

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
January 12, 2017
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name:

Meghan Payne
Kaylyn Jackson
Tammy Kaleta
Shane Knutson
Todd Bailey
Scott Mayston
Murray De Alexandra
Claude Smith
Jule Asterisk
Robert Nygaard
Bob Popick
Brad Pearson
George Gross
Mark Missal
Joy McGregor
Peter Freeman
Tony McWhannel
Ron Matula

Sector Represented:

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Tourism and Recreation (chair)
Cottage and cabin owners
Forest Industry
Trappers
Commercial Fisherman
Agriculture
NGO'S
Big Lakes County
Oil and Gas
MD of Lesser Slave River (alternate)
Forest Industry (alternate)
Town of Slave Lake
Town of Slave Lake (alternate)
Driftpile First Nation
Member at Large
Big Lakes County (alternate)

Arrived at 6:30

Brian Rosche
Spencer Zelman

MD of Lesser Slave River
Oil and gas alternate

Regrets:

Jamie Bruha
Linda Cox

Alberta Environment and Parks
Town of High Prairie

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Meghan introduced Larry Stewart and group did a round of introductions

2. Governance and Policy session with Larry Stewart from AB Culture and Tourism

- Meghan will email session notes and action items to the BOD when they are complete.

Chair Tammy Kaleta called the LSWC Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:15pm

3. Adoption of the January 12, 2017 Meeting Agenda

- Copies of the January 12, 2017 agenda were circulated.

Motion 16-20: Bailey/Nygaard – *Motion to adopt the January 12, 2017 meeting agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

4. Adoption of the November 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes

- Copies of the November 17, 2016 board meeting minutes were distributed.

Motion 16-21: De Alexandra/Smith – *Motion to adopt the January 12, 2017 meeting agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

5. Treasurers Report & Financial updates

- Copies of the October 15 – December 15th treasurers report were distributed to the Board.

Motion 16-22: Mayston/McGregor – *Motion to accept the Oct 15 – December 15, 2016 treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

- ACA conservation, community, and education grant is due January 25th, 2017 and we will be applying for funds to support our stream monitoring project.
- Alberta Ecotrust will be opening their grant for 2017 soon
- TDFEF has leadership training available that can be up to \$1,000 a year. This is to support staff training that enhances the organizations capacity.

6. Action item Follow up

Action Item:	Who	By When	Comments
Outline of LSWC policy document once we receive notes from Larry	Tony, Tam, Meghan	Time permitting	
April 12 th AIS workshop promotion and advertising.	KJ, MP, Board	Feb 1 – April 10 th	Will be April 12, 2017
Staff will contact Ross Giroux at the Driftpile School about being involved in the 2017 culture camps they host in the summer	Kaylyn	Jan 23, 2017	
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	Feb 2016	In progress
Email the slides showing the WPAC financial contribution break down from the Summit to the BOD	Meghan	Feb 1	Done – Jan 16
Project proposal and budget for water bottle fill stations for town of Slave Lake and HP, and for grant seeking	Tammy, Kaylyn	Feb 28	
Send BOD info sheet on AEP sand and gravel program review	Meghan	Jan 16 th	Done – Jan 16
Get pictures of marten beach for potential WRRP restoration project and send to Meghan	Brian R	Feb 9 th	
Work on a Water Quality program sponsorship package. BOD – please send company/organization contacts of potential sponsors to Meghan	Meghan, Bob Board	Feb 9 th	

Send BOD the AIS workshop poster and Ice fishing awareness poster	Meghan	Jan 16	Done – Jan 16
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Action Items discussion:

- Governance and Policy: Meghan will forward notes from our session once she receives them. Tentative plan is to have the subcommittee start working on a draft and the fleshing it out chunk by chunk. Presenting each piece to the board for review
- Advertising for the AIS workshop: plan to advertise on social media, around town on bulletin boards, radio and the digital signs in both HP and SL.
- Ice fishing awareness campaign: For next year we will look at getting a grant for cigarette butt containers and stickers to distribute on the lakes. This year we have an updated poster that is being distributed.

7. Round Table

- The LSWC office has been successfully moved to our new location at 4833 – 52Ave, High prairie, AB. Please stop in and visit! Renovation costs total about \$2,500 as estimated.
- The Alberta Environmental Hotline was called regarding Called in the truck in the ice that fell in near Joussard. Because the truck didn't dump it's load and it isn't currently spawning season Fish and Wildlife says it's caused minimal impact. There is an ecological easement on the lease, so the owners will be contacted and informed that they are removing vegetation etc. on a conservation easement.
- For Canada's 150 the TOHP's committee has brought forward the idea of installing permanent, all weather water bottle fill stations in High Prairie and Slave Lake. This would be done through a partnership with the town and the town would be responsible for partial cost of purchase, installation & maintenance. The systems cost between \$4,000-\$10,000.

Action: Tammy and Kaylyn will put together a detailed proposal for the towns and once we have their commitment we can seek funding.

- The Economic Development committee in Slave Lake is working with hotels etc. in the Slave Lake area to help promote regional tourism. As this progresses there may be partnership opportunities for the LSWC to get involved.
- Jules Asterisk with Keeps of the Athabasca has been doing presentations with municipalities regarding the Swan Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment facility and new sediment core sampling locations for The Town of Slave Lake, Athabasca and Fort Assiniboine. The Watershed Council is going to review and help evaluate the new monitoring plan that has been developed by SUEZ Environmental once information is sent.

8. Executive Director Report

a. IWMP update

- Steering Committee met in High Prairie on December 13th and Alan and Sandi joined via skype.
- Group was updated on IWMP progress and the results of our November engagement session.
- Draft engagement report was sent to steering committee for review, no one has had any feedback so Alan is working on finalizing it and publishing to the web.
- Group discussed that extra effort needs to be made in engaging with Aboriginal communities. They will have separate email communication list and receive updates and opportunities to provide feedback frequently. Alan is currently working on this.

- Meghan and Sandi are working on 2017-18 work plan and budget for the upcoming AEP grant request. Work plan will include:
 - Finalization of the IWMP based on stakeholder and BOD review
 - Development of a “public” summary document
 - Printing of full plan and summary documents
 - Communications
 - Implementation strategy and tracking
- Municipal Working group will be having a web meeting in the next few weeks to receive an update on the IWMP and get their feedback.
- The maps that were displayed at our stakeholder sessions will be made publicly available; they are currently still being updated and finished by the GOA.
- The Technical Advisory Committee will also be having an online meeting on January 25th to receive a project update, have them review some of the stakeholder feedback we received for technical accuracy and get their feedback and input on the second draft of the plan.

b. Water Quality monitoring program

- Goal is to being a stream monitoring program that will span 5 years and collect consistent, valuable water quality information for the major tributaries in our watershed.
- At the moment there is not much at all being done for monitoring and a few significant data gaps. We want to address these gaps so that we can make more informed management decisions.
- Upstream, mid stream and downstream location for the 5 gauged tributaries will be sampled. We will use existing sample locations where possible and establish new ones that are accessible, safe and in acceptable locations.
- Budget for first year of monitoring project is about \$34,500 and this includes: lab analysis (17,250) , courier (1000), travel (5000), purchase of a sonde (\$5,000) and a consultant to review, organize and prepare a brief report on data (6,000).
 - We will into sponsorship and plan to have trained volunteers to help so that we can get all of the samples done in the same day as per sampling guidelines.
- Parameters will include: DO, Temp, Conductivity, pH, Total Phosphorous, Total dissolved Phosphorous, Total Nitrogen, total suspended solids, & fecal coliform bacteria.
 - SC had discussion about addition additional parameters at certain sites if additional funds become available but since our main concerns are nutrients and sediment loading these parameters are the key ones.
- Meghan is working on a sponsorship proposal to support this program in the long term and once complete will be reaching out to first, oil and gas and other companies operating in the watershed for their support.

Action – Board members will help Meghan make connections with managers in charge of sponsorship within their sectors when the sponsorship package is ready.

- We have funds available to support the first year but the hope is to gain at least \$15,000 in sponsorship and save some of this money for next year.

c. WRRP Projects

- GOA will be supporting the WRRP program again this year and there will be a round 4 of applications open this year. Last year we received \$38,000 grant
- Are there any key projects that would be a good fit?

- Currently we are working with 4 landowners and projects with them will finish by fall of 2017. we may have enough money to take one more project
- Ideas on encouraging more buy in from producers?
- Extension events? – what would folks like to learn about
- Ideas and discussion:
 - Shoreline inventory update from 2005 would be a good project.
 - Potential project on Marten River at Marten Beach. Currently there are issues with erosions, invasive species etc. this could qualify for funding but we need photos and more information on the area.

d. ASB application and projects

- The 2017-2020 Environmental stream application is due this month
- Meghan is working with Lisa, the new manager at PCBFA, and Jordan Panasiuk at Big Lakes County to ensure a quality application is put forward.
- In the past the ASB grant funded monitoring and research however they have taken that out and are focusing on extension and on the ground work.
- We will be applying for \$15,000 a year for 3 years for environmental education and riparian and wetland projects.
- In the past 2 cycles we have received \$15,000 a year to support work in Big Lakes County.

e. Other updates

- Meghan and Kaylyn are attending a provincial WPAC meeting in Red Deer on January 16th.
- WPAC Managers agenda includes:
 - an update from Andrew Schoepf on WPAC reporting and performance monitoring and hopefully information about the upcoming grant package for 2017-18.
 - Natasha Page, Reclamation Policy Specialist, Alberta Environment and Parks. Discussing the Stakeholder Engagement for the Sand and Gravel Pit Program Review that the department is undertaking.
 - WPAC led water quality monitoring
 - MGA review
 - WPACs and the AER
- On January 26th Meghan will be participating in the 3rd Athabasca River Basin Initiative Working group session in Edmonton. Previously discussed performance measures and flow scenarios for the Athabasca basin will be modeled live.

9. Education and Outreach

a. Aquatic invasive Species Workshop

- Will be held on April 12, 2017 at the Faust Community Center from 10-4 in partnership with the GOA AIS team.
- Poster will be finalized soon and we will begin promoting and advertising via radio, poster, social media and email.
- Target audience: municipal staff and councilors, camp group/resort owners, harbor authorities, anglers, boat owners, stewardship groups, parks staff, and anyone who is interested.

- Free to attend – we don't want to discourage registrations by having a cost.
- Agenda to include: terrestrial and wetland invasive species common in our watershed, issues/impacts and management; aquatic invasives, their background and the impacts they can have on our lake; and a Watercraft inspection demonstration and exercise.

b. Watershed wise

- So far Kaylyn has met with St. Mary's in Slave Lake and High Prairie Elementary school to host an information session on the watershed wise board and gift it to the school. She will be going to Driftpile School on January 23rd and is currently setting up meetings with two other schools
- The boards have been well received and we could apply for more grant money to create and distribute more boards in the future.
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c. Real Country 93.5 FM interviews

- Kaylyn has been going on air with Victoria on Real Country 93.5 to talk about responsible ice fishing behaviors. These interviews/conversations will continue through till the end of march.
- Kaylyn will talk to Real Country 93.5 about continuing frequent conversations but switching the topic to responsible OHV use for the summer.

d. School presentations and outreach

- Kaylyn will be working with the LSFES on January 18th to run a snow study class in Smith
- Kaylyn will be running a station at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservations on February 11th for their Frost Fest Event
- Kaylyn will attend the ABCEE environmental education workshop in Edmonton on February 6th
- Kaylyn is going into St. Andrews to do a presentation with both Grade 5 Classes on February 7th

e. Other

- OHV club and projects: we are still waiting to hear back on approvals etc.
- Slave Lake Dive club is starting up again and will be looking for a sunken paddle wheeler etc. at the bottom of the lake.
- The ABCEE may be interested in our Watershed Wise board as part of their resource library.

10. Wrap up and Adjournment

Next LSWC Board meeting – February 9th, 2017

Motion 16-23: Popick/Nygaard – *Motion to adjourn the January 12, 2017 LSWC Board meeting at 8:36pm*

CARRIED