

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
October 8th, 2015
Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Tammy Kaleta
Stefan Plouffe
Brian Rosche
Robert Nygaard
Bob Popick
Todd Bailey
Shane Knutson
Scott Mayston
Tony McWhannel

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Tourism and Recreation, Chairperson
Town of Slave Lake
MD of Lesser Slave River
Big Lakes County
Oil and Gas
Forest Industry
Cottage Owners
Trappers
Member at Large

Regrets:

Jason Shpeley
Jamie Bruha
Tony McWhannel
Edna Willier
Michael Long
Claude Smith

DFO
Environment and Parks
Member at Large
First Nation Member at Large
Town of High Prairie
Agriculture

Board Vacancies:

Métis Member at Large
Environmental Non-Government Organization

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

1. Adoption of October 8th, 2015 Agenda

- Addition of 7c - Riparian enhancement projects
- Addition of 5e - RFP for the development of organizational policy and procedure document

Motion 15-10: Nygaard/Bailey- *Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.*

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2. Adoption of September 10, 2015 minutes.

- Copies of the Sept 10, 2015 draft meeting minutes were circulated to the board.

Motion 15-11: Long/Bruha- *Motion to adopt the September 10th minutes as presented.*

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3. Treasurers Report

- Copies of the August 15-September 15th Treasurers report were distributed.

Motion 15-12: Rosche/Bailey- Motion to accept the Treasurers report as presented.

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4. Round Table Discussion

a. Dredging / weir

- Walley Bailey sent a copy of the dredging permit and it doesn't expire until July 2016 so the stakeholders can dredge this fall/winter if that is what they want to do.
 - Meghan put together a stakeholder contact list and share with the appropriate folks so that they can communicate.
 - Response from the Environment and Parks staff was the same as in previous years. The department won't be contribution financially to dredging. If in the case that the river drops below weir level it is the responsibility of the MD and stakeholders to install siphons and or pumps.
 - Brian Rosche - could we modify the weir to retain more water when water is abundant to be stored for times when its very dry.
 - Fluctuating lake levels are a serious concern to stakeholder on the east end of the lake. The LSWC needs to address water quantity and water supplies in the IWMP. The recommendations in the plan will go to the governments and appropriate authorities to implement.
- Shane - A lot of people have ruined their boat propellers in marinas this year but on the other hand are happy that there is more accessible beach around the lake. Little grassy has become very popular.

Bob Popick

- Development concerns. A contractor has some plans to make a drainage ditch to make some agricultural land on a First Nation. Who is the appropriate department or person to talk to about an approval for this?

Action: Meghan will follow up with Jason Shpeley

Action: Meghan will make up new board member binders for both Scott and Lyle for next meeting.

Tammy Kaleta

- Spoke with Lyle Halcrow about joining our group as the First Nations member at large alternate for Edna - 780 523 7356.
- Lyle is going to attend the next meeting, fill out appropriate paper work and the board can make a motion to appoint him as the FN member at large alternate until the June AGM.

Slave Lake Trail Club

- A fairly young group who is organizing in Slave Lake. They are tackling the development and maintenance of a north shore trail with the end goal of meeting up with the Trans Canada trail by Grouard.
- Potential for collaboration with this group to do some education and outreach like trail signage with key messaging for example - wetlands, shorelines, and habitat.

5. Executive Director Updates

a. Watershed Coordinator Position

- Megan Graham has resigned to take another position closer to her home.
- Position is being advertised locally in the Spotlight and on provincial environmental networks.
- Meghan and Tammy will conduct interviews of suitable candidates at the end of October.

b. Environment and Parks - Interim Grant Reporting for 2015-16

- As a part of the grant process we are required to provide Environment and Parks with an interim progress report by October 13, 2015.
- This includes a performance monitoring and evaluation and monitoring plan that we will use to measure our success and an update about our progress in meeting our objectives.
- Going forward the LSWC Board needs to be involved in updating and adding to our current performance evaluation plan. A performance evaluation plan will ensure that we have a built in process to evaluate our effectiveness and if we are achieving our desired outcomes.
- The WPAC collective have asked for more guidance from Environment and Parks staff in terms of what they expect these performance evaluation plans to include and perhaps the development of a template that can be used across the province so all WPACs are reporting with the same metrics.
- Financial Reporting completed reporting template was distributed to the group for information.

Action - LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016 to use going forward.

c. Alms Workshop

- Meghan, Megan, Robert and Jamie attended the ALMS workshop in Stony Plain September 24-25.
- Agenda and presentations were around lake health and management in Alberta. The tour included a lakeshore naturalization site, a riparian exclusion project, and a tans alta reclamation site with an end pit lake.
- For copies of the presentations visit: <http://alms.ca/2015-workshop/>
 - all of the presentations are posted on the website.

d. Water North Coalition

- The WNC developed a water and wastewater needs assessment survey for the member municipalities and first nations to complete.
- The purpose of the survey was to:
 - understand the community or municipality's perspective on their current water/wastewater system;
 - Assess the waster/wastewater needs of northern Alberta communities.
- The survey focus included the following topics:
 - Water literacy; demographics, Capacity, Human Resources, funding
- For a copy of the survey results and report please email Meghan P.
- More about the Water North Coalition: <http://nadc.ca/water-coaliton.asp>
- The Next meeting is a Strategic Planning session in Wembly, AB on Oct.22, 2015. Meghan P will be attending for the LSWC.

Action: Meghan will send the WNC summary doc to the group.

e. RFP for the development of organizational policy and procedure document

- The LSWC is nearly 10 years old and we are still operating off of basic bylaws and an operational plan. Development of a policy and procedure manual has been on the to do list for a long time but staff don't have time to do it in house but we have budgeted to hire a sub contractor to work with us on this.

- Meghan is drafting an RFP to send out that describes the work to be undertaken, the budget and the timeline.
- Contractor will be expected to put together a draft with direction from the Executive Director and work with the Board to finalize it for adoption.
- Budget: \$7,500

6. IWMP Project

- The IWMP Steering Committee met on October 1, 2015.
- Alan Dolan was in attendance to review the work plan and get feedback on messaging and objectives of our engagement efforts.

a. First Nations Engagement

- The Contractor is in the process of arranging meetings with the 5 First Nations, 3 Métis Settlements and Métis Region 5.
- Our main goal is to build a relationship with our Aboriginal Groups and from this foster a working relationship and gain their engagement in the development and implementation of the IWMP.
- Meeting format and attendance will be based on individual Nations preference, we will be flexible to try and accommodate.

b. Stakeholder Workshops

- Scheduled for November 4th, 2015 in High Prairie at the Peavine Inn and Suites & November 5th, 2015 in Slave Lake at the Slave Lake Inn.
- 98 invitations have been emailed out at this time. We are hoping to have between 20-30 people at each session.
- Objectives are:
 - educate participants about the LSWC and who we are
 - provide some background information about watershed issues and challenges.
 - discuss solutions and the roles and responsibilities of implementing solutions.
- Board members are expected to attend one of the 2 workshops and encourage others from their sector to attend and participate.
- We will be developing an online feedback form for people who want to contribute but couldn't make it.

Action: Board members will register via eventbrite for one of the 2 workshops in November.

- Meghan will send Tammy Bill Kriss's Contact information.
- Joe McWilliams - add to the list as the Woods and Water trail group contact.

Action: Meghan and Alan will write an IWMP article for the Slave Lake and High Prairie papers explaining the process and where we are to date.

7. 2016 Projects

a. IWMP - develop a draft plan (details to come)

- Are we ready? Yes, after this winter's work and engagement with our stakeholders we will have more support for the plan and we can get to work.
- The Board Needs to establish the IWMP Technical Committee to provide input to the project. The TAC should be a mix of people with relevant technical backgrounds, both Environment Staff and individuals.

- Next Year's work plan will include the development watershed outcomes, objectives and indicators and provide stakeholder the opportunity to provide feedback on these.
- Project work will also include a review and categorization of all management actions currently in place in the watershed. (ex. Best management practices, land use by laws, education programs) broken down into the following categories: policy and regulatory, best management practices, planning, education, knowledge, and research.

b. LSL Shoreline Riparian Assessment update using unmanned aircraft.

- ACA staff and George Walker completed an aerial riparian flight of the shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake in 2006 and the report was finished in 2007.
- in the past 10 years there has been many changes to the shores of the lake. An updated aerial riparian assessment would allow us to make a comparison and see changes over time, particularly on the south shore.
- Technology has improved! video capture can be done with a drone flying along the lakeshore with the camera angled to the shore, capturing the riparian area.
- Processing raw footage, delineating segments and completing the assessment frame by frame is the most time consuming part of the work.
- ortho imagery (ortho corrected so that measurements are accurate) and GIS tools make the assessment easier and more accurate than in the past and produce a data set with meta data for each of the segments.
- Mary Ellen Shaine is helping Meghan put together a budget for the project proposal but estimated cost is about \$30,000 based on extrapolation from work done on the Wabamun Lake project.
- Challenge - not many people are trained to do the assessment work. George Walker has retired but he personally trained Mary Ellen with the NSWA, some ACA staff are trained but not readily available.
- Meghan has reached out to Brendan Ganton with ACA (and ATA) to see if there is interest in a partnership to do this project in 2016.
- LSLEA is interested in partially funding this project if we can get matching grants other places.

Action: the board would like to see a more detailed budget, and find out the possibility of ACA getting involved in work in our region.

c. Riparian Enhancement in Big Lakes County

- We received \$12,500 from the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program on October 2, 2015.
- Work includes project site scoping, Cows and Fish riparian health assessments, and development of specific restoration plans for 3-5 sites in big lakes county.
- Work is focused in Big Lakes County because most of the producers are in this county and the Ag. Service Board provided us with additional funding for watershed enhancement projects.
- Right now we have one confirmed producer to work with along the south heart river near buffalo bay and another producer interested in a project on property that they are in the process of acquiring along the South Heart River north of High Prairie.
- Currently looking for more producers with wetland or riparian lands that would benefit from an enhancement project.
 - Meghan will be reaching out to Big Lakes County Ag Service Board and asking PCBFA to help recruit potential project partners.

- Potential project partner - Greg Beaudry, Faust Harbor. He has to build a wet storage pond for run off containment and there may be the potential to work together to create a naturalized type wetland and showcase this as a Best management Practice.

Action - Robert, Meghan and Tammy will talk to Greg about his goals for his development and the possibility of working together to promote best management practices.

8. Upcoming Meetings and Events, Review Action Items, Meeting Adjournment

October 23, 2015 - Municipal Wetland Management and Landscape Architecture workshop @ the Chateau Nova, Peace River, AB

November 4th - High Prairie IWMP Stakeholder Workshop @ the Peavine Inn

November 5th - Slave Lake IWMP Stakeholder workshop @ the Slave Lake Inn

November 12, 2015 - Regular LSWC Board Meeting. 7pm @ Kinuso Senior Center

	Action Item	Who	By When
1.	Meghan will follow up with Jason Shpeley regarding Bobs stakeholder questions about approvals for drainage projects on Federal lands.	Meghan	October 15th, 2015
2.	Meghan will make up new board member binders for both Scott Mayston and Lyle Halcrow for the next meeting.	Meghan	November 12, 2015
3.	LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016 to use going forward.	LSWC Board of Directors	Before March 2016
4.	Send the Water North Coalition Needs Assessment Survey results summary doc to the group.	Meghan	October 15, 2015
5.	Board members will register via eventbrite for one of the 2 workshops in November.	LSWC Board	October 26th, 2015
6.	LSL riparian Assessment project detailed budget. Follow up with ACA to see if there is an interest in partnering for this project	Meghan	November 12, 2015
7.	Watershed coordinator will work on development of watershed posters to put in public places.	Meghan	Time permitting
8.	Reach out to qualified individuals within Environment and Parks and other professionals to establish the IWMP Technical Advisory Committee	Meghan	November 12, 2015
9.	Draft RFP for a subcontract to develop LSWC policy and procedure documents.	Meghan	Oct 26, 2015
10.	Draft IWMP Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference	Meghan	November 12, 2015
11.	Robert, Meghan and Tammy will talk to Greg about his goals for his development and the possibility of working together to promote best management practices with a demo project.	Robert N to take the lead	November 12, 2015
12.	Meghan and Alan will write an IWMP article for the Slave Lake and High Prairie papers explaining the process and where we are to date.	Meghan P & Alan Dolan	November 12, 2015

Motion 15-13: Popick/Bailey - Motion to adjourn the board meeting.

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