



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021 – Online Zoom Meeting**

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Kate Lovsin	Watershed Coordinator
Todd Baily (Chair)	Swan River First Nation
Tammy Kaleta	Angling and Recreation
Reeve Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Pearl Lorentzen	Member at Large
Lynn Smith	Peavine Metis Settlement
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Susan Nielsen	Agriculture Sector
Cori Klassen	Non-Governmental Organizations
Darcie Acton	MD of Lesser Slave River
Rebecca King	Town of Slave Lake
George Keay	Tourism and Economic Development
Jamie Bruha	Alberta Environment and Parks
Dean Mackenzie	Oil and Gas Sector
Nicole St. Jean	Forest Sector

Regrets

Roderick Willer	Sucker Creek First Nation
Nona Elliot	Cottage Owners and Country Residential

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chair Todd Bailey called the meeting to order at 4:33.
- Welcome of Kate Lovsin, and introduction to Board of Directors.

2. Adoption of February 11, 2021 meeting agenda

- Chair Todd Bailey called for additions to the agenda.

Motion 20-12: Simard/Gilroy– Motion to adopt the February 11, 2021 Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the December 10, 2020 meeting minutes

- October 15, 2020 Draft meeting minutes were emailed to the board prior to the meeting.
- Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions in the draft minutes.

Motion 20-13: King/Acton – Motion to approve the December 10, 2020 draft meeting minutes as presented.

4. Board round table

- Klassen: forestry education, COVID has ruined that this year, doing what they can, trying self-directed programs, encourage people to get out and interact with the forest, trying virtual programs to stay connected with their classrooms, hired a summer student (previously employed there), trying to figure out what spring and summer will look like, program delivery and options, will tie into watershed council work

Action - Cori and Meghan will review the teacher survey and get it out to educators to help determine their needs.

Action - LSFES and LSWC will work to put out a poster type contest for youth in our watershed with some fun prizes.

- King: Town of Slave Lake has agreed to help Meghan with water sampling a new site on the Lesser Slave River. Meghan has had a meeting with 3 staff to discuss and plan already.
- Kaleta: has not been out on the ice. Had lots of fishing engagement from a page of our handbook that she shared on FB (over 15,000 engagements)
- Acton: MDLSR is continuing to push for support for the Marten Beach flood recovery. They have had the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Transportation and will continue to move this forward. South shore wastewater system - most people have hooked up to the system but there are some people who may need enforcement to get them online. It would be awesome if we had water quality data from the south shore of the lake prior to the new waste water system being put in, so we could show a positive change over time. Some public education is needed around septic systems and why they are so important on a lakeshore.

Action - Staff will reach out to Darcie and staff at MDLSR and put together some resources about septic systems and the importance in regards to protecting lake water quality and human health.

Action - Meghan to follow up with Lynn regarding projects in Peavine

- Bailey: SRFN received grant funds from the indigenous habitat protection program where they will be doing eDNA work, looking at presence or absence of Arctic Grayling across the Swan sub basin. Have obtained funding to do fish tissue sampling in the lake for contaminants of concern. Have applied for another grant to develop a tool using GIS spatial modeling tool to assess proposed impacts of future development. Will be expanding the habitat assessment work and continuing to collect information at crossings in the watershed.
- Mackenzie: oil and gas industry starting to hop a little bit because of SRP funding, benefits to lots of communities because of abandoned well sites
- Bruha: Has been fully consumed with the engagement they did on sustainable preservation, modernization of parks and public lands. Right now it's under 2 different acts, issuing permits and such are done totally separate. This process will modernize the legislation, reduction in red tape, make the legislation efficient. Public survey was shared across Alberta and they and met with stakeholders asking about recreation, user based, etc for OHV's and camping fees, wrapped Jan 15, and trying to summarize all that, giving them opinions to move forward, talked to all other stakeholders to non-motorized vehicles, these non-motorized stakeholders understood importance

to paying fees, people are willing to pay for access to trails etc, surprised me that everyone was willing to pay. The intent is to have dedicated place based fee for use. Support from Albertans on fees for use was on the understanding that fees will stay in the areas they are collected. Alberta is the only province that does not have fees.

- More here: <https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-outdoor-recreation-engagement.aspx>

5. Treasurer's report and financial updates

- The Executive Director shared the December 10th- Feb 4, 2021 treasurer's report with the board on screen. It was also emailed with the meeting package.
 - Double check Mastercard entries - duplicate post listed.
- WRRP program application submitted January 4, 2021. \$120,000 request
- AEP interim reporting is due April 15, 2021 and the first half of our 2021/22 grant should be deposited soon after that.
- Payment for the Environmental Damages Fund grant will be at the end of March. Currently using project account funds to cover project expenses until then.

Motion 20-14: Keay/Klassen – Motion to accept the December 10, 2020- February 4th, 2021 Treasurer's report as information.

CARRIED

6. Executive Director report and project updates (sent via meeting package)

- can be sent upon request via email.

7. Strategic Plan and Priorities for 2021/22

- Aside from what was presented in the Executive Director report, it would be great to get information about stewardship type restoration and funding opportunities out to the folks in Marten Beach.

Action – Meghan will share opportunities for landowner funding (green Acreages program) with the Marten Beach Community Assn.

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 18, 2021

Motion 20-15: Keay/St. Jean – Motion to adjourn the February 11, 2021 Board meeting at 6:20 pm.

CARRIED