

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
September 13, 2018
 Kinuso Seniors Citizen Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Kaylyn Jackson	Watershed Coordinator
Sandi Riemersma	Palliser Environmental
Todd Bailey	Forest Sector (Chair)
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation and Tourism
Rowan Robertson	Recreation and Tourism (alternate)
Manuela Campbell	Member at large alternate
Bob Popick	Oil and Gas
Brian Rosche	MD of Lesser Slave River
Shawn Gramlich	Town of Slave Lake
Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Anastasia Boshman	Cottage owners and country residential

Regrets

Jamie Bruha/Lisa Bergen	Alberta Environment and Parks
April Isadore	Driftpile First Nation
Charmaine Willier Larsen	Sucker Creek First Nation
JD Dennis/Jule Asterisk	Non Government Organizations

14 of 21 Board Seats filled.

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chair Todd Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
- Round Table introductions for the benefit of new members.
- Todd thanked the board for their dedication to the LSWC and recognized their volunteer time and individual perspectives.

2. Adoption of September 13, 2018 meeting agenda

- Meeting agendas circulated; chair called for amendments to the agenda.

Motion 18-06: Gilroy/Rosche – Motion to accept the September 13, 2018 Meeting Agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the June 7, 2018 meeting minutes

- Copies of the June 7th, 2018 draft Board meeting minutes circulated; chair called for a motion to adopt them.

Motion 18-07: Nichols/Popick – Motion to accept the June 7, 2018 Board meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the May 15 – August 15th Treasurer report circulated by Executive Director.
- 75% of approved AEP Grant received mid-June in the amount of \$192,500 and 30K borrowed from the project account was returned.
- Received CFEP grant of 11,561 and Town of High prairie support in the amount of \$12,000 for the water bottle fill stations and an additional \$1500 from HP minor hockey association. We will break even on the cost.
- Received the final grant payment from AB Ecotrust for the Climate and landuse modelling work by WaterSMART.
- Upcoming grant opportunities include the Watershed resiliency and restoration program due Oct 31.
- Cargill reached out to see if they could support programs that align with their environmental giving program. Meghan is providing a “wish list” with budget gaps for their review.
- Received \$1000 from Vermillion resource in July to support Water Quality Monitoring.
- We have not received Municipal support from the Town of HP or Slave Lake yet for 2018.

Action – Brian Gilroy and Shawn Gramlich will follow up with administration about this. Meghan will write a letter to Mayor and council of HP and they will discuss.

Motion 18-07: Simard/Nichols – Motion to accept the treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

5. Review action items from June 7

Action Item:	Who	By When	Progress
Draft a letter for the Minister of Environment and Parks from the LSWC expressing our concerns and experiences with the Bob Cat under ice situation and send it to the board for their review.	Tammy & Meghan	October Board meeting	Tammy will write a draft and then send to Kaylyn for edits and then it will be sent to the BOD for review and comment.
Reach out to lakeshore property owners in Faust to seek their interest in a riparian restoration project	Murray	ASAP	Remove from action items
Board information session to be planned for October 25 from 2pm – 6 pm in Slave lake.	Meghan & Board	September	Board would like to hear from an elder or First nation person regarding traditional

			knowledge and culture around water.
Register for ALMS conference on September 28 & 29 th by September 14	Board	September 14, 2018	Todd Bailey is registered to attend.
Have banking information updated once June minutes are approved	Meghan	After September 13, 2018	
Aid Meghan in getting a Resolution of support for IWMP from Municipalities.	Brian R Brian G Shawn G	By October	TOHP has been formally asked via the mayor and CAO. Big Lakes Has been formally asked via letter on September 14 th

6. Project Updates

a. IWMP Project

- Final draft plan was presented to Big Lake County today and we discussed municipal implementation items and worked through them to identify their priorities.
 - Log jams and flooding, Water quality monitoring, Riparian areas, Natural shoreline vs. designated beach areas and management areas for fish habitat, Wetland policy and strategies, AIS.
- Have made a formal request for a motion of support from Big Lakes County that they will review on October 10th
- Have emailed the COA's at TOHP, TOSL and MDLSR as well, would appreciate board members helping with follow up on the status of the letters of support.
- Final plan posted online by the end of October, cover letter and packages will be sent to stakeholders.
- Formalization of IWMP implantation group – Municipalities and GOA and invite First Nations to participate if they want to.
- Meghan and Sandi will Meet with GOA staff to discuss their priority implementation actions:
 - Floodplain mapping at a usable scale.
 - Updated hydrology model
 - GOWN well
 - Water Management Plan for Lesser Slave River
 - Long Term Lake Monitoring program
- Potential Citizen Science Fish Monitoring App. - Community Based Fisheries Monitoring program
 - Development of an app that anglers can use to share the fish they caught and provide the LSWC with data on fish. GOA is not doing any fish studies and they are encouraging Community Based Monitoring and engaging people in citizen science.

- Picture, species, length, weight, and approximate location. Checks and balances – ID verified before data is live.
- Can be used to engage youth, anglers and the public and collect data for State of the watershed reporting.
- Sandi and Meghan are working on a project plan and budget. Could be funded by Alberta EcoTrust

b. Water Quality Monitoring

- Have completed 9 of 10 sampling events.
- June 5th samples showed very high fecal coliform counts on the West Prairie River. Meghan talked to Big Lakes, TOHP and Alberta Health Services about it. Big Lakes county is considering funding some microbial source tracking work next summer.
- A water quality fact sheet was created for the County that explains fecal coliforms and where they come from.
- Potential future monitoring could include taking samples in 2019 and having them analyzed to determine what species the fecal coliforms are from. The County would need to fund the analytical work as it is beyond the budget of our program.
- Meghan will be making a request the EMSD to implement a long term lake monitoring program on Lesser Slave Lake. She will be speaking to Ron Zurawell at the CBM event in Edmonton.
- Meghan is attending a Community Based Monitoring conference being hosted by EMSD and the Mistaskkis institute with the goal of learning what EMSD is doing and how we can get more support and collaboration from them.

c. Riparian Restoration

- Have 5 projects on the go, with the Beamish and Turcotte projects wrapping up this fall.
- Initiated a new project with Freeman Iwasiuk east of Enilda in the East Prairie sub watershed.
- On August 8th the Junior Forest Ranger ladies joined up to do some weed control and build a fence along the riparian area in High Prairie. Mike and Johnny from the town also helped for the morning.
- Big Lakes County is applying for funds to hire an ALUS coordinator and start delivering the ALUS program in BLC. This is an effective producer driven program that incentivizes land owners to conserve sensitive areas.
- LSWC and PCBFA are holding a fall grazing, watering system and beaver tour on October 2nd, 2018. Will be visiting the Prinse project and Blackhurst projects.
- 2016 WRRP grant has been fully spent. Final report is due in December. We will be applying for funds to keep delivering projects from 2019-2020.

7. Education and Outreach

a. Wetland Education Network

- It is a subcommittee under NAWAMP established to work on wetland management and education in Alberta.
- The goal is to develop standardized wetland education programs for delivery across the province and provide tools for their delivery
- Kaylyn and other WPAC educators are participating in this work.

b. Project Wet

- Kaylyn attended facilitator training for Project Wet in Spruce Grove.
- Its prepackaged program with 65 lesson plans for K to 12 with curriculum links and links to the environmental literacy ladder. Like Project Wild but with a water focus.
- Kaylyn can now deliver the program and train others on how to deliver the program.

c. Little Green Thumbs

- Checking in with the existing teachers and the status of their gardens. We will distribute gardens to new schools if they are not being used.
- LGT training session on October 10th at Christies Greenhouse.

d. Other

- Streamlining our programs and creating info materials about our programs and reaching out to schools and other places to let them know about programs and opportunities.

8. Board Business

a. Policy Development

- In June the Alberta Water Council Executive Director Andre Asselin shared the AWC's recently developed. The AWC is a Water for Life partner and operates as a non profit with a board of directors with various levels of staff. This staff manual is very relevant.
- Executive Director Suggestion is that a subcommittee of 3 is formed to review the AWC manual and make recommendations for relevant changes to make it fit the LSWC's needs.

Motion 18-08: Rosche/Gramlich - motion for Tammy, Manuela, Bob and Todd to for a policy committee to review and edit the AWC staff handbook and have a draft for the board to review by November BOD.

CARRIED

b. Forest Management Plan Session – Sept 20

- Representatives from all three companies and also two representatives from ForCorp will be joining the LSWC at the Seniors Center for a presentation on the new Regional Forest Management Plan, the various components and where they are at in the process.

Action - Board members are asked to come prepared with questions for the RMFP session on Sept 20th

c. Board Information Session

- October 25th, 2018 in Slave Lake from 2pm to 6pm.
- Presentations include:
 - Brian Free – WPAC program updates & WPAC supports
 - Government of AB – Upper Athabasca Region Update (30 min)
 - Mike Nemeth and Ryan MacDonald - Athabasca River Basin Initiative Project
 - Mike Nemeth and Ryan MacDonald - Climate Change and Land Use modelling in the Lesser Slave Watershed
 - AEP operations – Log Jam and flooding study on East Prairie.
 - Kaylyn – environmental education
 - Chief Twinn – Traditional Knowledge and indigenous perspectives around water.

Action – Shawn Gramlich will contact Chief Twinn and invite him to join us as a speaker.

9. Round Table Discussion

- Meghan attended a meeting at Swan River First Nation on Monday Sept 10th to hear of the work that SRFN has done with MSCS on prioritizing out of compliance stream crossings in the Swan Sub Basin. Next steps are to meet with each company or stakeholder who have ownership of the crossings and talk about their plans to remediate.
- Brian Rosche - He brought up Marten River issues a while ago and since then there has been another flood at Marten Beach. There is flooding, erosion, beaver dams, log jams. He feels that the LSWC should do a study to examine why there is flooding, there is discussion about beavers being part of the problem. There is a lot of silt going into the lake when these dams let go. The Marten Beach community association has reached out to MLA's, environment and parks, and other avenues to try and get this issue addressed.
 - One of the recommendations in the IWMP is to look at flood mitigation. Beavers and log jams and siltation are common issues across the watershed and High priority for Municipalities. The LSWC will be having discussion with AEP staff and bring up this issue.
- Tammy - History Check app is getting a lot of traffic. Tammy suggests that we advertise on there.
- Brian Gilroy - TOHP was approached to expand the reach of their water system. The system capacity isn't an issue, the councilors were more concerned about the Source of the water (West Prairie River) and how additional withdrawals will impact flows in the long term.

Action – Meghan will speak to the Town CAO and provide information about river flows and water use.

10. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting Date

Motion 18-09: Rosche/Popick – Motion to adjourn the Sept 13, 2018 board meeting at 9:43

CARRIED