



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2019, Kinuso Seniors Center**

**Present at meeting:**

Name

Meghan Payne  
Todd Bailey  
Dean MacKenzie  
Lynn Smith  
Duane Nichols  
Lisa Bergen  
Brian Gilroy  
Richard Simard  
Anne Stewart  
Shawn Gramlich  
Misty Gaudet  
Tammy Kaleta

Sector Represented

Executive Director  
SRFN (Chair)  
Member  
Peavine Metis Settlement  
Agriculture  
Alberta Environment and Parks  
Town of High Prairie  
Big Lakes County  
Big Lakes County  
Town of Slave Lake  
Member at Large  
Recreation and Tourism

Regrets

Brian Rosche/ Brad Pearson  
JD Dennis/Jule Asterisk  
Nicole St. Jean / Allison Moeller  
Anastasia Boschman /Shane Knutson

MD of Lesser Slave River  
Non-Government Organizations  
Forest Sector  
Cottage Owners & country Residential

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 4:35.
- Round table introduction of everyone present.

**2. Adoption of September 19, 2019 meeting agenda**

- Copies of the September 19, 2019 meeting agenda were circulated and the chair called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

**Motion 19-05: Simard/Gramlich**– Motion to adopt the September 19, 2019 meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

### **3. Adoption of the June 20, 2019 meeting minutes**

- Copies of the June 20, 2019 draft board meeting minutes were circulated for review.

**Motion 19-06: Gilroy/Nichols** – Motion to approve the June 20, 2019 draft meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

### **4. AGM Recap and Nomination of new director**

- Executive Director distributed copies of the current Board of Directors communication list to the group.
- After the AGM we had board vacancies for the following seats: Kapaweno First Nation, Sawridge First Nation, Driftpile First Nation, East Prairie Metis Settlement, Trappers, Commercial Fishermen & Oil and Gas Sector.
- Since the AGM Peavine Metis Settlement has appointed Ken Noskey to the board with staff person Lynn Smith as the alternate.
- We have received a nomination for the oil and gas sector seat from Dean MacKenzie who works with Vertex as VP of Environment. As per the LSWC By Laws a Director can be appointed to the board until the next Annual General Meeting via a motion from the Board.

**Motion 19-07: Simard/Gilroy** – Motion to accept the nomination of Dean MacKenzie for the Oil and Gas sector seat on the LSWC board of Directors.

CARRIED

- New directors can find all relevant LSWC society docs, work plans, past projects, etc. in our drop box folder. Link is sent out with every board email.

### **5. WPAC Roles and Responsibilities update**

- Executive Director distributed copies of the WPAC roles and responsibilities document to the group and time was given for them to read the document.
- This document has been prepared by AEP staff and WPAC Executive Directors and is being used to brief Minister Jason Nixon about the WPAC partnership.
- The intent is that it is used as a guide for our work and the partnership contributions we can expect from AEP. It will be reviewed and updated so that it remains relevant.
- The LSWC needs to do a strategic plan update this winter and should be mindful to ensure it aligns with this document.

### **6. Treasurers report and financial updates**

- Copies of the May – August, 2019 treasurers report were circulated to the board.
- Treasurers report includes a breakdown of non-GOA funds in our Project account and what the funds are allocated to.

- Report also contains a breakdown of municipal support received from our 4 municipalities since 2015.
- The LSWC received \$100,000 before the provincial election and had some carry over from the previous fiscal year and that has allowed us to maintain full staff and operations. Some of the other WPAC's are laying off staff and reducing operations because of the delay in receiving our 2019/20 operational grant.
- We anticipate hearing about the remainder of our funding by late October. The WPAC's jointly sent Minister Jason Nixon a letter and information package in August, stressing the important of the Water for Life partnership grants. We have not received a reply of any sort from his office yet.
- We have received confirmation that we will be getting a Watershed Resiliency and Restoration grant in the amount of \$71,000 over 2 years to support working with landowners to implement best management practices for wetlands and riparian areas in collaboration with Big Lakes County and the ALUS program.
  - Because of the delay in getting this grant we will be requesting an amendment so that we get 2 full years to do the work.

## **7. Round Table discussion**

- Meghan will be attending the UCP membership meeting in Kinuso on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and will prepare a letter and information package for our MLA Pat Rehn, and our MP Arnold Viersen.
- Lynn Smith - Peavine is interested in developing their own environmental monitoring program and have their staff trained to do field work and data management. Lynn and Meghan are working together to obtain a grant so that Peavine Metis Settlement can hire a professional to work with us and lead the project work to develop and implement a monitoring program.
- Dean – Marten Beach flood has caused major damage to properties, the creek and river have severely eroded banks, and in some cases new channels and the amount of sediment that came downhill into Lesser Slave Lake was immense. Marten Beach Community Association are trying to get political support so that the MD can obtain flood mitigation money form the province to aid in the clean-up and restoration work.
  - Meghan attended meeting that the community association had with the forest companies for information.

**ACTION - Meghan will coordinate a stakeholder meeting that includes the Marten Beach community members, the industry who work in the area and representatives from 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 haven't plans for the region.**

**Action – Dean will send Meghan some pictures of the damage to the community, and the headwaters areas.**

## **8. Project Updates**

### **a. Watershed Plan Implementation**

- Fall implementation meeting will be scheduled when we have more funding certainty.
- AEP modeling group met with Meghan and Sandy in July and are working to populate a table of modeling tools and data sets that can be utilized to help address some of the IWMP recommendations. Second meeting scheduled for Oct 1.
- Modeling Group Terms of reference drafted and being refined by Sandi and Meghan. This document will provide the business case AEP staff need to allocate their time to this work. The work needs to link with department priorities and have value for the staff time invested.
- Lisa coordinated a call with ground water AEP staff to talk about Groundwater Observation Well Network wells in our area. There is one near Smith but that is down stream of the lake and won't tell us much about water moving through the system. The GOA does own 2 additional wells in the watershed that could possibly be monitored.
  - Recommendation is to create a conceptual model for our basin that shows the groundwater system and how it is linked to surface water and the overall water balance. This can also be used to create information materials about groundwater to share with stakeholders.
  - *Question for modeling team – Can the ground water conceptual model be used to determine where ground and surface water interactions take place in the watershed? And at what scale?*
- IWMP Implementation tracking using the detailed spreadsheet created by Sandi has been ongoing. Will be preparing an implementation summary with this table soon.
- Other implementation projects to be determined as new GOA priorities are shared, and as funding becomes available.

#### **b. Water Quality Monitoring**

- 9 of 10 sampling events have taken place. Last will be mid-October.
- 12 of 14 fecal coliform samples have been sent to the U of A. They will be analyzed as a batch all at once, once the October samples have been received to save costs. Data will be sent to Sandi and the report will be included in our 2019 water quality summary.
- John Willier from Swan River has accompanied LSWC staff in the field twice this summer to learn about the monitoring program and sampling techniques.
- Peavine Metis Settlement is interested in developing their own community based monitoring program that their staff can implement. Meghan will aid them in obtaining grant funds (where opportunities exist) to hire a professional who will work with the community to develop and support the implementation of a program.
  - Meghan has sent resources on developing community monitoring programs to staff at SRFN and PMS.

#### **c. Watershed Resiliency Projects**

- With the delay of the WRRP grant we have not taken on any new riparian restoration projects this season. Staff are waiting until we have a signed grant agreement in place before making any new commitments.

- Big Lakes County has updated its Agricultural grants program. This will involve more staff time for applications, project planning and reporting requirements, but it no more onerous than any other grantor.
- Watering systems are with new producers for the season, both are interested in working with us on projects when capacity is available. Meghan will be going out soon to collect them and have them winterized for storage.
- We are hosting a farm water and dugout workshop in collaboration with Big Lakes county Ag department on November 7th at the High Prairie Agriplex. Dr. Kevin Brecker, DMV; Dan Benson from Alberta Agriculture and local Dugout Dude Randy Ehman will be giving presentations. Please share the flyer and promote the event.
- Big Lakes county ALUS Project Advisory Committee will be having their first meeting this fall and LSWC staff will be participating.
- Meghan and Shelia at Big Lakes are working to find our first ALUS projects and get the land owners project plans and budgets started.
- Meghan and Alyssa will be taking training for Environmental Farm Plan and Long term farm water management plans so that we can better support producers in our watershed.

**d. other**

- Big Lakes Ag Department staff installed 2 Living on the edge signs and dropped off 2 more to be installed by landowners.
  - Locations include: Winigami lake boat launch, Spruce Point Park, day use area, Shadow Creek Resort and near the fish cleaning station in Jousard.
  - Have 1 more to be installed at Faust Harbor
  - Have 3 signs available if you know a campground or place that should have one. They are large, (4'x8') and need to be installed on 2 4x4x10 posts.
- Town of High Prairie staff have installed the 3 outdoor water bottle fill stations. They have been getting positive feedback from the community. Report on CFEP grant is due this fall.
- SUEZ has provided the sediment core report to the LSWC for information. Cores were taken from the mouth of the Swan River in winter 2018 and CPP environmental prepared a report based on the lab reports. Copies distributed to the board.
  - Meghan has invited Cameron Prichard, SUEZ environmental coordinator to our Oct Board meeting to give an overview of plant operations and discuss the sediment core report.

**9. Education, outreach and communication updates**

- Alyssa is attending the 2019 Alberta Lake Management Workshop in Chestermere and will be sending out summary notes.
- New educational program menus have been developed and will be distributed to all schools in the watershed ASAP.
- Alyssa will be traveling to Edmonton in October for Little Green Thumbs Coordinator training and the teachers training session will be arranged shortly after.

- Staff are planning a water webinar in collaboration with the LSFES staff. It will be similar to the one delivered in 2015 but updated. Date and details to be determined.
- Kids Can Catch 2020 will be planned for February Family day weekend again this year. Staff will be looking for support and volunteers for the event after Christmas.
- Suggestion from Brian G to engage with Junior High Schools in the watershed and be involved in their science fairs after Christmas.

**Action – Alyssa will reach out to the science fair coordinators in High Prairie and Slave Lake and determine how the LSWC can be involved and support them.**

#### **10. Forest Management Plan meeting**

- The LSWC had a meeting with the 3 forest companies who are working on a new regional forest management plan, and their planning consultants with Forcorp in October 2018.
- We are having a second meeting next week, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Kinuso Seniors Center. The provincial forest hydrologist from Calgary will be joining and can speak to the modeling activities that take place for planning.
- To be prepared for this meeting the board will review the 33 VOITS proposed for the RFMP and provide feedback on them and any other additional concerns.
- VOIT table was distributed to the group, table for feedback was put on the projector screen and the group discussed and recorded items that should be brought up at the meeting next week.

**Action – Meghan will 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.**

#### **11. Board Policy Development (Tammy and Todd)**

- Todd, Tammy and Richard have used the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Board Policy document for guidance and are nearly finished a draft of LSWC Board Policies.

**Action – Tammy will send the Draft LSWC Board Policies to Meghan and the rest of the Board for their review and edits as soon as it is ready.**

#### **12. Future Board meetings & events**

- October Board Meeting – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>
- November Board meeting - Nov 14<sup>th</sup>
- Fire and Flood Stakeholder Information session – November 21, 2019 in Slave Lake
- Next WPAC Executive Directors Meeting will be October 22, 2019 in Red Deer. Education and Literacy Staff will be meeting at this time as well.

#### **13. Meeting adjournment**

**Motion 19-07: Nichols/Simard – Motion to adjourn the September 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting at 7:30pm.**

CARRIED