



**Lesser Slave Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020 – Online Zoom Meeting**

Present at meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sector Represented</u>
Meghan Payne	Executive Director
Alyssa Belanger	Watershed Coordinator
Todd Bailey	Swan River FN (Chair)
Tammy Kaleta	Tourism and Recreation
Nicole St. Jean	Forest Sector
Jamie Bruha	AEP
Richard Simard	Big Lakes County
Brian Gilroy	Town of High Prairie
Pearl Lorentzen	Member at Large
Dean MacKenzie	Oil and Gas Sector

Regrets

Duane Nichols	Agriculture
Rebecca King	Town of Slave Lake
Roderick Willier	Sucker Creek First Nation
Shane Knutson	Cottage Owners/Country Residential
Ken Noskey/Lynn Smith	Peavine First Nation
Brad Pearson	MD Lesser Slave River
Jule Asterisk	NGO's

Board Vacancies:

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

1. Call to order and Welcome & round table

- Chairman Todd Bailey Called the meeting to order at 4:38.
- Round Table updates from the group
- Chairman said some nice words about our recently passed Director Brian Rosche

2. Adoption of September 17, 2020 meeting agenda

- Sept 17, 2020 agenda was emailed to the Board, and displayed on screen.
- Chair called for additions or amendments to the agenda.

Motion 19-37: Bruha/Gilroy– Motion to adopt the Sept 17, 2020 Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the June 18, 2020 meeting minutes

- June 18, 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 19-38: Lorentzen/McKenzie – Motion to approve the June 18, 2020 draft meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Treasurers report and Financial updates

- May 15 to August 15, 2020 treasurers report in the Meeting drop box, and displayed on screen.
- Have been spending less than in previous years on education and outreach, meetings, and stakeholder engagement since CIOVID. Savings can be reallocated into things like: printing the Stewardship Handbook, developing watershed info sheets and handouts and printing them, reporting on watershed health, and supporting IWMP implementation projects.
- E.D. would like to start an “Elliott & Rosche Memorial Bursary” in memory of our past chair Brian Elliott and our longest serving board member Brian Rosche.
 - Would be funded by donations, and given to a local student enrolled in a biology, environmental sciences, agriculture, or water related post-secondary program.
 - Discussion?

Motion 19-39: Simard/Gilroy– Motion to approve the May 15 – August 15, 2020 Treasurers report as presented.

CARRIED

5. Annual General Meeting

- October 2, 2020 in High Prairie at the elks hall downtown from 1:00-5:00
- Advertising in paper, online, social media and flyers in communities.
- Packages with annual report, 2019 water quality report, our AGM flyer and a cover letter have been mailed to stakeholders, local government, First Nations and Metis settlements.
- Covid Precautions:
 - Will not be having a shared meal like we usually do because of covid.
 - Venue has lot of room for distancing, and we will have masks and sanitizer available.
 - Packages will be made and sealed 4 days before the AGM.

Action: Board members to go to www.lswc.ca and register for the Oct 2 AGM ASAP.

a. Proposed by law amendments

- Have been emailed to Board, sent to members, and posted on the website
- By law amendments will need to be done early in the agenda so that we can accept nominations for the changed director seats.

b. Recruitment for open director seats

- the following are up for election
 - Forest sector & alternate (Nicole and Alison plan to stay on)
 - Agriculture sector and alternate (Duane stepping down, seeking a replacement)
 - Oil and gas alternate (1 year) (have a fellow from cardinal Energy interested)
 - Non-Government Organizations & alternate (have reached out to JCA, LSLBO, and LSFES)
 - Cottagers and Country residential & alternate (Shane?)
 - Sport fishing and recreation & alternate (Tammy? And Cody Bellerose?)
 - Tourism and Economic Development & alternate (Have spoke to Debbie Monteith, Whitesands)

6. Alberta Water Council – Alternate WPAC rep needed

- The Alberta WPAC's have a seat and an alternate on the Alberta Water Council Board.
- The seat is filled by a director from one of the 11 WPAC's, as outlined in the Terms of Reference
- The 11 WPAC's take turns recruiting a Director or member from their watersheds for the AWC seat.
- The commitment is 4 years. 2 years as the alternate, to learn the ropes, and become familiar with the AWC. And after 2 years the alternate moves into the main director seat for a 2 year term and a new alternate is recruited by the next WPAC.
- LSWC is next up to find a WPAC alternate for the AWC Board.

Do we have a person around our table who could effectively fill the alternate and then director position and represent the 11 WPAC's at the Water Council Table?

7. Board Strategic Planning – Nov 5th

- Please Save the Date – November 5th from 9:00 to 4:30 in Slave Lake AB.
- Seeking a venue with good space, good technology, and catering.
- ALL DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES SHOULD ATTEND.
- Check with the BCBC to see if we can support them in November.

8. Project Updates and Discussion

a. IWMP

- Implementation update report completed by Palliser Environmental on August 25th.
 - Report was distributed to Board and is in the board drop box folder.

- Staff are sending the Implementation report to all of the IWMP stakeholders, including GOA.
- Swan River Watershed Forum
 - Online workshop series being held the mornings of Oct 8, 15, and 22
 - Sandi will be facilitating, LSWC staff will manage chat box, and technical aspects.
 - Invited stakeholders, not a public event.
 - Draft agenda in the meeting drop box, final agenda and log in information will be sent out next week.

b. Watershed Resiliency

- Active WRRP grant (\$71,000 and BLC ASB grant \$27,500)
- 1 active project – Fogle ranch.
 - Waiting to hear back on CAP grant applications before LSWC financial contribution is determined.
 - Riparian health assessment done in July by Cows and Fish staff. Paid out of WRRP grant.
- 1 project initiated – G&S Payne
 - Project plan and budget being developed, EFP complete, CAP applications being submitted ASAP.
 - Project includes riparian fencing, water course crossings, and a portable watering system.
 - Will have a Riparian health assessment completed in summer 2021.
- 1 ALUS project initiated
 - ALUS coordinator and Meghan did a site visit, ALUS coordinator is assisting with project plan, budget, CAP grant application, and Environmental Farm Plan.
 - LSWC staff are in a supporting role for this project.
 - No LSWC grant funds have been allocated to this project at this time.
- 3 recent enquiries about Environmental Farm Plans and Canadian Ag. Partnership funding.
- NO in person field tour this fall because of COVID and lack of project progress in 2019/20.

c. Water quality monitoring

- 9 of 10 sampling events complete for 2020.
- Staff have been collecting eDNA samples for a PhD research project out of University of Guelph. Project involved analysis of lake water to determine abundance and types of water fowl using the lake based on DNA markers left in the water.

Lake Water Quality Monitoring Proposal

- Lake water quality monitoring is a recommendation out of the IWMP and we have heard from the public and stakeholders that lake water quality is important to them.
- We can implement a simple field program that will collect samples from 1 location on the West and East basins, 6 times per year.

- Synoptic survey to start Oct 2020. Dissolved Oxygen profiles in October, January, February and March.
- Sampling to start June 2021 and will include: TSS, TDS, Chlorophyll, total Phosphorous, Dissolved nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria.
- ***See Budget table prepared by E.D.***

Motion 19-40: Kaleta/St. Jean– Motion to proceed with Lake Water Quality Monitoring as outlined in the September 2020 Proposal and Budget. Winter synoptic survey will proceed, and open water program will start in June 2021 pending AB Ecotrust or other funding.

CARRIED

9. Education Outreach Updates

11. Wrap up and meeting adjournment

Upcoming Board meetings:

October Board meeting in person – October 15, 2020, Kinuso Seniors Center

Board Strategic Planning session – November 5th, Slave Lake

November Board meeting – November 12, 2020, Kinuso Seniors Center

Motion 19-41: Lorentzen/Gilroy - Motion to adjourn the Sept 17, 2020 LSWC Board of Directors Meeting at 6:36pm.

CARRIED