

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
January 17, 2018
Kinuso Seniors Citizen Center, Kinuso, AB

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Todd Bailey	Forest Sector, Chair
Anastasia Boschman	Cottage Owners/Country Residential
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Shawn Gramlich	Town of Slave Lake
Wendy Freeman	Member at Large
Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation and Tourism
Brian Rosche	MD of Lesser Slave River
Bob Popick	Oil and Gas

Others in Attendance:

Arnold Viersen	Federal MP
John Senneker	Assistant to MP
Daniel Gilman	Assistant to MP

Regrets

Jamie Bruha/Lisa Bergen	Alberta Environment and Parks
JD Dennis/Jule Asterisk	NGO's

12 of 21 Board Seats filled

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chairman Todd Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Agenda, minutes and other materials distributed.
- Round of Introductions for our guest Mr. Arnold Viersen, MP

2. Adoption of January 17, 2019 meeting agenda

- Chair Todd Bailey called for additions or amendments to the agenda.
- Addition of 3a – Introduction to the LSWC for Mr. Arnold Viersen.

Motion 18-23: Kaleta/Gramlich– motion to accept the January 12, 2019 meeting agenda as amended

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the December 13, 2018 meeting minutes

- Addition to Minutes – Shawn Gramlich is missing from attendees list
- Chair called for a motion to accept the Dec 13, 2018 draft meeting Minutes

Motion 18-24: Gramlich/Popick – motion to accept the December 13, 2018 meeting minutes as amended

CARRIED

a. Introduction to the LSWC for Mr. Arnold Viersen

- Meghan presented Mr. Viersen with a package containing LSWC publications, reports, and information about our programs and projects.
- Meghan explained the role of the LSWC, WPAC's in Alberta, and our work in the watershed.

Discussion with Arnold:

- His interest in the environment and fishing in particular came from being a part of the hunting and angling caucus.
- He has been hearing concerns from people in this constituency regarding the closure of commercial fishing.
 - DFO is focused on managing water bodies for angling and recreational user rather than for a commercial fishery. The value of the recreational fishery far outweighs the value of a small commercial fishery.
 - This is also the position of the Government of Alberta. They are managing Alberta lakes for recreation and angling.
 - Action – Meghan will pass Murray De Alexandra's contact information along to Arnolds office so he can contact him to learn more about commercial fishing in this region.
- There is a lot of local discussion about whitefish over population in our lake harming our angling species but there is no monitoring being done to determine if this is in fact accurate.
 - There is a significant need for resources to conduct fish population studies on LSL and other lakes to inform decision makers.
 - No monitoring has been done since the commercial fishery closure several years ago.
- Harbors are another item that has been brought to his attention. Big Lakes would like to take over the federal harbors in their County.
- Discussion about how DFO has lost their ability to enforce legislation and there is a lack of presence in Alberta.
- Meghan mentioned that Aquatic Invasive Species are a Canada wide issue that needs more support and resources. The Alberta program is very under resourced.

Action – Meghan will send Arnold thank you and a brief summary of the items we discussed.

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the November 15 to December 15, 2018 treasurers report circulated to the Board.

Motion 18-25: Kaleta/Simard – motion to accept the November 15 to December 15, 2018 treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

- LSWC office was broken into on January 12, 2019. The back door was broken with tools. 3 garden kits, laptops, camera and tablet along with many miscellaneous items were taken. High Prairie RCMP were called and are doing an investigation. Commercial General insurance did not include office contents in a non-owned building. Meghan is having motion detectors and alarms installed ASAP.
- The LSWC is waiting to hear on success on two grant applications: Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program application submitted Oct. 30, 2018 for \$70,000; and a request to the Loblaws water fund for \$10,780 to add agricultural chemicals to our 2019 spring sampling.
- The WPAC's are jointly reaching out to Bev Yee Deputy Minister of Environment to discuss our grant program and other challenges we have been experiencing over the past year and a half. Meghan will be travelling to Edmonton to meet with Bev Yee if and when a meeting is set up. The Board will receive a copy of the final letter sent out via email.

5. Review action items from December

Action Item:	Who	By When	Progress
Charmaine and Manuela to go to ATB Bank and sign paper work for signing authority on our accounts.	Meghan	ASAP	Board Discussion needed
Motion of support for the LSWC from the MD of LSR and a letter to the LSWC.	Brian R - LSR	ASAP	Done – Meghan attended council meeting on January 9 th
Complete edits on draft LSWC staff policy document and send to the Board for review	Meghan, Todd, Tammy, Manuela, Bob	January 10 th	
Email Keith Denoncourt to see if he and the Fish and Wildlife folks are planning a Slave Lake Kids can Catch event and see how we can get involved	Kaylyn	ASAP	Done – he isn't aware of a Slave Lake event yet but will be in touch.
Board members who want to help with our Feb 16 th ice Fishing event in Joussard please email coordinator@lswc.ca and let Kaylyn know.	ALL	ASAP	On the agenda later for more discussion
Meghan will send email to Arnold Viersen's office with our upcoming meeting dates and a standing invitation for him to attend.	Meghan	ASAP	Done

6. Watershed Coordinator Position

- Kaylyn's last day was January 11th, 2019. Her final payroll was calculated and benefits package was cancelled.
- Position is being advertised locally in Newspapers, online on the lswc web page, and on indeed.com.
- Have received 4 resumes to date.
- Todd & Meghan will/ coordinate interviews in early February.

7. First Nations Board Positions

- Driftpile First nation and Suck Cree First nation held elections and Charmaine Larsen Willier and April Isadore were not reelected.
- We need to contact the new Councils of this nation and request an appointment to our board. Our by-laws state that their board position is filled by appointment.

Motion 18-26: Gramlich/Bailey – motion to have the Executive Director prepare a letter to DPFN and SCFN regarding their representation on the LSWC Board and Todd Baily will speak to them about it on Monday January 21.

CARRIED

- Because Charmaine was voted to the executive as the Secretary the LSWC needs to fill this position.
- Nomination of Bob Popick to be the LSWC Secretary by Anastasia. Seconded by Richard Simard

Motion 18-27: Rosche/Simard – motion to cease nominations for Secretary.

CARRIED

- Bob Popick is the LSWC Secretary and will need to complete paper work to add him to the signing authorities on the LSWC accounts.

Motion 18-28: Gilroy/Kaletka – motion to have Meghan Payne contact ATB Bank and have Bob Popick added to the list of directors with signing authority and remove Charmaine Larsen Willier.

CARRIED

8. IWMP Updates

- The Watershed Plan is complete! And we have received motions and letters of support from all of our municipalities.
- Meghan and Sandi are finalizing the document for print and for online viewing. Will be online by January 22 and sent to print ASAP.
- Meghan and Sandi met with AEP staff in Edmonton on December 10th, 2018. To talk about IWMP implementation.
 - Copies of the meeting notes were distributed.

- Jamie Bruha and Lauren Makowecki were not available at the meeting so Sandi and Meghan are following up and having conference calls with them about the GOA recommendations in the plan.
- EMSD has committed resources and staff to complete sampling on Lesser Slave Lake in summer of 2019. The lake will be sampled 5 times from May to October. Meghan and Sandi will be having additional discussion about the lake sampling program with Ron Zurawell.
- Sandi and Meghan are working to develop a Terms of Reference for the IWMP Implementation Committee. It will be made up of stakeholders from: provincial and municipal governments, forest sector, agriculture, recreation groups, First Nations and others who have been identified. Will be planning a meeting for early March with this group.
- Sandi has created a IWMP tracking spreadsheet that includes all of the recommendations and stakeholders who have roles in implementation. This will be kept current and reported on annually.
- Meghan will be setting up meetings with First Nations and Metis to present the highlights of the IWMP and talk to them about implementing watershed recommendations in their communities and to learn what community concerns or issues they may have regarding the watershed.

9. Education and Outreach

a. Kids Can Fish Event – February 16

- Advertising has begun for the event online and through posters. Will be doing radio advertising in February.
- Tolko Social club is providing hot coco for the day, they will have volunteers to help out on the ice and with set up. They will also be bringing out firewood and wiener sticks to have a bonfire on the ice and people can cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows.
- Have rented Jerry's Ice Shacks for the day so where they are located will be our base of operations on ice. Additional tents will be set up in proximity to the shacks and bonfire.
- HP children's resource council and the BCBC will be doing indoor activities again in the Hall along with food and beverages and tackle rentals.
- Looking for donation of door prize draw items for kids.
- Meghan will invite volunteers to a planning meeting in the next week or 2.

b. Other

- Meghan is overseeing the Little Green Thumbs program until a new coordinator can be trained.
- Caring for our Watershed program application deadline is in March so Meghan is promoting the program again to Jr High and High School aged classes.
- Canada Water Week is in March. At this time we have limited capacity to do any events.

- Meghan is working to prepare a detailed package for the new coordinator in addition to what Kaylyn had.

10. Round Table Discussion

Meghan – additional items

- Next WPAC Managers Meeting is February 5th in Red Deer
- Meghan is attending the ABMI's 10 year science program review that is being hosted to inform stakeholders. Date is January 30 in Edmonton.
- Meghan has been invited to Milk River to speak at their annual WPAC even and fundraiser. Their Board requested a presentation about our WPAC and how we compare to their work in the South. MRWCC will reimburse for travel costs. This event is March 19, 2019.
- Brian R – Has hear talk from their representative on the Athabasca WPAC that they feel they are somehow above the LSWC because our watershed is a sub basin to the Athabasca.
 - There is no justification for this. The LSWC is an independent WPAC and have been operational and successful in building stakeholder relations for over 10 years.
- Richard Simard – informed the group that CBC news folks will be in Jousard over the weekend (jan 18-20) to do a story about ice fishing. He has arranged for some Jousard community members to take them out on ice. He will also mention our Kid can catch event coming up.
 - When the story comes out Meghan will share to our social media and the Board.

11. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting Date

Next LSWC Board meeting – February 14, 2019 at 6:30

Motion 18-29:Popick/Bailey– motion to adjourn the January 17, 2019 LSWC Board meeting at 9:00pm.

CARRIED