



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 28, 2015 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Will Lindeman, Lloyd Closson, William King, Suzanne Liebelt, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, John Ross, Dennis Spackman, Joan Hughson, Brian Hills, Roy Audet, Ron McNeil, Ross Ford, Lorraine Nicol and Tim Romanow

Absent: Warren Cunningham, Paulette Fox, Trevor Murray, Frank Larney, and Kristen Dykstra

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 1:40pm
- John Welcomed Lorraine Nichol back to the board and conducted introductions.

2. Minutes from March 26, 2015 meeting

- Minutes were reviewed.

Motion: William King moved to accept the minutes as read. Suzanne Liebelt seconded.

Carried.

3. Member at Large Appointment

- Darcy Wills moved to appoint William King, Member at Large representing the Milk River Natural Area and Kennedy Coulee Management Committee to the council. Dennis Spackman seconded.

Carried.

4. Executive Board Election

- **Chairman** – Ken Miller nominates **John Ross** as Chairman. Seconded by Dennis Spackman.
- **Vice-Chairman** – Darcy Wills nominates **Ken Miller** as Vice chairman. Seconded by Ross Ford.
- **Treasurer** – Ross Ford nominates **Will Lindeman** as Treasurer. Seconded by Suzanne Liebelt.
- **Secretary** – Darcy Wills nominated **Warren Cunningham** for Secretary. Seconded by Ed Sloboda.

- No further nominations were received. The Executive committee was acclaimed for a one year term. **Carried.**

5. Team Leader Appointments

- Team leaders were appointed as follows:
 - Community Awareness and Involvement Team – Ed Sloboda
 - Research and Monitoring Team – Will Lindeman
 - Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team – Ken Miller
 - Water Supply and Management Team – Ken Miller
 - Transboundary Watershed Team – Ron McNeil

6. Financial Statements Update

- a. March Financial Statements
- b. April Financial Statements
- March and April Financial Statements were reviewed. A question was asked regarding T-bill savings amounts from the last fiscal year(2014) vs. this past fiscal(2015), despite cost overruns from IWMP project last year, our savings are still relatively stable with ~175,000 at the end of 2014, and ~180,000 at the end of 2015 respectively.
- Status of current grant applications:
 - Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program
 - We have received \$70,000 from ESRD in support of the project that addresses drought, flood, and water quality concerns by assisting producers financially to implement projects.
 - A project sub-committee is required to review projects and select producer projects the will be eligible to get funding. The following individuals offered to be on the project committee:
John Ross, Roy Audet, Ron McNeil, Dennis Spackman, and Ross Ford.
 - Alberta EcoTrust
 - Mary will prepare a grant application for the community grant program, if successful; this may assist in underfunded Education/Outreach activities.

- ESRD Core operations and major project funding
 - We still have not received a response regarding ESRD funding support for this fiscal year. There has been discussion that province wide WPAC cuts to support and funding may be significant. If required, an emergency special board meeting will be called in July to address funding concerns and continued project implementation.

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statements as presented. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

7. Bookkeeping Update

- a. Ann Tollestrup Contract was reviewed.
- b. At the request of council, three comparable bookkeeping bids were acquired and reviewed. The difference in cost varied approximately 1600-2000 less than our current arrangements. None of the competing quotes were from local businesses. Council expressed interest in keeping the book keeping services local.

Motion: Ken Miller moved to accept the contract with Ann Tollestrup for 2015/16 and sign the agreement as presented. William King seconded. **Carried.**

8. Palliser Environmental

- a. A new service contract will be presented shortly to retain Sandi's services with regards to the IWMP project and further implementation projects. Sandi will also continue to provide technical support and summary of Water Quality monitoring.

9. AGM Report

- Financial information was reviewed from the April 2015 AGM. Total revenue for the event including registrations, silent auction, raffle, and monetary donations totaled \$8,121.00

- The Board thanked all the volunteers who made the event so successful this year.
- The Board wanted note on record a special thank you to board member Trevor Murray for all his hard work in acquiring additional items for the silent auction.
- Review of AGM topics and format:
 - Presenters were easy to understand and length was good.
 - 30min presentations were long enough
 - Focus next year's presenters on current research projects related to the watershed.
 - Contact Stephen Tannas – potential keynote speaker next year on Rangeland Management and Invasive Agronomics control.
- Audio and visual display continues to be a problem at the Civic Centre for these types of events, a larger permanent screen and better sound system is required.

Motion: Ron McNeil moved to offer to cost share with the Milk River Ag Society for the purchase and install of an upgraded video screen and sound system at the Milk River Civic Centre to improve future events. Seconded by Ken Miller. **Carried.**

10. Bylaws Special Resolution to amend the bylaws – Change of financial reporting period

- Discussion was held at the request of ESRD WPAC grant coordinator Andrew Schoepf regarding alignment of our societies year end (Dec 31) with ESRD fiscal year end (March 31).
- Mary has reviewed the procedure for changing our year end date and recommended that we make the changes by special resolution.
- Further information was requested by the Board including:
 - Impact on our AGM date, there is no interest in moving the AGM date away from April.
 - Financial implications of having two year ends in a transition year and the need for two annual meetings.
 - Further information is requested for the September meeting for decision.

11. Office Renovations

- Two quotes for renovations were received, and the Town Council has approved a renovation to a maximum of \$10,000.00
- The successful quote was provided by Scott Tollestrup at \$8,421.70
- The Town of Milk River will front the costs of the renovations and \$5000 of the renovation expenses will be recovered by the town over a two year lease arrangement and increase of our rent by ~200per month.
- Renovations will proceed as soon as Scott's time is available. During renovations, temporary offices will be in the North meeting room, and extended home office hours maybe necessary.

12. Red Creek Tree Planting Project

- Spring plantings were completed at the 6 Red Creek Sites
- 9 Volunteers assisted with the County of Warner ASB staff to plant over 1,200 rooted trees and shrubs at the sites established this past fall.
- Species included: Bebb's Willow, Beaked Willow, Saskatoon, Wolf Willow, Snow berry, and Rose
- Cuttings planted last fall are sprouting with minimal beaver or deer damage.
- A Red Creek Watershed Tour will be organized for late August, and the sites will be included.
- The Board thanked Cannon Evergreen Take the Root Program as well as the County of Warner for making the project possible.

13. Education/Outreach coordinator position

- Due to funding constraints, the position will remain vacant for the time being.
- Tim and Mary will continue to meet the programming commitments for field trips and field tours committed with the local schools and WOSPP
- Will continue to look for outside partners to continue to fund the program

Action: Tim and Ron to contact PCF about the possibility of accessing some of their casino revenue to co-fund the program and meet common education objectives.

14. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)

- Youth Engagement Program Report
- An ecosystem monitoring field trip was hosted for the Grade 8 students from Milk River. Robbie Wills and the other volunteers who assisted were thanked
- Newsletter
 - Articles and content are being compiled this week. Printing will occur on June 19th
 - Kennedy Coulee management committee newsletter submission
 - The article forwarded to the board is too long for inclusion in the newsletter and is not reflective of the views or opinions of the committee members on council.

Motion: Ken Miller moved to not include the submission within the MRWCC newsletter and to send a short response letter to the Milk River Natural Area – Kennedy Coulee Management Committee highlighting the need for sound research and science in support of the community concerns. Ed Sloboda Seconded. Dennis Spackman and Brian Hills abstained from voting. **Carried.**

- Youth Range Days
 - Registrations are still available; The Board was asked to forward brochures to local students.
 - Sponsorship is available for youth who otherwise could not afford to attend the camp.
 - Sponsorship has been strong and program planning has gone well
 - There are still opportunities for more volunteers to assist with the event.
- Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
- Surface water monitoring update
 - Funding was confirmed by AMERA for continued monitoring this year with a 30% reduction.

- Follow up work is occurring regarding fecal source tracking, and regular sampling will occur by MRWCC staff in support of Alberta Agriculture once a month.
- b. Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)
- IWMP Update
 - Sandi has presented the IWMP at the GOA cross ministry review panel, and feedback is anticipated within the next couple of weeks.
 - There was considerable discussion regarding jurisdictional responsibility and recommendations directed towards AER for beneficial management practices to proactively evaluate and manage pipeline crossing and protection of vulnerable aquifers.
- c. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)
- Milk River Water Storage Update
 - County of Warner storage and remediation at Goldsprings Park proposals were declined.
 - Ken Miller anticipates JIT recommendations to be released this summer or fall, with completion of internal review.
- d. Transboundary Watershed Team
- Tim and Ron participated on a planning conference call for a Transboundary Share forum, more details will be available soon, logistically locations maybe Havre MT, Milk River, or Elkwater. The forum will be invite only with representation from South of the Divide (Sask), PCF, MRWA (MT), MRWCC, GOA, USBR.

15. Upcoming events

- Annual Canoe Trip – June 6, 2015
- Weed Pulling Day – June 16th 2015 at WOSPP
- Trail Ride – June 26, 2015

16. Round table discussion

- Sustainable Canada (Manyberries landowner group) AGM
 - Ross Ford and Darcy attended
 - Well attended by local landowners 30-40 in attendance.
 - Group intent has been to move away from the 'hammer' approach of the EPO and come up with collaborative solutions to maintain species at risk in the area without harming landowners. Diverse board has been appointed with 17 directors.
 - Darcy Wills was approached to represent the interests of the MRWCC on the board of directors, and is seeking councils support.

Motion: Joan Hughson moved to appoint Darcy Wills as representative on the Sustainable Canada Board of Directors representing the interests, goals, and mandate of the MRWCC. Seconded by Roy Audet. Dennis Spackman and Brian Hills abstained.

Carried.

- Brian Hills – Board development training:
 - SEAWA recently hosted a workshop to focus primarily on 'basic' board fundamental topics, modeled after Board Leadership training events that take place in Edmonton and Calgary.
 - This might be a good opportunity for the MRWCC to tie into a strategic planning session this coming fall. It's a one day course.
 - The purpose is to create a training and networking opportunity that will set the foundation for existing and new board members to:
 - Take on their roles in the organization more confidently and efficiently
 - Feel more connected to one another, their organization, and community
 - Better understand their role on the board – what is expected of them as members and collectively as a board of directors
 - increase their knowledge on how boards function, how to run meetings effectively, how their organization is legislated and

governed, what they are responsible for financially, and protecting themselves from risk

- Feel more motivated to do their job and engage others to get involved
 - Provide better direction, guidance and leadership for their organizations and communities.
- For more information, visit www.boardleadershipsouth.com

17. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm. **Carried.**

18. Next Meeting Date

- September 24th, 2015 in Milk River at 1:30pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____