

Minutes of:  
**Lesser Slave Watershed Council**  
**January 21, 2016**  
Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, AB

**Present at meeting:**

Name:

Meghan Payne  
Kaylyn Jackson  
Tammy Kaleta  
Bob Popick  
Todd Bailey  
Bob Jackle  
Murray DeAlexandra  
Brian Rosche  
Claude Smith  
Stefan Plouffe  
Jamie Bruha  
Scott Mayston  
Shane Knutson

Sector Represented:

Executive Director  
Watershed Coordinator  
Tourism and Recreation, Chairperson  
Oil and Gas Industry  
Forest Industry  
Member at Large (alternate)  
Commercial Fishermen  
MD of Lesser Slave River  
Agriculture  
Town of Slave Lake  
Alberta Environment and Parks  
Trappers  
Cottage and Cabin owners

Guests

Darryel Sowan  
Peter Freeman  
Lyle Halcrow  
Jule Asterisk  
Allan Atkinson  
Mike Nemeth  
Ryan McDonald

Swan River First Nation  
Driftpile First Nation  
Kapaweno First Nation  
Keepers of the Athabasca  
Keepers of the Athabasca  
AB WaterSmart  
AB WaterSmart

Regrets:

Jason Shpeley  
Edna Willier  
Robert Nygaard  
Michael Long

DFO  
First Nation Member at Large  
Big Lakes County  
Town of High Prairie

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large  
Environmental Non-Government Organization

**1. Welcome and introductions**

- Chair welcomes everyone and initiates round table of introductions.
- We have guests from some of our First Nations in attendance as a result of the letter of invite that the BOD sent on December 22, 2015.

## **2. Adoption of January 21, 2016 Agenda**

- Note that the dates in the agenda were incorrect on the emailed version but have been corrected.

**Motion 15-18: Bailey/Smith** - Motion to adopt the January 21, 2016 Agenda

*CARREID*

## **3. Adoption of December 10th, 2015 meeting minutes.**

- Amendment to the December 10th minutes - indicated that AEP was in attendance, not a regret.

**Motion 15-19: Bruha/Plouffe** - Motion to adopt the December 10, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

*CARREID*

## **4. Delegation - Jule Asterisk**

- Jule had requested a delegation at our meeting to provide an update about the Swan Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility and the Keepers of the Athabasca's correspondent with the GOA.
- The Treatment centre came up for re-approval this November and was extended for another year. (November 2016)
- The BOD was emailed the background reading material prior to the meeting. Print copies of the information available for guests.

### Discussion:

- There have been health studies to try to understand if there was a greater risk of certain cancers for individuals living in the area. There was a health study done by AHS in 2006 but it was found that there was not a big enough population for the study to be considered statistically significant. Jules will forward a copy of the study to Meghan who will distribute it to the board. LSLRIC has also done hair and blood testing on animals in the area, we do not have this information.

-It was clarified that although regulations/policy does allow the plant to accept waste from other countries it currently is only accepting waste from other Canadian provinces. It does charge for the disposal of waste but is still operating at a net loss. The plant treats all hazardous wastes but specializes in PCBs

- The idea to track airflows and particulate to see how widespread it could be going was brought forward and we will see if this is something that can be modeled by the people at Water smart as they continue collecting Data for the Athabasca River Basin Project.

- In the past there have been sediment samples taken from the lake bottom to track and monitor the presence of PCBs in the environment. Keepers of the Athabasca would like to see more testing done in broader areas rather than just the two locations in Lesser Slave Lake.

- Currently, the people of Swan Hills seem to have no issue with the waste treatment facility. This is

thought to be because of a combination of the jobs it provides and everyone having gotten used to having the facility and the risks it presents.

#### **5. Delegation - Mike Nemeth and Ryan MacDonald, Alberta Water Smart - Athabasca River Basin Initiative Project**

- Mike and Ryan travelled from Edmonton to talk to the LSWC about the Athabasca River Basin Initiative Project. A 1 page summary and their presentation slides were emailed to the BOD ahead of time. Print copies made available for guests. Copies can be requested via email from the office.
- The Sustainable Water Management in the Athabasca River Basin Initiative (ARB Initiative or Initiative) is a multi-phased initiative that will use an innovative integrated suite of modeling tools, and a successfully proven collaborative modeling process, to assess current and future water management issues and opportunities in the Athabasca River Basin (ARB).
- The Initiative views the ARB watershed as an integrated ecosystem, from the headwaters to Lake Athabasca, with consideration given to current water use and needs along its course, as well as potential future impacts of climate variability, changes in land use, and growth in the basin.
- This process brings together the best available data, modeling tools, and participants from across the basin in a transparent and open process, to explore mitigation, adaptation, and management strategies in response to a range of plausible land use and climatic change scenarios.
- This strategic collaborative modeling exercise will build on completed and ongoing work in the basin, consider current activities and strategically evaluate future scenarios throughout the entire ARB. The ARB Initiative supports the long term sustainable management of water resources in the ARB through collaboratively generated, science based outcomes (identification of issues and opportunities). The ARB is, and will be challenged by perceptions and misunderstandings regarding water resources in the basin.
- Members of the BOD were emailed copies of their presentation prior to the meeting.

#### Discussion:

- They plan to deal with anticipated data gaps by using technology developed for modeling ungauged basins. They will use that to fill in gaps in their current data sets and models. Additionally LSWC has a hydrological model for the basin, which was developed in 2009, because it is a WPAC product and publically available we will be happy to share this data.
- The whole Athabasca River Basin will be broken down into the 10 predetermined sub watersheds that were identified by the government. LSWC is one of these 10 watersheds. With our IMWP in progress, we would like to work with water smart to come up with some models specific to our watershed. This may be a possibility; we are to bring our requests for modeling to engagement meetings in Edmonton where we will do collaborative modeling. Meghan and potentially other board members will attend these meetings. It is possible for us to model things such as the weir in slave lake.
- Dr. David Sawchyn and the WaterSmart team are working on a climate model for northern Alberta. They are using current climate models, data gathered from tree ring studies and historic hydrographs for the Athabasca and peace Rivers.

- WaterSmart staff plan to meet with local groups to figure out what data is already available and where to find it. They intend to use as many existing high quality resources as possible to avoid redoing work that has already been done.

## 6. Treasurers Report

- Copies of the Nov-December treasurers report were circulated to the BOD

**Motion 15-20: Mayston/Bruha** - Motion to adopt the treasurers report as presented.

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- The Alberta Environment and parks Grant Application package is due on February 1, 2016. This is earlier than in previous years but the department has made the commitment that we will at least have confirmation of our grant funding by April 1st.
- This year the LSWC will not have any significant operational carry over so we will need to receive our grant in by the end of May to sustain operations and meet project goals.
- We currently have one active contract open with Alan Dolan.

## 7. Review Actions Items - Within December's minutes

- List of action items was distributed on the back of the Treasurers report.

Action	Who	By When
LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016.	LSWC Board of Directors	Before March 2016
Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places.	Kaylyn in progress	April 2016
Robert, Meghan and Tammy will talk to Greg about his goals for his development and the possibility of working together to promote best management practices with a demo project.	Robert N to take the lead	
<del>Reach out to landowners to find a riparian/wetland project for summer 2016</del>	Meghan, Monika, Robbie	Feb 2016
<del>Letter to 5 First nations inviting them to join us at the January board meeting to meet the board, observe a meeting and talk about how FN's would be best represented around the table.</del>	Meghan, Laura, Tammy	By Dec. 23, 2015
Send IWMP workshop summaries to the BOD	Meghan	Done - Dec 11, 2015
Packages for FN's that include by laws, strategic plan and water for life info	Meghan	January 21, 2015
Set up call to discuss Governance and policy proposal and decide on steps forward	Meghan	Dec. 23, 2015
Set up a drop box folder for governance and policy document examples from other WPACs, send link to BOD.	Meghan	Dec 18., 2015
Work with AEP staff and Alan D to complete IWMP work plan and budget for the next year	Meghan, Laura, Lisa, Dave, Jamie	January 15, 2016
Put together a funding request for round 3 of the WRRP program	Meghan	January 15, 2015
Attend WPAC Forum on January 14, 2016 in Leduc	Meghan, Kaylyn, Tammy, Bob, Scott	January 14, 2015
Find a suitable project(s) to apply for ACA education and	Meghan, Kaylyn	By January 25,

community grant funding.		2016
The LSWC will encourage the local Municipalities and First Nations to get involved with the Water North Coalition. Next meeting is in Athabasca April 7, 2016.	Meghan	Prior to next WNC meeting.

Notes on Action item follow up:

- Watershed Posters: we followed them back as far as we could and it turns out they were created by a volunteer. We will work on developing our own resources.
- We are going to hire a summer student at a total cost of \$12,700. This will be covered in part by the WRRP Grant as well as the Canada Summer Works Program. We can't advertise for the job until we get confirmation of funding (hopefully end of March/beginning of April). In order to qualify the candidate will have to be a current post secondary student who is returning to school in the fall.
- Our Riparian Open house is on February 3rd, we will be promoting it on Prairie FM on the 29th and 2nd. We currently have roughly \$30,000 through WRRP for project resources.

**Additional Updates from the Executive Director:**

- The January 14th WPAC forum held in Leduc was attended by Meghan, Kaylyn, Tammy, Bob and Scott. The morning consisted of presentations from department staff and partner organizations, the afternoon was made up of facilitated discussion around water management challenges. Presentations and notes from the Forum will be emailed to the BOD when they are made available.
- On January 13, 2016 a WPAC Managers meeting was held in Red Deer. The Education and outreach Staff held a congruent meeting at the same time.
  - WPAC's of Alberta are going to seek funding and support for a joint education program called X-treme science, which engages High School kids in water quality monitoring. More info about the program to come soon.
- On January 15, 2016 The LSWC submitted an application to the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency program for \$37,480 to deliver wetland and riparian restoration work in the summer of 2016
- The LSWC is going to secure funding from non GOA sources to hire a summer student. With the IWMP project taking up the majority of the ED's time, a summer student will help the watershed coordinator with education and outreach activities and riparian restoration work.
  - Total cost for May-September will be about \$12,700 with a wage of \$18/hr
  - Canada Summer Jobs program (federal) will cover up to 11.5\$/hr and reimburse us for associated payroll costs. Application is due Feb 25, 2016.
  - The Remaining \$4,160 has been requested as manpower through the WRRP grant as they will be allocating at least that much of their time to riparian project work.
- Cows and Fish had talked about delivering a Beaver workshop in the area. Does the Board think that there would be any interest in this? The work shop teaches participants about how leaving beavers on the landscape enhances the landscape's ability to buffer flood and drought events.
  - In general it was agreed that the people who really hate beavers will not be convinced otherwise and may not even attend a workshop. It could potentially be something to look at for a slower time of year.
  - IT was suggested to incorporate beaver education into our school programs in order to work on educating the new generation instead of trying to change the old.

## 8. IWMP Updates

- We have extended our contract with Alan Dolan so that we can continue moving our communication and engagement work plan forward. An amendment was needed to cover the work to be completed between January and March 31, 2016, the remainder of this fiscal year. Work includes development of communications and engagement plan to follow our IWMP workplan; and continue to work on engagement with First nations in relation to the IWMP project.
- The workshop and engagement summary document prepared by Alan Dolan was sent to the BOD. This is an internal document and the watershed planner will be using it as information to inform the IWMP. Alan Dolan is joining the Steering Committee Meeting next week via skype to present the summary document and discuss communication and engagement plans moving forward.
- Meghan and several Environment and Parks staff have been working to put together our workplan and budget to get our IWMP complete by Summer of 2018.
- We will require the contract services of a watershed planner. There was discussion about hiring someone to work from our office but the chances of attracting a qualified candidate to move to High Prairie are slim and this may take several months, derailing our timeline.
- Meghan and the project team are working on a Request for Proposals for a watershed planner to be released in February with an anticipated start date of early April (as soon as we have confirmation of funding).

### a. Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- Meghan put the draft Terms of Reference on the screen for the board to read and review.
- The BOD needs to approve this TOR so that the Steering Committee can move forward with selecting and inviting Technical Team Participants at their meeting on January 27, 2016.
- A formal letter of invitation will be drafted by the Steering Committee and sent to TAC members.

**Motion 15-21: Rosche/Smith** - Motion to approve the IWMP technical advisory Committee Terms of Reference as amended by the group.

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### b. 2016-17 IWMP workplan and budget review

- Copies of the Draft IWMP workplan and budget were circulated to BOD. It was also sent via email a week prior to the meeting for review.
- This workplan has had feedback from several project team members and discussed via conference call prior to presenting to the Board.
- At this time the board needs to approve the workplan in draft for inclusion in our 2016-17 Alberta Environment and Parks grant application package.
- The IWMP steering Committee is meeting January 27th and will be going through this workplan in more detail and if changes need to be made the BOD can approve at the February or March Board meetings.

**Motion 15-22: Bailey/Smith** - Motion to approve the draft IWMP workplan and budget for inclusion with our Environment and Parks grant application package.

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#### **9. 2016-17 Draft Operational Plan and budget**

- BOD were emailed this document a week prior to the meeting and asked to review ahead of time.
- The LSWC 2016-17 workplan and budget need to be submitted with our funding application on February 1, 2016. It will be submitted in draft form because the BOD has not had time to thoroughly review and discuss.
- A more complete review and discussion will be scheduled for the Feb 11, 2016 BOD meeting and if more time is needed we can finalize at the march board meeting.

**Motion 15-23: Popick/Smith** - Motion to approve the LSWC draft 2016-17 workplan and budget for inclusion with our Environment and Parks grant application package.

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#### **10. First Nations representation on the WPAC discussion**

- The LSWC hopes to establish relationships with each of the First Nations in our watershed. To begin this process we have invited folks from each of the Nations to our meeting to meet our board, observe a meeting and how we do business, and learn more about our organization.
- We realize that the current "First Nation member at large" board seat isn't working and would like to explore ways we can engage First Nations in the work of the WPAC and in the development of our Integrated Watershed management Plan.
- FN's were given information packages that contain:
  - LSWC General Membership form
  - LSWC Society By Laws
  - Board of Director Terms of Reference
  - 2015-18 LSWC Strategic Plan
  - Alberta Water Council partnerships info sheet
  - Annual Outreach report card
  - WPAC's of Alberta Brochure
- One of the WPAC's in AB have First Nations not as board members but as observers and advisors to the BOD.
- One WPAC has 3 board seats for Aboriginal members divided by geographic area: upper, middle and lower watershed.
- Direction from the province - WPAC's do not carry out consultation. We are not implementing policy or legislation that may impact treaty rights. The WPAC's role is to make science based recommendations around land and watershed management that consider the environmental, social and economic values of the people in the region. First Nations have an important voice and by working with the WPAC they can help shape the recommendations put forward to policy and decision makers through the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

#### Discussion:

- Proposal to have a session with First Nations (either individual or at regional council) to really explain what we are doing for watershed management, what our goals are, how the IWMP will work etc.
- Some of the First Nations groups are working on their own land use frameworks and water councils so this could be a good opportunity for us to work together and share information.

- We want to keep everything out of the consultation office as we have no legal authority or ability to do consultation. We want to work together to build strong recommendations that we can bring forward to policy makers.
- Different First Nations groups are interested in being involved in different ways. We will continue to keep in contact and work out the best way to have their involvement.

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

IWMP Steering Committee Meeting - January 27, 2016 at 1:00pm at the Kinuso Seniors Center.

Riparian Open House - February 3, 2016 at the High prairie Agriplex at 6:00pm

LSWC February Board meeting - February 11, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Kinuso Seniors Center.

Working Well Session - Feb 11, 2016 at the High prairie Agriplex at 1:00pm

**Motion 15-24: Bruha/Plouffe** - Motion to adjourn the January 21, 2016 meeting of the LSWC.

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<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By When</b>
LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016.	LSWC Board of Directors	Before March 2016
Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places.	Kaylyn in progress	April 2016
Robert, Meghan and Tammy will talk to Greg about his goals for his development and the possibility of working together to promote best management practices with a demo project.	Robert N to take the lead	April 2016
Set up call to discuss Governance and policy proposal and decide on steps forward.	Meghan	March 1, 2016
The LSWC will encourage the local Municipalities and First Nations to get involved with the Water North Coalition.	Meghan	Prior to April 7th, 2016
Meghan will stay in touch with Mike Nemeth regarding the ARB initiative project and provide updates to the BOD	Meghan	ongoing
Jule will send the health study regarding the Swan Hills Waste Treatment	Meghan and Jules	ASAP



Facility to Meghan for distribution to the BOD		
Work with project team and Steering committee to draft a Request for proposals for a watershed planner.	Meghan	Feb 5, 2016
Send the LSWC 2015 Technical Report and Lesser Slave River Hydrology Presentation from AEP to Darryel Sowan	Meghan	Jan 25, 2016