



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Oct 17, 2019, Kinuso Seniors Center**

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Alyssa Belanger	Watershed Coordinator
Todd Bailey	Swan River FN (Chair)
Lynn Smith	Peavine metis Settlement
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Brian Rosche	MD of Lesser Slave River
Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Misty Gaudet	Member at Large
Pearl Lorentzen	Member at large (alt)
Allison Moeller	Forest Sector
Lisa Bergen	Alberta Environment and Parks
Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Cameron Prichard	SUEZ
Louisa Ramsey	SUEZ
<u>Regrets</u>	
Jule Asterisk	NGO's
Rebecca King/Tyler Warman	Town of Slave Lake
Shane Knutson	Cottage Owners/Country residential
Tammy Kaleta	Recreation and Tourism

15 of 21 seats filled

Board Vacancies:

Commercial Fishermen, Trappers, First Nation X 3, East Prairie Metis Settlement

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chair Todd Bailey called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.
- Round table introductions of all in attendance for our guest presenters.
- Town of Slave Lakes organizational meeting has resulted in a change in our directors. Rebecca King is our Director with Mayor Tyler Warman as the alternate.

2. Adoption of October 17, 2019 meeting agenda Gilroy & Peavine

- Copies of the Oct 17th agenda were circulated, chair call for any additions.

Motion 19-08: Gilroy/Smith – Motion to accept the Oct 17, 2019 meeting agenda as presented

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the September 19, 2019 meeting minutes

- Copies of the Sept 19, 2019 meeting minutes were circulated for review.

Motion 19-09: Simard/Nichols – Motion to approve the September 19, 2019 draft meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Delegation – Cameron Prichard, SUEZ EHS Manager

- Meghan invited Cameron to join us to present the Lesser Slave Lake sediment quality report.
- Report was email to BOD and print copies were given out at Sept meeting.
- Results from the Mouth of the Swan samples are well below any guidelines for aquatic health.
- Results from the swan study were significantly lower than the levels in Edith and Christina Lakes.
- Suez is willing to share any of their monitoring data with us on request. It is not posted online anywhere because of the massive size of it.
- Cameron will share the latest annual report with the group via Meghan.
- If anyone would like a tour we can reach out to Cameron and he can arrange it.
- Cameron mentioned that there are opportunities for SUEZ to partner with the LSWC.

Action: Meghan will follow up with Cameron about partnership funding for metals testing on additional sites besides the swan.

5. Review September Action items

Action Item:	Who	By When	Progress
Prepare the table of feedback for the Forest Companies based on the discussion at the meeting and send it to the Board for their feedback and additions no later than Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 4pm.	Meghan	Sept 23	Done
Coordinate a stakeholder meeting that includes the Marten Beach community members, the MD of Lesser Slave River. Speakers to include: Ahmad – modeling of the 100 year flood event; someone from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; a representative from the FMA holders to share winter 2019/20 plans for the region.	Meghan, Dean, Lisa, Constance	November 21, 2019	Done. November 21, 2019
Send Meghan some pictures of the damage to the community, and the headwaters areas. For use in communications with Provincial staff.	Dean	ASAP	Done
Reach out to the science fair coordinators in High Prairie and Slave Lake and determine how the LSWC can be involved and support them.	Alyssa	By Oct 15	Going next week to local schools
Review the draft Board Governance and Policy document prepared by Tammy and Todd	Board	By Oct 17 th	In progress

6. Treasurers report and financial updates

- Copies of the Aug 15 – Sept 15 Treasurers report circulated to the board.

- The LSWC operational account is low on funds and we have not had an update regarding our AEP grant. We don't expect AEP staff will be able to tell us anything until after the budget is passed.
- Meghan asked for a motion from the Board to transfer funds from the project account to the operational account when the bank account drops below \$10,000

Motion 19-10: Gilroy/Moeller – Motion to permit the Executive Director to transfer of up to \$35,000 from the project account to the operational account if required.

CARRIED

- Plains Midstream High Prairie office has reached out to let us know that they will be making a \$5,000 donation to the LSWC. Meghan is sending them the necessary information and will make sure to get a photo of the check presentation.
- Ex. Director will be soliciting donations from other Energy Companies in the area: Cardinal Energy, Razor Energy, Aspenleaf, Cenovus, Delta Stream, TransCanada, Surge, Murphy, Access Pipelines

Motion 19-11: Rosche/Nichols - Motion to accept the treasurers' report as presented.

CARRIED

a. Municipal contributions

- We have not received municipal support from the Town of High Prairie since 2016 and have not received Town of Slave Lake support since 2017.
- Meghan has sent a request for 2020 support in the amount of \$5,000 to both Towns and the MD of Lesser Slave River.
- Will likely get \$71,000 for WRRP, request amendment for reporting and spending
- We receive \$15,000 in funding from Big Lakes County through the Ag Service Board grant. This grant program is changing and we may not receive the same amount for the next 3 years.

Action: Meghan will send an operating grant request for \$5,000 to Big Lakes County.

7. Recap of Forest Company Meeting and Actions

- Meghan sent out the Sept 25, 2019 meeting notes and Mike Wagner's presentation. These can be found in the LSWC drop box as well.
- As an action from this meeting Meghan and Constance S. have planned a public Advisory Committee meeting for the evening November 21, 2019 in Slave Lake. The focus will be on hydrology and the Marten Beach flood.
 - Registration is open until Nov 12 via Eventbrite on the LSWC main web page.
 - Copies of the Draft agenda distributed to the group.
 - Panel discussion at the end of the meeting needs to be focused and meaningful. Its not fair to have Lisa B speaking on behalf of GOA as the issues include transportation, municipal affairs as well.

Action: Meghan and Constance will work to refine the panel discussion so that it has meaningful outcomes. Update will be provided at the November 14th Board meeting.

- Forest Companies were sent a table of all of the forest sector related IWMP recommendations and they will be sending it back with their implementation progress. Meghan will use this for the IWMP implementation tracking.

- The forest companies were also sent a table of comments and feedback on their proposed Forest Management Plan VOITS and will also provide responses to those.
- There are Open Houses scheduled in the beginning of November for the public to look at the eligibility maps and provide feedback. The LSWC will help share the event and encourage people to attend.
 - Nov 4th – Slave Lake Nov 5th – High Prairie Nov 7th – Wabasca
 - Nov 8th – Swan Hills Nov 13th – Valleyview
- MD of LSR hired Golder and Associates to complete a flood mitigation assessment so that they could apply for Community Resiliency funds from the Province.
 - Recommendations include armoring the river banks and raising the road and bridge elevations above flood risk level.
 - Costs are over \$20,000,000

8. Board Governance Manual – Tammy & Todd

- Arin and Lisa (GOA) and Meghan have provided tracked edits and comments to Todd and Tammy.

Action: Todd and Tammy will revise the document based on the edits sent to them and send a revised draft to the group by Oct 31, 2019.

- Final draft for review in November, and the goal will be to adopt it in December.

9. Strategic Planning & 2020/2021 projects

- The LSWC Board of Directors need to have a Strategic Planning Session this winter before February.
- Staff strongly recommend hiring a facilitator to help us through the process.
- Our vision, Mission statement and organization objectives need to be updated. This can be done with at the same time as the finalization of the Governance Manual.
- AEP operational grant applications have generally been requested in February of each year. Once we have more direction from AEP on where their priorities lie we can plan for IWMP implementation projects and other key work.

Action: LSWC staff will pull together examples of vision, mission and goals from other WPACs and proposed wording for the LSWC updates. By November meeting.

10. Project Updates

a. Watershed Plan Implementation

- Modeling Team met via call on October 1 to discuss our needs and the appropriate tools.
- In kind time from AEP staff is going to be a limiting factor and hiring a consultant to do all of the work is not feasible.
- Next steps are to access the MIKE SHE/MIKE 11 model that the LSWC has developed in 2007/08 and have it updated and use it to run watershed hydrology and land use scenarios where we have enough data to have quality results.
- Next call scheduled for Nov 12, 2019.
- We are supposed to plan a fall implementation meeting and a watershed forum but without knowing what the remainder of our operational funding is we can't plan yet.

- We have not had a response from Kapaweno First Nation or Sawridge First Nation in regards to our response letter where we have offered to meet with the Nations and appropriate Government of Alberta staff to talk about the IWMP.

Action: Todd will follow up with consultation staff at Sawridge and Kapaweno regards to our response and request to set up meetings. By November meeting

b. Water Quality Monitoring

- Last sampling event was Oct 15&16 this week.
- U of A lab is going to start processing our 14 samples for the following 6 fecal DNA markers
- 2017 & 2018 data are live on Mackenzie data Stream. 2019 data will be uploaded once it has been validated.
- 2019 Water quality Summary will be prepared for early in the new year by Sandi.
- ED recommends allocating the Plains donation to the Water Quality program because at the end of 5 years we will need to hire someone to do a comprehensive report. This will likely be a \$20,000 project.
- Meghan is going to continue to communicate with EMSD staff to press them to do monitoring on Lesser Slave Lake in 2020.
- Meghan will be supporting Peavine Metis Settlement in submitting a grant application to develop a community based monitoring program. Lynn will work with Meghan to find the appropriate grant opportunities for Peavine.
- Meghan can also support Swan River in developing workplan and grant applications if this is something they also want to pursue.
- Lisa B mentioned that there are staff available to aid First nations in developing Source Water Protection plans.

Action: Lisa will provide contact information for the SWPP staff person to Meghan & Todd.

c. Watershed Resiliency Projects

- We have still not received a grant agreement for the \$71,000 WRRP grant we were supposed to receive in April 2019. Meghan will be following up with WRRP staff AGAIN after the budget is released.
- Due to this, we have not initiated new projects this summer and still have \$15,000 in the bank from Big Lakes earmarked for this work as well.
 - Meghan will report that we are carrying it over and intend to use it to support ALUS projects that align with watershed resiliency goals.
- Shelia Kaus and Meghan are working to engage at least 2 landowners and have them submit project proposals for the first ALUS projects. The ALUS PAC will begin meeting this winter once grants and administrative items are in order.
- Dugout and Livestock water workshop was planned for November 7th but one of the key speakers can not make that date. We will be rescheduling in January or Feb 2020.
- Staff will be attending Peace Country Beef's winter water system event on November 28th and Meghan will be giving a water quality presentation.

d. other

- Reporting for the 2018 Community Facility Enhancement grant for water bottle fill stations in High Prairie is due and Meghan will submit all necessary information.

11. Education & Outreach activities

a. Little Green Thumbs

- Still waiting to hear from 2 teachers regarding their participation in the program.
- Getting teachers to sign up for online LGT Platform & choose date for training
- Teacher training in Mid-November
- Met LGT Coordinator Brit MacDonald in early Oct, was super helpful in helping me figure things out in terms of set-up, planning, and duties as coordinator for our area.

b. School and Community engagement

- visiting area schools next week and will be distributing our program menu and meeting principals.
- looking for opportunities to work with community groups: Girl Guides, Big Brother Big Sisters, etc
- in touch with Swan River youth group, planning something with them

b. Kids Can Catch 2020

- will begin planning after Christmas and it will take place on the Saturday of family day weekend in February.

c. Other

- Calendar photo submissions are finished, finalists selected, calendars will be ready for distribution before Christmas

Action: Alyssa to reach out to Town of Slave Lake to see if there is interest in presentations at the Slave Lake PD Day camps.

12. Meeting wrap up and adjournment

Upcoming Meeting dates:

November LSWC Meeting – November 14, 2019 at 4:30 at the Kinuso Seniors center

Forestry PAC meeting – November 21, 2019 at the Slave Lake Inn at 5:30 (must register)

Motion 19-12: Moeller/Lorentzen – Motion to adjourn the October 17, 2019 LSWC Board meeting at 8:00pm.

CARRIED