



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 12, 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)
Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Jamie Bruha	Alberta Environment and Parks
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Pearl Lorentzen	Member at Large
Lynn Smith	Peavine Metis Settlement (Alternate)
Ken Noskey	Peavine Metis Settlement
Jule Asterisk	Non-Government Organizations
Brian Rosche	MD of Lesser Slave River
Nicole St. Jean	Forest Sector

Regrets

Roderick Willer	Sucker Creek First Nation
Rebecca King /Tyler Warman	Town of Slave Lake
Tammy Kaleta	Tourism and Recreation
Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Dean Mackenzie	Oil & Gas sector
Shane Knutson	Cottage Owners & Country Residential

Board Vacancies:

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

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chairman Todd Bailey called the meeting to order at 4:39
- Copies of relevant document distributed to the Board.

2. Adoption of December 12, 2019 meeting agenda

- Chair called for additions to the agenda.

Motion 19-13: Gilroy/Noskey – Motion to adopt the December 12, 2019 Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes

- Chair asked if there were errors or omissions in the October Draft Minutes.

Motion 19-14: Smith/Simard – Motion to adopt the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Review October Action items

- October action items printed for the Board on the back of the agenda.

Action Item:	Who	By When	Progress
Follow up with Cameron P about SUEZ partnership funding for metals testing on additional sites besides the swan.	Meghan	Time Permittin g	Meghan and Alyssa Will be working with SUEZ and schools to plan a High School Science field day to the plant in Spring/Summer 2020. Cameron has made a request to his management to determine if a cash contribution for monitoring can be made. Staff will keep board updated as program developes
Send 2020 financial support requests to all municipalities	Meghan	Oct 2019	Done. TOHP letter resent as per Brian Gilroy's request.
Refine the panel discussion at the SLPAC meeting so that it has meaningful outcomes. Request a detailed land use map of S17 for the PAC meeting	Meghan and Constance	By Nov. 14	Done – Forest companies hired a facilitator. Forest companies declined the request for a map to be made for the event.
Send the 1999 Marten Hills Watershed Analysis to Todd and Brian, Lisa, Ahmad, Pearl	Meghan	Oct 18	Done
revise the Governance document based on the edits sent to them and send a revised draft to the group	Tammy & Todd	By Oct 31, 2019	Tammy and Todd have reviewed the document and made changes based on suggestions. Version 2 is ready to be sent out, Board will spend time discussing at the January meeting
pull together examples of vision, mission and goals from other WPACs and proposed wording for the LSWC updates	LSWC staff	December 12	Done by Alyssa. On agenda for discussion
Follow up with consultation staff at Sawridge and Kapaweno regards to our response and request to set up meetings	Todd B	ASAP	Email sent December 10 th .
Provide contact information for the AEP Source Water Protection planning staff person to Meghan and Todd to share with First Nations	Lisa, Meghan & Todd	Time permittin g	
Reach out to Town of Slave Lake to see if there is interest in presentations at the Slave Lake PD Day camps	Alyssa	ASAP	Email sent, waiting for a response

Other:

Request for support from Swan River First Nation – Todd

- Todd forwarded on a request for a letter of support for an application to the First Nations Guardians Initiative.
- Work plan includes building upon the stream crossing GIS work already done by Swan River. A field survey is required and this would categorize habitat type and presence or absence of grayling at field sites.
- Meghan prepared a draft letter of support for the board to approve.

Motion 19-15: Rosche/Gilroy – Motion to approve the Executive Director’s draft letter of support for Swan River First Nations Indigenous Guardian program grant application.

CARRIED

Round Table with the board

Jamie Bruha

- has been away for 3 months but is glad to see that the GOA sees the value in the work of WPACs and that multi year funding agreements have been developed.
- Jamie is our one window contact for requesting in kind support from any AEP staff.

Jules Asterisk

- Keepers of the Athabasca and Swan River had a meeting regarding the ten year approval for SUEZ to operate the plant. They have not answered some of the scientific questions that they were asked by keepers. Concerns around the accident/fire in 2008 and the release of PCB’s, dioxins and furans. They feel that they tested for the wrong things (PCB’s) when they should have been testing for dioxins and furans, which are released when PCB’s are burned.
 - They are planning on appealing the approval when it is issued, and asking for more testing to be done. They have done some of the work, but not enough to answer all the questions.
 - Approval is supposed to be a ten year approval and will be issued on December 15th.
 - SUEZ has been appealing applications for Fracking in the area. They recognize that there is a potential risk to their facility and operations of fracking tremors destabilize the ground near.
- Flowing into the Right Relationship workshops are being hosted in partnership with local friendship centers in the region. Jules shared posters and brochures for the High Prairie and Slave Lake events that are coming up.

Brian Rosche

- The MD of Lesser Slave River is still waiting for disaster relief funding from the province from the 2018 flood. 2019 applications have also been sent in.

5. Treasurers report and financial updates

- Copies of the September 15 to November 15, 2019 Treasurers report circulated to the Board as well as a breakdown of current expenses and projections to the end of the fiscal year.
- LSWC has not received the remainder of AEP funding for 2019/20 but have the amount and the grants agreement we have signed will be a rolling 4 year agreement (March 2019 to 2023).
 - LSWC will receive \$230,000 from AEP annually for the term of the agreement.
 - Last grant amounts were: \$275,000 in 2018/19, \$255,000 in 2017/18
 - No penalties for carrying over funds into the next fiscal year.
 - No annual applications or waiting to hear annual allocations.
 - AEP and the WPAC's need to determine a process for reporting and re allocation of WPAC program funds and a workshop is being planned for February 2020.
- Going forward staff will try to have manpower costs covered by external grants where ever possible to stretch our operational dollars.
 - Staff time will be tracked and at the end of projects a transfer of funds will be made from the project grant into the operational account for our payroll.
- LSWC has received donations from the following:
 - Agriculture in the Classroom Bayer Community Fund - \$2500
 - Cardinal Energy - \$5,000 to support Water Quality program
 - Plains Midstream - \$5,000 to support Water Quality Monitoring.
 - Town of HP approved a \$1500 donation and will waive our administration fee for 2020 (\$1260 savings to us)

Motion 19-15: Simard/St.Jean – Motion to accept the treasurers report and financial updates as information.

CARRIED

6. LSWC vision and mission update

- Staff has prepared updated vision and mission statements but considering that we are having a strategic planning session soon it can be done then.
- Sandi Riemersma with Palliser Environmental can facilitate a strategic planning session with the LSWC in February 2020 if this is the desired direction of the Board.
 - Copies of the Milk River strategic plan were circulated as an example of her work.

Motion 19-16: Simard/Noskey– Motion to permit the Executive Director to hire Palliser environmental to deliver a strategic planning day session and an updated strategic plan on Feb 24th in Slave Lake, AB.

CARRIED

7. Project Updates

a. Watershed Plan Implementation

- Work has been delayed due to delay in receipt of funding but now that we know our allocation for the remainder of 2019/20 and onwards Meghan will be working with Sandi on a workplan and budget.
- Implementation committee meeting #2 will be planned for the new year.

- Need input from municipalities, industry and other partners on their implementation progress.
- Forest Sector has been sent the list of IWMP implementation actions a table has been made for the oil and gas sector and is being sent to contact with local companies.
- Sandi is preparing an implementation report that will be inserted into the 2019/20 annual report.
- Watershed forum – was on the IWMP workplan and the intent is to share implementation successes and example of watershed projects from other jurisdictions.
 - Timing?
 - Is there a need for it?
- LSWC has not received a response to our July letter sent to Kapaweno and Sawridge First nation in regarding their concerns about the IWMP and implementation. The offer to set up a meeting between FN's, GOA staff, the LSWC and our Watershed Planner. Budget has been set aside for this.
- Watershed Modeling:
 - Mike SHE model form 2008 has been transferred to Shalini and she is looking into what it will take to update the data package and set up to run for us.
 - NO budget or capacity for development of new modeling tools, so we have agreed to utilize the tool we already have.
 - The timeline is unknown because modeling staff have other priorities to work on.

b. Water Quality Monitoring

- 2019 data is ready to upload to Mackenzie data stream.
- Sandi has 2019 field data and will have the 2019 Summary report complete by March.
- Preliminary results from fecal coliform source tracking work indicates that Ruminants and geese are the biggest contributors of fecal at the West prairie river sites. Sandi will prepare a summary of the data and have Dr. Newmann review it prior to finalizing the report.
- Have secured funding to add total metals and major ions and dissolved metals to 3 additional sites in 2020. These will be the Upper West Prairie, Upper Driftpile, and Upper East Prairie.
- Will reach out to Swan River First Nation and determine if they want to continue to cover the analytical cost of monthly metal samples on the 3 Swan Sites.

c. Watershed Resiliency Projects

- Still waiting on a grant agreement for the 2019 WRRP grant in the amount of \$71,000 that was approved in March 2019. This will be the last time we will get funds from this program. The conservative government is not continuing it.
- Presented our 2020 workplan and budget to Big Lakes ASB on November 22, 2019. We expect a slight reduction in support for 2020.
- Presented on water quality, riparian areas and livestock at the PCBFA winter watering system tour on November 28.

- Have initiated projects with 2 producers from Peavine. They will be completing Environmental Farm Plans, and Long term farm water management plans with support from LSWC staff and then submitting grant applications to the Canadian Ag. Partnership program
- LSWC have started Environmental Farm Plan Technician training and will be attending a training session in early February in Grande Prairie.
- Big Lakes County and the LSWC will be rescheduling the Livestock and Dugout water workshop for early March when all of our presenters are available.

d. other

- LSWC staff will be going to the next EMSD Science Forum. Past forums have been very poorly advertised to partners outside of the GOA
- Citizen Science Project – Lesser Slave Lake angler app
 - Staff will explore the opportunity to work with the Mistakis Institute as they have done several Citizen Science programs across AB.

8. Education, outreach and communication updates

- WPAC Education and Outreach Committee updates
 - Discussed the Terms of reference document
 - Talked with Janine Higgins about the Alberta Water Literacy Strategy and the associated implementation plan. WPAC's have been identified as delivery partners in many areas but capacity and resources need to be considered before taking on additional work.
 - Interactive watershed map project being pilot project at the Bow habitat Station. Each WPOAC will be able to have input into the features for their watershed. Potential to grow it bigger and beyond the Bow Habitat Station and Calgary.
 - Discussion about standard definitions for Water literacy project and standard WPAC terms.
- Little Green Thumbs
 - Have 8 gardens and 10 teacher's participating right now.
 - Have done visits with Jousard teachers, and one in Slave Lake.
 - Teachers in Falher interested in the program and Alyssa is meeting with them next week.
 - Peavine preschool teacher is interested in the little green buds program which is a modified, simpler extension of the LGT program.
- Kida Can Catch 2020
 - February 15th, 2020 at the Jousard Community Hall.
 - Need volunteers for the day to help with angler orientation, drilling holes, setting up tents, helping kids with getting set up and fishing.
 - Asking local businesses for donation of supplies, and materials needed.
- "The reel deal"
 - LSWC staff are supporting the Jousard Community Association in submitting a grant application to host a "women teaching women" angling event in summer and winter of 2020.
 - Event is focused around providing opportunity and instruction to women who have no experience angling

- If the grant application is approved the LSWC staff will be helping to plan and deliver the workshops.
- Other
 - Information package about the programming we offer developed and sent it to the principals at all of the school in the region.
 - Slave Lake Brewery - approach them and see if they are interested in a partnership that

9. 2020/21 Workplan and Budget

- Meghan has prepared a draft operational plan and budget for 2020/21.
- Board asked to review it, and ask any questions.
- Will be approved in the New Year as a working document that is updated as work plans change or grants are received.

10. Meeting wrap up and adjournment

Next Board Meeting - January 16th

Strategic Planning Session – February 24, 2020 in Slave Lake (No regular board meeting in Feb)

Motion 19-17: Simard/St.Jean– Motion to adjourn the December 12, 2019 Board of Directors meeting at 8:10

CARRIED