

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
September 21, 2017
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation and Tourism (chair)
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Mark Missal	Town of Slave Lake
Jule Asterisk	NGO's
Wendy Freeman	Member at Large
Brian Rosche	MD Lesser Slave River
Todd Bailey	Forest Industry
Claude Smith	Agriculture
Shane Knutson	Cabin Owners
Charmaine Willier Larsen	Sucker Creek First Nation
Bob Popick	Oil and Gas
Robert Nygaard	Big Lakes County
April Isadore	Driftpile First Nation
<u>Regrets</u>	
Joy McGregor	Town of Slave Lake
Linda Cox	TOHP
Jamie Bruha	AEP
Murray De Alexandra	Commercial Fishermen
Scott Mayston	Trappers

17 OF 21 Board Seats filled

Meeting called to order at 6:40 by chair Tammy Kaleta

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Round table introductions.
- Welcome new Board members
- Board member binders for Charmaine and Wendy and April.
- Also have interest from Rowan Robertson for the NGO alternate position but he could not attend this meeting. Will be here in October.

Discussion about board meeting dates:

Motion 17-01: Popick/Jule - motion to change the board meetings to the first Wednesday of the month beginning November 1, 2017.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Sept 21, 2017 meeting agenda

- Copies of the agenda were distributed.
- Chair asked for additions to the agenda

Motion 17-02: Rosche/Bailey – *Motion to adopt the September 21, 2017 Agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the May 11, 2017 meeting minutes

- Copies of the May 11, 2017 draft minutes were distributed for review.
 - Spelling error of Jule Asterick corrected.

Motion 17-03: Rosche/Popick – *Motion to adopt the May 11, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected.*

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Meghan distributed copies of the May – August financial report for information.

Motion 17-04: Asterisk/Smith – *Motion to adopt the May – August 2017 Treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

- We have not received any municipal support in 2017 aside from Big Lakes County and the ASB partnership.

Action: Send a letter to the CAO's and CC the LSWC board members.

- We have our AEP interim grant report on our 2017-18 fiscal year due on October 15, 2017. After this report has been reviewed we will receive the remainder of our grant for the year.
- Received AB Ecotrust funding in the amount of \$27,500 to complete some integrated watershed modeling to address needs identified in the IWMP.
- On August 30th we submitted an application for 4 year funding to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta in the amount of \$127,500.

5. Executive Director Updates

a. Environment and Parks Monitoring Branch Meeting

- WPAC were invited to a gathering with Alberta Environment and Parks Environmental Science and Monitoring Division to hear preliminary information about Alberta's surface water quality monitoring program.
- Presentations and meeting notes will be sent to us soon

Action: Meghan will send EMSD meeting notes to the Board.

- Topics of discussion included:
 - Roles of WPAC's in Community Based Monitoring programs
 - Roles of WPAC in regional planning. To date our work and input has not really been considered. Moving forward they want to have WPAC's more involved in: helping with community engagement around water, helping establish water quality frameworks and associated engagement, potential non regulatory roles in LUF plan implementation.
 - WPAC role review and Ernie Hui follow up. The minister is supportive of WPACs and our work and there is a commitment to work more closely with WPAC's.
 - This will be on the agenda for the fall WPAC Executive Director meeting (October)

b. ALMS conference

- Taking Place Sept 29-30 in Lac La Biche.
- Meghan, Kaylyn, April and Brad will be attending from the LSWC

c. Strategic Planning 2018-21

- The Board needs to update the strategic plan before February.

Action – Meghan will look into finding a facilitator or another WPAC person to help facilitate our strategic plan update.

d. Letter of support for West Fraser

- The LSWC is a member of the High Prairie Forest Regional Advisory Committee. West Fraser is requesting a letter of support from the member organizations that shows support for their commitment to meet the standards for their FSC certification.
- Meghan handed out the draft letter of support from West Fraser.
- Questions about the FSC process. The Board needs more information.
- Charmaine - SRFN is pushing for more consultation with the Forest Industry, and what they see on the landscape is alarming.

Action - Meghan and Todd will send the Board more information about the FSC process and next Board meeting we will discuss and decide on our letter of support.

e. Alberta Lake Management Report release

- At our AGM Anuja gave a presentation about the Alberta Water council's Lake Management Report. It will be released to the public on September 25th and formally submitted to the Government of Alberta for their consideration.
- WPAC's should send a letter of support for the Lake Management Report and urge the provincial government to move forward with developing a lake management policy and implementation tools sooner rather than later.

Action: Meghan will email the Board the report and news release on Sept 25th.

6. Round Table discussion

- Jule A
 - flowing into the right relationships event was a success.
 - Swan Hills Treatment Facility is going to do one sediment core sample, despite the efforts to lobby for 3 sites. If they can't get them to add more sites they will do a core sample in LSL near the mouth of the Swan River.
 - Jule will keep us updated on sediment core results.
- Mark M
 - Marten River erosion problems. Can we look at finding grant money to do an assessment and report with recommendations on how the issues could be addressed? Municipality would partner with us as well as the Marten Creek Community Association.

Action - Shane will send Meghan pics of Marten River at the areas effected by erosion.

- Brian Rosche
 - Rate Payer has complaints about the road salts killing his trees.
 - Land owner has done soil and water samples in the ditch area that show elevated levels.
 - AENV guideline document provided for information
 - Example of Medicine Hat using a different product on the roads, that impact environment less.
 - Brian thinks we should monitor soil and water in the ditch in the spring.
 - If there is a better product available municipalities would be interested in switching.
 - Bob suggests that the county to call Dytes construction and see if he has further information about the alternative products.

Action – Staff will look for literature on this subject and send to the Board for information.

- Charmaine - Faust Osmose site
 - She's asking for support from the LSWC regarding pressuring the GOA to do something about the Faust Osmose site.
 - She is tracking this to the Indian regional council meeting asking for the chiefs to help pressure the government

Action - Meghan will email Norbert enquiring about a follow up to the Faust community meetings and let him know that there has been community concerns.

- Tammy Kaleta
 - She has heard a lot of complaints about the amount of roundup being put on field to desiccate.
- Bob Popick – RE: corporate support
 - we need to make a plan to approach companies in a manner that is effective.

- We need to assess our ask and how we can make working with us look like a good thing to do.
- Todd - they want to support community organizations doing work in the watershed. They have buy in to our planning process, and can talk about the tangible things that they support.

7. IWMP Update

- After the release of the May draft IWMP there was a round of stakeholder and public engagement. No workshops were held but there was an online survey posted.
- The Municipal Working Group and the Board of Directors met with Sandi Riemersma in June and reviewed the final recommendations and implementation actions.
- Engagement period was open until July 24th.
- Lisa Bergen coordinated a GOA review of the draft IWMP. We were sent a table of comments with 160 individual comments. Sandi and Alan have went through the comment's and made amendments to the plan or provided an explanation to questions. We will be sending a response table back to Lisa and the GOA with a letter thanking them for their contributions.
- Municipal election mid-October will postpone the release of our plan.
- Next steps include submission of the final plan to the LSWC board in October with the intent to have the BOD sign off on it in November.
- Plan will be sent for graphic design and printing of both the full document and the summary.
- Formal plan launch in the new year.
 - Copies sent to all stakeholders.
 - Presentation to Municipalities, FN's and stakeholder groups.
 - Transformation of the steering committee into the implementation committee,
 - Municipal Working Group becomes IWMP implementation group, and hopefully we can get more staff and GOA involved.

8. Project Updates

a. Water quality

- 9/10 sampling events have been completed.
- Began working with Swan River First nation in June to add additional parameters (metals and dissolved metals, TDS, and more routine parameters ie. salts.)
- Applied to FRIAA for funds to support monitoring.
- Will be seeking more corporate sponsorship over the winter months.
- Palliser Environmental Services will be putting together a Water Quality summary report form our first year of data.
- Until something definitive comes out of EMSD regarding monitoring partnerships we will continue our program with external funding. Meghan will stay in communication with our regional limnologist as well as monitoring branch so they are aware of our efforts.

b. Riparian/wetland

- 2 riparian health inventories completed in the watershed this summer: TOHP and John Prinse.
- 3 projects in progress and to be completed this fall.
- BLC and PCBFA partnership meeting on Sept 20.
- Oct 30 WRRP round 5 applications are due. Potential projects include:
 - ALCES landscape modeling to identify priority areas for restoration (water quality, sediment reduction, habitat connectivity, key wetland protection) and who is the owner of the land (municipal, crown, FN, private, etc). This would help us and other organizations prioritize areas for project work based on the modeling results.
 - or more on the ground watershed projects – but we are having a hard time getting projects. We are working with BLC ag department and PCBFA to engage landowners in future projects.

c. Watershed modeling

- Interim report from WaterSmart has been received and can be sent out upon request. Sandy will work to integrate modeling results into IWMP if timing aligns.
- BOD was give3n an info sheet about the project.
- Copies of the WaterSMART interim report available. Please email Meghan for a copy. Final report will be sent to the BOD.
- Going forward we hope to work with the GOA to do more detailed watershed modeling using the desktop IFN tools.

9. Education and outreach updates

- Over 1370 direct interactions from June 15th (anglers cup) to September 9th (children's Expo)
- 12 community events: River Boat Days, High Prairie Rodeo Parade, Outdoors Expo, Farmers Markets. Penny Carnival etc.
- 8 summer camp sessions: High Prairie Library Summer Reading Program, Summer Splash Day Camp, HPCRC Science Kids
- 2 fishing tournaments: Canadian Tire Anglers Cup, Golden Walleye Classic
- 9 different locations around the lake visited.

Citizen Science Project:

- The LSWC was approached by Elliott Lindsay with Trout Unlimited and asked to participate/administer a citizen science project on Didymo (rock snot) distribution.
- Essentially the project entails having members of the public go out to streams and rivers to collect algae samples off of river rocks and enter data about the location on a mobile app called EpiCollect5 and then return the samples to us. We will then ship all samples to trout unlimited.
- The project has been promoted on the radio and on social media, to learn more visit: <https://tucanada.org/discovering-didymo-distribution/>

Water Bottle Fill Stations in HP Project:

- Our application to Alberta EcoTrust this spring was not chosen for funding.
- We applied to the Community Facility Enhancement Program which is a grant through Alberta Culture and Tourism.

School Programs:

- Now that school is back in session Kaylyn will be contacting teachers and administration to set up presentations within their schools.
 - For more information email Kaylyn at coordinator@lswc.ca
- Little Green Thumbs
 - Due to funding limitations no new gardens are being installed
 - We are talking with Bishop Reuther School and Jousard School regard redistributing unused garden equipment.
 - Hillview School in East Prairie contacted us and are interested in becoming a part of the program. Information has been passed on and will be shared at their council meeting on the 21st.

10. Adjournment

Motion 17-05: Smith/Popick - *Motion to accept April Isadore's nomination to the board on behalf of Driftpile First Nation.*

CARRIED

- Action items will be sent to the Board with the draft minutes.
- **Next meeting will be November 1, 2017**

Motion 17-06: Smith/Asterisk – *Motion to adjourn the September 21, 2017 Board meeting at 9:20pm*

CARRIED