

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
 January 16, 2014
 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
Monica Dahl	ESRD
Brian Panasiuk	Town of High Prairie
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Brian Rosche	MD of 124
Stefan Plouffe	Town of Slave Lake
Kristy Wakeling	Fish & Wildlife
Todd Bailey	Forestry
Gary Braithwaite	ENGO - SARDA

Regrets:

Brian and Nona Elliot	Cabin and cottage owners
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation
Edna Willier	LSIRC - First Nations
Sherrie Hay	Tourism
Ed Pollodan	MD of Big Lakes
Gary Couch	Member at Large

Board Vacancies:

Oil & Gas

Meeting called to order by Chairman Murray De Alexandra 7:05 pm

1. Adoption of January 16, 2014 Agenda

Motion 13-20: Plouffe/Wakeling - Motion to adopt agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of December 5, 2013 Minutes

Motion 13-21: Rosche/Sandquist - Motion to adopt December 5th, 2013 Minutes

CARRIED

3. Round Table

- Each person around the table is asked to share something watershed related as it pertains to their sector or the LSWC.
 - *Rosche* - grant work and support from LSWC for fish cleaning station in Canyon Creek
 - *Payne* - need for board development, management and governance
 - *Sandquist* - concern over direction of LSWC as organization and whether the goals and objectives are being successfully accomplished;
 - should a different alternate for agriculture be approached instead of Lorne Pratt who has been largely uninvolved in meetings and the LSWC. Responsibility to find alternate board representative should lay largely on active Board member.
 - *Dahl* - uncertain of future jurisdiction and involvement due to change in region based on Environment and SRD merger into ESRD
 - *Wakeling* - excited to move towards board development in process of developing IWMP
 - *Bailey* - expressed importance of efforts to align the SL Forest Public Advisory Committee (SLFPAC) and LSWC, and would like LSWC representation at future SLFPAC meetings. Additionally, expressed importance of ensuring that the IWMP aligns with LUF and Forest Management Plans. The SL Regional Forest Management Plan ToR has been approved and organization of the planning development team has started. Submission date for the FMP is scheduled for February 2018.
 - *Braithwaite* - In attendance at the North Heart River Restoration program meeting a partnership between SARDA, Northern Sunrise County, PCBFA, MPWA, Fish & Wildlife which is using funding to draft a restoration plan for the North Heart River. This restoration plan aims to help reestablish Arctic Grayling habitat and populations. Several proposals on plans include tree planting in important riparian areas, removal of weir-like structure, and fencing. Will be applying for ACA grant for a riparian project, uncertain of location.
 - Potential to engage groups such as 4H Club, Cows & Fish (Battle River Watershed outreach event) in restoration projects and activities.
 - *Panasiuk* - conflict of LSWC meeting dates with other Board representation; Board agrees to change LSWC meeting dates to the second Thursday of every month, starting in February 2014.
 - *Plouffe* - Town of SL interested in training session potentially hosted in April in regards to the LSWC organization;
 - request for LSWC funding proposed for 2014 Town of SL budget
 - *Rosche* - ALMS conference set to go in Fall 2014 in Slave Lake, the organizing committee has yet to be established.
 - *Fairfield* - outreach update to be provided within meeting agenda
 - *Kaletka (through Braithwaite)* - recreational representatives unlikely to attend meetings held during the day. For future reference, Board agreed that potentially hosting longer sessions after hours or on weekends may be a more viable option for some.

Action Items:

Board meeting date change to second Thursday of each month, starting February 13, 2014.

Sector representatives responsible to provide an alternate and to notify them if unable to attend meetings.

4. WPAC Roles presentation and discussion

- Meghan prepared a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the content of the Water for Life: Enabling partnerships document. The purpose is to familiarize the board members, new and old, with what our roles as a WPAC and as an organization are.
- The BOD was provided digital copies of the document to review prior to the meeting.
- Copies of this presentation are available via email.

Discussion Points:

- partnership with GoA - appreciative of technical project support and Board participation from Wakeling & Dahl.
- GoA operational funding has been available yearly as well as some financial support for project funding.
- Dahl - Payne accessing grant funding for projects, largely made possible through support from GoA
- Goal implementation of partnership - adaptive management cycle
- Need to implement staff performance review from Board
- First Nations representative - Status of Edna and representation of LSIRC as First Nations sector; Panasiuk and other new Board members may have connections interested in becoming involved with the LSWC. Members expressed the importance of visiting and continuing efforts to contact and involve First Nations within the Lesser Slave Watershed in planning and projects. Potential avenue of contact for First Nation groups could be through the GoA Consultation Manager (Kurt Borzel).

Implementation successes:

- Fulfilling Board positions collectively - potentially contact Leo from PennWest for Board representation of Oil & Gas Sector.
- Wide range of issues brought to table including local to more regional issues - strong communication strength of issues brought forward by Board members.
- School programs and education and outreach in comparison with other WPAC groups.
- Filling data gaps that exist within our watershed.

Implementation shortfalls:

- Poor overall engagement with First Nations.
- Focus ideas that come forward and find a way to make possible through prioritizing projects that are achievable.
- Communication with other WPAC groups, especially neighboring organizations such as the MPWA with similar mandates and goals. Swap meeting minutes with other organizations to share ideas and resources. Board agrees to post approved minutes online.

- Angelo Murphy will be joining us for a board development session on March 13, 2014 prior to our regular board meeting. Due to change in meeting will double check with Murphy to ensure availability.
- Strategic planning session with Murphy to be scheduled to update 2013-16 rolling plan as well as develop a comprehensive governance document.

Action Items: EVERYONE on the BOD will check emails regularly and respond as necessary.

5. Strategic Planning for 2014-15 & Discussion

- 2014-15 operational plan needs to be submitted with our Grant application package on Feb 10, 2014.
- Meghan has prepared a draft 2014-15 operational plan and budget that aligns with our 4 strategic goals. This will be with work plan for the 2014-15 year.
- Document was projected and the BOD went through it as a group.
- Improve monitoring for Lake Days and other activities for engagement - create a spreadsheet for measurement of successes and failures.
- Dahl - Blue Water Satellite application update to ACA, what is the information gained - is there more value of locating the source of phosphorus from the landscape as opposed to reinforcing data of an already known presence. Blue Water imagery shows progression of algal growth over time, and is supported as references used in Pigeon Lake eutrophication issues and will help determine the effect of effluent discharged from sewage lagoons. Project deliverable will not just include imagery but also a comprehensive report comparing phosphorus levels and trends.
 - Potential for future project is land use model called the ALCES model, which quantifies the source levels of phosphorus.
 - Ideas: Wakeling - awareness and riparian planting near new baseball diamonds in Slave Lake near truck stop, pushed bank into side channel
 - Adjust budget for budget for TOR public and stakeholder consultation to \$30,000 from \$50,000 as recommended by Dahl

Motion 13-22: Rosche/Braithwaite To approve 2014-15 operational plan and budget as amended by Board of Directors.

CARRIED

- The Board of Directors needs to get together for a facilitated strategic planning session in early 2014 to update our rolling 3 year Strategic plan. Angelo Murphy, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit is available to facilitate this session. It will be an estimated 2-3 hours because we already have a working version.
- Maintain updates of funding spreadsheet and bring forward for Board review at AGM

6. Project Updates

a. IWMP

- Workshop summary is complete and has been emailed to the BOD and project team.
- ESRD has been invoiced for this portion of the project and we are awaiting payment.
- Preliminary Draft Terms of Reference Document will be available for project team review prior to the February 20th stakeholder session with Aquality Environmental.

Save the Dates have been sent for this session, board attendance and participation is strongly encouraged.

- **Bathymetry** work is pretty much complete. Data has been uploaded and report has been reviewed by technical team and AMEC is working on final edits. We have received payment from ESRD for \$65,000 for the Field work.

- **Core Sample analysis** - has been completed and the labs have been paid \$20,000 directly by ESRD as they don't have to pay GST. A grant amendment to this effect was signed.

Action Items: BOD will share the Feb 20th invitation to people in their sectors and confirm attendance with Meghan or Lindsie.

b. Water Quality

- 2014-15 project request for updated SOW report on Water Quality. Project tech team will be discussing deliverables and budget prior to the Feb 10th deadline for grant packages. More detail and an RFP will need to be developed when funding is confirmed.
- Sewage lagoon sampling comparison for phosphorus - Wadewater discharge less than Jousard and Enilda, will be awaiting latest sample information from Payne.
- Sewage lagoon discharge measurement and monitoring is not a responsibility of the LSWC and this falls under the MD's jurisdiction. The 2013 water quality data obtained by the Watershed Town's and MD's is forwarded to the LSWC and will be included in annual monitoring reports and the updated SOW.
- First Nation sewage treatment and water quality discharge data can be obtained from Health Canada, but must undergo process - obtain from Wakeling
- New data to be included: 2012-13 nutrient sampling, 2006 paleolimnology data, 2012 paleolimnology data, 2012 lake water quality samples,
- Water Quality SOW update will follow standardized indicators for water quality.
- Funding - LSWC has \$30,000 in the bank earmarked for nutrient calculations and reporting. additional funds will be required to deliver a full water quality report.

c. Education and Stewardship

- New website is up and running. BOD are asked to send information and suggestions for content and posts.

- E&S committee will call a meeting in February. Interested people are welcome to attend and get involved even if they are not on the board.
- Winter newsletter - will be a Mail Chimp template to share online rather than all print copies, as this has not been effective in the past. Feedback from the Board in regards to what they would like included in Newsletters and in outreach projects.
- Looking to plan a snow shoeing or cross country skiing event on the Grouard Peace trail in partnership with NLC and Grouard-Peace River Trail Society.
- Little Green Thumbs program underway in schools.

Action Item: Board and non-board member involvement in E&S Committee and in organizing a date for Committee meeting.

7. Treasurers Report

a. Funding applications

ESRD - operational and projects for 2014-15 - **Feb 10, 2014**

ACA - Blue Water Satellite Project (Jan 31, 2014)

TDFEF - Education and awareness costs (Feb 15, 2014)

RBC Blue Water - urban focused water quality improvements (Feb 4, 2014)

- Copies of the Nov-Dec treasurers report were distribute as well as a project budget tracking spreadsheet for review.

Motion 13-23: Rosche/Sandquist - Motion to approve the treasurer report as presented.

CARRIED

Additional discussion items:

- Braithwaite - Would like update and more information in regards to the weir on the West Prairie River behind the High Prairie Agriplex - Payne will look into it; ESRD operations office in Peace River would have the information.
- ALMS conference - idea to engage First Nations by having an elder or aboriginal speak at the conference as outreach and participation.
- ask First Nations for pictures as means of engagement with some sort of incentive or reward i.e. historic/cultural pictures for calendar

8. Meeting Adjournment: 9:55 pm

Motion 13-24: Dahl/Sandquist Motion to adjourn January 16, 2014 LSWC meeting.

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: February 13, 2014 - *Meeting date updated to second Thursday of each month, excluding December, July and August*