



Board of Directors – Minutes (Final)
March 15 – 16, 2018
Kinsman Hall, 10204 – 102 Ave
Lac La Biche, AB

Present: Marv Fyten, Dan Moore, Janice Pitman, Brian Deheer, Marcel Ulliac, Robert Holmberg, Greg Piorkowski, Tim Polzin, Cleo Reece, Robert Esau, Larry Armfelt, Tom Weber, Marie Bay Breiner (Outreach Coordinator), Bruce Jackson (Admin support)

Regrets: Robert Grandjambe, Abdi Siad-Omar, Janice Linehan, Morris Nesdole, Terry Sheehan, Petra Rowell (Contractor – Interim Executive Director)

Guests: Randi Dupras (Environmental coordinator, Lac La Biche County), Molly Fyten (Environmental Manager, Lac La Biche County) and Wally Peters (a local resident who is interested in the council).

Thursday, March 15, 2018

1. Call to Order

Brian Deheer called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

2. Welcomes and Introductions

Guests Wally Peters, Randi Dupras, Molly Fyten were welcomed to the meeting.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Additions to the current agenda:

11a. Review of current strategies, operation plans (Marv Fyten)

11b. Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council – April 19, 2018 Watershed 101 Conference (Robert Esau)

11c. Alberta WaterSMART Athabasca River Basin Initiative (Dan Moore)

MOTION: Larry Armfelt moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Tom Weber.

Approved by consensus.

4. Approve Board Meeting Minutes: February 1st and 22nd, 2018

Tabled to next board meeting.

5. Business Arising.

Nothing to report.

[Type here]

6. Interim board member applications to fill vacancies.

Discussion.

7. Executive Committee Reports

a. Report from the Chair

b. Report from the Vice-Chair

Nothing to report.

c. Report from the Treasurer

Financial update – request to AEP for \$300,000 minus the estimated surplus of \$40,000: anticipated \$260,000. Reminder to please get any expenses or honorariums in today or tomorrow for year-end.

Discussion points:

- Recommendation from government representative re: watershed planner – explain that this position is required not just on IWMP but also to work with other groups (e.g. Baptiste and Island Lake, Lac la Biche, etc.)
- Note that the Lower Athabasca Regional Land Use Plan is under review
- The
- La La Biche County is waiting for regional plans before changing any bylaws
- Who is doing what in the region? Questions of authority and how to plan together – some confusion on governance in the region.

d. Report from the Secretary

i. Minutes from Executive Committee meetings

Tabled

8. Committee Reports

a. Technical Committee Report

b. Communication & Community Engagement Committee Report

i. SOW Summary and Open House Update Marie

Marie provided copies of the SOW report to the board. She also provided dates for the SOW Open Houses scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 in Edson; Wednesday, March 21 in Westlock; and Wednesday, March 28 in Fort Mc Murray. Marie also noted she has been invited to present to several municipal councils to speak on the AWC, the SOW report, etc.

c. Finance and Fundraising Committee Report

Tim raised the issue of paying honorariums to Board Members for attending meetings external to the organization.

MOTION: Tim moves that the AWC pay honorariums for members to attend the Ecotrust Gathering and World Water Day.

Approved by consensus.

Discussion regarding honorariums for external events to be tabled:

Action: Finance Committee to establish a policy.

MOTION: Tim moved to pay cell phone charges for Brian and the Hiring Committee when on HR calls. Cleo seconded.

Approved by consensus.

d. Human Resources (HR) Committee Report

The committee recommended updating staff overtime policy such that 1 hour of banked overtime becomes 1.5 hour. Changes will be made to the Employee Handbook. Safe work place practices need to be included in the Employee Handbook.

Lunch Break (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

e. Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) Committee Report

Brian reported the group met and will continue to advance the plan. The committee will use material from the “Guide to watershed management planning in Alberta” to guide its work. The Board discussed how the Athabasca is a large watershed – it is a challenge to manage the entire area: might break down by sub- or tertiary-watersheds. Might also look at themes such as drinking water, water quality, dissolved oxygen, etc. Dave Mussell supported the IWMP committee in better understanding the inter-relationship to governance and policy development as to where / how the integration happens in Alberta, management of data, how is it measured, intentional use and access, etc.

9. Executive Director’s Report

MOTION: Marcel moved to accept the written report of the Interim Executive Director (unable to attend today). Robert Holmberg Seconded.

Approved by consensus.

10. Memberships

Discussion was held regarding membership and procedures to maintain the membership list. Is the onus on the member to renew their membership on a yearly basis and who and how would that information be managed? How is “organizational membership” different from individual membership? Other points in the discussion included:

- Data management of the records and length the name remains on list
- Need to renew 30 days before an annual meeting?
- Membership update renewals and how are members notified?
- Newsletter communication frequency to inform membership of activities and opportunities to participate in the work of the Athabasca WPAC.
- The WPAC already has a MailChimp account which can be set up so people no longer wanting to remain as members can opt out via on-line notices.

Action: Communications and Outreach committee will review and propose a recommendation regarding membership.

11. Collaborations and Event Updates

- a. A member asked if the various plans (strategic, financial, workplan, board terms of reference, etc.) and committees (e.g. Technical, Communications, etc.) of the board were coordinated to work together effectively? A reminder was made that there are protocols when speaking on behalf of the AWC-WPAC – we are not a lobby group but rather a forum for different perspectives to be shared. We are guided by the Water for Life strategy.
- b. Lesser Slave Lake – Inn and Conference Center April 19, 2018 Watershed 101.
www.lswc.ca
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lswc/pages/1/attachments/original/1518799356/LSL101_april_19th_.jpg?1518799356
- c. Alberta / Athabasca River Basin Initiative - Dan Moore spoke to the process used by Alberta Water Smart project on the Athabasca River Watershed.
<http://www.albertawatersmart.com/featured-projects/collaborative-watershed-management.html>

12. Next Meetings

- **Board of Directors Meeting:** May 10, 2018 Athabasca
- **Annual General Meeting:** Discussion of the AWC AGM to be 3rd Saturday in June and the locations considered; Westlock or Ft McMurray. It was noted Ft. McMurray First Nation would be holding Treaty Days on June 15 and 16 at Gregoire Lake Treaty Grounds (Indian Beach).

MOTION: Tom Weber moved to hold the AGM in Ft. McMurray on June 16th at 9:30 a.m. and that the AGM Organizing committee volunteers include Marcel Ulliac, Brian Deheer, Cleo Reece and Tom Weber. Seconded by Robert Esau.

Approved by consensus.

- **WPAC Summit:** June 19 – 22, 2018 in Peace River

13. Roundtable Discussion

- Marv – suggested we develop more communication with the provincial government to ensure our role to advise and the connection with government was effective
- Robert H. – has approximately 400 images and will soon have up to 1000 pictures with public access at Athabasca University. The photos can be used by persons and groups for highlighting features of the watershed stewardship groups.
- Marcel – expressed keen interest in going to the Alberta Municipal Affairs workshop upcoming in Athabasca to gain understanding of the governance integration processes currently being developed and proposed.
- Greg - The department identified the ongoing need for Community based monitoring. He also noted that the Watershed Resilience and Restoration Program (WRRP) is providing funds to groups for flood and drought mitigation work including

riparian assessment and restoration - applications due in October. Growing Forward 3 funding has also been renewed. Finally, there is some funding going to research on greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions from agriculture to understand the small creeks and landscape management within a watershed (e.g. Pine Creek in Amber Valley region).

- Tom / Larry – no updates.
- Dan - Interested in looking at small creeks after a fire – and what happens for source water in the watershed – perhaps support a project in the region on something.
- Robert E. – no update
- Cleo - Noted that the Site C dam (for hydroelectricity generation) discussions are ongoing. The Bennett Dam upstream of Site C affected muskrat populations in the Athabasca Delta when it was built in the 1970s. She also noted that Treaty Days in Fort McMurray is happening in June.
- Tim – has some ideas about marketing the WPAC to outside organizations via conversations and trade shows, etc. Wondered if there were any grants from other organizations to help with the work we can do.
- Molly – noted World Water Day March 22, 2018 – Earth Day April 22, 2018 – Environmental Services introduced to Agricultural services at the County to connect the riparian to watershed. June 28 – 2018; July 06 – Aug 17 every Friday, Waste reduction week in October. How to connect municipalities representations connection to the AWC WPAC such as forums – board representative - Pembina Zone of the AUMA Committees. Saving money or helping the local councils what is the (value) we are providing to others in the basin?
- Randi - glad to be in the gathering where she gained insight and understanding.
- Janice – provided an update on Pine Creek
- Brian – provided an update on Stewards of Lac La Biche Watershed Society.

Recess at 4:00 p.m. Members reconvened for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Following dinner, the keynote speaker for the evening was Board Member Robert Holmberg, with a presentation on the history of the Athabasca watershed. Additionally, Marie Bay Breiner (Outreach Co-Ordinator) shared her presentation to municipalities on the work of the AWC. Marie asked for feedback in order to improve future presentations.

Meeting continued March 16, 2018

Donna Webster from the Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre provided a day long workshop in Indigenous Awareness Training for the board and staff.

MOTION: Dan Moore moved to adjourn at 3:58 p.m.

Approved by consensus.

Board Chair: Brian Debeer Date: 1 June 2018
Treasurer/Secretary: [Signature] Date: June 16/2018

[Type here]

