

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
September 10, 2015
Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Megan Graham
Bob Popick
Jamie Bruha
Brian and Nona Elliott
Michael Long
Brian Rosche
Stephan Plouffe
Todd Bailey
Claude Smith
Bob Jackle

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Oil and Gas industry, Vice chair
Environment & Parks
Cottage Owners/ Country Residential (alternate)
Town of High Prairie
MD of Lesser Slave River
Town of Slave Lake
Forestry
Agriculture
Member at Large (Alternate)

Regrets:

Jason Shpeley
Scott Mayston
Shane Knutson
Tammy Kaleta
Murray DeAlexandra
Edna Willier
Robert Nygard

DFO
Trappers
Cottage Owners/Country Residential
Recreation and Tourism, Chair
Commercial Fisherman
First Nations Member at Large
Big Lakes County

Others in Attendance:

Grant Gramiak & Arlene Gramiak
Ken Carpenter

Norm's Walleye Camp
Lesser Slave River land owner

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large
Environmental Non-Government Organization

Meeting called to order by vice chairperson Bob Popick at 7:02 pm

1. Adoption of September 10th, 2015 Agenda

Change item 4a. to Delegation from Grant Gramiak, 4b. weir updates

Motion 15-06: Rosche/Bailey - Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of June 11, 2015 minutes.

Motion 15-07: Plouffe/Elliot - Motion to adopt the June 11th, 2015 minutes as presented.

CARRIED

3. Treasurers Report

- Copies of the May 16-Aug. 15 treasurers report were distributed to the board.
- The report period is 3 months rather than 1 because the board hasn't met since June 11.

Motion 15-08: Rosche/Plouffe - Motion to adopt the May 15-August 15th Treasurers' report as presented.

CARRIED

a. 2015-16 E&P grant

- The LSWC received our 2015-16 operational and project grant on August 13th after an urgent letter to the minister was sent by the 11 WPAC's on July 23rd.
- The LSWC's operation grant was for the amount of \$130,000. This was due to the surplus of grant funds in our accounts.

4. Round Table Discussion

a. Delegation: Grant Gramiak, Norms Walleye camp.

- Grant asked for a 10-15 minute delegation in regards to his concerns about lake levels.
- Board was provided with photos for discussion.
- Norms Walleye camp is along the LSR and docks in the river are having siltation issues and with the low water levels many boat docks are unusable.
- Ken has been losing land (approx. 2 feet this year) from erosion along the bank on his property. Best Management Practices such as planting native grasses, shrubs and willows was suggested. A water Act approval would be needed to do any armoring or grading to the bank.
- Brian Rosche - dredging needs to be done periodically on the river and it looks like it will need to happen in 2015. The MD, Town and Stakeholders have been responsible for the costs associated with dredging but feel that the provincial Government should take some financial responsibility as well.
- Jamie explains that the government takes responsibility of the water quality, fisheries and fish habitat, and it is the MD and Towns job to take responsibility of the rest (i.e. dredging to maintain a navigable channel)
- This is a long term problem and will be addressed in the Watershed Management Plan. In the immediate future a permit for 2015 dredging needs to be started.

ACTION: Meghan Payne will help facilitate a meeting between MDLSR, Town of Slave Lake and downstream stakeholders to determine actions required for 2015 dredging at the river channel.

a. Weir updates

- Wally Bailey provided a project update to Meghan Payne on September 3rd, 2015. Copies provided to those in attendance.

- Low flows expected in November at current draw down level. Environment and Parks staff will be meeting this week to discuss the low flow procedural plan.
- Construction tentatively scheduled for January 2016.

Todd Bailey

- Todd and the North Chore Trail group were recently approached by Bill Kriss and he made them aware of an OHV club that is in its early stages of forming in Slave lake.
- OHV use is a popular activity in our watershed and we should strive to engage with this target audience.
- A potential collaboration for the LSWC and an OHV club would be things like: installing bridges on stream crossings on trails and designing and installing awareness signage on trails.
- More work needs to be done on trail development, so that people can enjoy the area but remain on designated trails rather than having unrestricted access to the lakeshore and creeks.

Action: Bill Kriss will be added to the IWMP stakeholder engagement list.

Jamie Bruha

- Jamie and regional staff are working to facilitate discussion about Lake Watershed Management.
- The Municipalities and the province are having conversations about how they can move forward on lake management work.
- E&P Staff will also be supporting the LSWC in the IWMP development process.
- A Board member mentioned that at a hockey arena in Southern Alberta he saw an interesting watershed poster developed by the Elbow River Watershed Partnership. The poster had a focus on groundwater but the location was great and lots of folks were stopping by to read it while waiting for their kids.
- It was suggested that the LSWC work on similar public engagement posters to put in public places like arenas in our watershed.

Motion 15-08: Rosche/Bruha- *Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places.*

CARREID

5. IWMP Project

- On September 9th the Steering Committee had a conference call to review and evaluate the 2 proposals received.
- Based on feedback received via email and from committee members the LSWC has offered the contract work to Alan Dolan and associates.
- Alan will be joining us for the Next steering committee meeting October 1. We will be working out the best approach to our FN engagement efforts and the key messages we want to give them. We will also review stakeholder engagement list and discuss the format and content of the 2 stakeholder workshops.

- IWMP Engagement Packages have been sent out via mail to almost everyone on the stakeholder engagement list. Follow up calls will be made in the following weeks.
- Board members will be asked to help with making follow up calls and inviting stakeholder to join us at our sessions this winter to talk more about their role in the IWMP.

Potential 2015-16 projects

- The LSLEA has expressed an interest in working together on projects that are mutually beneficial to both our organizations. We have some data gaps that we could fill that would make our IWMP stronger.

Shoreline Habitat Inventory and Assessment Project

- Project will include a habitat assessment of the entire lakeshore, an in depth GIS analysis of the foreshore area and current land use activities.
- Methodology is based on DFO protocol and similar projects have been completed in BC and one in Manitoba.
- This project will provide a product that will fill data gaps identified as important in the IWMP process, and it can be used to make recommendations about lakeshore management down the road in our IWMP project.
- Regional Environment and Parks staff support the project as it is in alignment with overall regional goals. The project will tie together with past project like the 2006 lakeshore mapping done by ACA and the 2014 bathymetry survey. All of these products can be used together to make lakeshore management recommendations.

ALCES Landscape modeling for the West Prairie/South Heart River Sub basin.

- Steering committee talked about the need for a landscape analysis. This information would fill data gaps we currently have and provide sound direction in developing our IWMP recommendations. The ALCES model can also be used to evaluate the long term effects of the implementation or lack of implementation of certain management actions.
- Why the South Heart? - we know that the majority of P inputs are coming from this sub basin. Completing the analyses of the entire watershed will be very expensive.
- ALCES modeling is recognized and accepted by the scientific community and the government. The model has an amazing capacity to evaluate different parameters like how various land use changes will impact water quality parameters like P or DO.
- The 11 WPAC collective are discussing the potential collaboration with the GOA to use ALCES for IWMP work across the province.

6. Education and Outreach updates - Megan Graham

a. Little Green Thumbs

- we will be having a short workshop in October for all of the returning teachers.
- Supplies and 2016 materials will be ready for teacher in early Oct.

b. Summer engagement activities

- Was invited by the High Prairie Municipal Library to come and do some fun watershed related education activities with their summer reading group.
- Staff set up tent and tables with resources and info materials at Faust Harbor and Jousard Marina to engage with Lake users.

Staff and volunteers (Tammy, Todd, and JD Dennis) manned an LSWC booth at the Slave Lake Gun Show (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). We had the opportunity to provide the public with handouts and information as well as let the public use the watershed wise board.

c. Caring for our watersheds

- Megan G was invited to go to ATA Science conference in Edmonton on October 23, 24. Nathalie from the Battle River Watershed Alliance will be having a booth there for the Caring for our Watershed program. I will have the opportunity to learn about the program as well as potentially meet teachers from our area.

7. Riparian Restoration Projects

- We have received ASB grants for 2014 and 2015 from Big Lakes County to deliver watershed restoration and improvement projects
- We also received \$12,500 in funding from the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program. The notice of funding has been received but not the check. The program manager has encouraged us to apply for more funding in rounds 3 and 4 to continue wetland and riparian restoration projects.
- Currently our watering system is being used at a site along the South Heart River, near buffalo bay at a location where previously the cows had to go up and down the steep bank to water. This landowner is interested in a restoration project next summer.
- Another interested producer with about 200 head has acquired a quarter of land and 5 leased quarters along the South Heart river and is interested in some improvements and a watering system before they graze the area.
 - We are working on a project plan for 2016 with this producer.
- Cows and Fish will be coming to do 2-3 pre project riparian health scores in the spring.

8. Alberta Lake Management Society Annual Workshop

- The ALMS workshop is taking place in Stony Plain on October 24-25th.
- Meghan and Megan have registered to attend. Robert Nygaard, Jamie Bruha is also attending.
- The Alberta Water council - Lake Management Project team is hosting an afternoon sessions with the participant to talk about Lake Management in Alberta and the roles and responsibilities of the various authorities. Meghan P will be aiding in the facilitation of the workshop.
- Copies of the draft agenda were distributed as information.
- Board members need to notify office ASAP if they can attend.

MMSA Seminar - Wetlands and landscape architecture and implications for municipalities.
-October 23, 2015 @ Chateau Nova in Peace River, AB
- Registration is \$175 and open until October 14, 2015

9. Upcoming meetings and events, meeting adjournment

ALMS Conference - September 24-25th, 2015 at the Stony Plain Best Western
IWMP Steering Committee - October 1, 2015 at the Kinuso Seniors Center at 9:00am.
Regular LSWC Board Meeting - October 8th, 7:00pm at the Kinuso Seniors Center

Motion 15-09: Long/Bruha- Motion to adjourn the board meeting.

CARREID