and vet the design they did in 2010.
- At this point, absolutely no discussion of other designs different than what we had consensus on in 2010. Hopefully the design will not change once consultant completes their review.
- Chaudry has informed Meghan that any updates or progress will be passed on to the LSWC.
- A copy of the 2010 weir design presentation can be requested from Meghan P. via email.

**c. Board Vacancies**

- Gary Couch has stated that he can no longer sit on the LSWC and has resigned from his general member at large position. There is no alternate.
- Gary Braithwaite is no longer employed with SARDA and has given up his seat as the ENGO rep. SARDA does not have the capacity to have a staff person participate on our board. The current alternate Bonnie Raho cannot effectively participate on the Board.
- Meghan has asked REAC to discuss whether or not they have another member who would be a suitable fit for the ENGO position. Jules indicated that they will not be meeting until February but she will put it on the agenda.

- Currently the LSWC has board vacancies for the following seats:

Métis Member at Large  
Environmental Non Government Organization's  
Trappers  
General member at Large

**Motion 14-33: Bruha/Bailey** - Motion to accept Gary Braithwaite as the member at large until the June 2015 AGM.

*CARRIED*

Action: Meghan will send revised 2014 by laws to the board highlighting changes

**d. ESRD Forum- Dec 4th, 2014**

- Robert Stokes, Executive Director of the Resource Integration Planning Branch hosted an ESRD WPAC forum in Pigeon Lake.

- Discussion items included:
  - Improving data sharing with WPACs - Ben Arril (northern geomatics lead)
  - Regional priorities for 2014-15:
    - Red deer and south Saskatchewan: SSRP implementation
    - Upper Athabasca/North Saskatchewan: NSRP and lake planning
    - Peace/lower Athabasca region: landscape management plans
  - Biodiversity management framework for the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan - Dave Coish
  - Enabling the WPAC mandate - Robert Stokes
  - Program performance evaluation and communicating success - Marie-Claire St. Jacques
- Notes from the workshop were emailed to the Board.

## **6. Performance Evaluation and Reporting**

- As a part of the WPAC grant process WPAC will be required to report on their performance and success. This is to ensure that GOA grant funds are being used adequately and that we are meeting our strategic goals.
- Meghan distributed a handout on performance monitoring and evaluation for the board provided by ESRD as well as the preliminary performance measures submitted to ESRD in October 2014.
- Meghan will continue to work with ESRD staff to develop and strengthen our performance and evaluation and reporting to meet the needs to the organization and present to the board as information.

## **7. 2015-16 Projects**

### **a. Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program**

- Meghan has applied for funding for preliminary project work that includes scoping and assessing project sites, seeking land owner commitment to complete a restoration project, hiring cows and fish to complete a pre restoration riparian health score on the top 3 chosen sites, and developing a restoration plan and budget and seeking funding from WRRP to complete the work in summer 2016.
- The MD, PCBFA, ESRD and HP RAT will be potential partners and other WPAC staff will provide info and guidance based on their own experience in restoration projects.

### **b. IWMP Next steps**

- Our Terms of Reference needs to be finalized and submitted to ESRD for review and endorsement by March 30, 2015.
- Endorsement from our Municipalities and stakeholders is also critical at this time to ensure their support in the plans development and implementation. Board members will be required to champion the plan to their sectors.
- We will be applying for funding for the next steps in development of the plan via our 2015-16 grant request to ESRD.
- The Guide to Watershed Planning in Alberta shall be followed. - copies available via email from the office.

- 2016 project work will include hiring a contractor to work with the Steering Committee to establish specific goals and objectives for the watershed. Short medium and long term management actions that support the plans outcomes and objectives will be developed, evaluated and selected.

#### **c. Green Acreages Workshops**

- Purpose is to teach people about ways to improve their property to reduce their impact and footprint on the watershed.
- 2 workshops will be held. 1 in High Prairie and one in Slave Lake.
- Land Stewardship Center has already provided Green Acreages primers and we have purchased 25 complete program binders for participants who wish to take action.
- Watershed coordinator will be working with MD Ag Staff to set up these events in April 2015.
- Intended audience is country residential and acreage owners in the watershed.

#### **d. Watershed Tour**

- This idea has been tossed around before but hasn't went anywhere.
- Should we make it a public event? or do it for the board.
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#### **e. Other Ideas?**

- rain barrel sales - this was popular in 2014 and it is a good way to engage people
- fishing tournaments - have a presence at tournaments, provide AIS information, and LSWC resources.
- Canada Water Week 2015 - theme is "Know your H2O" and we will be doing a variety of activities to raise watershed literacy in HP and SL.

### **8. Project updates**

#### **a. Technical Project Update**

- Hutchinson is on schedule with their water quality assessment, paleolimnology and working with ESRD staff to complete the bathtub modeling component.
- Outstanding fisheries information from Myles Brown and Kristy Wakeling is expected the first week of February.
- Draft Technical report will be ready for review first week in February pending the delivery of the Fisheries info.
- Summary report will be ready for review by Feb 15th.

#### **b. IWMP Update**

- CPP provided a Draft Communication and engagement plan to the Steering Committee for review. Limited feedback was provided by the group.
- CPP is working on revisions to the C&E plan and the info sheets and will present them at the Steering Committee meeting on Jan 16th.

- Aside from the work with CPP the Steering Committee needs to have another meeting to revise the objectives section of the Terms of Reference and make any other final changes prior to the March Board meeting.
- Final Terms of Reference will be presented to the board for approval on March 12, 2015

**9. Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events, Meeting adjournment**

IWMP Steering Committee Meeting - **Jan 16th** 9-3 at the Kinuso Seniors Center

LSWC Board Strategic Planning Session - **Jan 29th** 5:30-9 at the Kinuso Seniors Center

LSWC Board meeting - **February 12th** 7pm at the Kinuso Seniors Center

**Motion 14-34: Bruha/Smith** - Motion to adjourn the meeting

*CARRIED*