



**Board Meeting
Minutes - Approved
June 14, 2025
Whitecourt**



Meeting Summary: Immediately following the 2025 AGM on June 14 in Whitecourt and virtually online, the AWC Board of Directors met briefly. In addition to approving previous meeting minutes (April 25, 2025), the board reviewed and confirmed its Officers and Signing Authorities. Staff provided a few highlights and updates for the first quarter of 2025-26 and Board members shared sector updates. The next board meeting will be Sept. 19, 2025.

SEAT	DIRECTOR &/or ALTERNATE
AEP Representative	Abdi Siad Omar
Provincial/Federal Govt	
Municipal (Upper Basin)	Alan Deane
Municipal (Middle Basin)	
Municipal (Lower Basin)	
Forestry	Dan Moore
Oil & Gas	Janice Linehan
Ag or Industry	Tyrell Nagtegaal

Agriculture	vacant
Mining/Utilities	Amanda Buchanan
Indigenous	
Indigenous	
Indigenous	vacant
Environment	Brian Deheer
Environment	Julie Hink
Stewardship	Kendra Gilbert
Stewardship	Elaine Birkigt
Research and Academia	
Member-at-Large	Laura Pekkola
Member-at-Large	Ida Edwards
Past President	vacant
Quorum = >50% filled seats (18) = >9	
Staff: Petra Rowell, Sarah Shortt, Ashley Johnson, Caity Zimmermann, Mitchel Wincentaylo, Ethan Zapach, Shayla Watson Crystal Kersey, Emily Jarema	

1. **Administration:** Immediately following the 2025 AGM, the Board of Directors held a short board meeting. Introductions, health and safety and a Treaty Land Acknowledgement were provided earlier in the day. The meeting was called to order at 3:19 pm with quorum present (in person in Whitecourt as well as online). The agenda and previous meeting minutes (April 24, 2025) were approved by consensus.
2. **Election of Officers:** Petra presided over the election of officers. The slate of nominees was approved by consensus as presented and includes President (Dan Moore), Vice President (Kendra Gilbert), Secretary (Julie Hink) and Treasurer (Ida Edwards). Petra noted that no change to current signing authorities, which includes Dan, Ida, Petra, and Sarah, is required at this time.
3. **2025-26 Q1 Updates:** Petra noted that it has been a busy spring, and she will provide a full Q1 financial and activities report in September. In the meantime, some Q1 highlights include having received both the EPA operating grant and new WRRP grant so we are in a good cash flow position. The WRRP grant has provided enough funds to retain Shayla for another year and Ethan (part time) until December. We also have some ACA, CSJ and operating funds that have allowed us to hire Emily Jarema as a Watershed Technician for an 8 month practicum to fulfill her academic program requirements and to help us backfill Sarah's position, as she has formally indicated she is going on maternity/parental leave the end of July. A final staffing note, Crystal's internship has been extended until Sept. 12.
4. **Roundtable Updates** As Chair, Dan invited a round table of updates. Kendra provided an update on several Baptiste and Island Lakes Stewardship (BAILS) activities including attendance at a municipal

meeting, reviewing their lake management plan, finding funding for a video project, etc. She also suggested the AWC look at other meeting platforms for hybrid meetings. Janice discussed the upcoming Oil Sands Monitoring state of the environment report which should be out near the end of the month, and upcoming ECCC and the Crown Indigenous Working Group engagement sessions on tailings management. Dan discussed getting a submission ready for EPA's water availability engagement. A lot going on! Anyone wanting to know more about these initiatives can reach out to individual board members or to Petra.

5. Next Steps / Upcoming dates

- a. July-August staff vacations!
- b. Sept 19 Board meeting
- c. Nov. 20 Board meeting Spruce Grove

6. **Adjourned.** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm and those remaining in Whitecourt enjoyed a field trip to the Whitecourt Boat launch for a look at the bank armouring/flood mitigation works, followed by dinner at the Sagitawah Brewery, and a hike the next morning at Hard Luck Canyon.

