



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2020 – Online Zoom Meeting**

**Present at meeting:**

Name

Meghan Payne  
Alyssa Belanger  
Todd Bailey  
Tammy Kaleta  
Rebecca King  
Jule Asterisk  
Richard Simard  
Pearl Lorentzen  
Jamie Bruha  
Brian Gilroy  
Dean MacKenzie  
Duane Nichols  
Brian Rosche  
Nicole St. Jean

Sector Represented

Executive Director  
Watershed Coordinator  
Swan River FN (Chair)  
Tourism and Recreation  
Town of Slave Lake  
Non-Government Organization's  
Big Lakes County  
Member at large  
Alberta Environment and Parks  
Town of High Prairie  
Oil and Gas Sector  
Agriculture Sector  
MD of Lesser Slave River  
Forest Sector

Regrets

Ken Noskey/Lynn Smith  
Roderick Willier  
Shane Knutson

Peavine Metis Settlement  
Sucker Creek First Nation  
Cottagers and 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 4:30.
- Discussion about meeting in person in June and what precautions we would need to have in place. LSWC will wait and follow the guidance provided by AHS and determine whether we will have a face to face meeting in June with online participation options.

**2. Adoption of May 14, 2020 meeting agenda**

- May 14, 2020 meeting agenda was emailed to the board, and shown on the screen.
- Chair called for additions to the agenda.
  - Addition of 4a. Engagement session for proposed AEP Mooring Disturbance Standard for recreational docks

**Motion 19-28: Simard/Nichols** – Motion to approve the May 14, 2020 meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED

### 3. Adoption of the April 9, 2020 meeting minutes

- The April 9, 2020 draft meeting minutes were emailed to the board prior to the meeting for review.
- The chair asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes, then asked for a motion to accept them.

**Motion 19-29: Rosche/Bruha** – Motion to approve the April 9, 2020 draft meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

### 4. Round Table from BOD

- SRFN is putting in a grant ask for the ADAPT federal program to complete Flood mapping for the Nation. Part of the project will include acquiring new LiDAR data.
- AEP staff mainly working from home at this time, with only a few staff in the offices. NSWA is going to be having their AGM online and handling basic business only.
- Keepers of the Athabasca – going to be having an online zoom AGM. Final workshop has had to be postponed until fall due to COVID. REAC – new lake sediment cores have been processed and received by the lab in BC. KOA is in the midst of the appeal process for the SHHWC approval that was issued in December.
- Big Lakes County – has been dealing with the COVID pandemic, and then overland flooding around the county at the end of April. Many zoom meetings taking place for committees.
- MDLSR – Canyon creek experienced some flooding of the campground due to an ice jam on the creek. Marten Beach had some ice jam, flooding issues. MBCA and the MD have put \$50,000 into a geotechnical study to be able to apply to the provincial government (Covid Stimulus program) for funds to complete a flood retaining wall in Marten Beach.
- TOHP – Brian G has referred a few folks to us for potential project ideas or programs. Current CAO is retiring and they are seeking replacement.
- TOSL – Also hiring a new CAO, Brian M is retiring.
- Duane – having the first Ag Service Board for BLC on zoom. They have to discuss the beaver control policy as there are always issues there.
- DM – oil and gas industry is in a tough place economically, there is federal funding (managed by the province) available for abandoned well reclamation projects. Service companies are the ones who apply for the funding with an agreement in place with the oil company that owns the facility.

#### a. proposed AEP Mooring Disturbance Standard for recreational docks

- AEP is reviewing the Mooring Disturbance Standard for recreational docks. Meghan sent the engagement package out to the Board for this information and encouraged them to review the information and submit feedback.
- This will be a part of the regulation attached to the Public Lands Act Regulation. What this disturbance standard does, is remove the permitting process for lakefront property owners, as long as their dock falls under the approved regulation.
  - Outlines who can put in a dock, where you can put it (5 meters in from property line)
  - Removal of aquatic vegetation is currently permitted. This is key for us as a WPAC – littoral zone vegetation is important fish and wildlife habitat. Do we want a standard practice that allows every dock owner to be removing a 4 meter swath of vegetation? What will the cumulative impact on our lake be?
  -

- Discussion about the construction of floating docks and their base that shear vegetation off.
- Dean called the Lands officer in Slave Lake. They said - If you want to put out a dock right now (May 2020), you need to get a TFA. Most people who have seasonal docks are not going to do that, they likely don't even know they need a permit to a dock in.
- Disturbance Standard should be finished this summer; however there won't be any enforcement at this time.
- Pearl is going to put together an article for the newspaper. Meghan recommended she should connect with Shane K, who has first hand experience with the regulatory process, and AEP staff, who's contact information is in the engagement materials that were sent out.

**Action- LSWC directors are asked to personally submit their feedback to AEP through the channels outlined in the engagement Package. Staff will be registering for the webinar and prepare a submission for the LSWC.**

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

- Executive Director shared the March 15 – April 15, 20-20 treasurers report on screen with the board.
- AEP operational grant has not arrived yet – Staff are wrapping up the interim reporting review and they don't anticipate any issues with getting our payments out. No date was provided.
- Year end is with our accountant and financial review engagement will be ready by mid-June.
- LSWC Board needs to make the decision to donate \$1,000 to the LSFES.

**Motion 19-30: Asterisk/Lorentzen**– Motion to accept the treasurers report and financial updates as information.

CARRIED

**Motion 19-31: Simard/Gilroy** – Motion to approve the donation of \$1000 to the LSFES from the LSWC's projects account.

CARRIED

#### **6. AGM Business**

- NO date set at this time, but the plan is to have the AGM in High Prairie in late September.
- Website has board seats up for election and a link to the policies about board member roles, responsibilities and expectations from the Board governance manual.
- Alyssa is developing a new membership form for print, and one that is embedded in our website that utilizes the donate button to pay the \$5 membership fee. Also creating a new Board of Director Nomination form that will be used for the AGM.

##### **a. BOD seats up for election & recruitment**

- Meghan is putting together an information package for the directors to use to engage with people that they feel will be good candidates for the available board positions. It will be emailed to the Board by the end of May and can be emailed or printed.
- Executive Director will send a letter and information package to each of the First Nations and Metis Settlements that are not currently participating and invite them to join us at our 2020 AGM.

**Action: Directors will use the engagement materials prepared by Meghan to engage with individuals they know who would be a good fit for the Board seats up for election at the AGM.**

##### **b. By Law amendments**

- If By Law amendments, including changes to board of director seats are proposed by members for discussion and vote at the AGM, they must be advertised publically for 1 month prior to the AGM.
- Discussion about making changes to some of the board seats and their names. The LSWC Board needs to be mindful to be inclusive, and accurately reflects the sectors that play a role in watershed management and stewardship.
- Board are asked to put thought into how we can best capture the following effectively and encourage participation:
  - Recreation and tourism - does this encompass campground and report owners and all recreation? Should this be broken down into: tourism operators & recreation?
  - Cottagers and country residential
  - Commercial fishermen and trappers have been vacant for several years?

**Action: Meghan will send a feedback table to the Board of Directors and they will share their thoughts regarding proposed board seat amendments. Meghan will compile for review and discussion in June.**

## 7. Project Updates & Discussion

### a. IWMP

- Meghan and Sandi are working on finalizing a workplan for a 2020/21 contract with Palliser Environmental with flexible allocation of hours up to a max of \$25,000 including all deliverables.
  - Will be reviewed by executive prior to signing.

### 2020 workplan updates

- PESL is working on implementation report.
  - Soliciting feedback from implantation partners

**Action – Municipal directors, please talk to your CAO's about ensuring the request for feedback gets completed by end of May.**

- Aim is to have report done in June, with highlights summarized in the LSWC's annual report.
- Watershed Modeling
  - Dependent on the allocation of Shalini time. Meghan will speak with Lisa/Jamie about requesting an allocation of her time for this.
  - Board will be asked for input on model run scenarios when we get to that point.
  - Terms of Reference for modeling work is in the LSWC Board dropbox folder.
- Lake Water Quality Monitoring
  - Has been pushed off the 2020 AEP workplan because there is no staff capacity for field work.
  - Looking into costs to LSWC to conduct East and West basin sampling in May and September of 2021 with our own equipment and local boats.
- Swan River Grayling Forum
  - Planning for September when restrictions are lifted.
  - 1 day invited stakeholder forum in Slave Lake
  - Invitees to include: LSWC Directors, Swan River and Driftpile First Nations, Municipalities, Fisheries Biologist, AER fish bio, ACA, AB trail net, Trout Unlimited, Oil and gas operators, forestry operators.

- Facilitated day with information sharing on work done by various parties and discussion on how we can collectively move habitat improvements forward.
- West Prairie River Riparian Intactness and Risk assessment (\$55,000 contract)
  - Waiting for EDF grant notification then will be initiating the project with Fiera.
  - Supports Big Lakes ALUS program, and our Watershed Resiliency program goals.
  - Myles Brown will allocate fisheries staff time to conducting some fish survey work this year if the assessment goes ahead.
- Implementation priority projects
  - Have some money allocated to on the ground implementation project that meets plan objectives and is high priority for the Board. More discussion and scoping required.
  - Meghan will have potential projects for consideration at the June meeting.

#### **b. Watershed Resiliency**

- Need to do more to engage local producers. Since we have made an environmental farm plan a pre requisite folks are not as eager to engage in a project.
- Staff are both working to complete EFP training.
- Have signed up 4 producers for EFPs so far this year.
- Working with Big Lakes ALUS coordinator to find producers with shovel ready projects to propose to the ALUS PAC.
- Will be going out to do site checks and updated photos from existing projects throughout the summer.
- Have Riparian area garbage clean up and weed pull in the works with 4H kids who haven't finished their community service. With proper distancing and sanitizing in place of course.

#### **c. Water quality monitoring**

- 2019 report complete and available online. Let Meghan know if you would like a paper copy. Hard copies will be sent to funders with our annual report.
- First sampling was May 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>. Could not go the week prior due to overland flooding affecting many of our site access roads. Will add an additional sampling in July to make up for missing the last week in April.
- Metals and Dissolved metals have been added monthly at the Upper West prairie, Mid East prairie and Mid Driftpile sites and will be compared to the Sawn in the 2020 water quality summary.
- Fecal Coliform Source Tracking – have to reach out to see if the U of A School of Public Health lab and Graham Banting have the capacity to work with us to refine the ruminant marker (elk, deer, cattle, moose), as we have some budget left from the funds Big Lakes county provided for this work.

### **8. Education and communication updates (Alyssa)**

- Little Green Thumbs
  - Been in contact with 6 of the teachers since classes were cancelled. All have different plans for gardens.
- Field trips/presentations

- On May 19th delivering online presentation to grade 4 class at HPE. Contacted teachers I've previously given presentations to about digital presentations.
- Working with LSFES to create digital field trip that includes water quality tests and aquatic insect catch
- Outreach & Engagement
  - Been in contact with Parks staff about delivering programs and engagement events in area provincial parks.
  - We have a new display board, will be creating displays for point-duty style presentations.
  - Will be contacting private campgrounds in the area about potential outreach programs.
- WPAC Collective Work
  - Completed draft of new WPAC brochure
  - Unable to do field training for X-Stream Science due to social distancing requirements, will look at fall training instead. Once Alyssa is trained she will arrange a "train the educators" day with LSFES staff.
- Online (Social Media, Website, Digital Resources)
  - Hootsuite being used to schedule regular posts to Facebook & Twitter.
  - Over 300 people responded "interested" to the April 15, 2020 Watershed 101 webinar, 75 registered and after some confusion b/c of technical issues with NLC staff we had 46 participants. Working with NLC & blackboard to download the recording and put it on our YouTube channel.
  - 3 videos in the works: one on the garden, one introducing staff, and one talking about erosion.

**9. Wrap up and meeting adjournment**

Upcoming Meetings and deadlines:

- May 25 – Deadline for feedback for Dock regulation feedback
- Next Board meeting – June 11, 2020

**Motion 19-32: Simard/Kaletka** – Motion to adjourn the May 14, 2020 LSWC Board meeting at 7:03pm.

CARRIED