

Minutes of:
Lesser Slave Watershed Council
February 21, 2019
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
Manuela Campbell	Member at Large alternate
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation and Tourism
Wendy Freeman	Member at Large
Bob Popick	Oil and Gas
Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Anastasia Boshman	Cottage Owners & Country Residential
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Lisa Bergen	Alberta Environment and Parks

Regrets

Shawn Gramlich/Rebecca King	Town of Slave Lake
JD Dennis/Jule Astersk	Non Government Organizations
Brian Rosche/Brad Pearson	MD of Lesser Slave River
Richard Simard/Robert Nygaard	Big Lakes County

12 of 21 Board Seats filled

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Meeting called to order by Chair Todd Bailey at 6:30pm

2. Adoption of February 21, 2019 meeting agenda

- February 21, 2019 agenda circulated, chair called for additions.

Motion 18-30: Gliroy/Nichols– motion to accept the Feb 21, 2019 agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the January 17, 2019 meeting minutes

- Copies of the draft January 17, 2019 meeting minutes circulated to the board.
- Chair asked of there were any errors, or additions.
- Spelling mistake on item 7 (Sucker Creek), will be corrected.

Motion 18-31: Popick/Kaleta– motion to accept the Feb 21, 2019 agenda as amended.

CARRIED

4. Review action items from January

Action Item:	Who	By When	Progress
Meghan to take signed minutes to ATB bank so that Manuela and Bob can get signing authority	Meghan	ASAP	Bank needs a letter of direction from the board rather than minutes.
Send a follow up email and thanks to Arnold Viersen	Meghan	January 23	done
Complete edits on draft LSWC staff policy document and send to the Board for review	Meghan, Todd, Tammy, Manuela, Bob	Time permitting	No progress
When letter to Bev Yee is complete send a copy to the LSWC board	Meghan		Postponed, will provide updates
Meghan to send Tammy 2019 ice fishing flyer for distribution	Meghan	ASAP	Done
Prepare a letter to Driftpile and Sucker Creek requesting a new appointment to our board.	Meghan Todd	By January 21, 2019	done
Set up volunteer meeting for Ice Fishing event	Meghan	January 31, 2019	done

5. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the December 15 – January 15, 2019 treasurers report distributed.

Motion 18-32: Gilroy/Campbell– motion to accept the December 15 – January 15, 2019 treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

a. AEP grants

- WPAC were informed by Rob Harris, Director of Community engagement, on January 24th that the WPAC's will likely experience significant delays in receipt of our 2019/20 operational grants because of the election coming up, despite the commitment that the Minister of Environment has made to the WPAC's.
- We were also told we could delay submitting our grant applications until after an election if we choose. They are usually submitted Mid February.
- The 11 WPAC's are working with Rob Harris and other AEP staff to resolve the current and ongoing issues with the delivery of timely grant funding.
- The WPAC's sent a joint letter outlining the impacts of delayed funding that include staff layoffs, project delays, loss of credibility with stakeholders,

perception that AEP doesn't support Water for Life. A copy of this letter was sent to the Board on Feb 20, 2019.

b. Financial planning

- Because of the anticipated delay in receiving our 2019/20 grant the Executive Director has not hired a new staff person to fill the Watershed Coordinator position. Recommendation to wait until we have more information about our funding.
- We may have to carry the money we have forward until as last at September 2019. Meghan has requested a grant amendment so that we may do so without penalty or deduction from our 2019/20 AEP grant.
- Meghan has prepared a financial projection and 3 year expenditure comparison for the board to review.
- Executive Director Recommendation is to wait until after the Northern Region WPAC/AEP meeting to submit our grant application package. We should have more information about funding as well as regional priorities by then.

Action – Operational plan and budget and AEP grant application forms will be presented at the March Board meeting for approval.

c. Other matters

- Meghan has prepared a letter of direction for the ATB bank in High Prairie. Because the board had made multiple motions around signing authority they asked specifically for a letter of direction that states who should have signing authority.

6. WPAC managers meeting updates

- WPAC Managers met in Red Deer on Feb 5, 2019
- Brian Free and Rob Harris from AEP joined us to talk about our funding and other matters like the lack of communication between AEP and the WPAC's.
- Rob and Brian are working to plan an AEP led WPAC forum but it likely won't be planned until after an election. We have not had a WPAC forum since January 2017.
- Regional meetings are being set up for AEP staff and WPACs in March. The Southern WPAC meeting will be March 12, and the Northern meeting will be March 13th, in Spruce Grove. 2 Board members should attend with Meghan.

Action – Meghan will register herself, Tammy and Bob for the AEP regional meeting and make hotel arrangements.

- WPAC managers asked that a discussion about funding happen between the WPAC Subcommittee and AEP staff prior to these meetings so that our time can be spent talking about regional priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
- Environmental Monitoring and Science Division has 150 staff and have had little to zero communication with WPAC's. In September 2017 we were called to Edmonton to hear

from EMSD and there has been no follow up regarding WPAC led monitoring, Community Based monitoring, or even what their surface water monitoring program looks like. This branch is also responsible to report on the “state of the environment” but there has been no discussion around what this looks like, when it will be done, and how groups external to the GOA will be involved.

- WPACs have asked that EMSD be a part of regional meeting and WPAC forums going forward.
- The WPAC’s are putting together a package that showcases our organizations, what we do, and how successful we are at delivering water for life goals in our watersheds. The intent is to present this to new and returning politicians to ensure that they are aware of the WPAC’s and our accomplishments including our ability to leverage GOA funds into millions in return.
 - LSWC board will receive a copy of the package when it is complete.
- WPAC’s are going to try to set up a workshop with the ABMI. There are opportunities to work together and for their group to support WPAC projects with some of their Geospatial work and GIS capabilities.
- The WPAC’s are jointly going to prepare a Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program report that showcases the projects we have accomplished under this program. The goal is to make a solid case for continuation of the grant program.
- A Water for Life Summit is being planned for 2020 and this will be an opportunity to showcase WPAC successes as well as those of the Alberta Water Council and other Water for Life partners.

7. First Nations Board positions

- After the January Board meeting Todd reached out to Driftpile First Nation, Sucker Creek First Nation and Kapaweno First Nation to talk to them about participating in the LSWC at the Board level.
- Terry Giroux has been appointed by Driftpile First Nation to the LSWC.
- Sucker Creek is interested as well but has not decided on a representative yet.
- Todd also spoke with Michelle Knibb at Kapaweno First nation and she was going to speak to Chief and Council about participating at the LSWC Board table.

Action – Todd Bailey will provide membership forms, by laws and Board of Director Terms of Reference to representatives from Sucker Creek, Driftpile and Kapaweno and invite them to our March 21, 2019 Board meeting.

8. Project Updates

a. IWMP

- IWMP is now online and available for download.
- 100 copies of the IWMP have been ordered and will be distributed to the board and key stakeholders when they arrive.

- Meghan is working to book presentations with each of the First Nations and Metis Settlements to talk about the plan and what their local issues are that could shape potential projects.
- Implementation Committee Terms of Reference has been developed. The board needs to review it and provide feedback and approval.

Action – Meghan will edit Implementation committee TOR as discussed during the meeting and send to the board for approval via email.

- Implementation committee meeting being planned for March 25, 2019 in Slave Lake. When the date is confirmed Meghan and Sandi will send out invites to municipal, industry, NGO, Indigenous, and GOA staff.
- IWMP implementation tracking system has been developed. It is a series of spreadsheets in excel that tracks actions related to each recommendation, who is completing the action, what the action is, and what outcome it is achieving. The spreadsheet tracks the actions and can easily produce tables for annual reporting.
- Watershed Science forum – goal was to plan and host something in June but with the AIS workshop in May and the AgM in June Meghan likely wont have the capacity to plan another event.
 - Showcase the work being done in the watershed to achieve IWMP goals and objectives.
 - Topics could include: Water Quality Monitoring Program, Big Lakes county ALUS program, Swan River First Nation stream crossing work, Land Use framework updates, OHV club trail initiatives, Invasive Species
- Board recommendation is to plan a fall watershed science workshop.

b. Riparian related

- We have an outstanding request for \$70,000 to the WRRP program and we should hear whether it is approved or not before the end of March.
- If we receive this grant we will be taking on a couple new projects and continuing work on existing projects.
- Big Lakes County is also waiting to hear of confirmation of funding for the ALUS program. If they receive support to hire a coordinator and launch ALUS LSWC will be a member of the ALUS steering Committee and new project will be run through the ALUS program rather than through the LSWC, we will still provide support from staff as well as project dollars.
- WRRP project report journal is almost complete. It will be submitted with our final report, and used as an information piece.
- We will be receiving \$15,000 from Big Lakes County towards land stewardship type projects in 2019.

c. Fishing App

- Meghan has had discussions with Randy, owner of <http://www.ifishalberta.com/> and the appdoor about development of an app for Lesser Slave Lake.
- Developing our own app from scratch would cost around \$25,000.
- There is an opportunity to work with Randy through his I fish forever website. They would remain owners of an app produced for Lesser Slave Lake and we would pay annually for branding, and to receive the data that users have input.
- Discussion has been put on hold due to budgetary uncertainty.
- There are opportunities to get a grant for some or all of project costs. Meghan is looking into it.

9. Education and Outreach

- Kids can Catch event in Jousard was a success. We had 54 kids, 45 adults and 18 volunteers.
- Without a second staff person education and outreach capacity is limited.
- Planning an Aquatic Invasive species Workshop for Early May in partnership with Big Lakes County Ag Department. Date is tentatively set for May 13th in Faust, AB.
- Meghan is managing the little green thumbs program along with reporting requirements and classroom presentations. The Kinuso public School and the Swan River Band school have received their new garden kits and have joined the program.
- Meghan will be helping out with the Jousard Fishing tournament on March 9th and will have an LSWC display set up for the day.
- 2018 Education and outreach report cards have been sent to print.
- High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show is being held April 13-14th. Meghan will be looking for Board members to help out.
- The Slave Lake Tradeshow is lake themed this year and will be held May 4-5th but Meghan is away that weekend. It is up to the board if they wish to enter and set up a booth for the weekend.

Action – Meghan will send tradeshow information and costs to board and they will determine if we have the capacity to enter the tradeshow at the March board meeting.

- Meghan is contacting the Land Stewardship center to see if their staff have capacity to do home site assessments around Lesser Slave Lake this summer. In the past this program has not been well received but we have not promoted it for a couple of years and may have more interest.

10. Round Table Discussion

- Manuela and her neighbors often experience flooding along the South Heart River. They have talked to Alberta Environment and Parks staff about potential management options including moving the road.

- Brian G and Tammy were involved in the Jr. High science fair and were pleased to see a couple of students with watershed related topics.
- Duane – There is a bill in the senate right now that would give more authority back to the federal water act. If it is approved tis would give back some of the authority that was taken away. More information here: <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-68/first-reading>

11. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting Date

- Next regular board meeting March 21, 2019.

Motion 18-33: Popick/Gilroy– motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

CARRIED