

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
March 8, 2018
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
Rebecca King	Town of Slave Lake
Richard Simard	Big Lakes county
Wendy Freeman	Member at large
Brian Rosche	MD of Lesser Slave River
Murray De Alexandra	Commercial fisherman
Todd Bailey	Forest Sector
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie

Regrets

Jule Asterisk	NGO's
Claude Smith	Agriculture
Jamie Bruha/Lisa Bergen	Alberta Environment and Parks
Scott Mayston	Trappers
April Isadore	Driftpile First Nation
Charmaine Willier	Sucker Creek First Nation
Bob Popick	oil and Gas Sector
Shane Knutson	Cottage and cabin owners

16 of 21 Board Seats filled.

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Tammy Kaleta.

2. Adoption of March 8, 2018 meeting agenda

- Copies of the March 8, 2018 meeting agenda were circulated.

Motion 17-24: DeAlexandra/Bailey – *Motion to adopt the March 8, 2018 Meeting agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the February 8, 2018 meeting minutes

- Copies of the Feb 8, 2018 draft meeting minutes were distributed.

Motion 17-25: Freeman/Bailey – *Motion to adopt the February 8, 2018 Meeting minutes as presented.*

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the January 15 to February 15, 2018 treasurers report were circulated.
- Confirmation of a 5 year, \$100,000 grant to support water quality monitoring was received in Feb from Vanderwell contractors. We will receive \$20,000 a year towards our tributary program.
- Received our 2018 ASB funding from Big Lakes County in the amount of \$15,000. This is to support agricultural extension and on the ground projects.
- Waiting on CFEP grant for water bottle fill stations
- Waiting to hear of WRRP grant for Shoreline assessment project. If we receive this grant Meghan will be seeking additional funds to fill budget gap of \$20,000.

Motion 17-26: Simard/Rosche– *Motion to adopt the Jan/Feb treasurers report as presented.*

CARRIED

5. Review action items

- No board action items this month.
- Letter of support was not sent to Keepers of the Athabasca at request of the chair
 - More information needed
 - Local FN's are not aware of this work or the organization.
 - The town of Slave Lake and several other local organizations was asked for the same letter of support and they did not provide it either.
 - Tabled until the next meeting for further discussion when Jule is present.
- Oil and Gas Sector Meeting – Meghan
 - Meeting in Calgary on March 6th, 2018.
 - Companies represented include: Black Pearl, Cardinal Energy, Acell, Aspenleaf, Baytex, Crescent Point, Razor Energy, Ridgeback
 - Presentation on the LSWSC and our roles, the watershed, and our programs and projects.
 - They had an interest in the questions and concerns we hear about their operations, land use framework planning, stream crossing work on the Swan River, and whether or not any baseline hydrocarbon testing has been done on our streams... to compare to tests after incidents.
 - Meghan will send a follow up email to the group and add them to our stakeholder engagement list.
 - We should propose a project that is of mutual benefit and pitch it to them for funding.
- Request for financial support – St Andrews School
 - There is a group of students working with Oceanwise out of the Vancouver Aquarium and the center for global education at the Queen Elizabeth School in Edmonton.

- There are students from 6 schools around Canada involved and they have put together a paper expressing the views of these youth on the critical need for more attention to water resources.
- After working together to have a virtual town hall with experts, and presenting information and engaging their peers the writing team met in Vancouver to put together their advisory council.
- They are slated to visit the Canadian senate on March 20-22 to present their findings to 6-8 of Canada's senators.
- Seeking funding to cover travel costs.
- Students are willing to present to us, or at an event in the future.

Motion 17-27: Rosche/Simard– *Motion to sponsor the St Andrews Student trip in the amount of \$1000 and the students will make a presentation to the LSWC board.*

CARRIED

6. Round table discussion

Update on Regional Planning – provided by GOA via email.

- As part of the LARP Amendment and associated LAR Environmental Management Frameworks (EMFs), the UAR Air and Surface Water Quality EMFs are being developed.
- For the UAR SWQMF, Indicators are in process of being selected (currently they are similar to those in the LAR SWQMF, but are being refined in consideration of the Upper Athabasca River conditions). Thresholds for the indicators are being developed. Trend analyses are being carried out to support this work.
- Don't have timelines but can say with certainty there will be engagement on drafts in the future.

Question from Wendy - how do we solicit riparian improvement projects?

- A willing and interested land owner is the first step.
- She knows of a parcel along the lake in Faust that has had cattle on it, this would be a great riparian restoration area.
- Murray knows the folks and will talk to them to see if they are interested in engaging in a project.

Other:

- Jousard Ice Fishing Tournament is this upcoming weekend. We have provided resources for the registration packages.
- Bobcat that went into the lake is still there. Tammy has followed up with AEP enforcement ad will pressure them

7. Operational updates

a. WPAC managers meeting

- On February 28, 2018 in Red Deer. Education and outreach staff also met.
- Kaylyn attended the Wetland education network forum in Leduc on March 1.
- In kind tracking has been agreed upon at \$85/ per hour. This number came from the Alberta Water Council's 2016 annual report.
- No updates on WPAC role review from AEP
- No communication with EMSD branch since the meeting with them in fall of 2017.
- 2017 WPAC compendium document finished and being distributed. Copies provided to board members.

b. Staff contracts, Overtime, and Safe work place policies.

- Staff contracts need to be renewed on March 31, 2017
- Benefits Program and spouses – board needs to make a decision.
- Over time policy – we need to amend the overtime section of the contract, and sign separate over time agreements.
- We received a communication from AEP regarding Safe Workplace policies. They wasn't to know what policies we are following and provided a guidance document from the department.
- Meghan is working with the other WPACs to put together a staff policy manual.

Action - Meghan will work with the WPAC collective to create an overtime agreement that will work for the LSWC.

Motion 17-28: De Alexandra/Rosche - Motion to increase staff salaries by 3% effective April 1, 2018 and to amend staff contracts to reflect this.

CARRIED, one opposed.

c. WPAC Summit 2018

- Being held in Peace River from June 19-22.
- Theme – source to tap. With a variety of presentations as well as brief WPAC updates.
- Board members are encouraged to make time to attend.
- Who is going to attend form the LSWC: Meghan, Kaylyn, Tammy
- Maybe's - Richard, Bob.

d. 2018 AGM

- Is going to be held the afternoon of June 8th in Slave Lake with dinner to follow.
- Theme is going to be watershed management planning and celebrating the completion of the plan.
- Invite Sandi to come do a presentation and formally thank her for her work with us.

- Presentation on water quality monitoring program, riparian and wetland projects, and other implementation successes.
- Following board seats will be up for election:
 - NGO's and Alternate
 - Member at Large Alternate
 - Tourism and Recreation and Alternate
 - Cottage and cabin owners and alternate
 - Agriculture and alternate
 - Trappers and Alternate
 - Forestry and alternate
 - Commercial fishing and alternate
- We need to do a bylaw review and advertise proposed changes ahead of time

Action - Meghan will add by law update to action items.

8. Project Updates

a. WQ monitoring

- Meghan is working with Mackenzie Data Stream to input our WQ data set into their platform so that it can be publically displayed.
- Equipment is being purchased and calibrated for the start of the 2018 field season.
- First Sampling date is April 17, 2018
- Swan River FN would like to sample routine, total and dissolved metals again on the Swan River sites once a month over the season. New agreement will be signed with them.
- 2017 water quality summary will be available soon and will be sent to the BOD and funders.

b. IWMP

- Final plan was presented to MD of Lesser Slave River on February 14th and they were left with a request to do a final review and endorse the plan with a resolution.
- Presentations to the town of Slave Lake on March 13, and Big Lakes County on March 14th.
- Have requested a meeting with the Government of Alberta's Cross Ministry review Panel and will be formally submitting the plan to the province soon.
- Sandi, Meghan, Alan and a graphic designer are working on creating the summary document.

c. Riparian and wetland

- Final report for our First WRRP grant was submitted, and we are getting an extension on our 2016 WRRP grant until December 2018. This will allow for time to complete existing projects.
- Working with Big Lakes and Cows and fish to plan a tour that will include installation of a pond leveling device and a willow planting.

- Have capacity to take on other 1 or 2 projects in 2018.

9. Lesser Slave Lake 101 event

- Hotel is booked and speakers are confirmed.
- Will be promoting through March and April. Targeted invites to municipalities, FN's and Metis, harbor associations, campgrounds, and industry.
- Need Board members to help facilitate the event, introduce speakers, etc.
- Will be asking the Reeve or mayor to do a welcoming address.
- Costs will be from room rental and catering, advertising, and materials for event.

Action – Board members will distribute poster and promote the event through their sectors and organizations.

10. Education & Outreach Updates

- Jousard kids can catch was successful. Had about 80 people through the hall and 50 that actually went out and tried fishing. 3 fish were caught.
- Canada Water Week March 18th to 24th
 - We are doing our coloring contest again, entries must be submitted by March 21st at 4pm
 - Open to anyone living in the watershed who is 12 or younger
 - Kaylyn dropped off copies at both HP elementary schools, the HP Library and Children's Resource Council
 - Contest is also available for download and printing on our Facebook page
 - Facebook Trivia Quiz - It will run from 10am March 20th to midnight March 22nd
 - Open House on March 22nd for world water day 3pm to 7pm
 - People can try playing Lesser Slave Lake Trivia
 - We will have a water themed craft/activity
 - Kaylyn will provide free baked goods
 - Everyone who completes the Alberta Water Literacy Survey will be entered to win a prize (prize Ideas)

11. Adjournment and next meeting

- Next Board meeting – April 12, 2018
- Lesser Slave Lake 101 – April 19th, 2018 in Slave Lake.

Action – Meghan will Register Wendy and Rebecca for the April 19th event.

Motion 17-29: Bailey/Rosche – Motion to adjourn the March 8, 2018 board meeting.

CARRIED