

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
November 17th, 2016
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Kaylyn Jackson
Tammy Kaleta
Shane Knutson
Linda Cox
Todd Bailey
Scott Mayston
Murray De Alexandra
Claude Smith
Jule Asterisk
Rodrick Willier
Robert Nygaard

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Tourism and Recreation (chair)
Cottage and cabin owners
Town Of High Prairie
Forest Industry
Trapper
Commercial Fisherman
Agriculture
NGO'S
Sucker Creek First Nation
Big Lakes County

Regrets:

Bob Popick/Spencer Zelman
Tony McWhannel/Bob Jackle
Peter Freeman
Jamie Bruha
Brian Rosche/Brad Pearson

Oil and Gas
Member at Large
Driftpile First Nation
Alberta Environment and Parks
MD of LSR

1. Welcome

- Chair Tammy Kaleta called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

2. Adoption of Nov 17, 2016 meeting agenda

- Copies of the Nov 17, 2016 agenda were distributed.
- Chair called for additions/amendments to the agenda

Motion 16-15: De Alexandra/Asterisk – Motion to adopt the November 17th, 2016 Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Oct 20, 2016 meeting minutes

- Copies of the Draft Oct 20, 2016 meeting minutes were circulated.
 - Spelling correction and a note that Keepers of the Athabasca provided a letter of response will be added to the minutes.

Motion 16-16: Smith/Bailey – Motion to adopt the October 20th, 2016 meeting minutes as corrected.

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report

- Executive Director distributed copies of the Sept 15 – Oct 15, 2016 treasurers report for the Board.

Motion 16-17: Mayston/Nygaard – Motion to adopt the Sept 15 – October 15, 2016 Treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

- Meghan is looking into an online platform to receive donations. We are signed up with Benevity.org which is a portal people can use to donate to the LSWC.
- Executive Director also presented a breakdown of the non-government funding that the LSWC has in our project account.
- Recommendations include:
 - Keep \$30,000 in account to cover the operational grant gap expected in April 2017.
 - Expenditure of some funds for promotional items, interactive watershed model kit, shelving and supplies for new office, and earmarking \$5,000 for our 2017 LSFES donation.
 - Board members can request a copy of this internal document via email.

Motion 16-18: Nygaard/Asterisk – Motion to approve the expenses from the project account as outlined in the Executive Director update.

CARRIED

5. Review action items from October

Action Item:	Who	By When	Comments
Form subcommittee for Governance and Policy Manual discussion and review, supported by Executive Director	Tony, Tammy, Jamie,	Time permitting	Staff will set up a governance and policy session with GOA facilitators.
Engage with partners (GOA, MD's) to host an AIS workshop in our watershed before the spring 2017 tourism season starts.	MP, KJ, BOD	Before May 2017	In progress. Will be in January
Board members will bring ideas for engaging the ice fishing community this winter to promote keeping our lake clean. Staff will find examples from other lakes.	BOD & Staff	Nov 17, 2016	In progress
Board of Directors will encourage people in their sectors to complete the online response survey based on the IWMP summary document	Board	Done	Meghan sent link to survey and summary doc to BOD for sharing.
Staff will contact Ross Giroux at the Driftpile School about being involved in the 2017 culture camps they host in the summer	Kaylyn	Before spring	
Peter and Meghan will work on planning a community meeting with Driftpile First nation to share information about who we are and what we do.	Meghan Peter	January 2017	PF - Recommendation is to wait until the new year after their council elections.
Share the response from Hutchinson Environmental with Keepers of the Athabasca	Meghan	When it arrives	DONE

6. Round Table discussion

- The idea to start fundraising specifically to fund education and stewardship was brought forward. This could be done in conjunction with the online donation button we are looking into.
 - Staff will develop a donor package with levels for support. We want to do something more fun than the traditional gold, silver bronze sponsorship options.
- Ideas to engage students and schools were put forward including:
 - Become more involved in science and career fairs
 - Host a poster contest for Aquatic Invasive species prevention or another lake issue
- Robert Nygaard is going to be meeting with Alberta Environment and Parks to discuss hosting an open house in Faust to update citizens on what is happening with the osmosis site. Once he has that date, time and other relevant information he will forward it to Megan who will make sure all BOD members receive the information.
- The MD of Big Lakes is going to be hosting a Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Workshop in Jousard on the 23rd of November.
- We revisited the issue of sedimentation and erosion in the east basin. This will be covered more thoroughly in our IWMP
- The Keepers of the Athabasca have been approved to do a health study in the Kinuso area extending downward to Swan Hills. Jule Asterisk will be presenting on this study to The Town of Slave Lake, Big Lakes County and other municipalities outside of the watershed on this to get feedback and input.
- The Town of Slave Lake has a new Tourism Task Force

7. Watershed Planning updates

- Steering committee will be meeting December 13 in High Prairie.
- Stakeholder workshops in October went well. 11 Board members and alternates were in attendance, thanks to everyone who made time to participate.
- Municipal Working Groups meeting went well and we received lots of feedback from that meeting that Sandi is addressing.
- Alan is working on an engagement report that summarizes all we heard though the workshops, MWG, and the online survey (30 responses). This will be available in December.
- In February the Second Draft plan will be out and we will again be meeting with the Municipal working group, Steering Committee and TAC. We won't be holding another round of workshops, rather using online communication to our stakeholder list to get feedback from them.
- BY the end of this year we will have some feedback on our second draft and depending on how that goes we may need more time and work put into it.
- Tammy Kaleta Provided an update on the meeting that happened with Swan River First Nation. The main points discussed include
 - Swan River feels like they have to small of a voice within the large scale of our IWMP
 - They wish to keep the lines of communication open but do not want to participate at a board level
 - They would like support and funding from the LSWC to complete a sub basin plan for the Swan River.

8. Executive Director Updates

a. WPAC Summit update and actions

- Meghan, Kaylyn, Tammy, Bob and Peter went to the WPAC Summit at the Grey Eagle Casino. Registration cost us \$1250.
- Agenda items included short WPAC updates from around the province, source water protection planning guide for the South Saskatchewan region, WPAC's and regional planning, WPAC value and successes, and an address from Ernie Hui.
- **WPAC's in Regional Planning** – Shannon Frank of the Old Man Watershed council, Dave Trew of the NSWA, and Heather Sinton, from the GOA held a panel discussion to share their experiences in working on the South Saskatchewan, and now the North Saskatchewan Regional Plans. Key messaging:
 - There needs to be more communication between GOA and WPACs in regards to planning and in general. Think ahead to our regional planning (Upper Athabasca) and how we can bring forward key watershed issues.
 - WPAC's have been effective in communication and engagement and bringing balanced view points to attention.
 - Be prepared for the regional planning process with key issues and information around them.
- Ernie Hui's presentation covered some but not all of the major items of concern that were brought forward by WPACs in May after his visits:
 - **The future roles of WPACs in State of the Watershed reporting.** The Chief Scientist under the new Science, Monitoring and Reporting Branch is to produce State of the Environment reports going forward. This includes air, water and biodiversity. More internal discussion needs to happen to determine the future of watershed reporting.
 - In the past the GOA has not done an adequate job of timely monitoring and reporting and there is a role for WPAC's here in some cases.
 - **Need to align watershed stewardship groups better with WPAC work.** Ernie gave the impression that WSG's are not aligned with our priorities, but they are their own individual groups, not governed in any way by what the WPAC's are doing. These small groups are often the advocates on political and community issues. WSG's are one of the Water for Life Partners, which do not follow a hierarchy.
 - **Next Steps from GOA:**
 - Rick Blackwood's staff (Wayne Crosby and Cam Lane) will consolidate all the discussions and prepare a report to clarify the roles and responsibilities of WPACs by the end of the year.
 - Objectives are to clarify the roles and responsibilities of WPACs in Alberta's regional planning system and outline government support to ensure the WPACs will continue to add value to the system.
 - We should continue to engage with Robert Stokes and Andrew Schoepf regarding funding etc.
 - We opened his eyes as to what it means to serve at the local level and that our system is not functioning overly well.

Action: Meghan has prepared a draft letter to Ernie Hui and his team as a follow up to the information shared at the Summit. The Board will review and approve the letter to be sent out by Dec. 2, 2016.

Action – Meghan will send a copy of Ernie’s Presentation to the Board for information when she receives it.

Action: Meghan will email the breakdown of WPAC funding across AB to the Board.

b. 2017-18 work plan and funding

IWMP Workplan

- After March 31 Sandi’s contract is expired. We will be seeking GOA support to finish our plan and complete and the associated communication and engagement associated with the plan release. Development and printing of a summary document is another piece of work along with developing an implementation guide.
- Meghan and the project team will be talking in more detail about next steps and budget in the coming month and continue to give the Board updates.

Tributary Monitoring project

- Meghan has been working on a project proposal to begin monitoring in Spring 2017.
- Regional Limnologist Jana Tondu is helping with project design and parameters and has reached out to the new Monitoring Branch to get them engaged and on board.
- We need to start small and focus on major issues which include sediment loading and Phosphorus.
- 8 sites have been identified that correspond with existing data sets.
- Cost of monthly samples during open water, with nutrient, fecal coliforms and solids is about \$12,000 a year. Travel, shipping, supplies etc will be another \$4500 for a total yearly cost of: \$16,500. This does not include a technical assessment and write up on data.
 - Staff time will be about 2 days a month for field work, prep, and data entry.
- We have enough money allocated to cover the first year of monitoring. Going forward we plan to see industry support to continue the program.

Riparian and wetland projects

- The LSWC recently submitted interim grant report to WRRP staff.
- We have 4 producer projects that will finish up next year. These are supported by the WRRP grant and municipal contributions.
- Project journals will be created and published for each project as a report and to use in engagement as success stories.
- We will apply for more funds to continue on the ground work if another round of WRRP funding opens up.
- If you have potential ideas and sites please let us know

OHV Club – Bridge for Sawridge Creek

- Staff have been working with the Slave Lake OHV club to put together a project plan and budget to have an OHV bridge installed across Sawridge Creek at the most popular OHV crossing South of Slave Lake.
- Field tour with Public Lands staff and discussion about using the existing debris trap structure to attach a bridge to. Likely issues with liability and licensing but we are looking into it.
- Therese is helping us find out what needs to be done to get an approval as well as getting us the provincial standards on bridges of this type.

- Next Steps: develop detailed project plan and budget, seek community support and funding, apply for grants to fund the work.
- LSWC staff can help with administration and grant writing, OHV club is going to provide volunteers, seek local support, be directly involved in the project work.
- Signage for trails is also something that will be moving forward and West Fraser is interested in sponsoring them.

c. Nation Builder

- New on-line software platform that we will be using going forward to track all of our communication and stakeholders. It focuses on relationships and managing your contacts. Cost: \$300 a year
- All contacts are in the data base and can be assigned tags, added to lists, or groups however you need. Social media accounts are linked to it and we can track engagement.
- **Recommendation** to move our website into Nationbuilder. It will be fully integrated with our social media and everything is hosted and managed in the same place including donations. Quote for the website transfer and rebuild is \$1250 and would be expensed from project account. Board was in favor.
- Stakeholder engagement – all of the 200+ IWMP contacts have been entered, and users can track interactions conversations with each person and save them.

d. New LSWC office

- Currently LSWC office has been outgrown and we have found a suitable and well priced space a few blocks away. Room for staff, meetings, and lots of storage.
- Mike Larose owns the building and will lease it to us for 2 years at \$1000 a month + GST.
- Official move in Date is January 2, 2017. But we receive the keys in December so we can paint, and put up some shelving etc.
- Tammy is working on designing a new sign for us for the front of our new building.

e. Other updates

- Meghan was contacted by Kuni Alberts, who is working with Sawridge First nation on a project that involved connecting an ox bow back to the main stem of the Lesser Slave River by removing the berm created when the channel was straightened in the 80's.
- Main objective is to restore the natural channel and add northern pike spawning habitat back to the system.
- She would like our in kind support for the project as well as a letter of support for their DFO grant application due December 9th.

Action: Meghan will draft a letter of support for the Lesser Slave River project and send to Kuni before the grant deadline.

9. Education and Outreach Updates – Kaylyn

- Little Green Thumbs: Supplies have been delivered and gardens are being set up. Kaylyn has done 4 classroom presentations so far and will be planning more for the new year

- Caring for Our Watersheds: information packets have been given to all of the Junior High and High Schools. Kaylyn has done one presentation so far and will follow up with more teachers in the new year
- Ice fishing Awareness: Staff have redone the flyer from last year and it was given to the board for feedback. Suggestions will be incorporated in the final draft. We plan to make these available around the lake and with all Ice Hut Rentals.

AIS workshop

- Want to organize and hold in February so that Municipalities and lake shore operators have time to implement AIS prevention programs by the time Lake season starts.
- Emails and voicemails have been left for Kate Wilson, team lead of the Provincial AIS team. We hope to co-host with her team as they have a ton of knowledge and resources.
- Will follow up on ASAP to get a date nailed down.

Watershed Wise

- Letters have been sent to: HPE, St. Andrews, St. Mary of the Lake, CJ Schurter, and Driftpile school to offer them the watershed wise kits and set up times for Kaylyn to meeting with the staff and do a short orientation with them on how to use the board and its accompanying resources.
- 2 meetings scheduled for the December 9th PD day.

Other Items

- Meghan and Kaylyn are meeting with the Woods and Water Trail Club on November 29th in Slave Lake to share information and talk about working collaboratively.

10. Review action items, upcoming events, next meeting dates

December 1, 2016 – ABRI Working group meeting #2 - Edmonton, AB
 December 13, 2016 – IWMP Steering Committee Meeting, West Fraser Board room, High Prairie, AB @10am
 December 8, 2016 – LSWC Board meeting, Kinuso, AB @6:30pm
 January 12, 2017 – Governance and Policy session, 3:00pm – 6pm in Kinuso.
 January 12, 2016 – LSWC Board meeting, 7pm in Kinuso.

11. Meeting adjournment

Motion 16-19: De Alexandra/Nygaard – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm

CARRIED