

Minutes of:  
**Lesser Slave Watershed Council**  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

**Present at meeting:**

Name:

Meghan Payne  
Lindsie Fairfield  
Murray De Alexandra  
Brian Rosche  
Ed Pollodan  
Lynn Sandquist  
Stefan Plouffe  
Todd Bailey  
Monica Dahl  
Brian & Nona Elliott  
George Gross  
Tammy Kaleta  
Gary Braithwaite  
Kristy Wakeling

Stakeholder Group Represented:

Executive Director  
Watershed Coordinator  
Chairman/Commercial Fishing  
MD of Lesser Slave River  
MD of Big Lakes  
Agriculture  
Town of Slave Lake  
Forestry  
ESRD  
Cabin Owners  
Forestry (alternate)  
Recreation/Fisheries  
ENGO (SARDA)  
ESRD Fish and Wildlife

Regrets:

Gary Couch  
Edna Willier  
Brian Panasiuk

Member at Large  
First Nations  
Town of High Prairie

Board Vacancies:

Oil & Gas  
Tourism  
Métis Settlements

Meeting called to order by Chairman Murray De Alexandra 7:02 pm

**1. Adoption of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Agenda**

**Motion 13-32: B. Elliott/B. Rosche** - Motion to adopt the April 10, 2014 meeting agenda.

*CARRIED*

**2. Adoption of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes**

**Motion 13-33: Bailey/Kaletka** - Motion to adopt the March 13, 2014 Meeting minutes as presented.

*CARRIED*

### **3. Round Table**

- In the future, board should aim to have a themed round table discussion.
- De Alexandria - Concerned about Edson sour gas well leak and would like more details about the emulsion chemicals used and the current state the spill is in.
- Kaleta - Concern regarding SPN article about Faust residential development and proximity to the shoreline, specifically where and how the high water mark was established and if it was done appropriately. Kaleta expressed concerns regarding how current development is setting a precedent for future development process near the shoreline and lake area.  
Discussion following Kaleta's comment:
  - Pollodan - High water lines of Lesser Slave Lake surveyed in 1912 and in 1967, but development processes must take into consideration the most current survey that is from 1967
  - Wakeling - Other considerations taken into account by developers include the one in a hundred year flood marks to take into account frequency and severity of potential flooding.
  - Payne - MD of BL CAO expressed concern in regards to development and its associated pressures and is looking into make a plan within MD policy to address these concerns.
  - Dahl - ESRD distributed the "Stepping back from the water guide" to Municipalities as reference to preferable policy and practices in water management but in general found that there was no appetite from Municipalities to take recommendations from the guide and implement them into policy. For example, the guide recommends development start 15 meters back from high water mark, but most allow development 5 meters back from high water mark.
  - Payne recommended that MD's in the Lesser Slave region consider taking AQUALITY's Jay White's "Municipal Water Bootcamp" course that identifies policy in regards to development, responsibilities and can be used as a planning tool for MD. Pollodan expressed interest and Payne agreed to work to set up with MD BL CAO.
  - Rosche stated that at the MD of 124 their system involves a *Municipal Planning Commission*. In the past, the MD employed a contractor from Edmonton but occurred certain difficulties which led to Commission which uses the development officer and internal resources to make recommendations according to municipal policy.
- Gross - Comments in regards to West Fraser purchase of Buchanan Lumber
  - Operating currently BAU. Buyout was not unexpected due to lack of upgrades to Buchanan mill over past year, and currently undergoing new management and crossover to West Fraser. Believes that the purchase of mill will be good overall because West Fraser is a good company to work for and infrastructure will be

improved. Additionally, it will improve efficiency with sawmill logs processed in HP and peeler logs to SL.

- Proposed plan is to expand mill and increase output
- LSWC should seek to work with West Fraser to improve riparian area near facility in High Prairie area

- N. Elliott - Suggested that CN make a presentation to Board in regards to increased traffic and company safety regulations, M. Dahl has a contact from CN that is willing to present to the group

- Braithwaite - On April 29 at the High Prairie Agriplex SARDA is hosting a Farm Water Management seminar directed at an agriculture audience, aiming for about 20 attendees. Payne to promote event via social media and at High Prairie Agriplex.

- Braithwaite - Notice to Board that there is a RAT meeting April 15.

Wakeling - Will be taking over responsibilities for RAT team. RAT is an organization that has done on the ground projects to help private landowners protect riparian areas through improved understanding of functions, alternative practices and by providing supplies such as fencing. Currently undergoing inventory of projects that have been completed and over viewing successes/points of improvement, meet bi-annually.

- Braithwaite - Will be doing a surveillance flight from Sturgeon to Bezanson to Fahler covering water courses, same data collection focus as last year's flight from Sturgeon to Little Smoky, would like to present information at AGM.

-Also undergoing a pilot project with Ellen Kristoff through grant with Alberta Innovates. Project involves remote sensing using control planes over shoreline of Sturgeon Lake, Smoky and Greenview areas assessing algae blooms along with measuring other factors.

- Bailey - In forestry, technology is advancing to decipher spectral image from infrared image to determine tree species.

- SLFPAC - once organized will send note out, put Payne on agenda for presentation likely around end of May for bi-annual meeting.

- Plouffe - Thanks to Payne for presentation at Town of SL Council meeting who raised the interest of Councilors who were happy for information provided.

- Pollodan - MD of BL were also pleased with information presented in Payne's presentation to MD

- B. Elliott - Would like LSWC presentation at Shaw's Point upcoming AGM in the beginning of September

#### **4. Action item follow up:**

- Meeting with Kapawe'no First Nation

- Meghan and Lindsie met with Chief Halcrow, Councilor Syd Halcrow and Consultation Manager Michelle Knibb on April 2 in Grouard. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how Kapawe'no FN and the LSWC could work together throughout the IWMP project.

- They have concerns with the current FN representation on our board in terms of having each First Nation represented as a board seat instead of a First Nation member at large
- They want the LSWC to work with them under their existing consultation processes.
- A potential FN working group was discussed. The FN's would provide project feedback through this channel.

**ACTION: Kapawe'no First Nation requests a formal letter from the LSWC as a follow up to the meeting and indicating how we would like to move forward.**

Discussion:

- Kaleta - Peter Freeman as member at large potentially
- Dahl - First Nation community should be recognized as community and should have board seats reflecting that. As it is part of the LSWC board mandate to include First Nations and must include for IWMP process, what is the harm of having empty board seats?
  - send meeting minutes to First Nation groups
- Wakeling - possibility of First Nation representatives rotating through board seats (Board believed this option has not worked in the past)
- Bailey - where does LSWC stand in consultation with First Nations (not government or industry), importance of understanding this in order to meet due diligence as organization
- Sandquist - leave door open to First Nations, but should be as volunteers and not paid for attendance
- N. Elliott - create 5 seats on Board for each First Nation and see what results
- Rosche - Disagree with creating five seats, referencing fact that the Board does not have five seats for groups such as oil and gas, or forestry, even though there are multiple different businesses operating under that stakeholder group. Believes the LSWC Board should send a letter to regional council to nominate a member for board seat.
- Wakeling - Suggested discussing with NSWA to see how they fulfilled consultation duty for their IWMP and to make sure that communication is duly recorded to track consultation for reference.
- Longer discussion at Board meeting in May in order to determine response to consultation package, which Payne will scan and email to the board for review. This will in addition prepare for the upcoming AGM in June so that the changes to the bylaws can be agreed upon.

**Motion 13-34: Rosche/B. Elliott** - Motion for administrator to review LSWC First Nation requirements from Department.

*CARRIED*

- **Weir project status**

- Meghan sent an email to Abdi Siad-Omar requesting an official update from ESRD on the status of the weir project including who the project manager is, what the status of the approvals is, and what the desired lake level required to initiate work is.
- A brief email response was returned and we are awaiting an official response from ESRD.

**Motion 13-35: Kaleta/B. Elliott** - Motion to send formal request for project update on weir to next level of government in effort to garner a response to status.

*CARRIED*

- **Board vacancies and alternates**

- Payne has contact for SL Oilman's Association and will be requesting if they have recommendation for Oil & Gas representative for LSWC Board
- AGM - Currently each sector appoints its own member, but Payne proposes this is changed to help make Board representation a more democratic process by voting in a local representative for seats that are not government.
- Next meeting Board will be over viewing current bylaws with proposed changes.

- **Staff contracts**

- The executive need to meet, review draft contract, make changes and present to the Executive Director for approval.

**ACTION: Executive will set up meeting to develop and formalize a staff contract for signing ASAP.**

- **Education and stewardship committee**

- Purpose of the committee is to discuss potential project ideas and how we can better reach out to people in our watershed.
- Need to set a first meeting date, appoint a chair, and discuss current and proposed projects and ideas.
- Current members include Tammy, Nona, Ed, Gary Braithwaite and MJ Kristoff from LSFES.

**ACTION: Fairfield will send out email to committee members to arrange for meeting date before next Board meeting.**

## **5. LSWC Proposed By Law changes**

- Meghan included proposed by law changes for review with the meeting packages.
- At the June 12, 2014 annual general meeting any proposed by law changes will be voted upon by the membership.

**ACTION: Board members will read current by laws and proposed changes and be prepared to discuss and agree upon final changes at the May Board meeting.**

## 6. 2014 AGM

- Will take place in Slave Lake on the evening of June 12th. Likely at Slave Lake Inn & Conference Center to encourage attendance. The BCBC is far enough away it may discourage people.
- Executive Director has developed formal nomination forms for the election process. Many of the board seats are in their 2nd year so these seats will be up for election.

	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>status</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
1	Town of High Prairie	Brian Panasiuk	appointed	none
2	Town of Slave Lake	Stefan Plouffe	appointed	Julie Brandle
3	MD of Big Lakes	Ed Podollan	appointed	Don Charrois
4	MD of Lesser Slave River	Brian Rosche	appointed	Brad Pearson
5	First Nations	Edna Willier	interim	
6	Métis Settlements	<b>vacant</b>		
7	ESRD	Monica Dahl	2nd year	Kristy Wakeling
8	Federal Government	Michael Hunka	interim	
9	Agriculture	Lynn Sandquist	2nd year	
10	Oil and Gas	<b>vacant</b>		
11	Forest Industry	Todd Bailey	2nd year	George Gross
12	Commercial Fishing	Murray De Alexandra	2nd year	
13	Tourism	<b>vacant</b>		
14	Cottage owners and country residential	Brian Elliott	2nd year	
15	Fishing Tournaments and Recreation	Tammy Kaleta	2nd year	
16	ENGO	Gary Braithwaite	1st year	
17	Member at large	Gary Couch	2nd year	
18	proposed seat - Alberta Trappers Association			

- Potential presentations include:
    - CN Rail - pin down what presentation is going to be about (Town of Slave Lake had presentation and was a generic),
    - Presentation about shoreline development, concerns and lessons learned potentially from Nature Alberta Living by Water - i.e. development on Pigeon Lake, Wabamun Lake. De Alexandra has a connection in Pigeon Lake and will get in contact about potentially presenting information at AGM; Dahl recommended looking into contact from Association of Summer Villages for potential presentation about topic.
  - AGM will be advertised publicly, food will be provided.
  - Nomination forms will be at next meeting for approval.
- Annual report will be shortened and condensed into a new format this year.

## 7. Project Updates

**a. IWMP**

- We need to formally establish the Steering Committee and have a first meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities, expectations and elect a chairperson.

**ACTION : Determine how Board would like Steering Committee to be represented.**

- Final Draft Terms of Reference is complete. The final copy is with the designers and we will have our ready for release version on April 11. Meghan will email the board copies.
- We are waiting on approval of project request to move forward with the next steps.
- Draft request for proposals is ready and once Steering Committee is functioning, they will approve it for release.
- Commitment to SC - about once a month and possibly over video/phone conference calls.
- Rosche - Concern that SC participants will not be representative from within watershed and the LSWC, but will be comprised of individuals that are new to the region or do not fully grasp concerns.
- Dahl - Recommend for successful SC that someone needs to take the lead. Her experience as lead of the committee for Wapiti is slightly different as the committee was self-selected, so there was not an issue having volunteers step forward. Also unlike the LSWC, there is no Board of Directors in addition to the committee, which makes the setup different. However, the Wapiti project does employ subcommittees with expertise in specific areas, similar to the Technical Committee for the IWMP. Dahl will ask around to find recommendations of how to form SC from Board of Directors and then have subcommittees and technical groups where necessary.
- Potential to bring in interested member of public through consultation and through workbooks especially if they are known to be knowledgeable individuals.
- Rosche - 11 members too large, potentially drop to nine.

**b. Blue Water Satellite**

- our request for funding was declined. The reasons given include "The committee felt the project does not align with the ACA funding priorities. It was also noted that partnerships are weak; other funding agencies should be approached to contribute to this project such as Alberta Health. "
- Land use modeling may be a better product for land use effects in the watershed.

**c. Rain Barrels and home water conservation project.**

- We have received a \$5,000 RBC Blue Water grant to deliver this project in High Prairie and Slave Lake. We are also using a portion of the funds granted from the Town of High Prairie and Town of Slave Lake towards the total project budget.
- We have budgeted for 100 rain barrels and we will be selling them and distributing the associated information materials the weekend of June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Exact time and location TBD but there will be board volunteer opportunities. RBC staff is interested in helping out in both towns which makes us eligible for an additional \$1000 each from them.

**d. ALMS Conference**

- September 26-27<sup>th</sup> at the Slave Lake Inn and Conference center.

- Proposed topics and speakers include:

- History of LSL, Duane Nichols potentially after dinner

- Board members will be asked to help with registration, emceeing the event, announcing speakers, and acting as field trip guides.

- If you are interested in helping with the organizing and planning please contact the office.

- De Alexandra - Potentially have Guy L'Heureux for presentation as history and speaker, or have joint presentation with Duane Nichols

- Wakeling - Myles has a presentation in regards to fishing in the region; supported by Rosche who viewed the presentation and thought was well done, maybe scale down a bit to include highlights, but recommends that it is included in the conference.

- Payne will contact Board members in regards to next ALMS meeting to give direct feedback to conference planning.

**e. Upcoming Trade show volunteer schedule.**

- Board members are required to volunteer with the staff at the two upcoming trade shows.  
- Slave Lake chamber of commerce trade show will be costing us \$500 for the space. Is this worth the expense? We will also incur travel for staff to drive to and from Slave Lake each day.

- If we buy a chamber membership then we are eligible for a discount on the booth.

- Braithwaite - tradeshow are always a good value; Plouffe agrees that the tradeshow is of good value.

**Motion 13-36: Braithwaite/B Elliott** - Motion to incur extra costs to for booth at Slave Lake tradeshow.

*CARRIED*

**8. Treasurers report**

**Motion 13-37: B. Elliott/Braithwaite** - Motion to adopt the Treasurers report as presented.

*CARRIED*

**9. Meeting adjournment 9:20 pm**

**Motion 13-38: Kaleta/Wakeling** - Motion to adjourn meeting.

*CARRIED*

**Next Meeting Date: May 22, 2014**

**\* Conflicts on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Motion 13-39: Rosche/Pollodan** - Motion to change the next meeting to May 22, 2014.

*CARRIED*

