

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
May 21, 2015
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Megan Graham
Tammy Kaleta
Bob Popick
Claude Smith
Murray DeAlexandra
Brian Rosche
Stephan Plouffe
Todd Bailey

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Chair
Oil and Gas
Agriculture
Fisheries
MD of LSR
Town of Slave Lake
Forestry

Guests:

Walley Bailey
Bob Jackle

ESRD Peace River
Slave Lake Pulp

Regrets:

Edna Willier
Jason Shpeley
Jamie Bruha
Robert Nygaard
Michael Long
Shane Knutson

First Nation member at large
DFO
ESRD
MD of Big Lakes
Town of High Prairie
Cottage owners

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large
ENGO
Member at Large

Meeting called to order by chairperson Tammy Kaleta at 7:03pm

1. Adoption of May 21, 2015 Agenda

Motion 14-52: Smith/Bailey - Motion to adopt the agenda

CARRIED

2. Adoption of April 9th, 2015 minutes.

Motion 14-53: Rosche/Plouffe - *Motion to adopt the April 9, 2015 minutes as presented.*

CARRIED

3. Delegation: Walley Bailey ESRD - Weir Modification project.

- Because of the recent interest and concern over the weir modification project ESRD staff were invited to the meeting to provide a project update to the group and answer any questions.

Notes on project status:

- ESRD hired a consultant to review the original design and come up with a less costly alternative to maintain flows.
- The new design will be completed by this company in August or September 2015.
- ESRD project manager will then hire the contractors who will be physically doing the work.
- The optimal flow for the work to take place is between 15-25cms. As of May 22 the flow was 47cms. Trying to complete the work with the water level higher than optimal will add several thousand dollars to the cost of work.
- Project approvals do not expire until April 2016.

Questions/Discussion:

- MD of LSR has concerns that the channel will need to be dredged. ESRD has never committed to aiding with the costs of dredging the river mouth. ESRD staff can help with MD with obtaining approvals to do the
- Fish Ladder - is it effective? yes, the fish ladder is below the weir crest and fish can pass.
- Who gives out the extension for approval, show one be needed? ESRD staff would be responsible for obtaining extensions.
- Who will be monitoring and responsible for operating the gate? - There will be an operating plan in place that will specify when the gate should be open and closed based on river flow.

4. Treasurers Report

- Copies of the March 15 - April 15, 2015 treasurers report were circulated to the board.
- WPAC's have not received any word on the status of our 2015-16 grants. ESRD staff currently don't have any information with all of the changes etc. going on with the switch to the NDP leadership.
 - LSWC is financially able to continue business as usual for several months so operations are not being impacted at the time.

Motion 14-54: Popick/Plouffe- *Motion to adopt the March 15 - April 15, 2015 treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

5. Follow up on April Action items

Action: Chair and staff will set up an E&S committee meeting

- Doodle poll has been sent to committee members. Only 2 people responded to it so without interest from the members a meeting hasn't been scheduled.

Action: Each board member is to provide a best estimate of time spent per month on LSWC business.

- Jamie Bruha will check into how they calculate and track their in kind time.

6. Round Table discussion

From the Office:

- WAPC's and the NDP government
 - WPAC managers had a conference call to discuss how we should introduce and make ourselves known to the new minister of environment (when he or she is appointed).
 - We will proceed with a general; WPAC letter and ask for an opportunity for a face to face meeting ASAP.

- Mike Nemeth from **Alberta Water Smart** has contacted us regarding a project they are undertaking titled: Sustainable Water Management in the Athabasca River Basin Initiative (The ARB Initiative)
 - Meghan passed out the project proposal received today from Water Smart for the board's information. This is in draft form and we are asked to keep it to ourselves at this time. The final project documents will be sent to us when they are ready.
 - A similar project was done in the South Saskatchewan River basin and the Bow, Oldman and South East Alberta Watershed Alliance participated. Mark Bennet of the Bow River Basin Council has provided a letter of support based on the positive project experiences and results.
 - They are looking for interested partners and reaching out to the LSWC as the Athabasca WPAC is not functioning at this time. A letter of support from us stating that we support the project and will participate in it will aid them in seeking grant funding.

Motion 14-55: Rosche/Smith- *Motion to send Mike Nemeth of Alberta Water a letter of support for the ARB project funding applications.*

CARRIED

- Invasive Weed workshop in Slave Lake June 4th.
 - ESRD Staff are putting on a one-day invasive weed workshop aimed at municipalities and companies who operate machinery, manage roads or well sites, and logging companies.
 - Crystal Lonson sent the LSWC a request for support towards the costs of holding the event.
 - Stakeholder education is within our strategic goals and managing invasive weeds effectively has a positive overall impact on the watershed's health.
- Meghan will email the board all the information

Motion 14-56: Smith/Popick- *Motion to accept the request to support the Slave Lake Invasive Weed workshop on June 4th in the amount of \$100.00.*

CARRIED

- LSWC office - there is a brand new office space available for lease in September for less rent, more space down the road from the Big Lakes County office. The building owner is Joe Quartley and he said that he can custom finish the space to have room for storage, our conference table and 2 offices and a sink. The rent would be 750-800 a month.

- Meghan will be going to see the unfinished space in the next month to see if it will meet our needs and will bring up for discussion at the June meeting.

- Town of High prairie recently ended our office janitorial service after providing it for 7 years. This decision was made without giving us any warning or discount in rent. LSWC staff are now cleaning the office and purchasing our own cleaning supplies (vacuum)

- for information we pay 950.50 in rent and a \$100 admin fee monthly.

Action: A decision needs to be made then as the board does not meet through July and August.

7. Project Updates

a. Technical Report and Summary

- Hutchinson has completed both the Technical Report and the Summary public face document.

- Copies have been emailed to board members and project team members.

- Project will be showcased at the AGM and after that LSWC Ex. Director will be giving presentations to interested stakeholder groups and distributing copies for the reports.

- Report provide current, science based information about how our lake and watershed has changed over time, current conditions, and possible future scenarios. This is key information for planning and water management.

b. IWMP

- The IWMP Terms of reference has been finalized and submitted to Robert Stokes of ESRD for the departments review and endorsement.

- Print copies along with the info materials and a letter requesting endorsement will be sent out to major stakeholders that the Steering Committee identifies.

- We will then meet with folks to talk to them more specifically about how they see themselves participating in the development of the IWMP. This may be through workshops, calls or meetings.

- Steering Committee Needs to set a date for their next meeting to discuss 2015-1`6 project work plan, discuss development of RFP's, and talk about engagement workshops.

Action: Meghan will send a doodle poll to select the best time in June.

c. Riparian Restoration

- The LSWC staff are meeting with Ag Fieldman and Monika Benoit from Peace Country Beef and Forage Assn to discuss 2015 work plans.

- ASB funding is available up to \$20,000 to complete riparian restorations. Project focus is in improving riparian habitat and improving water quality by reducing erosion and overland runoff into streams in the MD of Big Lakes.

- May be opportunities to with the HPRAT. We will be communicating with them to see where opportunities exist.
- The next steps are to identify potential project sites, talk to land owners and do preliminary site visits and get project MOU's signed. (June)
- Once sites are selected cows and fish will get involved and do preliminary riparian health scores and we work on restoration plans with the project team.

8. Information items

a. Rain barrel sales

- We have sold a total of 190 rain barrels! at \$65 a piece. More barrels have also been purchased online but we don't know that total until they close sales and send us the info.
- Each barrel will get an LSWC sticker on it before distribution.
- Board members are encouraged to come help out at the rain barrel pick up dates: June 6th in High Prairie and June 7th in Slave Lake.
- The LSWC will pay by check in full for all of the rain barrels and then be reimbursed \$10/barrel from rain barrel.ca. Approximately \$2,000.

b. Webinar

- The April 22, 2015 Watershed 101 webinar went smoothly from the operations side and was well received by participants.
- 34 people has registered for the webinar but we had 18 participants

c. LSFES trips

- 6 wetland and watershed related field trip scheduled for the next 4 weeks.
- Megan G assisted with Alberta Forestry Week
- We may be helping out at Slave Lake summer Splash.

d. Water North Coalition

- Meghan and Robert both attended the last meeting that was in Slave Lake.
- The group has developed a survey to assess the current infrastructure, staff capacity and future needs of municipalities in northern Alberta.
- From the results the group will know what areas are priority and this will guide future work.
- The NADC is currently providing 2-3 staff to the group to help with

9. Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events, Meeting adjournment

June 4th - Invasive weed management workshop - June 4th in Slave Lake

June 8th - Community Clean up Slave Lake - 5pm

June 11, 2015 - 5:30pm Annual General Meeting @ Peavine Inn, High Prairie.

Motion 14-57: Smith/DeAlexandra- Motion to adjourn the board meeting.

CARRIED