



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

January 26, 2011 – 1:30 PM

2nd Floor, Alberta Environment's Office

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Miller, Will Lindeman, John Byrne, Lorraine Nicol, John Ross, Ross Ford, Warren Cunningham, Ed Sloboda, Terrence Lazarus, Ken Brown

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Minutes from last meeting (December 7, 2010)

Sandi to submit comments from MRWCC to M. Dubord to forward to CAPP.

Motion: Motion to accept Minutes by W. Lindeman and second by J. Byrne. Carried.

3. Strategic Business Plan 2011-12 and 2 successive years (2012-13, 2013-14)

Sandi provided an overview of the Strategic Business Plan 2011 -14 to the Board.

4. AENV Project Contract Submission

Proposed activity in 2010-11

Timeframe	Activity
2010	
April-May	- collect and compile feedback on the draft Terms of Reference, - complete the under-ice modelling component of the Instream Flow Needs Study (Phase II)
June	- finalize Terms of Reference, design, print and disseminate final TOR to all stakeholders, in addition to factsheet material
June-Dec	- develop the draft IWMP (including the WMP sub-component) (meetings with IWMP Team and Technical Advisory Committee) - develop the water conservation objective (WCO)
2011	
Jan-Mar	- develop the draft IWMP and implementation strategy (meetings with IWMP Team and Technical Advisory Committee)
Mar – May	- host public open houses and input sessions at various locations in the watershed and meet with First Nations
Jun - July	- collect and compile feedback on the draft IWMP,
Aug - Dec	- finalize draft IWMP, design, print and disseminate the final Milk River IWMP
2012	
Jan - Mar	- present to community, stakeholders, municipalities and the provincial government for authorization/endorsement,

Status of 2010-11 Contract

Activity	\$ From AENV	Status
Seek Endorsement of Terms of Reference from 4 Rural Municipalities and 2 Urban Municipalities	\$6,600	Complete; Invoiced
Approved Water Management Plan (Subcomponent of Integrated Watershed Management Plan) - Water License Transfer	\$1,000	Drafted (on hold)
IFN Study (for WCO Setting)		
Habitat Suitability Criteria Curve 2-Day Workshop	\$15,000	Report near complete
IFN Study – Winter data collection to calibrate model; Winter Model /Habitat Connectivity Model Completion and Report	\$50,000	Underway
IFN Model Simulations to develop IFNs	\$30,000	Underway
IFN Phase II – Draft WCO (3rd party contractor for IFN/WCO setting)	\$3,000	\$3,000
Integrated Watershed Management Plan		
Draft Targets and Thresholds established for Milk River watershed	\$10,000	Underway
Draft Milk River Integrated Watershed Management Plan completed		
Develop Information package for IFN/WCO and other watershed components	\$10,000	Underway
TOTAL	\$125,600	

AENV Contract Submission for 2011-12

Project	Timeline	Description	Amount
Joint Initiative Team	April - March	- Develop information package for JIT activity - Host public information forum for water users.	6,500
Integrated Watershed Management Plan	April – September	- Host public open houses and input sessions at various locations in the watershed and meet with First Nations	3,000
	September - January	- Collect and compile feedback on the draft IWMP	5,000
	October - March	- Under-ice data collection to calibrate winter model used in the IFN; Normal flow year (supports winter IFN model)	40,000
	March (2012)	- Finalize draft IWMP, design, print and disseminate the final Milk River IWMP	25,000
		IWMP Phase II	66,000
	State of the Watershed Report 2013	September	- Assemble SOW Team
	March (2012)	- Terms of Reference for SOW Report 2013 (outlines web-based SOW/hard copy SOW requirements)	5,000
	April -	Data collection – Water quality - focus on	25,000

Project	Timeline	Description	Amount
	October	tributaries and lakes, 3 sites maintained on mainstem in preparation for 2013 report	
	May - August	Data collection – Riparian health – update historical information from 1999-2000 in preparation for 2013 report	85,000.00
		SOW Report 2013 Phase I	117,500
		Total Request	190,000

5. Annual Financial Audit

C. Auditing of the Records

A duly qualified accountant shall audit the books and records of the MRWCC at least once each year. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous shall be submitted by such auditor.

Auditing

26. The books, accounts and records of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be **prepared as required** at least once each year by a duly qualified accountant **and signed** by two members of the society appointed by the Board of Directors for that purpose. A complete and proper statement of the MRWCC standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such auditor at the Annual Meeting of the MRWCC. The fiscal year of the MRWCC in each year shall be January 1 to December 31.

27. The books and records of the MRWCC may be inspected by any member of the MRWCC at the Annual General Meeting or at anytime upon giving reasonable notice and arranging a time satisfactory to the officer or officers having charge of same. Each member of the Board shall at all times have access to such books and records. Photocopies of records will be provided at \$1.00 per page.

Motion: Ken M. moves to accept the bylaw change to include signatures of two members of the society. John Ross seconds, carried.

Motion: Ross F. moves to investigate what level of financial reporting is needed to fulfill requirements of funding partners and registries. John R. seconds, carried.

Action: Terrence to determine if AENV will accept a Notice to Reader (Compilation Report) as an audited financial statement. Sandi to determine the same from Charity Status.

Action: Sandi to contact Don Hornford if a Notice to Reader is acceptable, to contact Van Liere Chartered Accountants if Review Engagement report.

We should appoint our accountant at each Annual General to provide transparency to the organization.

6. Update on Executive Director Meeting in Red Deer on January 18, 2011

7. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team
 - i. MRWCC Poster status
 - have not heard word back from Mukaken Foundation.
 - ii. School Poster Contest
 - iii. Agrium Caring for Our Watershed Contest

Motion: Warren C. moves that the off-stream waterer be loaned to the winning family for one year and then returned to the Milk River Watershed Council Canada for demonstration purposes. Ultimate fate of the offstream waterer to be determined afterward. Ed S. seconds, carried. Ken M. abstained.

Action: Ed and Will will help Mary implement the offstream watering system.

- iv. Annual General Meeting
 - 1. Elections

Lorraine N. will be looking for a replacement for the Academia position. If she cannot find a replacement, she would be willing to stay on another term.

Tom G. will be stepping down this year.

Action: Sandi to send note requesting intention. Ken Brown nominated for the Nominating Committee.

- 2. Keynote Speaker – John Dormaar
 - a. Len Hills – first study on the dam project in 1986 – salvage of archaeology
- 3. Theme
- b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team
 - i. Instream Flow Needs Study
 - 1. Under-ice Data Collection
 - 2. Winter Model Completion
 - 3. Habitat Suitability Criteria Workshop Report
 - ii. 5-Year Water Monitoring Report
- c. Water Supply and Management Team

List of questions that were circulated at the December meeting was well received. Roger H. and others helped to answer the questions that were posed. Another document will be created to include the answers to the questions.

South Grow has engaged a consultant who is looking at water for economic development. Would be a good ally to work with on water management issues in the Milk River watershed.

- d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team
 - i. Water Conservation Survey Results for the Town of Milk River and Village of Coutts

8. Financial Report

Motion: John R. moved to accept financial report, Ross F. second, carried.

9. Important Dates

- i. February 24, 2011 – Community Stewardship Forum
- ii. February 10, 2011 – 5th Annual Holding the Reins Conference, Fort MacLeod
- iii. April 6, 2011 – MRWCC Annual General Meeting

Meeting with MRWA February 7, 2011. Board support for people to attend (Sandi ...Ken, Ed, Terrence to attend).

10. Next Meeting Date – February 24, 2011, Milk River, 1:30 pm



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

March 24, 2011 – 1:30 PM

University of Lethbridge, Water Building RM WE2070

Minutes

Present: Ed Sloboda, William Lindeman, Ken Miller, Marc Dubord, Greg Ottway, John Ross, Ross Ford, John Byrne, Lorraine Nicol, Sandi Riemersma, Mary Lupwayi

1. Welcome

Ken welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes from last meeting (January 26, 2011)

The minutes of Jan 26th were reviewed.

Motion: John Ross moves to adopt the minutes as submitted. Ross Fold seconds. **Carried.**

3. AENV Core Funding Application Submission

Sandi presented the application and submission of the grant. She advised that it is a challenge to reconcile records from the two financial years (calendar and fiscal years).

4. Credit Card for the MRWCC

Sandi presented a request to apply for a MRWCC credit card.

- As the organization is growing there is need to make larger purchases.
- Sandi has always used her personal credit card for work related transactions.
- A credit card will make tracking of accounts easier.

Motion: Will Lindeman moves to apply for a credit limit of \$10,000 from ATB in Milk River. Greg Ottway seconds. **Carried.**

A discussion followed to increase the spending authorization amounts for work purchases for Sandi and Mary. Currently the spending authorization limit for Sandi is \$200 and for Mary is \$50. An email should be sent to the Board if spending will exceed the given limits.

Motion: John Ross moves to increase the spending authorization amount for work purchases from \$200 to \$1000 for Sandi and \$50 to \$500 for Mary and that any exceeding amounts should be emailed to the Board for approval. Will Lindeman seconds. **Carried.**

5. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team

i. MRWCC Poster status

There was some discussion on the headdress on the first nation's person. There were some concerns that the headdress might need to be remove as some felt it might send a wrong message. The Board is still waiting to get feedback from first nation's people.

Action: Greg to follow-up on this and report to the next board meeting.

- ii. School Poster Contest
 - 35 Milk River Elementary School students Grades 2, 3, and 4 entered the contest.
 - Posters were displayed in the Town Hall from February 14th to March 1st
 - Judges (Ed Sloboda, Raven Mabbott and Maureen Kemble) conducted the judging March 1, 2011
 - Each grade had 2 placements for winners 1st and 2nd
 - The award ceremony for winners will take place at the AGM
- iii. Agrium Caring for Our Watershed Contest
 - Erle Rivers school was not interested in participating this year
 - The program was advertised on the website and so far one student has registered
- iv. Community Stewardship Forum
 - This forum presented an opportunity for the winning students to present their implementation ideas to the community
 - Approximately 30 people attended despite the cold weather
 - 5 students presented their ideas
 - Sierra Harty, one of the 2 top ranking students has been invited to meet the Minister of Environment April 18, 2011
- v. Kid Safe Program
 - They are looking for businesses to advertize in their publication for a fee.

Motion: Marc Dubord moves to use other resources that could reach our target audience better. Ed Sloboda Seconds. **Rejected**

- vi. Annual General Meeting
 - 1. Elections
 - a. Don Welsh and Darcy Wills have been nominated.
 - 2. Keynote Speaker
 - a. Brian Keating will be the keynote speaker. Brian is an Honourary Conservation Advisor at Calgary Zoo
- b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team
 - i. Instream Flow Needs Study
 - 1. Under-ice Data Collection
 - Contracted AMEC for the project
 - Collected data at 3 sites on the Milk River
 - Data will be used to create a 3 dimensional model
 - 2. Winter Model Completion
 - Scheduled for completion this Monday
 - Used Golders' model to input data
 - 3. Habitat Suitability Criteria Workshop Report
 - Looked at data for different fishes
 - Completed the summer IFN model
 - Still working on the winter model
 - Follow-up will depend on ABENV's funding

ii. MiRTAP progress

- Went well
- A technician was hired for three months to assist with the verification of the 266
- Two-hundred and sixty one wells were verified. Another 75 wells were identified and about 49 well owners were contacted by the MRWCC Technician but a meeting was deferred until weather improves
- Well owner contact information could not be located for 10 of these wells. There are also additional wells that were not addressed at this time due to time limitations.
- Of the verified wells, 205 wells were from the original 266 unverified well list, 7 were from additional wells, 13 were undocumented wells reported during the well owner survey and 36 were identified through Alberta Environment's Water Well Information Database.
- Challenges in verifying the water wells include:
 - Locating current well owner contacts. Well records are not kept up-to-date and some well owners now have cell phones rather than land telephone lines
 - Not all well owners have "bought in" to the project and some are unwilling to share information. This may be due to a fear of disclosure and increased personal liability
 - Landowners memory of wells may be different from what has been documented on well reports
 - The project is taking place in the winter time. Some wells are buried under snow and cannot be located and others cannot be accessed in remote locations
 - Temperatures have been extreme this winter. The GPS equipment cannot operate when temperatures fall below -20oC.
 - For many ranchers, calving season has begun, limiting time or ability to meet with the Technician.

iii. 5-Year Water Monitoring Report

- Working on report now.
- Hopefully will have the report ready for AGM

iv. State of the Watershed Report

- Looking into a possibility of creating a joint state of the watershed with Montana contact person Jennifer Kenck.
- There is need to have a meeting with Montana to discuss how to proceed

c. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

- i. AENV Endorsement of IWMP Terms of Reference
 - The Terms of Reference has been endorsed by AENV
- ii. Water Conservation Survey Results for the Town of Milk River and Village of Coutts
 -

6. Financial Report and Annual Financial Audit

- Simply accounting needed to trace and track the accounts done
- Quick books might be good
- Possibility of using a professional was discussed
- It was noted that we can't use the same accounting firm to audit and do our accounting as it is a conflict of interest

- Try to do accounts using Quick-book software in-house for a year and contact Don Hornford to review

Action: Get KPMG to give feedback on how the audits went.

Coffee Sales

- Coffee sales were discussed. Need discussions with cuppers to see if the grocery store can carry it so that we can deal with Cuppers directly

Action: follow up with cuppers

- It is becoming increasingly complicated to consolidate finances given that we have to report in 2 different financial systems (Fiscal and Calendar years)
- The financial records show that there is a balance that was not used in 2010 which needs to be reported
- There was a question whether we could ask to change the financial year
- The office needs to stock up on supplies. Some of the money will be spent on supplies.
- Sandi went through the dos and don'ts on how to spend the grant
- A camera for real time images on the river was discussed
- Ideas were discussed on items that can be purchased for the office.

Action: Marc to contact shell for funding proposal.

Motion: John Ross moves to accept the financial report, Greg Ottway seconds, **Carried.**

7. Important Dates

- i. April 6, 2011 – MRWCC Annual General Meeting

8. Next Meeting Date – April 28, 2011, Milk River, 1:30 pm



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

April 28, 2011 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office (Back Room)

Present: Ed Sloboda, Ed Sloboda, William Lindeman, Ken Miller, Warren Cunningham, Joan Hughson, Ken Brown, Terrence Lazarus, Greg Ottway, John Ross, John Byrne, Darcy Wills, Don Welsh, Sandi Riemersma, Mary Lupwayi

1. Welcome and introductions

- Ken Miller welcomed and introduced the new members.

2. Elections of the MRWCC Board Executive

- Chair

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

- Vice-Chair

Motion: John Ross nominated Ken Miller. Will Lindeman moved that nomination cease. **Carried**

- Treasurer

Motion: Ed Sloboda nominated Will Lindeman. Joan Hughson moved that nomination cease. **Carried**

- Secretary

Motion: Ken Miller nominated Warren Cunningham. Darcy Wills moved that nomination cease. **Carried.**

- John Ross asked to step down as chair for the Research and Monitoring team since he is the Board of Directors' chair

Team chairs were elected as follows:

1. Community Awareness and Involvement Team - Ed Sloboda
2. Research and Monitoring Team - Will Lindeman
3. Integrated Watershed Planning Team – Ken Miller
4. Water Supply Management Team – Don Welsh

- All members were encouraged to initially participate in all team meetings in order to decide which team they would like to participate in

State of the Watershed Team

- Montana has expressed interested in partnering with MRWCC. They will be participating members as such they can not vote
- All team chairs were advised to sit on the State of the Watershed Team but everyone was welcome to join
- Some team activities may integrate as they work towards a common goal

3. Signing authorities

- Motion: Move to give the Board Executive signing authority on behalf of the MRWCC.
Motion: Greg Ottway moved that the Board Executive consisting of John Ross, Ken Miller, Will Lindeman, and Warren Cunningham be given signing authority on behalf of the MRWCC. John Byrne seconded. **Carried**

4. Addition of Board of Director seat to the current Board of Directors

- Motion: Move to increase the number of Board of Directors seats by one through the addition of a second Individual Member seat.
- Ken Brown is sitting on the Alberta Water Advisory Council for a 4 year commitment. In order to be recognized at that level he needs to be a director within the WPAC

Rationale: This will increase the number of full seats on the Board of Directors since two seats have remained empty due to lack of interest: First Nations and Federal Government.

- There was a discussion on whether there was need to call for a special meeting in order to change the bylaw. A question on whether the meeting could be conducted by mail or email was raised. That would mean allowing 21 days for the membership to respond and that no response would mean one has agreed with the change. It was debated whether an email would be legal since it would be hard to verify the authenticity of the sender.
- Changes that need 2/3s voting are those that have financial implications
- Once changes are made, they are reviewed by the society of registry
- The matter should be taken to Alberta Water Advisory Council to see if this works for them
- There is need to look into having a change to the bylaws for board members to easily make decisions that do not impact MRWCC financially

Motion: Darcy Wills Moved to make a special appointment to the Board of Directors to allow for special assignments to external committees or to the Alberta Water Council. Will Lindeman Seconded. **Carried**

5. Review Board of Director roles

- Sandi asked that all directors review the Director's roles responsibilities and also review the director's purpose and authority on page 9
- Sandi read the Director's roles responsibilities to the board and asked that everyone read through the code of conduct. She further asked the board to make notes of anything that they feel might need discussion or change

6. Sandi/Mary contracts

- Original plan to bring the contract to the executive board but felt it was better that the whole board is kept aware
- Sandi's contract states that she works 20 hours a week but she is currently working more than 20hrs a week. Other WPACs Executive Directors concentrate on managerial work and hire people to write up projects such as SOW, etc.
- There is need to look at the current structure and see if there's need to implement practical changes.
- Other WPACs have more man power that are fulltime employees with benefits but then they are considered larger than MRWCC
- Although MRWCC is considered a small WPAC, there is a great deal of work taking place.
- There is need to also look at the funding levels and reliability of the long-term funding opportunities. Currently, MRWCC is being funded by Alberta Environment only and we try to

apply for grants but it's not a done deal. If this funding was discontinued MRWCC will not be able to operate.

- Sandi is expecting so would like to discuss future plans for her position while she is on maternity leave.
- It was advised that the board executives discuss and bring alternatives to the board
- Sandi to bring recommendations of what she would like to see to the executives

Motion: Ken Miller moved that the board executives come up with alternative plans on how to proceed. Ed Sloboda Seconded. **Carried.**

Financial Statement:

- Sandi presented the financial summary to the board. She added that there are some funds that are still outstanding.
- She presented 2 financial statements; for 2010 and 2011
- She stated that there was a surplus but it was not clear whether the surplus will need to be given back. Will need clarification.
- Office rent is very reasonable. There was a question on whether Bob Bogle should be issued a tax receipt for the equivalent difference since he is charging MRWCC very little for rent or just simply a thank you letter will do

Accounting and Book Keeping:

- Ken Miller presented the background of the need to have an accountant look after MRWCC financial books. Currently we are using an excel spreadsheet to do our accounts. It was hard for the auditors to compile the records which increased work load for both the auditors and staff. Both Mary and Sandi are not conversant with 'Simply Accounting' Software. We would get better use of Sandi and Mary's expertise if we were to get an accountant to do the MRWCC financial books. A number of accountants were approached.
- Ann Tollestrum's proposal was discussed
- KPMG will still do the audits.

Motion: Greg Ottway moved that the MRWCC contract Ann Tollestrup to look after MRWCC accounts and book keeping and that the contract should be reviewed annually. Will Lindeman seconds. **Carried.**

7. Project orientations (Sandi to provide an overview of projects and long term vision)

Sandi advised that she had presented the projects overview at the AGM and that perhaps team updates should be presented.

Community Awareness and Initiative Team

Ed presented the minutes of the April 21, 2011 CAIT meeting as follows:

Poster Contest

- Poster Contest went well
- Liked the idea of certificates of recognition to participating students.

Caring for Our Watershed - Agrium Contest

- Implementation plans were discussed
- 2011 program – 2 Erle Rivers students were selected to do oral presentations at the Calgary Zoo May 1st, 2011

Geocaching Project

- Ed presented the 3 proposed sites west of Milk River Town
- The CAIT committee to scout the location
- Ed will pick a date in May to scout location and plant the Geocache

2011 Canoe Tour

- Tour to take place June 11th, 2011
- Kinsmen Bus has been booked. Ed will drive
- Ed suggested inviting Wendy to present
- Ken Brown presented the canoe tour schedule

Hike Tour

- Tentative date set for September 10th
- Will go east to Pinhorn, Milk River Canyon, and look at Metering Station

Newsletter

- The committee liked the draft newsletter
- Ken Miller and Sandi to give input on Tom's farewell article

Bonanza Day

- This year's theme is "Milk River Knows Health Care is our Priority"
- Work on a MRWCC Float
- Our theme should tie with this years theme
- Suggested that MRWCC's theme should be "Our Priority is Clean Water which is the Essence of life."

Grant opportunities and Fundraising ideas

- No ideas were discussed

Rain Barrel Project

- Should be tabled and discussed at the Board Meeting level

AGM Report

- Good meeting
- Liked the idea of having the poster contest presented at the AGM

Next meeting date

- July 14th, 2011

Research and Monitoring Team

- Monitoring is ongoing.

Integrated Watershed Planning Team

- SRD helping with targets, threat hold and modeling
- Taking the bigger role for themselves. Do we need to sign the contract or let them do it on their own?
- Work is going well but need to agree on the direction that is being taken.

8. Upcoming events

- Annual Canoe Trip – June 11, 2011
- Watershed Planning and Advisory Meeting – Red Deer - May 5, 2011
- Hike Tour September 10, 2011
- Next CAIT meeting July 11, 2011

9. Last meeting minutes

- Minutes from last meeting (March 24th, 2011) were reviewed

Motion: Greg Ottway moved to accept March 24th, 2011 minutes as presented. John Byrne seconded.
Carried.

10. Other

- Darcy Wills advised that there is concern on the capacity of dams and it needs to be addressed

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm

10. Next Meeting Date

- May 26, 2011, AENV Lethbridge, 1:30 pm



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 26, 2011 – 1:30 PM

Alberta Environment, 2nd Floor

Present: Ross Ford, Ed Sloboda, Ken Brown, John Ross, Warren Cunningham, Don Welsh, John Byrne, Mary Lupwayi, Sandi Riemersma, Ken Miller, Will Lindeman, Joan Hughson, Lorraine Nicol

Guests: Dr. Allen Good, Dr. Brad Stelfox, Cornell Yarmoloy, Lorne Fitch

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Invited Guest's Presentations:

- a. Dr. Allen Good, Institute of Land Use Innovation (ILUI), ALCES Model Application in the Milk River Watershed
- b. Dr. Brad Stelfox, Landscape Ecologist, ALCES Group

Both Dr. Allen Good and Dr. Brad Stelfox gave presentations on ALCES Group's willingness to partner with and assist the MRWCC in the development of sustainable watershed plans by bringing sound science based programs in place to develop good ecological and economical solutions that will lead to sensible policy decisions.

Dr. Allen Good, Plant Geneticist at University of Alberta, and Director for Institute for Land Use Innovation

- Province of Alberta has changed a lot since the beginning
- Concerned with the management of water with the rapid growth of population
- Management of land use needs leadership and guidance
- Interested in providing the science to allow sensible decisions to be made
- Institute would like to know where they add value
- Bring a number of diverse researchers to the table
- Here at the MRWCC meeting to understand what are some of the challenges that Alberta is going to face
- Want to bring programs in place to develop good ecological and economic solutions that will lead to policy decisions
- Within pool of researchers have economists who want to use economic tools to make good decisions
- Want to talk to MRWCC and are just getting started – want to work with a partner to address watershed management issues, what does the future look like for local environment and community, if not a comfortable scene, how can we change the outcome for the future and convince the community that there is economic value to wetlands
- How can we implement programs and how would that be funded, want a real time project
- Not asking for funds, well-supported right now, looking for a partner not necessarily resources
- Interested in open and transparent sharing of knowledge and information

Dr. Brad Stelfox, Landscape Ecologist, ALCES Group

- ALCES: A New Approach for Strategic Planning
- ALCES Group is spread across Canada, a virtual team that creates landscape simulation models

- Projects completed in Paraguay, Alaska, Australia, India, British Columbia and Alberta
- Alberta is a busy place seen from space using light intensity
- Cropland Matrix, Natural Gas Wells, Transportation Network, Human Populations and Settlements, Historic Population Demographics
- ALCES track the benefits and liabilities of land uses
- Lots of conversation around the benefits of land uses, not a lot of conversation on the liabilities (ecological goods and services – air, land, water, biodiversity); trade-offs, thresholds must be discussed
- ALCES help people understand where they are today and how they got there, where is it that the community wants to go – strategy options:
 - 1. Initial GIS Data and Landscape Composition
 - 2. Historical Land use trajectory
 - 3. Disturbance regimes
 - 4. Future land use trajectories and metrics
 - 5. ALCES output
- Track various land uses and natural disturbances
- Range of Natural Variability (1660 – 1860), Back casting (1861 – 2010), Future Land Use (2011 – 2060)
- Can apply beneficial management practices to the model and see how this changes the Future Land Use predictions
- Accuracy of model should be within about 15%, but the significance is the relative difference between the scenarios
- ALCES Group is a Ltd. company comprised of 12 individuals – consultancy, private interest
- About 25 professors who are actively involved in the projects that they are looking at – water quality, habitat preservation – endangered species, modelers, bacteria sourcing, economists, sustainable rural environment, and lawyers
- Some overlap with the Provincial government – open and transparent, will not hide information
- Time period preliminary talks with MRWCC can be adjusted based on scope – 8 to 12 months and would depend on what would be the goal – Long-term negotiations might not work for them as MRWCC staff and members might change
- Cost would typically be about \$150,000.00

- *First stage:*
Build model and predict the future

- *Second stage:*
Identify the particular changes that can be made, and actually implement these changes with real dollars (reverse option – banking carbon, need to demonstrate real applications)

- *Next Steps:*
 - o Identify vision for the watershed
 - o Identify key measures (e.g., endangered species – a few proxy measures)

- Is there a fit for the Institute of Land Use Innovation within the MRWCC?
- Is there a willingness from MRWCC to provide support to ALCES Group for budgeting time?
- From Institute of Land Use Innovation, MRWCC is the first watershed group that they have talked to. They are interested in the size, prairie river and a number of people involved in the Institute who have a strong attachment to Milk River
- Is there enough interest to continue the conversation? Willing to go along if this is what MRWCC wants to do. What resources are needed for the Institute? Would be ready to go in a month or two to get going.
- 12 to 18 month turn around. More like 8 to 12 months. 12 to 18 months – Brad to get the model done, ILUI – 30% more wetlands – reverse option model tested
- Another serious meeting before signing a contract with Brad
- Visioning exercise – Alan Gardner – Southern Foothills Group would be a good recourse
- Request that Brad put together a 5-10 page proposal for the MRWCC

Board Discussion on the MRWCC Direction

- Links into the future planning initiatives we are already working toward
- Well respected model
- What does this mean for the Phase II? Will be required to participate or voluntary depending on the program?
- At this stage, it is likely that the MRWCC has nothing to lose. Can we disclose who the donor's are and how much money is available? Sometimes it is better not to know, but need to understand agendas.
- Is there an exit strategy if things don't work out?
- Who owns the research when complete – are we a partner and will have ownership as well?
- Need to discuss project with Stewart Rood

Motion: Ken Miller moves that the MRWCC will collaborate with the Institute of Land Use Innovation to develop the ALCES model for the Milk River and will enter into discussions to outline a more detailed proposal. Will Lindeman seconds. **Carried.**

Action:

- o A letter of intent will be drafted to Dr. Allen Good.
- o An update to be brought and discussed at June Board Meeting for Dr. Allen Good since he will be presenting to the institute in July

3. Minutes from last meeting

Motion: Joan Hughson moves to accept the Minutes as presented. Ross Ford seconds. **Carried.**

4. Board of Director's Roles/Bylaw updates (if any)

To be tabled until next meeting.

5. Financial Statements/Credit Card update

- o Will Lindeman presented the financial report
- o The account balance of \$36,056.62 depicts the balance as of April 2011 and there were some huge amounts deposited in May which will increase the balance to about \$151,000
- o Ann Tollestrup to be invited to a meeting to explain the financial report
- o There is some money left over from the MiRTAP project and would like to see the areas that were not visited last time due to snow completed

Motion: Joan Hughson moves to accept the financial statement as presented. Ed Sloboda seconds. **Carried.**

Motion: John Byrne moves to sign the Core Funding Agreement with Alberta Environment. Warren Cunningham seconds. **Carried.**

6. MRWCC painting update and steps to move forward

There were liability questions presented on whether the artist would need to be asked for permission to remove the head-dress and spear? The consensus was to defer the question to Ken Miller

Ken to update the Board at next meeting.

7. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)

Canoe Tour

- June 11, 2011 canoe tour program to start from Coffin Bridge to Weir Bridge for safety reasons.

- Should switch dates to July for future canoe trips for safety reasons
- 22 or 23 cfs at the Western Crossing needed to safely canoe North Fork.

Solar Powered Watering System

- Ed and Will had a meeting regarding the solar-powered water tank. Thought that the MRWCC should purchase a water trough that would accompany the solar system. That way, the system would be complete if it were moved from place to place.

Action: John Ross to call Brad Downey to see if ACA would donate a water tank for the portable solar unit. If not, Mary will look into a possible donation from UFA or Peavey Mart. Email Ed or Will to advise on the water tank.

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

- Plan a next meeting before next Board meeting.
- Will attended a meeting in Red Deer to discuss research opportunities with WPACs. 12 Professors were invited to attend but only three attended.
- Focus of meeting was on the social aspects. Thoughts were that WPACs should highlight items for research and provide to Professors who need to publish, but would like their work to be relevant.

c. Integrated Watershed Management Planning Team (IWMP Team)

No report

d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)

No report

8. Upcoming events

- Annual Canoe Trip – June 11, 2011
- WPAC Forum – June 28, 2011 (Nisku is the tentative location)
- Bonanza Day Parade – Saturday, July 30, 2011

9. Other

- 16 cfs up to 39 cfs at Milk River on May 25, 2011 – would like to have a look at Weir Bridge again to see if new channel that was cut will hold all of the water or if the exposed bank is still at risk
- A temporary fence was put up at Gold Springs Park.

10. Next Meeting Date – June 23, 2011, Milk River, 1:30 pm

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

September 22, 2011 – 1:30 PM

Alberta Environment, 2nd Floor

Present: Will Lindeman, Ken Brown, Tim Romanow, Sandi Riemersma, Joan Hughson, Mary Lupwayi, Greg Ottway, Don Welsh, Ed Sloboda, Lorraine Nicol, John Ross, Ken Miller,

Absent: Mike Gervais, Darlene Sakires, Ross Ford, Terrence Lazarus, William Chamber, Warren Cunningham, Darcy Wills

1. Welcome and introductions

Chairman John Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any changes and additions to the agenda.

- Sandi showed the plaque that will be presented to the exiting members to the board.
- An addition to the agenda was requested that Ken Brown present an update on the Alberta Water Council

Motion: Ken Miller moved that the agenda be amended as requested. Lorraine Nicol seconded. **Carried**

2. Introducing the new Executive Director

- Chairman John Ross introduced Tim Romanow as the New Executive Director and welcomed him to the team.
- Sandi is stepping back and will be handing over her responsibilities as the Executive Director to Tim. However, Sandi will continue working on other programs such as SOW, IMP, and other projects). This will be on a funding availability basis
- Tim expressed his excitement to work for the MRWCC. He is leaving the Cardston County where he helped develop an outreach education program
- The team introduced themselves to Tim

3. Minutes from last meeting

- Sandi gave the highlights of the May 26th 2011 minutes
 - There was no June meeting
 - Dr. Allen Good, Institute of Land Use Innovation (ILUI), ALCES and Dr. Brad Stelfox, Landscape Ecologist, ALCES Group Model Application in the Milk River Watershed presentation
 - Motion to sign the 2011/12 AENV contract
 - Move the head dress off the picture because some thought it might be inappropriate. It will be nice to print them before the WPAC summit
 - Team updates were discussed. Ed contacted Jesse Doenz who agreed to have the watering system in spring as he does not have any use for the system now
 - John Ross was thanked for his role in requesting ACA to donate the trough

Action: Mary to draft a letter of thanks to Brad Downey (ACA) for trough donation

Action: Mary to circulate photos of the watering system to the board

Motion: Joan Hughson moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Greg Ottway seconded. **Carried**

John Ross asked if there was need to sign the minutes. Consensus was it was not necessary

4. Update on Alberta Environment grants

- Core grants and Project grant were discussed

- 2 project grants 2D modeling and IWMP asked for water quality monitoring but was not approved
- Instead of funding riparian workshops it was requested that other programs can be funded
- Hire a new Executive Director while Sandi continues with the other contract programs (SOW, IMP, and other projects). This will be on a funding availability basis
- There is a \$40,000 remaining for Under ice monitoring project
- There were issues with Gorder's IFN study data and we switched to AMEC who were working on Fish habitat suitability studies but there were errors with the data that Gorder provided which prompted to go back to AMEC to redo the model. Golder is working on reviewing the data altogether. Good thing is that all has been sorted out and the report is underway
- It's been a struggle with the stakeholders concerned
- AMEC is moving forward with the data set.
- Direct contract is the best way to go as it becomes a problem when we are used as middle men for AENV

5. Financial Statements Update

- Will Lindeman updated the financial report. There is \$25,000 left excluding money to be spent next year
- Ann Tollestrup will be in at the next meeting to present the budget.

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statement as presented. Don Welsh seconded.
Carried

6. MRWCC Vests and Other Promotional Items

- Board members who require a vest were asked to submit a size for the vest.

Action: Mary to ask the board members who were absent if they needed a vest and what size

- Samples of pens for promotional items were presented
- MRWCC and website should be placed on the pen

Action: Mary to get Zodiac Ball Point and Classic Pen samples or something within the range in blue and black

Motion: Greg Ottway moved to get samples of the Zodia and Classic pens or anything within that range and that no more than \$1500 including GST should be spent and that the decision of which pen should be purchased be deferred to CAIT. Will Lindeman seconded. **Carried.**

7. Ground Phone and Cell Phones

- Sandi presented the phone plan cost comparison.
- The office is closed Mondays and Fridays and we were looking at options that would serve us better when Tim and Mary are working from home. Currently, Mary is using her personal phone for long distance with no compensation.
- Looking to see if the option of cancelling the ground phone and replace it with 2 Black Berries would be more efficient.
- Tim presented the advantages of having a Black Berries to having a land line
- A question of how many long distance minutes will be needed was raised
- Is a Lethbridge number better?
- Keeping a Milk River number is better for the residents to avoid them incurring long distance charges and it is better to keep those local ties.
- We are currently spending money on a go-to-meetings account. If this account is cancelled because of the use of Black Berries, that money can go towards the Black Berries account.
- Check for roaming charges because sometimes the lines can be confusing when on the Milk close to the boarder
- Try to get one that has unlimited long distance, Tim and Mary are willing to pay for their portion

Motion: Greg Ottway moved to allow Tim and Mary to look into unlimited long distance Black Berry options and send an email with the findings to the board. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

Action: Tim to look into unlimited long distance costs

8. SAGE and NRCB Correspondence

- Sandi reported that there is activity on the Milk River with fecal contamination.
- SAGE sent a letter to NRCB concerned with the Milk River contamination. NRCB responded to the letter by addressing their compliance.
- Source of the issue is unknown.
- The MRWCC would like to do a study on fecal coliform. There is an Ag. Consortium grant that we are applying for to complete this study
- We would like to get a study for at least 3 years.
- We are looking for partners who would like to partner with us.
- Alberta Health Services would be interested
- There is need to know the exact source if it's possible.
- We can use the existing water sampling to monitor fecal coliform
- If we don't qualify for the Ag. consortium grant we can approach the politicians (MLAs), Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment to help us secure funding
- This matter should be deferred to Research and Monitoring Team
- A letter should be written to SAGE and NRCB after funding is approved

9. Alberta Water Council (AWC) Update

- Ken attended last meeting where they discussed clean drinking water, water allocations, water pollution and Riparian work
- A question of how AWC fit in the land frame work was discussed. It is not very clear at the moment but the update will be discussed at the next meeting

10. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)

Ed Sloboda updated the Community Awareness and Involvement Team programs

- i. Geocache update
 - The 2nd Geocache was installed
 - It is not published yet as the cache is in the Heritage rangeland area and We were advised that permission was required before publishing the cache. A request was sent to Alberta Parks who advised to contact public lands as they have nothing to do with the rangelands
- ii. Hike tour
 - Is scheduled October 1, 2011
 - 16 people registered so far
 - Looking to fill 14 more spots
 - Participants will meet at the Milk River Interpretive Center at 8:30am to board a bus to Pinhorn and Milk River Canyon areas
- iii. Summer Newsletter
 - Was scheduled to be published mid August but delayed because we were waiting to verify some facts about ILUI/ALCES partnership with MRWCC.
 - The Newsletter has been sent for production and will be distributed next week
- iv. Cottonwood tree wrapping project
 - The project took place June 25, 2011
 - 30 trees were wrapped
 - Thanked Ed Sloboda and Greg Ottway for volunteering
 - Thanked ACA for donating the construction material
- v. Website update
 - We are revamping the Director's page and looking for photographs and bios for the page
 - A photo gallery is up on the website. The board was encouraged to visit the web and check it out
- vi. Bioengineering project

- We are in the process of implementing Jesse Tollestrup's idea that was presented at the 2011 Agrium's Caring for our watershed
- Agrium gave a sponsorship of \$ 3500 for the project
- Proposals were sent looking for partners the project
- We are looking for someone local to facilitate the project

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

- No meeting was conducted
- i. Update on the Milk River Transboundary Aquifer Project (MiRTAP)
 - There were wells which could not be completed last winter and Mary has been working to complete them
- ii. Water Quality Monitoring
 - This year, sampling has been underway since April. There is one more sampling to do in October.
 - After that we would like to continue with the source tracking of the bacteria contamination on the Milk River
- iii. Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB) discussion
 - Dale Jakes met with Sandi and would like to help with MiRTAP. Sandi advised him to help with monitoring water levels and follow-up with ground water quality. This will mean revisiting the wells that were monitored and comparing long term data
- iv. Milk River Fecal Coliform Contamination
 - As discussed on item No. 8

c. Integrated Watershed Management Planning Team (IWMP Team)

- i. Update on MRWCC/ALCES Proposed Partnership
 - Sandi met with Allen Good to see what the main issues in the watershed. She offered to present there scheduled meeting. Dr Good advised to have a conference call with Sandi, Will and Ken Miller. This meeting was planned but he never called. Sandi called him and he advised that there are delays on the plans. They still would like to work with us on biodegradable issues
 - Might know in a few months if the partnership with ALCES/ILUI is a go

d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)

- Ken Miller presented the plans with the Joint international meeting. In January, the Montana people asked for a break to look after the business that arose from the legislature.
- There was a question on improving Credit system. It will take about 2 months to find out the research that will be conducted on the credit system.
- The plans are coming along.

11. Past Directors Presentation

- John Ross thanked John Byrne for his service on the MRWCC board and wished him well on his future plans and presented him a plaque.
- John Byrne thanked the Board.
- Sandi presented a special presentation for John Byrne.

12. Special Presentation

- Sandi thanked Mary for her 1st year anniversary with The MRWCC
- Mary thanked the Board and Sandi for a very good working environment

13. Upcoming events

- a. Hike Tour – October 1, 2011
 - i. We are still taking registrations for the Hike Tour
- b. WPAC Summit – October 12 to 14, 2011 (Slave Lake)

- i. Sandi advised that there was need for some board members to attend the summit
- ii. Ed Sloboda and Ken Brown volunteered to go

Action: Mary to follow-up with the absent members to see if they would like to attend.

Action: Mary to register all participants for the summit and book rooms

14. Other items

Sandi read an email on the update on what will happen on the St. Mary canal in the next month which stated that starting the weekend of October 1, canal flows will be reduced to about half what they currently are between Saturday and Tuesday to accommodate some on the ground and aerial survey work. After the survey work is completed flows will again be increased to between 400- 500 cfs and held at that rate through the end of the month. Current plans are for cuts to be made the week of October 3rd so that by the 7th the canal would be shut off, and diversions would be done for the year.

Action: Sandi to circulate the email from St. Mary to the board

15. Next Meeting Date – October 27, 2011, Milk River, 1:30 pm

Motion: Moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

October 27, 2011 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Ken Miller, Don Welsh, Mike Gervais, Darlene Sakires, Tim Romanow, Will Lindeman, Terrence Lazarus, Ken Brown and Mary Lupwayi.

Absent: John Ross, Ed Sloboda, Greg Ottway, Joan Hughson, Lorraine Nicol, Ross Ford, William Schamber, Warren Cunningham and Darcy Wills.

Guests: Ann Tollestrup – MRWCC Book Keeper
Mario Berthiaume - CAO, Town of Milk River represented William Schamber

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross was absent so Ken Miller chaired the meeting
- Ken Miller welcomed everyone and self introductions were conducted

2. Minutes from last meeting

Motion: Don Welsh moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Darlene Sakires seconded.
Carried.

3. Financial Statements Update – Ann Tollestrup

Ann Tollestrup presented the MRWCC accounts and advised the importance of following the non profit regulations.

- Ann is hired as a book keeper not accountant so she would like to refer to her presentation as the accounts summary not Financial statement
- Using project money for intended projects that the money was received for
- Deferred income is money that was received for a project and was not used. This money is locked up until used for the intended project
- Non profit is set up for calendar year not fiscal year
- Had to reenter the 2010 financial records in order to have comparatives
- Simply Accounting is an excellent tool compared to the spreadsheet which has limited capability
- The office is using Ann's 2010 Simply Accounting Program. Ann will be purchasing the 2012 program for MRWCC as soon as it's out, we will not need to upgrade from 2012 for at least 3 yrs.
- The program has payroll
- Ann presented the accounts summary

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statement as presented. Mike Gervais seconded.
Carried.

4. Update on Alberta Environment Water Monitoring grants

- The 2012 water monitoring grant application was submitted to Alberta Environment for a sum of \$18,000
- A letter of intent for the Ag Funding Consortium on Source Tracking of Fecal Contamination in the Milk River requesting \$321,000 over 3 years has been submitted. If approved some of the funding can be used for core water monitoring as well if needed

- This study will determine potential sources of the fecal contamination which contain pathogens that may be contributed from wildlife, humans, or livestock
- Alberta Agriculture helped with the letter of intent and are very interested in the project
- Parks and Recreation and Alberta Health should be potential partners
- We received information from Brad Downy regarding the Canadian Wildlife Federation Funding program for species at risk. Grants are awarded for species at risk work. The grants are awarded on an annual basis ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000. Multi-year grants proposals are also accepted, Brad suggested that there might be a good fit with Western Silvery Minnow work and support towards the Habitat and WQ work that we are already engaged in, or possibly fund BMP implementation work to address concerns in the next few years. This application will be deferred to the Research and Monitoring Team for further discussion.

5. Update on WPAC Summit

- Ken Brown, Ed Sloboda, Tim Romanow, and Mary Lupwayi attended the WPAC summit
- It was a good opportunity to learn about WPACs
- There is a lot of variability within the individual WPACs in terms of program delivery and funding opportunities
- Dr Brad Stefox gave a presentation the first day on land use modeling and he later had a conversation with Tim:
 - Dr. Allen Good is no longer with the Alberta Landuse Institute.
 - Dr. Good's presentation to MRWCC did not clearly represent the ALCES or the Alberta Landuse Institutes intentions and Brad would like an opportunity to meet the Board and clarify things. ALCES would still like to work with MRWCC on some future projects
 Tim's detailed notes are available for more info regarding the Summit presentations.

6. Credit Card

- Tim would like to get a MRWCC business credit card. There are 2 Master Cards for Sandi and Mary. At the moment he is relying on Mary's card for business purchases

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to apply for a third business Master Card for Tim. Don Welsh seconded. **Carried.**

Terrence abstained to vote on this motion stating conflict of interest since he works for Alberta Environment

7. Update on Shell Fueling Change Grant

- The MRWCC submitted an application for Shell Fuelling Change grant
- The application was for \$50,000 under Water category
- The project title for the application was "Plug it to Protect and Conserve the Milk River Aquifer"
- The title is based on applying for funding to decommission abandoned ground wells
- If the grant is successful, it will help land owners who participated in the MiRTAP well surveys to apply for well decommissioning funding at a 25% land owner and 75% grant cost share
- The application will be on the first come first serve basis
- So far MRWCC has been chosen as one of the 54 participants that will move on to the second phase of the program and will receive \$10,000 just for being chosen
- The second phase of the project will be based on public voting on line where the first 4 winners will receive \$50,000
- Once the profile is set on line an email will be sent out to ask people to vote

8. MRWCC Vests Update

- The vests were purchased at \$85.50 each
- The ocean blue colour was discontinued black vest have been purchased

- Members who are getting new vests were asked to pick their vests from the MRWCC office

9. Ground Phone

- 2 small business BlackBerries were purchased for Tim and Mary
- The cost of using the BlackBerries comes up to the same as the cost of the landline and paying for Go-to-meetings account
- We were unable to transfer the Milk River office number on to Mary's Black Berry due to technical difficulties that occur with transferring Telus numbers to a Bell account.
- We need to look into transferring the office number to Mary's Black Berry

- **Action:** Mary to look into transferring the office number to her Black Berry

10. Update on AWC

Ken updated the board on AWC

- Ken attended a AWC meeting last week
- Forestry and Pulp Industry water management was discussed
- There is funding available if MRWCC would like to apply
- There is \$5 Million available for water research projects
- Alberta Innovates previously known as AWRI need to tap into water research
- Next meeting will be next spring
- MRWCC should come up with a criteria and submit a proposal

Action: Executive Board to brainstorm on ideas and criteria for a research proposal

11. 2012 AGM

Plans for the 2012 AGM were discussed.

1. Proposed dates:
 - a. 3 and 4 April, 2012

2. Potential Key Note Speaker:
 - a. Preston Manning – was invited last year but he was unable to attend due to other commitments
 - b. Black Foot Challenge – Is a landowner based group in Montana that was officially formed in 1993 to coordinate efforts that conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life throughout the watershed. It is more like a WPAC in Alberta. They would make a presentation on their watershed experiences

3. Potential Presenters:
 - a. Nigel Bankes, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary
Proposed Topic: Transboundary Water Issues in the West from Devil's Lake to Columbia River.
 - b. Arlene J. Kwasniak, Faculties of Environmental Design and Law at the University of Calgary
Proposed Topic: Jurisdictional Challenges to Implementing Ecosystem Management Approaches to Canada/U.S. International Watersheds.

4. Proposed Theme:
 - a. Taking Policy to Action

Motion: Darlene Sakires moved to invite Preston Manning as the Keynote Speaker, Blackfoot Challenge to present during dinner and Arlene J. Kwasniak and Nigel Bankes for presentations. Mike Gervais Seconded. **Carried.**

Motion: Darlene Sakires moved to invite the Minister of Environment and Water to attend and give a greeting at the AGM. Mike Gervais Seconded. **Carried.**

12. 2012 Youth Range

- An interactive event for youth, families, and leaders interested in learning about a variety of range, watershed, wildlife, and other related topics relative to natural resource management. Youth from all backgrounds including farm and ranch, acreage or town, are welcome to attend.
- This year's camp will be held on Rangeview Ranch, which is located in the heart of Canadian cattle country in Cardston County.
- A collaborative annual program that the Counties of Cardston, Warner, Forty Mile and Cypress to present the opportunity for communities to learn about stewardship initiatives.
- An opportunity for the MRWCC to be involved
- 2012 Youth Range Days are July 17 to 19
- Looking at around 25 youth. The most ever had was 28
- Registration is \$50 per youth
- Volunteers will be required
- There is funding in place, though additional sponsorship always required

13. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
 - i. Hike tour report
 - Took place October 1, 2011
 - A lot of positive feedback
 - Are we looking at this as an annual event?
 - A power point presentation of the tour was presented
 - ii. Website update
 - Director's page has been uploaded on the MRWCC website
 - Asked the board to visit the page
 - Still need bios and photos for some members
 - iii. Bioengineering project
 - Grants received:
 - The project to be implemented October 28, 2011
 - 19 volunteers have registered
 - Agrium sponsored \$3,500 for implementing the project
 - Funding proposals were sent and ACA donated \$2,000 and County of Warner \$500
 - Total funding for implementation is \$6,000
 - Barry Snow and Jamie Meeks are donating cuttings for construction
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
 - i. Water Quality Monitoring Program
 - Will and Tim will setup a next meeting date
 - Once all the analysis is in will work on the summary report
 - There are personnel changes at the counties that might impact the water monitoring but we will continue to ask the Counties' partnership
 - Jamie Meeks, Ag Fieldman for County of Warner has already agreed to partner for next year
- c. Integrated Watershed Management Planning Team (IWMP Team)
 - Ken Miller presented the IWMP update
 - i. Update on MRWCC/ALCES Proposed Partnership
 - Commitment and funding uncertain
 - ii. AMEC Research Project

- River 2D Model project meeting in Calgary, Alberta Environment Office on November 3, 2011
- Ken, Will, Tim and Mary will attend
- There were delays because AMEC had issues with Gorder's data which has been recalibrated and the project is moving ahead

d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)

- Have taken a break for several months due to rehabilitation of the American Canal siphon
- There are project delays due to funding that prompted Montana to request time off
- When meetings resume there are 2 more meetings to complete

14. Upcoming events

- a. October 28, 2011 - Bioengineering Workshop

15. Other items

- MRWCC should send a letter of thanks to the past Minister Rob Renner for his work and a welcome letter to the new Environment and Water Minister, Diana McQueen

Motion: Terrence Lazarus moved that MRWCC send a letter of thanks to the past Minister Rob Renner for his work and a welcome and congratulations letter to the new Environment and Water Minister, Diana McQueen. Don Welsh Seconded. **Carried.**

- A discussion on whether it was feasible to have employee cheques signed at the Board meetings when the meetings are close to the end of the month to avoid calling the executive back to the office to sign cheques.
- Tim addressed the need for staff and executive Board to have business cards

16. Next Meeting Date

- November 24, 2011, Alberta Environment - Lethbridge, 1:30 pm

Motion: Moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35pm.

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

November 24, 2011 – 1:30 PM

Alberta Environment, 2nd Floor

Present: Ken Brown, Ken Miller, Lorraine Nicol, John Ross, Ed Sloboda, Greg Ottway, Mike Gervais, Terrence Lazarus, Will Lindeman, Tim Romanow, and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Randy Taylor, Warren Cunningham, Joan Hughson, Darlene Sakires, William Schamber, Don Welsh, and Darcy Wills

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairman Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:38pm
- He welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Gervais to the members

2. Minutes from last meeting

- October 27, 2011 minutes were reviewed with the following notations:
 - Business cards have been purchased for Tim, Mary and the executives
 - Tim talked to Sandi about the Master Card. Sandi will destroy hers since she does not require it for MRWCC business anymore and the card will be transferred to Tim. Last minutes will need to be signed in order for the bank to switch the Master Card to Tim
 - The office land line has been transferred to Mary's Black Berry

Motion: Mike Gervais moved to accept the minutes as presented. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

3. Financial Statements Update

- Will Lindeman presented the financial statement

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statement as presented. Greg Ottway seconded. **Carried**

Terrence Lazarus abstained from the vote due to COI

4. County of Warner Council Changes

- Ross Ford was nominated Reeve of the County of Warner and will no longer be the representative of the Rural Municipality for the County on the MRWCC Board of Directors.
- Warren Cunningham was nominated as the representative of the Rural Municipality and Randy Taylor is now the alternate Rural Municipality representative for the County.
- Since Warren was the NGO rep for the Alberta Fish and Game Association, is there need to find another NGO rep for Alberta Fish and Game Association?
- There might be need to send a letter to Alberta Fish and Game Association copy to MRWCC Executives to see what there needs are for the changes
- There might be need to appoint a temporary rep but they will not be able to vote

Action: Tim to talk to Warren to solicit advice on how to proceed in view of the changes

- Terrence would like to resign as rep for the Provincial Government for Alberta Environment at the next AGM and would like to bring his replacement to one of the meetings
- Serial absenteeism was discussed.
- Mario is willing to be an alternate for Bill since Bill's attendance is limited due to his work schedule. It is up to the town to appoint Mario as the alternate or the rep

Action: The meeting attendance list to be reviewed and the Executive need to contact the absent members to find out why they are not attending the meetings

Action: Tim to contact Mario and advise him that the Town needs to appoint him as a rep in order for him to attend the meetings

- Lack of parking space at the Provincial Building was discussed. A question of whether to look at Alberta Ag at the Research Center as a host for meetings was raised. Terrence has already booked the meeting room at Alberta Environment for the entire year
- The consensus was to still use the meeting room at Alberta Environment
- It was noted that the meetings run too long and other members are unable to stay for the entire meeting due to other obligations and that there is a great need to look into time efficiency and management during meetings to ensure full attendance for all members.

5. MRWCC Posters

- MRWCC Poster samples were shown to the members and they were please with how they turned out.
- The posters will be distributed at the AGM

6. Update on Shell Fueling Change Grant

- The MRWCC submitted an application for Shell Fuelling Change grant
- The application was for \$50,000 under Water category
- The project title for the application was "Plug it to Protect and Conserve the Milk River Aquifer"
- The title is based on applying for funding to decommission abandoned ground wells
- MRWCC will receive \$10,000 just for being chosen
- The second phase of the project will be based on public voting on line where the first 4 winners will receive \$50,000
- Initially the MRWCC project profiled 5th but other projects have caught up and our project is currently ranking 7th
- It was noted that this is more like a popularity contest and that it is not fair to use social media to judge the contest
- It was also noted that Shell is recognized as an Environmental Steward
- The members were asked to vote for the MRWCC project and ask others to vote as well
- There are other programs like Growing Forward that give out grants for well decommissioning

7. Update 2012 AGM

- A letter of invitation to the 2012 MRWCC AGM was sent to Preston Manning to be the Keynote speaker. Mr. Manning sent a reply that he was not able to attend
- The Black Foot Challenge were contacted and four members have agreed to be the Key Note speakers at the AGM
- Nigel Bankes was contacted and he has agreed to do a presentation on Transboundary Water Issues at the AGM
- There is still an opening for one more speaker
- April 4th, 2012 has been confirmed as the date for the AGM
- A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Rob Renner
- A letter of congratulation and invitation was sent to Minister of Environment and Water Diana McQueen. No response has been received as of yet

- Henning Bjornlund, a Canada Research Chair in Water Policy and Management at University of Lethbridge was mentioned as a potential presenter at the AGM. He is a well respected individual in the field and he is a very good presenter
- Kurt Klein, Professor of Economics at the University of Lethbridge and Theme Leader for Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Water Research was also mentioned as another potential speaker. He has a vast academic experience in Water research and has supervised a number of Masters students research whose results are about to be published

Action: Tim to invite Henning Bjornlund or Kurt Klein to speak at the AGM, but Henning should be approached first

8. Team Updates

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

- Ed Sloboda presented the CAIT update
- Last CAIT meeting was held November 2nd, 2011
- The Doenz family has been informed of the delay in obtaining the solar cattle watering system and they are fine with getting the system next spring
- The Hike tour went well and there is a lot of interest. Wendy and Ed retrieved the dinosaur bones that were found and discovered another site of bones.
- MRWCC display has been ordered
 - i. Bioengineering project
 - Tim presented a power point presentation of the October 28th Bioengineering project
 - The project went well
 - Cuttings were donated by Jamie Meeks and Barry Snow
 - There has been a beaver problem at the site and Barry has removed a number of beavers
 - The program was sponsored by Agrium, MULTISAR and County of Warner
 - All volunteers were given a thank you package of Coffee Mug, Candy and a \$5 Tim Horton's gift card
 - There were some funds left over from the bioengineering project and the team has bought promotional items: 50 coffee mugs and 500 pens. The pens were shown to the members
 - ii. 2012 Poster Contest
 - Theme "Animals of the watershed and their impact on the community and the environment"
 - Contact more schools within the watershed
 - ATB has agreed to sponsor prizes for the winners
 - Poster submission deadline Jan 31, 2012
 - The posters will be displayed in the Town Hall month of February
 - Judging will be done end of Feb. 2012
 - An award presentation for the winners will be held at the AGM
 - iii. 2012 Agrium's Caring for our watersheds
 - Invite more schools from the watershed
 - Mary and Raven to meet with Erle Rivers principal to discuss the school's interest in the program
 - Attending a classroom presentation at Agrium in Calgary Dec 5. 2011
 - iv. Geocache
 - Caches have been put on vacation
 - Lack of proper hiding places has led to vandalism and theft
 - The caches will be published again in Spring
 - We should look at changing hiding sites since people now are aware of the site and can easily be stolen

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

- The team called for a meeting the morning of November 24th, 2011 but due to attendance the meeting has been postponed
- i. Update and follow-up on River2 D Model Meeting
 - Ken Miller, Will Lindeman, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi attended the meeting November 3rd, 2011
 - There were mixed results
 - Fisheries came out stronger compared to under ice
 - Under ice monitoring does not give a strong representation of the habitat suitability criteria
 - Water quality had good support
 - Mike is a modeler and felt that the model was more for fisheries habitat and not water quality although he felt that the under ice data was valuable
 - We asked Alberta Environment for funding to move ahead with the study but Alberta Environment has indicated that they will not fund the study
 - Alberta Environment is looking at conducting a water quality study for the entire river reach
 - We are currently waiting for a one page written recommendation from Tom and Mike on the outcome of the meeting
 - They felt that the sample was not big enough to be a good representation of the entire reach and inquired why the two sites were chosen
 - Sandi advised Tim that there is a justification on why the sites were selected and that the rest of the calibrations can still be used
 - We still need to see how we want to proceed on the fisheries end of things
 - There is no value pursuing under ice at this time but we might be better off pursuing water quality which might be less expensive than under ice
 - We need to regroup and come back with a better plan that will suit available funding
- ii. Update on the ground Water Monitoring
 - A letter has been sent to thank the 2007 water well monitoring participants and inform them that we will be doing more sampling to update the ground water quality data set
 - This is beneficial for land owners to document any water quality changes since 2007 free of charge since the cost will be covered by a grant provided through the Agri-Environmental Services Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - MiRTAP project was discussed. It is becoming increasingly difficult to survey the remaining wells due to lack of agreement and contact with well owners
 - We should look at rounding up the project and provide a final report
 - We should also provide the updated cost in relation to the remaining project funds
- iii. Update on Ag. Funding Consortium Application
 - The Source Tracking of Fecal Contamination in the Milk River letter of intent proposal was not approved
 - Lisa Tymensen with Alberta Agriculture still hopes to continue with this research if other sources of funding are available
 - If this research will move forward, Alberta Heath would be a good fit
 - We would like to invite Lisa to be part of the Research and Monitoring Team as she will be a good resource
 - Another potential R and M Team member is John Derksen. He works for Lethbridge College. He is interested in culturing western silvery minnow from the Milk River to study habitat suitability constraints
 - Mike Gervais was also asked to be part of the R and M Team

- We should keep in mind to have R and M meetings at the Water Department at the University of Lethbridge as it is more convenient to Stewart Road
- c. *Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)*
 - There has been no meeting since last meeting
 - ALCES has been the big part of the discussions. The uncertainty of there involvement has left us with more questions than answers
 - We need to regroup and plan our next step
 - ALCES is still interested in partnering with MRWCC but this will depend on funding acquisition
- d. *Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)*
 - There was no meeting since last meeting
 - Dec 6th meeting was rescheduled for early January
 - Modeling refined and expected to windup with 2 additional meetings

9. Upcoming events

- November 29 & 30, 2011 - Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Conference Lethbridge Lodge
- Dec 5, 2011 - Caring for our Watersheds classroom presentation, Calgary
- December 6 & 7, 2011 - Farming Smarter Conference and Tradeshow Lethbridge Lodge Hotel

10. Other items

Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Extremes in the Americas (VACEA)

- Terrence attended a meeting in Pincher Creek. Only 6 people attended
- David Sawchuk was the presenter at the meeting
- The meeting aimed at looking at adaption on climate change
- VACEA addresses a gap in the current understanding of the consequences of global climate change for regional climate variability and extremes and the resulting vulnerabilities of agricultural and indigenous communities.
- Their goal is to provide new knowledge to strengthen the capacities of governance institutions and rural populations in Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia to adapt to shifts in climate variability and the frequency of extreme events.
- The research framework, based on a vulnerability assessment model, actively engages stakeholders and directs all research activities towards evaluating past, current and future exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity, and applying this new knowledge to the design of improved adaptation strategies
- **Dr. Dave Sauchyn** might be a good speaker for the AGM

11. Next Meeting Date

- January 26, 2012, Milk River Town Hall - 1:30 pm

Motion: Lorraine Nicol moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:20pm. Terrence Lazarus Seconded. **Carried**

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____