

Minutes of:  
**Lesser Slave Watershed Council**  
 September 12, 2013  
 Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

**Present at meeting:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group Represented:</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Lindsie Fairfield	Watershed Coordinator
Murray De Alexandra	Chairman/Commercial Fishing
Wilfred Willier	Town of High Prairie
Gary Braithwaite	ENGO (SARDA)
Guy L'Heureux	MD of Big Lakes
Gary Couch	Member at Large
Monica Dahl	ESRD
Tammy Kaleta	Fisheries and Recreation
Brian & Nona Elliott	Cottage and Country residential
Rob Irwin	Town of Slave Lake

Regrets:

Edna Willier	First Nations
Todd Bailey	Forest Industry
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Sherrie Hay	Tourism
Kristy Wakeling	Fish & Wildlife ESRD

Board Vacancies:

Federal Government  
 Oil & Gas

Meeting called to order by Chairman Murray De Alexandra 7:00 pm

**1. Adoption of September 12th, 2013 Agenda**

Nona: Addition of discussion of Grouard sewage lagoon (10) and Alberta Wetland policy (4c) to agenda

**Motion 13-05: B Elliott/L'Heureux :** To adopt the September 12 meeting agenda as amended

*CARRIED*

**2. Adoption of June 20th, 2013 Minutes**

**Motion 13-06: L'Heureux/Willier :** To adopt the June 20th, 2013 minutes as presented

*CARRIED*

### **3. Guest presentation from Carrie Termul - LSL water quality modeling (~30 minutes)**

- Meghan invited Carrie Termul, a university student who was working with ESRD this summer on a Lake Modelling project.
- Presentation of simple application of the BATHTUB model to Lesser Slave Lake as a steady state eutrophic lake modeling exercise
- Across data set median values were used and the model selections and atmospheric data were based on Baptiste Lake. Results were largely compared to Leigh Noton's report, showing similar results although with a different, much more simple model.
- Written report available from Termul at end of September. It will be shared with the board.

### **4. Business arising from the minutes**

#### **a. Faust Site**

- Guy & Monica visited after flooding of site, Monica took pictures and sent concerns to appropriate individuals within ESRD. In response, many deemed because of the large amount of vegetation in the site that mitigation was currently successful as many of the found contaminants were biodegradable naturally over time. The estimated costs for ESRD to excavate and reclaim the site is \$3-4 million. In addition the water has been tested several times and claims are that no problem has ever been found.
- There are several test holes around the site which Monica will request the data for.

#### **b. Empty Oil and Gas seat**

- Meghan was given a new contact for Pennwest Slave Lake area and will speak to him about joining the LSWC, as Pennwest is a major operator and water user.
- Tammy has been communicating with Shawn Rich from Plains Midstream to fill the seat, who has also offered to attend a board meeting to learn more about the commitment and procedures as the oil and gas representative.

#### **c. New Alberta Wetland Policy**

- General overview of new wetland policy
- Spinoff discussion regarding environmental offsets for farmers to preserve wetlands through carbon credits. Wetlands have become increasingly higher valued as a result of their high degree of carbon sequestration. This is important as an incentive to encourage conservation of wetlands if a carbon credit system were introduced successfully, as farmers need an incentive to preserve wetlands as opposed to using them for farmland. Other, less well known options for private land owners wishing to conserve land include conservation easements through organizations such as Ducks Unlimited or the ACA.
- Board agreement that they would like a government representative to present to board about the policy and to discuss more about the value of wetlands.

Side discussion on heavy metal lead issues within the watershed:

- Information requested about Mission Creek and the lead testing site, specifically the creek data and any notable changes. Meghan will bring data to next meeting.
- Irwin identified that there was a large amount of lead output from SL fire, and that treatment ponds have successfully sequestered lead sequentially in the sausages (geotubes) which collect the sediments from bottom of ponds and dries it out quickly. Typically this sediment can be used as a topsoil, but because of the high lead content must be deposited in the landfill.

## **5. ESRD funding and Projects**

### a. operational grant 2013-14

- LSWC received two cheques this fiscal year for total of \$237,000, the amount requested \$150,000 contract split among 3 projects (b, c, d)

### b. SDM workshop and IWMP Terms of Reference

- IWMP workshop to be held next week on Sept 19, costing a total of \$40,000, and including a summary report and draft terms of reference in February.
- Facilitation of seminar and composition of ToR by Aquality Consulting as determined by the Technical Committee

### c. LSL shoreline bathymetry survey

- Hired AMEC for a \$90,0000 contract to survey 50 km of shoreline west of the narrows, in the Kinuso, Faust, and Joussard area. This will make it easy for future surveying by completing it in clearly defined sections as funding becomes available.
- AMEC will be performing the data collection the week of Sept 23 and will create a geodatabase and report with the information collected.

### d. Core Sample Analysis

- \$20,000 of budget to analyze the two core samples taken from the approximate middle of the east and west basin of the lake after the SL fire in winter 2012.
- A report will be completed after the data is collected from samples.

## **6. Projects**

### a. water quality

- This will be wrapping up in October, and the data will be used to help create a nutrient budget and can be applied to the BATHTUB model created by ESRD Summer Student Carrie Termul.

### b. ASB

- Application due in October, with the focus on improving watershed health on agricultural lands.
- Three year program that will be done in partnership with PCBFA and Ag Service Board.

## **7. Education and outreach updates (Lindsie)**

### 1) Agriculture in the Classroom Little Green Thumbs program

- 5 teachers recruited for program in total: (1) special needs, (1) Grade 4 St. Andrews, (2) Grade 4 HPE, (1) Grade 4 Joussard

- Essentially indoor gardening program in the classroom, support from MD of Big Lakes and local horticulturalist Christie Pollack
- high powered light bulbs and garden kits allow for students to see the full process of gardening, agriculture, where their food comes and relate back to water (will include a watershed related seminar)
- vermicomposting available for classrooms
- fully funded by Ag for Life
- went for training in Leduc August 19, potential to go to Regina October 18 and 19th to discuss how the program relates to water management and to facilitate teacher training

#### 2) Yellow Fish Road program with High Prairie Summer Adventure Camp

- August 8, approximately 15 kids and painted approximately 30 stormdrains
- taught about storm drains, storm water runoff, different land use impacts on the water quality, the effect of improper disposal and debris entering storm drains and the water system

#### 3) Summer Splash Camp with the BCBC and LSFES

- Superhero themed with blue-green algae as the enemy
- scavenger hunt, team building exercises, divided into groups named after animals in the boreal forest. Each group had to make a flag and introduce their animal's 'super power'. For example the beaver has two eye lids and two lips so it can see and chew under water, or the wood frog has antifreeze so it can survive the winter
- Built watershed models with the participants and talked about the effect of different land uses on water quality, as well as went through stations teaching about Marsh Monsters, web of life, and water quality testing.

#### 4) Championing Environmental Education

- Letter to the Minister of Education on behalf of WPACs to incorporate environmental education into the design of the new curriculum
- approached by the Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) at their Championing Environmental Education seminar in Edmonton in June to write a letter to the Minister as province wide groups that are active in schools and environmental education
- currently in draft format, should be available for board approval for the next board meeting - letter addresses what WPACs are, how we meet Water for Life goals and how these both relate to why environmental education is important in schools
- This seminar involved discussing different partnerships, talks from different teachers and how they incorporate environmental education and permaculture in their teachings
- afternoon session largely discussed the curriculum and what the ACEE recommends

#### 5) Ducks Dinner

- November 23, 2013 confirmed date at the Peavine Inn
- confirmed auctioneer Chris Willisroft for the event

- meeting with Laurence Peck of Ducks Unlimited on Friday September 13, 2013 at 6 pm to discuss next stages

6) Fundraiser BBQ

- September 27, 2013 Freson Bros IGA 11 am to 2 pm
- largely donated from IGA, should raise some funds

7) Watershed signage

- looking to create two different signs, one for watershed awareness and one for shoreline awareness
- proofs available
- PennWest funds (\$4500)
- designed by Traci Hansen who made our Fishing Line Recycling signs

7) Golden Walleye youth tournament

- Meghan and Lindsie set up at Shaw's Point on the Friday of the Golden Walleye. Successfully gave away a great deal of information and networked with a variety of different people

8) Children's Activity Book

- Completed and printed for distribution. More copies will be printed prior to trade shows.

9) High Prairie tree planting with TD Bank

- aimed to complete this fall but moved until the spring due to timelines, funding, organization (change of management)
- goal to revive old Esso station brownfield in High Prairie main street (logistics of which to be determined)

10) Fishing Line Recycling

- travelled across the watershed emptying, maintaining and putting up new signs and receptacles
- quite successful, some places not as much but in general they are being used

11) Nona - Work with Rexall to establish a unused prescription drug return to help prevent people from flushing or throwing away irresponsibly their leftover drugs, which eventually can end up in the water system and can be detrimental to aquatic species. L'Heureux offered that information could be set up at the municipal building during the tax payment period due to the volume of people visiting the office.

12) Green products signage with Home Hardware and similar stores

- develop signage advertising for the use of eco friendly products within stores

## 8. Upcoming Events

- IWMP workshop - Sept 19, High Prairie
- WPAC Summit - Sept 24-26, Cold Lake
- ALMS workshop - Sept 27-28, Pigeon Lake
- Learning from Walkerton - Sept 26, Slave Lake (half day)

## 9. Treasurers Report

- spreadsheet of project funding and accounts

**Motion 13-07: N. Elliott/L'Heureux :** To accept the Treasurers Report as presented.

*CARRIED*

## 10. Round Table and Meeting Adjournment

### a) Grouard Lagoon

- concern based on the volume of sewage entering the lagoon, hauling from multiple locations. The basic criteria for the volume that can be accepted is whether or not it is necessary to release more than once a year. Water testing is performed prior to release and one day after release, however Grouard may need to desludge again due to the volume being dumped.
- Couch informed the board that Jousard will stop trucking sewage to the lagoon soon based on the opening of its own water treatment facility and will be able to intake some sewage. Faust and Enilda lagoons are closed to vacuum trucks and Grouard will also soon be closed to vacuum trucks dumping there.
- A large problem is that prohibited materials such as plastic bags are being dumped into the lagoon and some are abusing the system. As a result some sort of monitoring system may need be put into place.

Of note the next meeting will be Rob Irwin and Wilfred Willier's last meeting as neither are running for Town Council in the upcoming Fall election.

Next Meeting Date: **October 17th, 2013 7:00 pm**

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm