

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
May 10, 2018
Kinuso Seniors Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

Name

Meghan Payne
Tammy Kaleta
Charmaine Willier Larsen
Wendy Freeman
Richard Simard
Jule Asterisk
Claude Smith
Todd Bailey
Jamie Bruha
Shawn Gramlich
Rebecca King
Brian Rosche

Sector Represented

Executive Director
Tourism and Rec – Chair
Sucker Creek First Nation
Member at Large
Big Lakes County
Non-Government Organizations
Agriculture
Forest Sector
Alberta Environment and Parks
Town of Slave Lake
Town of Slave Lake
MD of Lesser Slave River

Regrets

Bob Popick/Spencer Zelman
Shane Knutson
Brian Gilroy/Judy Stenhouse
Murray de Alexandra
April Isadore

Oil and Gas
Cottage Owners
Town of High Prairie
Commercial Fisherman
Driftpile First Nation

16 of 21 Board Seats filled.

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:43 by chair Tammy Kaleta

2. Adoption of May 10, 2018 meeting agenda

- Copies of the May 10, 2018 Agenda circulated.

Motion 17-38: Smith/Asterisk – Motion to Adopt the May 10, 2018 meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the April 12, 2018 meeting minutes

- Copies of the April 12, 2018 draft meeting minutes were circulated for review.

Motion 17-39: Simard/Bailey – Motion to Adopt the April 12, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the March 15, 2018 to May 15, 2018 treasurers report circulated.
- Government operational grant has not been received, nor have we had any communication regarding the review process and timelines.
- WRRP application in the amount of \$122,500 for the Shoreline and habitat assessment and mapping work was denied.
- Received \$5000 in support from the MD of Lesser Slave River
- Received our Vanderwell FRIP funds for 2018 in the amount of \$20,000

Motion 17-40: Bailey/Gramlich – Motion to accept the April 15 – May 15 treasurers report and updates as information.

CARRIED

5. Review action items

| Action Item: | Who | By When | Progress |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Board will review 2016 by laws and send Meghan proposed by law changes before May meeting | All board | Before May 10 th , 2018 | One change proposed to date. |
| Reach out to lakeshore property owners in Faust to seek their interest in a riparian restoration project | Murray | April 12, 2018 | No progress to date |
| Board information session to be planned for September. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest hydrology presentation - WaterSMART modelling presentation - "Flowing into the Right Relationships" demo Meghan will send doodle poll to determine date. | Meghan & Board | September | Will plan after AGM |
| Let staff know if you can attend 2018 WPAC summit June 20-22 in Peace River, AB | ALL | June 1, 2018 | Only Meghan and Kaylyn Registered to date. |
| Promote June 7 th AGM to sectors and organizations | ALL | June 7, 2018 | Board members provided with invites and call for directors forms. Ad in Slave Lake and HP papers, and social media advertising. |
| Send an invitation to our AGM to First Nations and Metis Settlements | Meghan | May 15, 2018 | In progress |
| Send link to Water North Coalition and the Water Channel to the BOD with the Minutes | Meghan | April 16, 2018 | Done |

Action – Register Tammy for WPAC Summit. Enquire if there is a one day registration for Charmaine.

6. Round table discussion

- Brian Elliott passed away on May 7th. He has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the LSWC.
- Claude expresses his thanks to our group as this is his last board meeting. He values our organization and thinks that we do a great job of bringing folks together to talk about watershed issues.
- Todd - last meeting he mentioned that there could possibly be a presentation from the provincial forest hydrologist and forcorp regarding the watershed plan.
 - We can schedule this in at our board development session in September
- Lots of flooding issues this spring, county has been blasting dams and trying to get water off the land.
- Tammy put a request out to our MLA to explore legislation around pollution of lakes eg. bob cat in the lake. As of now, the only thing that they can be charged with is littering for \$157.
 - Jamie suggests writing a letter to the minister of environment and Parks and cc our MLA and local politicians. Don't write the letter as advocacy, write it as an experience and that we are trying to protect the watershed.

Action - Meghan will draft a letter for the minister of Environment and Parks from the LSWC expressing our concerns and experiences with this situation and send it to the board for their review.

- Jamie - has heard that the WPAC grant review is progressing, but is unsure of the timing.

7. Board Business

a. Annual General Meeting

- June 7th from 1:30-5:30 in High Prairie at the Elks Hall downtown.
- Catering by Dana Jarvis
- No guest speaker for dinner – Judy Stewart wasn't available.
- Tammy suggests a lady named Nelly as a comedian

Action – Tammy will reach out to see if Nelly is interested in doing a mini show during dinner at our AGM.

- Board seats up for election:
 - Forest Sector and Alternate – Todd is on the fence
 - Agriculture – Claude is stepping down, Duane N is interested
 - Tourism and Recreation and Alternate – Tammy is letting her name stand, looking for an alternate
 - NGO's – Jule is letting her name stand, interest from Woods and Water Trail group.
 - Trappers – Scott is stepping down

Action – Jule will speak to Riel Gagnon about putting his name forward for the Trappers seat on the Board.

- Cottage owners and Country Residential – Shane is letting his name stand, need to recruit an alternate.
- Member at large alternate

- Commercial fishermen – to be discussed in by law review.
- Charmaine is going to the other First Nations leaders to encourage their participation and attend the AGM.

b. Proposed by Law Changes

- By Law changes need to be advertised publically until our AGM, where the membership will vote on them.
- Proposed changes include:
 - Remove the commercial fishermen seat from the board as it is no longer an approved activity in Alberta.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Jamie –The context is not that we don't want the former commercial fishermen on the board, rather that we have a board seat that represents something that doesn't exist in AB anymore.
 - IN 2016 there was a court challenge in place so the seat was left on the board at that time, now the commercial fishery is closed and it is not taking place in Alberta any longer.
 - Brian R - Fishermen and anglers represent a sector in the watershed and they should not be removed.
 - We have a board seat for recreation and tourism, which encompasses fishing and angling.
 - Question - Is the closure permanent? is there a chance that the populations will recover and commercial fishing could possibly be allowed again?
 - Not likely - lakes are being managed for sustainable recreational fishing, which has a very high value to the AB economy, vs. the few hundred thousand per year that the commercial industry supports.

Motion 17-41: Simard/Bruha - Motion to amend LSWC by law #9 to remove the Commercial Fisherman seat from the list of board seats and present this for review and vote at the AGM on June 7th, 2018.

in favor 7, opposed 3: CARRIED

Action - Meghan will draft proposed by law change and justification for the board decision and post it on our website as well as provide print copies of the proposed amendment for the AM.

c. Policies

- Last month the Board adopted the Policy template to use in developing staff and board policies.
- none to review this month, will start in September.
- Need a policy around how we review and vet nominations to the board. Eg. Conflict of interest, avoidance of activists or lobbyists, etc.
- Staff policies are high priority.

d. Board development

- In late September we will be having a half day + dinner event.
- Purpose is to take the opportunity to take the time to hear informative and relevant presentations and have discussion that we generally don't have time for at regular board meetings.
- Topics to include:
 - Lesser Slave Regional Forest Management plan – with presentations from Forecorp and Forest Hydrologist
 - WaterSMART – Impacts of climate change and land use on lake levels and stream flows in the Lesser Slave Watershed.
 - Keepers of the Athabasca – 1 hour demo of Flowing into the right relationships
 - Source water protection planning - GOA author of the Guide to Source Water protection planning.

8. Project Updates

a. WQ Monitoring

- Field work began this week.
- Unable to get out in the field in April so we will make up one date this summer.
- 2017 summary report is in final draft and will be sent to Board members, partners and funders as well as posted on our Water Quality page online.
- Tammy - brought up concerns with agricultural spraying. Meghan will find literature regarding agricultural herbicides and send to the board.

b. IWMP

- Waiting for formal responses from the Municipalities.
- Meeting with Big Lakes County in June to talk about their concerns regarding the implementation tables and timelines.
- Summary document is being designed by Liz Saunders along with a promotional postcard.
- Waiting for our AEP grant to determine what our contract with Sandi will look like for the year.
- Need to spend one on one time with the Municipalities developing work plans.

c. Riparian enhancement

- Going to visit a producer next week and check out a potential project site.
- Working with John Prince to plan a pond leveler installation.
- Planning a tour with Big Lakes County and PCBFA later in the summer to check out done and in progress projects.
- Have had calls enquiring about the process for approval to do major erosion control work on rivers. Meghan shared the information provided by the GOA with both parties. The LSWC is not in a position to take the lead on these types of large scale engineering works with costs over \$100,000.

9. Education and Outreach

a. X-stream Science

- Kaylyn attended an X-Stream Science training program in Camrose on May 7th.
- X-Stream science is a WPAC created Junior and Senior High program that looks at a flowing system.
- LSFES and the LSWC will be formally offering it as a program option.
- For more info about it call Kaylyn at the office.

b. LSFES programs

- May and June are scheduled with Grade 3 and grade 5 field trips in Slave Lake and High prairie.
- We are planning another webinar for 2019 in collaboration with Northern Lakes College.
- Will be participating in Summer Adventure Camp at the Boreal center.
- Board needs to decide how much they would like to donate to the LSFES this year.

Motion 17-42: Rosche/Bruha – Motion to donate \$10,000 to the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society at the June 7th AGM.

CARRIED

c. Summer outreach plans

- We will be setting up at various beaches and popular lake locations throughout the summer to engage with lake users.
- If there are summer events that anyone knows of please let us know so we can work them into our schedule.
- Will be providing stewardship handbooks for fishing tournament registration packages.
- River Boat days July 6-7
- May 26th - Kinuso Fishing Tournament by Scott Dalghren.
- NCF - Service Groups can set up with information. Julie Christianson. With the WPAC summit from the 20-22 staff may not be able to attend this year but will add to yearly calendar.

d. Other

- Kaylyn Attended the Water North Coalition strategic Planning meeting in Fairview. Copies of the WNC 2017-18 summary of activities provided to the Board.
- Little Green Thumbs Classes are planning year end celebrations that we will be helping out with.
- Lesser Slave Lake 101 event was a success with about 65 people in attendance and great reviews of the event.

10. Adjournment & upcoming meetings

Motion 17-43: Gramlich/Asterisk - motion to adjourn the May 10, 2018 Board meeting at 8:55pm