

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
March 17, 2016
Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Kaylyn Jackson
Tammy Kaleta
Bob Popick
Ron Matula
Lisa Bergen
Shane Knutson
Edna Willier
Tony McWannel
Murray De Alexandra
Brian Rosche

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Tourism and Recreation, Chairperson
Oil & Gas
Big Lakes County
Alberta Environment and Parks
Cottage and Cabin Owners
First nation member at Large
Member at large
Commercial Fishermen
MD of Lesser Slave River

Regrets:

Sandy Willier
Darryel Sowan
Lyle Halcrow
Peter Freeman
Scott Mayston
Todd Bailey
Claude Smith
Michael Long

Sucker Creek First Nation
Swan River First Nation
Kapaweno First Nation
Driftpile First Nation
Trappers
Forest Industry
Agriculture
Town of High Prairie

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large
Environmental Non-Government Organization
Federal Government

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by chair Tammy Kaleta.

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Adoption of March 17, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Copies of the March 17, 2016 Agenda circulated.
- Chair Tammy Kaleta made an addition to the agenda: **2 a. IN camera Session – Staff contracts**

Motion 15-30: De Alexandra/Popick – Motion to Adopt the March 17, 2016 Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

a. In Camera Session – Staff contracts

- BOD reviewed the Staff contracts in camera at the February LSWC meeting. Board members had a shore in camera session to finalize 2 sections of the contract as recommended by the Executive Committee members.

Motion 15-31: Missal/Bergen – *Motion to accept the Executive Director and Watershed Coordinator staff contracts and present them to staff for signing prior to April 1, 2016.*

CARRIED

3. Adoption of February 18, 2016 meeting minutes

- Copies of the February 18, 2016 DRAFT minutes circulated.
- Correction: Tony added as present on February 18th meeting.

Motion 15-32: Matula/De Alexander – *Motion to adopt the February 18, 2016 meeting minutes as amended.*

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report - Meghan

- Outstanding requests for funding include: Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program, TD Friends of the Environment, Alberta Conservation Association & Environment and Parks operational grant.
- Fiscal Year end is March 31, 2016. Can't take the books to the Accountant until we receive our April 15, 2016 bank statement. Bobbi's Accounting will be completing our financial review engagement, our GST return and the financial portion of the CRA annual return prior to our June AGM.
- Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program- Grant applications being accepted until April 22, 2016.
 - Currently don't have a project in mind but have asked fisheries folks for ideas. This is something we should have well planned out ahead of time. We should look for project ideas and partners so that we can put together a good application in the next round.
- Copies of the January 15 – February 15, 2016 treasurers report circulated to BOD.
- Provincial budget is not being released until April 14th so this may impact our notification of funding from Environment and Parks.

Motion 15-33: Rosche/Matula – *Motion to adopt the January 15 – February 15, 2016 Treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

5. Round Table Discussion

- Chair Tammy Kaleta asked for discussion items for the group.
- Meghan – we need to have a bylaw discussion at our April meeting. BOD needs to talk about changes to seats on the BOD and draft by law amendments for review at the May meeting and potential adoption at the June AGM.
- Tri-Council and the MD have questions for the minister/department regarding the weir modification. They would like clarification on whether the flow rate necessary to keep the river from freezing was considered in the calculations or if it was only dissolved oxygen levels that were taken into account. There is concern that the siphons may have to be used again in the

future to prevent freezing. There is a letter that was sent to Shannon Philips. Meghan will request a copy and then send it to the board.

- The chloramination open house in Slave Lake had over 100 people. Because of sharing of misinformation on social media chloramination became a very hot button issue and many people were concerned about potential health risks
- There is concern over applications for accretion around the Joussard Harbor. Land owners applied to Environment and Parks for a title change to include the land accretion along the shoreline, which was granted. Land accretion is in part due to low water levels, but also from the deposition of sediment from marina dredging long ago onto that lot.
- AGM in Slave Lake on June 9th. Where do we want to host our meeting at and whom do we want as a guest speaker.
 - Potentially have a First Nations speaker talk to us about TEK and the history of the area.

6. Review Actions Items from January - All

| Feb 17, 2016 Action Item's | Who | By When | Comments |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|---|
| LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016. | LSWC Board of Directors | Before June 2016 | June 30 th is our reporting deadline. |
| Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places as well as placemat coloring sheets for restaurants. | Kaylyn in progress | April 2016 | |
| Ice fishing awareness materials to be developed quickly and distributed to shacks on the ice before March 31, 2016. contact Bev Anderson for ideas and info. | Kaylyn, Meghan, volunteers | March 5, 2016 | Done - flyer emailed to BOD and local contacts, social media, dropped off at hardware stores in HP, Kinuso, Joussard, Faust. JCA tournament (100) Driftpile (50) Sucker Creek (10) Canyon Creek, Widewater (50) |
| Meghan will revise draft governance manual and send to the BOD to review and provide comment. Goal of adopting it as policy by June AGM. | Meghan | March 15, 2016 | IN progress. |
| The LSWC will encourage the local Municipalities and First Nations to get involved with the Water North Coalition. | Meghan | Ongoing | Sent out update on march 22, 2016 |
| Reach out to the Slave Lake OHV club to talk about opportunities for education around OHVs and watersheds. | Kaylyn | April 2016 | Contact Adam Gongos of Whitecap Recreation in Slave Lake. |
| Edna will get copies of the LSLIRC animal health studies for the BOD's information | Edna | March 2016 | Done |
| Work with Environment and Parks to get a firm statement around First Nations engaging with WPAC's and that this does not constitute any form of official consultation | Meghan | ASAP | In progress. Lisa Bergen has been helping to communicate our request to Indigenous Relations, E&P in soon releasing statements regarding WPACs and FN engagement. |
| Summer Outreach idea - register for and prepare parade floats for the High Prairie Elks parade and the Slave Lake River Boat Dayz parade. | Kaylyn & summer student | July-August | |
| Set up a meeting with Ernie Hui when his staff get in touch with us. | Meghan | April 14, 2016 | April 14 th in Slave lake at the Town Council chambers |

7. Executive Director Updates - Meghan

a. Ernie Hui Meeting – April 14th

- We will be having our April BOD meeting in Slave Lake and Ernie Hui will be joining us. He would like to talk to the board about a number of things in his new role as Special Advisor on Water Quality.
- Topics of Discussion may include: future roles of WPAC's, how we can support the GOA, how can the GOA better support WPAC's.

Action: Meghan will prepare a list of speaking points for the BOD and send them out a week prior to April's meeting. Meghan will also prepare a document highlighting the LSWC's achievements for Ernie to take back as information.

b. IWMP project

- Deadline for proposals for a watershed planner is March 22, 2016. The Steering Committee will be reviewing and scoring the proposals we receive and having a conference call to discuss and choose who we want to work with going forward.
 - Can't hire anyone until we get confirmation of funding. Goals is to have a kick off meeting the week of April 11, 2016.
- Alan has completed the IWMP communication and Engagement plan for 2016 and it has been emailed to the Steering Committee and BOD.
- Public Summary document of 2015 workshops and efforts is complete and our webpage is being updated to include a summary of this and a link to the report.
- Meghan and Lisa have been working to secure commitments of Technical Advisory Team members. The GOA staff have been very supportive although there are concerns about time commitments. Many of the NGO's have limited capacity and staff and so far DFO, and Alberta Conservation Association have declined participation. AEMERA is also very limited in how actively they can participate but will do what they can to support technical requests.

c. Athabasca River Basin Initiative

- Meghan attended a Project Steering Committee meeting in Edmonton on February 26th.
- WaterSMART is waiting for Phase 3 funding and will then be setting up working group meetings.
- Steering Committee is going to have less of a role going forward and it will be the working group participants that drive the project and its process.
- Denise and Mike are in the area this week meeting with Aboriginal groups, we have helped them make contact.
- There are 2 documents out for review. The First is the **draft list of water issues, interests, and opportunities in the ARB**. Phase 3 will only address issues within the scope of Phase 3 work (surface water, climate, land use). Other issues and opportunities can be addressed in future phases or in other appropriate forums. This list will help inform what mitigation, adaptation and management options will be modelled and explored to address water issues in the basin.
- The **draft Performance Measures (PMs)** is the other document for review. These draft PMs were based on the issues, interests, and opportunities identified in the first document, as well as previously completed work in the basin (e.g., Northern Rivers Basin Study, State of the Watershed reports). The PMs will be used to look at the

differences in modelling simulations and options in Phase 3, and should reflect our interests in the basin (e.g., fish spawning, transportation, flooding, low flow triggers, water supply/storage issues, etc.).

Action: Meghan will send the LSWC the 2 ABRI project documents and outline the type of feedback asked of us from Mike Nemeth. BOD is asked to have feedback to Meghan via email by April 13, 2016.

d. Water Bootcamp for Local Governments

- 2014 Water Bootcamp event was really well received and there is the desire to have more learning opportunities like this.
- Jay White has said that he would be happy to come up and do another session. His cost is \$5000. We can charge \$50 per person and recoup some of our costs.
- Key Participants: MD council and Staff, Municipal Planning Commission members, First Nations, developers.
- Topics to be covered: Policy around water including wetland policy, riparian and shoreline areas and why they are significant to lake health, case study: good example of smart planning in AB.
- Board will discuss this again after we receive confirmation of funding for 2016-17 year.

8. Education and Outreach updates – Kaylyn

a. Ice fisherman outreach

- Poster created and distributed: Email, Facebook, HP, SL, and Kinuso hardware stores, Strawberry Creek, Driftpile FN (50), Sucker Creek (10), Canyon Creek, Widewater, and Nine Mile areas (50 by volunteers), Jousard Community Association fishing Tourney registration packages (100).
- Talk to enforcement people about doing more.

b. Green Acreage Workshops

- High Prairie – April 21, 2016 from 6pm-10pm at the High Prairie Agriplex.
- Slave Lake – April 23, 2016 from 10-3:00 at NLC in Slave Lake.
- Both MD Ag departments are joining us to talk about weed management and municipal initiatives relevant to property owners.
- Advertising: social media, email, mail chimp list, local newspapers, posters, utility bills in MD, send to BOD.
- Costs: meals, rental, green acreage binders (15), advertising, travel.

c. Trade shows

- High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show – April 16-17, 2016
- Slave Lake chamber of Commerce Trade Show – May 6-7, 2016
- Board volunteers needed to help out during these times.

d. Rain barrel fundraiser

- Kicking off next week on March 21, 2016. People can purchase online from the rain barrel website (which was not popular last year) or they can use our order form and order through us.
- Need a location to have rain barrels dropped off on Thursday May 26, and used for Friday Distribution in HP from 3-7pm.

- Slave Lake pick up date will be Saturday the 28th from 11-3 at the visitor info center. Meghan has a truck and trailer that can fit up to 60 rain barrels in it.

Other Education and Outreach Information items:

- Staff is having an education outreach meeting with the LSFES on March 24 to talk about summer programming and addition of Xtreme Science to the programming.
- Have done 2 Caring for our Watershed presentations in High Prairie and planning to do more this month at PRJH. Kaylyn will be attending the CFW competition in Wetaskawin in May and helping the organizers.
- Our caring for our watershed video will be complete soon and posted on social media and our website as well as the CFW website.
- Setting up High Prairie School Division, and northlands School Division meetings to talk about the education and outreach programs we can offer schools.
- We are now an official Swim Guide Affiliate.
- Watershed Moments: get more information. Kaylyn will talk to Prairie FM about getting copies of adds.

9. First Nations and working with the WPAC

- We need to determine how we can best engage and work with First Nations at the Board level and determine if a By Law change is Necessary at our June AGM.
- Do each of the Nations want a seat on the BOD and to be involved in the governance and oversight of the organization?
- Other scenarios?
 - NSWA – First Nations participate and come to meetings as observers and advisors to the BOD.
 - MPWA – upper, middle, and lower watershed FN board seats.
- We are awaiting a statement from the province about WPAC's and First Nations engagement. We have been told it is in progress and Indigenous Relations branch is working on it. This will hopefully clarify things so that we can move forward.

Motion 15-34: Rosche/De Alexandra– *Motion to send a letter to the 5 First Nations presenting 2 options for board level participation and requesting that they discuss and determine steps forward that would work for their Nations.*

CARRIED

10. Review Action Items, upcoming meetings and events, meeting adjournment.

CWRA Conference – Red Deer, AB – April 3-5th

LSWC Regular Board meeting – Slave Lake, AB @7:00pm on April 14th, 2016

High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show – High Prairie, AB April 16-17, 2016 (volunteers needed)

Green Acreage Guide Workshop – High Prairie Agriplex, April 21, 2016 @6:00pm

Green Acreage Guide Workshop – Slave Lake – Northern Lakes College 10am-2pm

WPAC Quarterly managers meeting – Red Deer – April 26, 2016

Water North Coalition Meeting – Athabasca – April 27, 2016

Motion 15-35: De Alexandra/Popick – *Motion to adjourn the March 17, 2016 meeting of the Board at 9:30pm.*

CARRIED

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| Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places as well as placemat coloring sheets for restaurants. | Kaylyn | April 2016 | In progress time permitting |
| Meghan will revise draft governance manual and send to the BOD to review and provide comment. Goal of adopting it as policy by June AGM. | Meghan | April 1, 2016 | In progress. |
| The LSWC will encourage the local Municipalities and First Nations to get involved with the Water North Coalition. | Meghan | Ongoing | Sent out update on March 22, 2016 |
| Reach out to the Slave Lake OHV club to talk about opportunities for education around OHVs and watersheds. | Kaylyn | April 2016 | Contact Adam Gongos of Whitecap Recreation in Slave Lake. |
| Work with Environment and Parks to get a firm statement around First Nations engaging with WPAC's and that this does not constitute any form of official consultation | Meghan | ASAP | E&P soon releasing statements regarding WPACs and FN engagement. |
| Register before and prepare parade floats for the High Prairie Elks parade and the Slave Lake River Boat Dayz parade. | Kaylyn & summer student | July-August | |
| Meghan will prepare a list of speaking points for the BOD and send them out a week prior to April's meeting. Meghan will also prepare a document highlighting the LSWC's achievements for Ernie to take back as information. | Meghan | April 7, 2016 | |
| Action: Meghan will send the LSWC the 2 ABRI project documents and outline the type of feedback asked of us from Mike Nemeth. BOD is asked to have feedback to Meghan via email by April 13, 2016. | Meghan | March 22, 2016 | |
| BOD made a motion to send a letter to the 5 First Nations presenting 2 options for board level participation and requesting that they discuss and determine steps forward that would work for their Nations. | Meghan, Lisa, Tam, Edna | March 24, 2016 | |
| LSWC will send a letter to municipalities and towns requesting that their committee appointment to our BOD be for the full 4 years of a municipal term rather than changing members annually. They may also appoint a staff person if this is desirable and will improve the communication between organizations. | Meghan Tammy | April 2016 | |