



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019, Kinuso, AB**

Present at meeting:

Name

Meghan Payne
Alyssa Belanger
Todd Bailey
Jamie Bruha
Tammy Kaleta
Wendy Freeman
Roderick Willier
Richard Simard
Brian Rosche
Brian Gilroy
Rebecca King

Sector Represented

Executive Director
Watershed Coordinator
Forest Sector, Chair
Alberta Environment and Parks
Recreation and Tourism
Member at Large
Sucker Creek First Nation
Big Lakes County
MD of Lesser Slave River
Town of High Prairie
Town of Slave Lake

Regrets

Bob Popick/Spencer Zelman
Anastasia Boshman/Shane Knutson
JD Dennis/Jule Asterisk
Duane Nichols/Brianne Brault

Oil and Gas
Cottage Owners/Country Residential
Non Government Organizations
Agriculture

13 of 21 Board Seats filled

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chair Todd Bailey called the Meeting to order at 6:35.
- Meghan introduced new Watershed Coordinator Alyssa Belanger to the Board of Directors.

2. Adoption of May 16, 2019 meeting agenda

- Copies of the May 16, 2019 meeting agenda circulated to the board.
- Chair called for additions to the agenda.

Motion 18-42: Rosche/Kaleta – Motion to adopt the May 16, 2019 meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the April 11, 2019 meeting minutes

- Copies of the April 11, 2019 draft meeting minutes were circulated to the Board for review.

- Chair called for a motion to adopt the April meeting minutes

Motion 18-43 – Kaleta/Rosche – Motion to adopt the May 16, 2019 meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

April Action items

| Action Item: | Who | By When | Progress |
|--|-----------------|------------|--|
| Register for Invasive Species Management Workshop online at www.lswc.ca | Board | ASAP | Done – had 45 attendees |
| Share Invasive Species workshop flyer within your organizations and networks | Board | ASAP | done |
| Meghan will speak to the Upper Athabasca regional limnologist and find out what parameters are being sampled on the Lesser Slave River. | Meghan | May 16 | The medium term station upstream of the confluence with the Athabasca was shut down for 2019. Laura didn't know any further information. |
| 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 AGM | Todd | April 11 | Roderick Willer is joining the Board for Sucker Creek First Nation, Driftpile has interest but has not get back to Todd as of yet. |
| Meghan will speak to Sandi and the Regional limnologist about what types of chemicals are monitored downstream of pulp mill effluent release and get a quote from ALS on what the cost of analytical would be on those parameters. | Meghan | May 16 | Parameters sent to BOD, no quote obtained as we do not have budget or capacity to do this additional monitoring at this time. |
| Todd will look into finding a First Nations speaker who can share local knowledge and history with us at our AM | Todd B | ASAP | Roderick will talk to some local folks he knows. |
| Todd will reach out to his forestry colleagues to find someone to fill the forestry sector position on the board at the AGM. | Todd/ Meghan | By June 20 | Todd and Meghan have both reached out to forest Sector folks regarding board position. |

Action - Meghan will prepare a letter to EMSD Chief Scientist Fred Wrona regarding shutting down the River Network Station on the Lesser Slave River, and cancelling the Lesser Slave Lake monitoring for 2019. This monitoring is a recommendation for AEP in the IWMP and was the only monitoring being done in the watershed by AEP.

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Updates

- Copies of the March 15 to April 15, 2019 LSWC treasurers report were circulated.
- We received a check for \$1,000 from Vermillion resources. This is the 3rd year of support in their 5 year commitment.
- We received \$5,000 from the MD of Lesser Slave River for support in 2019.
- We have not received a grant agreement for our \$71,000 WRRP grant yet. Executive Director has not made any new project commitments yet because of this.

Motion 18-44: Bruha/Gilroy – Motion to accept the treasurers report and financial updates as information.

CARRIED

5. Round Table

Jamie Bruha – AEP

- He was the lead on the Bighorn consultations. Had to do 55 – 60 meetings, some of the open houses were quite hostile and people were not behaving appropriately.
- New Minister Jason Nixon was at all of these meetings as the opposition critic. He now wants to restart the process for this proposal and spend more time on communication and engagement.
- If we are interested in the UCP 13 point environmental plan – google this to see what the plans are for the ministry.

Rod W– were the wild horses a part of the big horn discussion??

- That is a weird topic, the herd has been around for 50-60 years. The department has in the past tried to trap and rehome them. Animal activists have put a stop to any efforts to cull or even trap and re locate them.
- The herd size is up in the thousands now, there are declining elk populations and major impacts on the land.

Brian R

- there a real need for someone in the GOA to take up the cause of working with these trail groups to try and get them on more appropriate trail areas, develop creek crossings. One of the barriers to home made bridges or rig mats is that they are not engineered so progress is very slow.
- Some folks have the attitude that people should just get out there and build their own bridges and make their own trails because the process for approvals is to onerous.
- There is only one staff person in the region who can issue TFA's, and it takes at least a month for her to even look at a renewal. There is a lack of ability to enforce the terms of the TFAs.

Action – LSWC staff will request Respect the Land, and Know B4 you go resources from AEP and distribute them to dealerships, OHV groups and at quad rally events.

Action – LSWC staff will plan and facilitate an OHV/recreation type workshop with AEP representatives, other OHV and trail clubs and local user groups and individuals. Goal is for a fall date.

6. Executive Director Report

- Next Managers meeting will be on June 25th in Red Deer.
- Meghan and subcommittee of Executive Directors are requesting a meeting with the new Minister of Environment and Parks Jason Nixon. The purpose will be to introduce him to the Alberta WPACs and showcase all of the achievements and work we are doing across Alberta.
- Once our new MLA has an office set up and is taking appointments Meghan will be meeting with him to talk specifically about the LSWC, our work, local watershed issues, and how he can support us in his roll.
- Waterlution and Alberta partners are holding a Water Innovation lab for 6 days in October 2019 in Calgary/Kanaskis and Meghan has been asked to participate as a Resource Guest. It is a leadership training program for young water leaders where they can meet experts from around AB, network, learn leadership skills and the focus will be around water issues in Alberta.
 - Meghan will be speaking with the organizers more to determine time commitments and costs.
 - This event is on the agenda for the WPAC Managers meeting and we may send a couple of representatives collectively.
- Meghan will be going to Edmonton next week for the Alberta Innovates – Water Innovation Forum. The event is by invite only and will showcase work being done by Alberta Innovates that supports Alberta’s water for life strategy. Meghan will share the notes with the Board and the other WPAC managers.

7. Board Policy Development

- Should be a priority for the Board of Directors going forward.
- Meghan has sent a couple of WPAC policy documents to the Board Executive for review. We can use their documents as examples but policy development should be done collectively with input from Directors and staff.

Action – Todd, Tammy and Richard will work on a draft policy document based on the examples and material sent as examples, with support from Meghan.

8. Annual General Meeting – June 20th, 2019

- June 20, 2019 at the Boreal center for Bird conservation from 2pm to 6pm with dinner to follow.
- Registration is live at www.lswc.ca
- Meghan handed out membership forms to the directors so that they can have them done ahead of the AGM.
- Patti Campsall, BCBC Executive Director will be giving us a 20 minute presentation on their programs and operations.
- Director positions for election:
 - Forest sector & alternate

- Member at large & alternate
- Oil & gas sector & alternate
- Commercial Fishermen & alternate
- Trapper & Alternate
- Meghan has emailed forest industry contacts, local trapper's association members and Murray DeAlexandra to let them know about the opportunity to join our Board. In the process of reaching out to local oil and gas folks. Meghan will be meeting with Vermillion Resources on June 12.
- Meghan Spoke with Ken Noskey from Peavine Metis Settlement and he is interested in having someone from Peavine as well as an Alternate join the board.
- Traditional Local Knowledge Speaker – Todd?
- AGM will be advertised in local papers, online, and via our email list. Board members are expected to share AGM info to their sectors.

9. Project Updates

a. Watershed Plan implementation

- The first watershed plan implementation meeting was on May 9th.
 - Attendees from Big Lakes, Town of High Prairie, Forestry, Oil and Gas, Swan River, Alberta Environment and Parks.
 - Kapaweno and Sawridge First nation staff came to present letters form their Nations and then did not stay for the meeting.
 - Meghan, Todd, AEP staff and Indigenous Relations staff will set up meetings to talk about the watershed plan and roles of the LSWC AEP, and implementation partners.
 - Sandi prepared a table of 26 recommendations for review and discussion with the group rather than trying to address all of them.
 - Members are asked to review the table and identify what is high priority.
 - Between now and the fall Meghan and Sandi will be working one on one with implementation partners to learn about activities underway and to facilitate implementation project work where possible.
 - Meeting notes and follow up actions need to be sent to the group once Sandi has had a chance to review and add to them.
- We have received a request to have a follow up meeting regarding the regional forest management plan. The companies also suggested that the Alberta forest hydrologist also comes to talk about the ECM model and forest hydrology.
 - They suggested June. When would the board like to set up a meeting?
 - Before this meeting we should have feedback on water quality and quantity VOITs prepared for them for discussion.
 - Some of our concerns were with the ECA model and its imitations, and with the water quality piece.

- The quantity piece is addressed with the ECA model but the water quality piece is missing. There is no monitoring done to actually measure the impacts.
 - Slopes – there needs to be increased setbacks on steep slopes to reduce sediment transport.
- Meghan emailed the board information form Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding initiative to modernize the *Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations*. The objective of the modernization is to strengthen the environmental protection of the regulations, widen the scope to address the transformation of the pulp and paper industry, and streamline provisions to reduce burden and improve efficiency of the regulations.
 - Board members can sign up for the informational webinar via email if interested.
 - Meghan will sign up for one of the webinars to be informed about the work.
- Trout Unlimited is interested in meeting with Swan River and the LSWC to see if they can help facilitate a stream crossing restoration project in the Upper Swan sub basin. Meghan and Todd will work to set up a meeting and Swan River has the stream crossing inventory with ownership to use as a reference to identify a high priority site.

b. Watershed Resiliency Projects

- We have not initiated any new projects yet because we have not received a grant agreement from AEP for our 2019-21 WRRP grant. The letter of confirmation was sent by former Minister of Environment Phillips but there is no indication that the program will not carry on as usual under the new leadership.
- Big Lakes County ALUS program coordinator will be stating soon and the program will officially launch. The LSWC staff will be members of the Project Advisory Committee that will evaluate project proposals and oversee project budgets and execution.
 - We will be providing funding to projects that meet watershed outcomes and will be accountable to the WRRP program for reporting.
 - Meghan and the ALUS coordinator will be developing an MOU for how the LSWC will work with the ALUS program.
- The LSWC staff are going to go to Environmental Farm Plan training in the fall. PCBFA no longer has a staff person in High Prairie and there is no one in the watershed who is able to help producers do their EFP's. Having an EFP makes a producer eligible for the Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding and it is an expectation that they will complete one if engaging in projects with us or the ALUS program.

c. Water Quality Monitoring

- LSWC program is going well, staff have sampled 3 times to date.
- The medium term river network station on the Lesser Slave River has been suspended for 2019. Regional Limnologist wasn't sure of how long it will be down because it is managed by EMSD.
- EMSD is now not able to conduct lake water quality monitoring on Lesser Slave this year. They don't have the staff capacity and can possibly do it next year pending department priorities.

10. Education & Communication updates

- Invasive Species Management workshop on Monday was well attended with about 45 participants. Staff will be sending participants a follow up email with links to resources and contact information for our presenters.
- We have many LSFES field trips booked at the end of May and throughout June. Alyssa has spent a couple of days with the Fires ted. Staff to learn about their programs and sites we use.
- Staff will be going to the BCBC Songbird festival on May 25th to engage with participants about healthy watersheds.
- Alyssa is planning a camp activity with the Kinuso Girl Guides at the end of the month
- We will be setting up a table and the Anglers Cup registration event June 13 to distribute lake stewardship and AIS resources.
- LSWC staff will be going to the Slave Lake kids can catch event hosted by the Slave Lake rod and Gun club on June 7th at the LSR weir.
- The Alberta Woodlot Extension Society will be having their AGM in High prairie in June. Staff will attend and Meghan will present on LSWC work if asked.
- Big Lakes and Cows and fish will be holding a riparian management 2 day workshop. Will be supporting and helping to find local sites to visit. Registration information will be advertised when it is available.
- Swan River First nation culture camp - Todd will let staff know the dates and we will have a table there again.

11. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting Date

Next meeting:

Annual General Meeting – June 20, 2019 from 2pm to 6pm at the Boreal Center for Bird Conservation. Register at www.lswc.ca

Short Board meeting to follow for all directors.

Motion 18-45: Rosche/Bruha – Motion to adjourn the May 16, 2019 LSWC Board meeting at 9:00

CARRIED