



Board Meeting Minutes - Approved Sept. 19, 2025 Virtual

Meeting Summary: With the weather remaining good and the field season busy for staff, the September board meeting was shortened to a virtual morning session where the board approved the previous meeting minutes (June 14, 2025), as well as the 2025-26 Q1 Financial and Activity Report. During staff updates, Ashley asked a Director to volunteer as CECE Committee Chair – Kendra accepted the position. The board briefly started a discussion about the AWC Strategic Plan – more coming on this in the fall. Finally, Directors shared sector updates – in general, fires, floods and the drought were not as bad in 2025 as they were the two previous years, although conditions varied across the basin.

SEAT	DIRECTOR &/or ALTERNATE	Present / Regrets
AEP Representative	Abdi Siad Omar / Long Fu	Regrets
Provincial/Federal Govt	Dean Litzenberger	Present
Municipal (Upper Basin)	Alan Deane	Regrets
Municipal (Middle Basin)	Rob Minns / Gary Cromwell, Cc's Walter Preugschas / Paul Properzi	Rob Minns and Paul Properzi present
Municipal (Lower Basin)	Colette Borgun	Regrets
Forestry	Dan Moore	Present
Oil & Gas	Janice Linehan	Regrets
Ag or Industry	Tyrell Nagtegaal	Present
Agriculture	vacant	
Mining/Utilities	Amanda Buchanan	Present
Indigenous	Cleo Reese	Regrets
Indigenous	Alyssa-mae Laviolette	Regrets
Indigenous	vacant	
Environment	Brian Deheer	Present
Environment	Julie Hink	Present
Stewardship	Kendra Gilbert	Present
Stewardship	Elaine Birkigt	Present
Research and Academia	Scott Ketcheson	Regrets
Member-at-Large	Laura Pekkola	Present
Member-at-Large	Ida Edwards	Regrets
Past President	vacant	
Quorum = >50% filled seats (18) = >9		11 present
Staff: Petra Rowell, Ashley Johnson, Caity Zimmermann, Mitchel Wincentaylo, Ethan Zapach, Shayla Watson, Emily Jarema		

1. **Welcome!**

2. **Administration**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with quorum present. Introductions, health and safety and a Treaty Land Acknowledgement were provided by the Chair, Dan Moore. The agenda and previous meeting minutes (June 14, 2025) were approved by consensus.

3. **Provide Oversight: Reports and Updates**

Petra noted that it was a tremendously busy summer with no immediate signs of abating. A full Q1 financial and activities report was circulated to the board with the meeting agenda package. 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 left on maternity leave the end of July. A final staffing note, Crystal's internship ended Sept. 12.

Ashley noted the need for a CECE Chair – Kendra volunteered. Ashley will follow up with Kendra to find a meeting date for this committee **(ACTION)**.

4. **Provide Input: 2025-26 Strategic Planning and Budgeting**

Petra reminded the board that the AWC is in its 3rd year of a 4 year grant with Alberta Environment. Our agreement says that we will begin discussing a new grant agreement before the end of the current agreement (March 31, 2027). These discussions will begin this fall. Hence the board should also think about our strategic plan. The board briefly discussed some ideas for future work around utilizing new technology, promoting more source water protection planning, and having a stronger relationship with Athabasca University. We will spend more time on the strategic plan at the November meeting. In the meantime, it is important to understand GOA / EPA priorities. Petra encouraged the board to review the [Premiers Mandate Letters](#). Petra will send out some questions before the November board meeting to stimulate thinking and discussion about our future direction **(ACTION)**.

Petra noted that we will also be required to provide a 4 year highlights summary of our current 4 year EPA grant. For this report, we would like to collect a number of 'testimonial' type quotes from board members and other supporters. We will try and coordinate this at the November meeting.

5. **Roundtable Updates**

As Chair, Dan invited a round table of sector updates. He noted that although the fires and drought conditions were a little better this year, other events like the trade tariffs were impacting the forestry sector. Like everyone else, his sector has been involved with the Water Availability engagements. He then asked if anyone else had any flood, drought, water quality or supply issues this summer.

Rob noted that Athabasca County declared an agricultural drought to help out those with forage crops / pasture but everyone else seemed to get by on the amount of rain we got. The muskeg is also very

dry and a major fire near Boyle was surprising. Athabasca County / Aspen Water Commission is in the process of extending the waterline out to Baptiste and Island lakes – the project is now in the environmental assessment and engineering design phase.

Amanda noted that while it started out warm and dry, the summer saw a lot of rain and cool temperatures around Hinton this summer.

Brian and Julie have been busy with Healthy Waters LLB. Brian attended a DUC wetland workshop, as well as the ACFN Summit (several other staff and board members also attended these events). Brian is on the AEN Water Caucus and noted some of their concerns with the current Water Availability engagement discussions and the role of the Water for Life partnerships. Petra and Brian will follow up with this sector to improve communications and explore potential collaborations.

Elaine noted that Crooked Creek Conservancy has no completed two land trusts and are in discussion with two additional landowners - all in the Athabasca area.

Kendra noted that Baptiste Lake saw some forest fire smoke this summer, but otherwise had an average summer with average water levels. BAILS did some work to get drone video footage of the outlet creek and participated in meetings with the County, Rotary Club, etc.

Laura noted that Inside Education will be organizing a Youth Summit this fall with a focus on Agriculture. A spring summit will focus on forestry.

Dean noted that precipitation was quite variable in Lac La Biche this summer. He enjoyed attending a Beaver workshop, as well as the 2025 ALMS conference held at Wabamun Lake. (Ashley and Emily also attended.)

6. Next Steps / Upcoming dates

- a. Nov. 26 Board meeting Spruce Grove

7. Adjourned. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.