

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council

Sept 8, 2016

Kinuso seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Kaylyn Jackson
Tammy Kaleta
Bob Popick
George Gross
Spencer Zelman
Scott Mayston
Robert Nygaard
Tony McWhannel
Todd Bailey
Brian Rosche
Laura Johnson
Murry De Alexandra
Shane Kunutson
Jule Asterisk
Lyle Halcrow
Claude Smith

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Tourism and Recreation (chair)
Oil and Gas Industry
Forest Industry (alternate)
Oil and Gas Industry (Alternate)
Alberta Trappers Association
Big Lakes County
Member at Large
Forest Industry
MD of Lesser Slave River
AEP (Alternate)
Commercial Fisherman's Association
Cabin and Cottage Owners
NGOs
Kapaweno First Nation
Agriculture

Regrets:

Joy McGreggor/Mark Missal
Michael Long
Roderick Willier

Town of Slave Lake
Town of High Prairie
Sucker Creek First Nation

Board Vacancies:

Swan River First Nation
Sawridge First Nation
Peavine Metis Settlement
East Prairie Metis Settlement

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm by Chair Tammy Kaleta.

1. Welcome new Board Members and introductions

- Each of the Board members introduced themselves to the group.
- New board members received orientation binders
- Copies of Board contact list distributed.

2. Adoption of September 8, 2016 meeting agenda

- Copies of the Sept 8, 2016 meeting agenda were circulated.
- Chair called for amendments or additions to the agenda.

Motion 16-06: Bailey/Popick- Motion to adopt the September 8, 2016 Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of June 9, 2016 meeting minutes

- Copies of the June 9, 2016 Draft minutes were circulated for review.
- Spelling of Brian Rosche's name will be corrected.

Motion 16-07:Smith/Rosche- Motion to adopt the June 9, 2016 Meeting minutes as corrected.

CARRIED

4. WPAC roles & Board Member roles and responsibilities

- Meghan gave a handout on the roles and responsibilities of board members for the BOD's information.
- In the future we will talk more about governance and policy.
 - Alberta culture and tourism has grants available for non-profits for completing governance and policy and it is something we will look into.

a. Board vacancies

- We still have 4 Board vacancies including 2 FN's and 2 metis settlements.
- How would the Board like to proceed?
 - will keep seats open and continue the conversation
 - We will keep working on making connections and finding the right people
- Town of High Prairie received a letter from our Chair regarding their lack participation on both the Board and IWMP Steering Committee. They responded with a letter stating Michel Long will remain in the Board Seat and that along with Brian Panasiuk, Brian Gilroy has been added as a second Alternate.

5. Treasurers report

- Copies of the May 15 – August 15 treasurers report were distributed to the BOD.
- Meghan needs personal information for some of the BOD to complete the required banking paper work for the changes in signing authority.

a. Funding updates

- WRRP grant Received in the amount of \$37,500 – support riparian and wetland enhancement.
- Big Lakes County Env. Stream Funding received in the amount of \$15,000 – to support environmental extension.

Motion 16-08: Rosche/Halcrow- Motion to accept the May 15 – Aug 15 treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

6. Round table discussion

- Lake has raised almost 60CM since June due to all of the precipitation.
- Question about Sedimentation monitoring on tributaries and leading into the lake: Right now sedimentation is being looked at as part of the larger picture in our IWMP. We do not currently have any monitoring projects regarding sedimentation but are working with land owners on riparian projects in increase stream health. We are working on changing perception and encouraging best management practices.
- We discussed the Environmental hotline and board members were encouraged to call the 24hr hotline if they say any suspect behaviors or things on the landscape that they done think are right. 1-800-222-6514
- What happens when the IWMP is finished: when the IWMP is finished we will move forward to planning and implementing the recommendations suggested by it. This was addressed more thoroughly in the IWMP update.
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Idea to host a course or information day for Harbor and marina owners on AIS and terrestrial/riparian invasive species was brought forward. The board was in agreement that this would be a good idea and it has been added to the action items. Kate Wilson is our main contact for AIS and we are looking into planning it for over the winter when it is not as busy of a time and target audience will be municipalities and tourism/resort operators.

Action – staff and board members will engage with partners to host an AIS workshop in our watershed before the spring 2017 season starts.

- Fecal coli-form at Devonshire Beach: This summer there was a period of roughly 2 weeks where Devonshire Beach tested positive fir fecal coli-form and no swim advisories were posted. We do not know the exact reason for the contamination as source tested did not occur. Alberta Health Services is responsible for testing water quality and keeping the public informed about water quality. Laura is going to track down a contact at AHS so that we can get more information and make plans for if this was to happen again in the future. Milk River Watershed Council Canada did a fecal source analysis in there watershed and we have more information available on their project if anyone is interested. We could potentially look at doing a project like this but it is something that AHS should probably take the lead on with us as a partner. We can look into having someone from AHS come to a board meeting and do a presentation for us.

Action – Laura J will look into finding a contact within AHS who can speak to the monitoring that takes place at Devonshire beach.

- Signage for fishing seasons and for Aquatic invasive species: There are currently signs posted at popular launches and fishing areas. If you have a spot in mind that would benefit from more signage please let us know and we will pass the information onto Laura Johnson.
- Riparian and Wetland Signage: Some locations such as Northern BC, have signage marking riparian boundaries on all creeks and tributaries etc. The board would like to look into putting more signage like this up in our watershed. The issue would be getting permission from land owners and finding specific locations. This is something that we could potentially partner with the Slave Lake OHV club. We are in the process of putting up several “living by the edge” signs which will focus on educating people about riparian

areas. These are being put up through our partnership with HPRAT and they will go up at popular recreation signs along the lake.

- Ice fishing: We want to start focusing on promoting good behaviors while on the ice sooner rather than later. We will once again be distributing our ice fishing brochures and will see about selling Lug-a-Lou's or running contests etc. to distribute them. We could do this in partnership with a community group such as the high Prairie Air Cadets. There is interest in creating a shack registration system but LSWC does not have time or resources to administer it and it would have to be done through the MDs or a community group. There was talk of sponsoring garbage can at entrances to the lake, however we need to look into how practical this is and whose permissions we would need to get in order to make this happen.

Action – 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.

- Partnering with the OHV club to put in bridges or informational signing: This type of project would be easy to apply for funding for through ACA and potentially other groups. We would need to start looking into it now so that we could have a project proposal written and locations etc. in mind for bridges.

Action - Staff will reach out to SL OHV club members about partnering on a trail stewardship project involving identifying priority areas for bridge crossings and areas where signage would be helpful in promoting BMPs

7. Review action items

June 2016 Action Items	Who	By When	Comments
LSWC will update the performance evaluation plan early in 2016.	Meghan	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	April 2016	In progress- time permitting
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	No statement has been released. WPACS were told that the department hasn't changed their position on this topic but will try and clarify it better to reduce misunderstandings.
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	May 2016	Will be sent after AGM
Form subcommittee for Governance and Policy Manual discussion and review.	Tony, Tammy,	Time	No progress at this time

	Jamie,	permitting	suggest working with a professional
By law changes were rejected because of a misuse of wording. BOD needs to make a special resolution to make the required changes to the By Laws for resubmission.	All	Sept 8	done

SPECIAL RESOLUTION 16-1:Rosche/Zelman- Special resolution to change the words “financial review engagement” to “audit” in the June 9th, 2016 LSWC Society By Laws and resubmit to Alberta Registries for approval.

CARRIED

8. Executive Director Updates

a. Integrated Watershed Management Plan

- Our Planner Sandi is making progress on the front end of the plan (background, description of issues, context etc.)
- On Sept 7th Meghan, Alan and Sandi had a call to discuss the very preliminary draft plan and the timelines of the remainder of the workplan.
- Alan will be sending out a stakeholder update next week that will provide the dates of the upcoming stakeholder workshop as well as a summary of the goals and objectives, indicators, targets and metrics for review before the workshops.
- Steering Committee will be meeting on Sept 20th in Kinuso to receive an update on the plan so far and have discussion with sandy about the development of indicators and their targets and thresholds that will be used to measure whether we are meeting our goals and objectives over time. Other Agenda items include the communication and engagement work plan and Steering committee composition and FN participation.
- Technical Advisory Committee will be having a conference call on Sept 26th to receive an update from Sandi on the plans progress and get input from them regarding the development of the indicators, metrics, targets and thresholds and identify any other data/information that can be used in the plan.
- Municipal Working Groups Meeting #2 will be held ion Slave Lake on October 17.
- Stakeholder workshops:
 - High Prairie – October 18, 2016 from 10-3
 - Slave lake – October 19, 2016 from 10-3
- First Nation and metis engagement and meetings will resume now that summer is over and folks are back on regular meeting schedules.

b. WRRP grant project update

- We received our grant funds via direct deposit from AEP.
- Meghan was invited to a media event in Calgary with the minister of Environment and parks.
- Meghan and 4 of our Board members met with Minister Shannon Phillips and Minister Danielle Larivee in Slave Lake for a check presentation and interviews with local media. Both news papers and radio stations had coverage.
- Photos from both events available from the office.

- Funds will be supporting wetland and riparian improvement projects.
- Currently working with 3 producers on fencing and watering systems. Cows and Fish completed 3 pre project health assessments in August.
- Meghan reached out to Emily Calliou at Sucker Creek to see if there would be an interested producer in Sucker Creek who would be a good fit for a project starting next year.
- Field tour of 2 sites and our solar/wind system taking place Sept 9th in collaboration with Peace Country Beef and Forage.

c. WPAC Summit

- October 26-28 in Calgary at the Grey Eagle casino.
- As of Sept 8th Meghan, Kaylyn, Tammy and Bob P are registered to attend.
- Agenda includes: Strengthening the WPAC partnership, WPAC updates from around the Province, Updates on AEP projects, Conversations with the minister of Environment and Parks, and more.
- Others interested in attending need to let Meghan know ASAP.

ACTION: Interested BOD members need to register for the summit ASAP for planning purposes.

d. Alberta Water Council updates

- Lake Management Project Team report is near completion and the last round of stakeholder feedback has just been received. LSWC board members were sent the final draft and given a chance to provide feedback.
- Lake Management Team final project meeting is September 15th in Edmonton at the AWC office. Meghan will be attending on behalf of the WAPC's.
- Intent is to have the final project report approved by the full AWC board at their November meeting, and then present it to the Government.

e. Other items

- NALMS Conference is taking place in Banff from November 1 -4. There's a really great agenda and opportunities for learning. Costs for LSWC staff to attend are approximately \$3200. Hard to justify this expense with limited funds.
- Athabasca River Basin Initiative Project is having their first working group meeting in Edmonton on September 22. Meghan will be attending.

Action – Meghan will provide the BOD with an update on the ARBI project for the October meeting.

- The 11 WPACs received a response from Ernie Hui regarding the feedback we provided him with at our meeting in April and through our written submission in May. It includes a summary of what he heard from all WPAC's.
 - We will be asking for a follow up of this work for the WPAC summit.

9. Education and Outreach Updates

- Kaylyn provided the BOD with a handout that summarized the outreach activities we did over the summer. Attached to minutes as appendix.
- Little Green Thumbs is starting up again and a teacher training session is planned for Oct 5th
- TDFEF grant is allowing us to purchase 5 watershed wise kits for elementary schools in the watershed. Kaylyn will be setting up a training session to go through the lesson plan and watershed wise board with the instructors.
- Meeting with MJ from LSFES to talk about promoting the caring for Our Watershed Program in Jr. and Sr. High Schools this winter.
- Going to Alberta Parks Volunteer Conference September 9th in Slave Lake to represent and promote the LSWC

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

September 20, 2016 – IWMP Steering Committee Meeting 10:00am at NLC in Slave Lake

October 12, 2016 – Beaver Workshop 10:00am at the High Prairie Agriplex

October 13, 2016 – LSWC Board Meeting – 6:30pm at Kinuso Seniors Center

October 17, 2016 – IWMP Municipal Working Group Meeting - 9am at the Kinuso Seniors Center

October 18, 2016 – High Prairie IWMP stakeholder workshop- 10am at the Peavine Inn

October 19, 2016 – Slave Lake IWMP Stakeholder Workshop- 10am at the SL Inn and Conference center

October 26-28 – WPAC Summit – Grey Eagle Casino in Calgary

11. Meeting adjournment

Motion 16-0: Smith/Popick- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm