



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

April 25, 2013 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Will Lindeman, Joan Hughson, Warren Cunningham, Lloyd Closson, Aaron Domes, Brian Hills, John Ross, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, Clark Selk, Roy Audet, Frank Larney, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Ken Brown, Darlene Sakires, Paulette Fox, Lorraine Nicol and Mike Gervais

Guests: Dennis Spackman, District Conversation Officer, Writing-On-Stone-Provincial Park

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:33pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Introductions were conducted

2. Minutes from last meeting

- March 28th board meeting minutes were reviewed
- An amendment was previously made to the minutes related to the second bullet under the Research and Monitoring team, Water Monitoring Program on page 6. Which read:
 - ESRD has indicated that they will continue their partnership with MRWCC on the program and will commit \$10,000 as they did last year
- This was amended to read:
 - ESRD has indicated they will continue their partnership with MRWCC on the program and have made a budget request of \$10,000, the same as last year; but approval of that budget request is still pending

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept the minutes as amended. Warren Cunningham seconded. **Carried.**

3. Elections of the MRWCC Board Executive

a. Chairman

Motion: Roy Audet nominated **John Ross**. Will Lindeman seconded. Roy Audet moved that nomination cease. **Carried**

b. Vice-Chair

Motion: Ed Sloboda nominated **Ken Miller**. Darcy Wills seconded. Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. **Carried**

c. Treasurer

Motion: Joan Hughson nominated **Will Lindeman**. Clark Selk seconded. Joan Hughson moved that nomination cease. **Carried**

d. Secretary

Motion: Will Lindeman nominated Warren Cunningham. Ken Miller seconded. Will Lindeman moved that nomination cease. **Carried.**

e. Member at large rep for special projects

Motion: Darcy Wills nominated **Ken Brown** as rep for the AWC. Ed Sloboda seconded. Will Lindeman moved that nomination cease. **Carried.**

4. Elections of the Team Leaders

- Team chairs were elected as follows:
 - ❖ Community Awareness and Involvement Team - **Ed Sloboda**
 - ❖ Research and Monitoring Team - **Will Lindeman**
 - ❖ Integrated Watershed Planning Team – **Ken Miller**
 - ❖ Water Supply Management Team – **Ken Miller**
 - ❖ Water Supply Management Team alternate – **Darcy Wills**
 - ❖ State of the Watershed Report Team
 - It was decided that since the report is nearing completion, the Research and Monitoring team will carry over the responsibilities of the SOW Team
- All members were encouraged to join teams of their choice
- The following members expressed interest in joining these teams:
 - ❖ Frank Larney - Research and Monitoring Team
 - ❖ Roy Audet - Community Awareness and Involvement Team
- Research and Monitoring Team meeting will be scheduled for early June.

5. Office Space update

- Bob Bogle (Owner of the Office Building) is planning to have a newspaper business in town and need space for the business. He asked if the MRWCC could share space in the office
- He also stated that if this proposal would not work, he would need the building back although he is happy having the MRWCC in this building
- The issue was brought to council in February and at that time a motion was passed that sharing the room was not the best fit for the MRWCC due to shortage of space in the office and would like us to start looking for other options incase Mr. Bogle will need the office room back
- This motion was passed on to Mr. Bogle who stated that he did not want to vacate the MRWCC from the building and that his first step would be to look for another space to rent for his business and allow us to stay in the building. However, in the event that he is unable to find room elsewhere for his business he will need to use the building for his business. He intends to start the business in May and will give us enough notice to vacate if that was the case
- Currently the MRWCC pays \$175/month for rent for the office
- He further advised that he had investigated for office space in the Town Hall which will cost him \$200/month to rent. He stated that if he were to rent the

- office space in the Town Hall, he would need to increase our rent by \$200 to offset for this cost and also let us place our programs in his newsletter for free
- If this was possible we could drop our newsletter to once a year
- This could pose problems in future if there are changes with any of the arrangements
- Will need a written agreement of the arrangements
- There is also questions as to what would happen if his business did not survive
- A motion was passed at the March meeting to look into the logistics of office availability and affordability of other rental office spaces in town and report back the findings to the executive
- Tim had a meeting with the Town CAO

Discussion:

- The Town is interested in renovating the back offices for the MRWCC
- This matter will be brought to the Town Council for discussion
- Tim has been invited to the Town Council meeting to update the council on the office issue and also to give a brief presentation on the MRWCC activities on May 13th.
- The subcommittee has been formed to discuss the proceedings of the office issue comprising of: **Warren Cunningham, Ken Brown, Darcy Wills and John Ross**

6. Sandi's contracts review

- In order to meet nonprofit society obligations, KPMG has advised that employee contract agreements be executed at the beginning of the fiscal year
- Tim presented the contract
- The contract mainly focuses on finalizing the SOW report, IWMP and Water quality data interpretation
- The contract is for 20 hours a week
- The contract can be amended by both parties throughout the year
- There has not been commitment on contract funding from ESRD as of yet, and if amendments are required due to lack of funding on major projects we will be capable of addressing the situation.

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept the contract as presented. Ken Miller seconded.
Carried

- Executive council to conduct a performance review for Tim Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm at Ken Miller's place
- Will also discuss a strategic plan on future program delivery
- Tim and possibly one other executive member (for transparency) to conduct Mary's performance review
- Any decisions made to be reported back to council

7. Financial Statements Update

- Will Lindeman presented the financial statements as follows:
 - Closing balance as of March 31, 2013 was \$235,108.94

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the Financial Statements as presented. Clark Selk seconded. **Carried.**

8. Water, Agriculture and Environment Conference, April 16 to 17, 2013 report

- Tim, Will, Ken Miller and Lorrain attended the conference
- Tim briefed the council on the conference proceedings
- Sandi gave a presentation on the challenges of meeting environmental sustainability while ensuring economic viability within the Milk River Watershed, it was noted as very well presented.

9. 2013 AGM Report

a. Financial donations

- ❖ Revenue was presented as follows:
 - Silent Auction - \$1593.00
 - Registration - \$445.00
 - Monetary donations - \$400.00
- ❖ Total revenue - \$2,438.00
- ❖ Working on acknowledgement cards to thank sponsors

b. Comments and Feedback

- ❖ Overall good reviews from participants
 - Location – excellent
 - Date of event – excellent
 - Presentations – good to excellent
 - Food – excellent
 - Some felt there was too much information
 - For future speakers:
 - W-O-S-P-Park spiritual/historic information
 - Water supply management on Milk River storage potential

10. SOW Report Progress update

- Tim gave a report on the status of the SOW report and showed some of the chapters that have been put together
- Liz Sanders is working on layout and it is almost done
- A team meeting will be scheduled soon to review the final draft
- Graphcom has agreed to print 100 copies free for the unveiling celebration May 31, 2013
- Remainder of copies will be printed by June 25
- Average cost per book will be \$21.39 for 1000 copies or \$16.50 for 1500 copies
- The idea of producing some of the copies as card USBs was discussed
- Tim presented 4 options of the SOW report cover
- Ken advised that Lois and Tom Gilchrist and himself plan to take some pictures of the fence post at the Montana/Alberta/Saskatchewan border to be used within the book, also will attempt to get pictures from the Buffalo hills
- There was a discussion on how to display the inside cover:
 - Use Kathy Ross's painting for the inside cover accompanied by a quote from the chairman or from Johan Dormaar's book

Action: Circulate Kathy's painting to the board

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to produce 1500 hard copies and a DVD. Darcy Willis seconded. **Carried**

11. Team Updates

a. *Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)*

- i. Next meeting will be June 4
 1. Suzanne Lodermeier from W-O-S-P-P had joined the team
- ii. Canoe Tour
 1. Proposed date is June 22, 2013
 2. John has located a place that can be used as the access point
- iii. Hike Tour
- iv. Well Decommissioning Workshop
 1. Postponed to May due to time limitations and seeding
 2. Working on the logistics of the scouting tour
 3. There is \$10000 funded by Shell to be used for the project
 4. Depending on funding availability, we are looking at 2 more projects – decommissioning a well pit with a pitless adapter and a hand dug well
 5. Daryl Jaques with Agriculture Canada has expressed interest in funding some of the projects and the possibility of expanding and completing additional wells.
 6. There is also funding available that well owners can apply from Growing Forward program
 7. John Ross has access to detonation chargers that can be used for the decommissioning work
- v. Caring for Our Watersheds program
- vi. Spring/Summer Meander Newsletter
 1. Deadline for article submission is mid-June
 2. Mary will circulate a reminder with exact date

b. *Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)*

- i. Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update
 1. As presented at the AGM
- ii. 2013 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project
 1. Monitoring underway
 2. April 18 was the first sampling date this year
 3. Analytical costs were high last year but Mary has negotiated the costs this year and they are lower
 4. Members with research ideas were asked to bring them forward
- iii. Fire recovery project
 1. Sampling underway
 2. Project is in partnership with U of A and Waterloo University

c. *Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)*

- i. Progress update and updated schedule
 1. Continuing discussions to revise content

d. *Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)*

- i. Planning to resume meetings within a month
- ii. Tom Gilchrist is still involved with the team work

12. Upcoming events

- Well decommissioning Workshop – TBA
- SOW Unveiling event, WOSP Park - May 31, 2013
- Coutts Day Parade - June 15 2013. Theme is “Under the Big Top”
- Canoe Trip – June 22, 2013
- Youth Range Days – July 16 to 18, 2013
- Bonanza Day Parade – August 3, 2013

13. Jalen Hulit’s presentation

- Jalen presented the presentation that won him 3rd place at the Society for Range Management High School Forum in Oklahoma
- He was the only representative of Canada and Alberta
- Jalen was presented with a letter and certificate of acknowledgement from MRWCC

14. Other items

- a. David Sauchyn will do a 500 year climate summary on the Milk River using dendroclimatology (study of climate change using tree rings) and provide a two page summary for the SOW report.
- b. There is need to connect with adjacent WPACs and learn what they are doing and opportunities to partner on regional scale projects.
 - i. Tim and Mary attend meetings scheduled to informed other WPACs about what other WPACs are doing
 - ii. There was a question on whether it is necessary to have similar meetings by chairs and vise chairs
- c. The definition of ecological/environmental goods and services was discussed
 - i. Brian Hills to contact Rob Dunn of Alberta Agriculture regarding EGS pilot work within the eastern portion of the watershed; Rob will be asked to come in and give a presentation to council in the next couple of months.
- d. There is a newly discovered Dinosaur named in honour of Roy Audet that will be in the news over the next couple weeks because it was found on their land. Congratulations Roy!

15. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:34pm. **Carried.**

16. Next Meeting Date

- May 23, 2013 at ESRD Office, Lethbridge at 1:30pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____