



## Minutes

### MRWCC Board Meeting

October 3, 2013 – 1:30 PM

ESRD, 2nd Floor (Alberta Environment Office)

**Present:** Will Lindeman, Ross Ford, Darlene Sakires, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, Brian Hills, Lorraine Nicol, Joan Hughson, Dennis Spackman, Sandi Riemersma, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

**Absent:** Paulette Fox, Aaron Domes, Clark Selk, Ken Brown, Roy Audet, Lloyd Closson, Frank Larney, Mike Gervais and John Ross

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

- Ken Miller chaired the meeting. Ken brought the meeting to order at 1:36 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### 2. Minutes from last meeting

- July 4, 2013 meeting minutes were reviewed

**Motion:** Darcy Wills moved to accept the minutes as presented. Will Lindeman seconded. **Carried.**

#### 3. Financial Statements Update

##### *a. 2013/14 Core Funding*

- i. All WPACs received \$250,000 for this fiscal year
- ii. The payment was as follows:
  - First payment - \$50,000
  - Second payment - \$187,500
  - And final payment - \$12,500

##### *b. CAAP Project Funding*

- i. CAAP project is underway
- ii. The deadline for project activity is on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013
- iii. Final report deadline is on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013
- iv. Planning to develop 2 types of factsheets for the project; a general factsheet and a more technical factsheet.

- v. The factsheet format will be the same as past MRWCC project factsheets
- vi. Have not received the grant yet. It will be disbursed when the project is complete

*c. June, July and August Statements*

- Will Lindeman presented the financial statements as follows:
  - i. Closing balance as of June 30, 2013 was \$276,575.55
  - ii. Closing balance as of July 31, 2013 was \$407,893.89
  - iii. Closing balance as of August 31, 2013 was \$357,098.44

**Motion:** Will Lindeman moved to accept the Financial Statements as presented.

Darlene Sakires seconded. **Carried.**

**4. MRWCC Strategic Planning Session and Tour**

- Leave Milk River October 16 at 2:30pm
- Arrive at Double Arrow Resort and have dinner and later attend Blackfoot Challenge AGM
- Tim has been asked to give a brief presentation on the MRWCC activities
- October 17, Blackfoot Challenge tour and in the evening dinner and MRWCC presentations followed by Strategic planning discussions
- October 18, Milk River Watershed Council Strategic Planning Session
- Planning to travel home by shortly after lunch hour
- A questionnaire will be circulated so that those who are not able to attend can give their input
- 12 people have registered so far
- Spouses are welcome to come for the trip

**5. SOW Report**

- The SOW report is completed
- 100 copies have been available so far and board members and contributors are welcome to get copies
- The rest have been printed and getting bound and will be ready in two weeks
- The SOW report was given great reviews
- A few copies come out slightly faulty and will sort this out with Graphcom
- Had good contacts and contributions with the Montana individuals
- Have also met key people for contributions in Saskatchewan

- Michael Brown and Jennifer Richman were dedicated in the report
- SOW photo contest winners were awarded framed stamps of their winning photos
- Ken Miller thanked everyone who contributed to the accomplishment of the SOW report and especially Sandi who worked diligently to ensure that the report was well executed
- The final cost of the SOW to be brought at the next meeting, though it appears even with delays and cost overruns we should be close to the budget with confirmed contributions from Montana towards the project, approximately \$6000.00 has been donated to the MRWCC from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the MRWA and County partners.

#### **6. IWMP municipal review and endorsement update**

- Sandi had to leave early so the IWMP was discussed at this point
- Sandi and Tim have been meeting with Municipal staff to review the IWMP
- So far they have met with Cypress, Fort Mile and Warner Counties
- There has been good reception and feedback of the plan by municipal staff
- Next step is to incorporate feedback and suggestions into the plan before seeking endorsement by municipalities
- Planning to meet Cardston staff on October 23
- Planning to meet Village of Coutts and Town of Milk River in the near future
- Will be meeting with Oil and Gas industry reps on October 8, 2013
- Local industry operators are asked for feedback into recommendations for Best Practices that are appropriate for our watershed. A representative from the Alberta Energy Regulator will also be in attendance.
- Will be meeting with D3, Crescent Point, Medicine Hat Gas Co. and CNRL
- Will need to make some revisions on the plan, summaries and redistribute for further comments

#### **Discussion on Landowners' rights**

- There was concern that there are talks with Industry, Government and Municipalities but lacking landowners' rights input
- The plan was done by contributions from all MRWCC stakeholders and if there were issues, they should have been raised

- There is need for landowners rights input to be properly identified and addressed in the plan which is currently lacking
- There is fear that IWMP will become a sub-regional plan and at the current status of the plan, it does not address landowners concerns, as such County of Warner will not be endorsing the plan as it is, because they feel it is incomplete and does not account for cost of implementation, or ensure the protection of private property rights of county ratepayers
- There is fear that the document may influence SSRP by picking and choosing recommendations from the plan without understanding the context or intent of the community
- There was a question on how to move ahead with the plan
- People are weary about the Government because regulation and downloading of authority (or legislative requirement) has changed so much at the expense of the landowner. There are new land use laws that have brought more questions
- A question was raised whether there is need to put breaks on the plan due to lack of confidence
- There are a lot of good recommendations in the plan but landowners' rights need to be identified and addressed before endorsement of the plan
- The role of the MRWCC is to provide guidance not to create laws
- An IWMP team meeting has been scheduled for October 30
- The team should decide how to proceed
- There should be a subcommittee created which should involve a group of landowners to brainstorm on the first draft of the property rights
- The plan is a working document and needs to be updated as needed
- Need to incorporate municipal input first, and follow with input from the property rights subcommittee
- A review of the IWMP was completed by the Office of the property rights advocate and a number of concerns/perceived infringements on rights need to be clarified or addressed to ensure recommendations are not taken out of context.

## **7. 2013 WPAC Summit Report**

- The 2013 WPAC Summit was held in Cold Lake from September 23 to 26, and it was hosted by Beaver River Watershed Alliance
- Will, Ed, Tim and Mary attended the summit
- It was well organized
- A mixture of presentations and tours

**Action:** Circulate presentations and summary from the summit to the board members when available

## **8. AWC Report**

- Meeting was held regarding Water Conversations follow up activities and possible actions in Edmonton
- Ken Brown sent his regrets as he is away and will not attend the meeting
- Ken Brown is also acting as the WPAC rep for the Aquatic Invasive Species Project that is being undertaken by the AWC

## **9. Office Space Update**

- Planning to move in by the new year
- The Town is currently working on office renovations

## **10. Team Updates**

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

#### *i. 2014 AGM Date*

- Proposed date is April 10
- Two options of key note speaker
  - a. David Davis
  - b. Paddling Bryan's from the TV show

#### *ii. Hike Tour*

- Scheduled for October 5, 2013
- Registrations are at full capacity

#### *iii. Well Decommissioning Workshop report*

- Two flowing wells were decommissioned, Todd Coverdale's and Brian Lindeman's wells with funding from the Shell Fuelling Change Program
- There were some drilling issues with the Todd Coverdale's well and it ended up costing more than expected

- After paying for Todd's well, the balance was not enough to pay for a second well so part of the funds used to decommission Brian's well was obtained by applying for funding from the AB Ag Growing Forward program.
  - The decommissioning was conducted by BCEC Drilling Ltd.
  - We will be working on a summary fact sheet on the importance of proper well management and decommissioning.
- iv. Spring/Summer Meander Newsletter report
- Good reviews
  - Dead line for the Fall Winter newsletter is mid-November
  - Darcy: Need to look into submitting an article from the Sage Grouse Committee regarding changes out east.
- v. Youth Range Days Report
- County of Warner is hosting the 2014 YRD
- vi. Bonanza Day report
- Went well
  - Had a MRWCC display in the Civic Center
  - The MRWCC float got a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize ribbon
- vii. Website Maintenance
- Had issues with spam
  - A lot of gambling sites were using our site
  - The site has been cleaned
- viii. Youth Engagement Program
- Centennial High School students were supposed to come to Writing On Stone Provincial Park for a field tour but they have postponed there tour until spring
- ix. Caring For Our Watersheds Program Agreement

**Motion:** Darcy moved to sign an agreement to participate in the Caring for Our Watersheds Program but we should not invest a lot of time in the program. Brian Hills Seconded. **Carried**

- x. Soliciting letter to Incorporate environmental education into school curriculums

- WPACs are drafting a letter to be sent to the Minister of Education to encourage Alberta Education to incorporate more environmental and sustainability lessons into the new curriculum in schools to help environmental educators to be in the classroom with more grades, more often, and encouraging the next generation of stewards.

**Action:** Circulated to the letter to Board members

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

- i. R&M meeting schedules
  - Will work with Will Lindeman to come up with scheduled meeting dates
- ii. 2013 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program update
  - October the 9 is the last water sampling date for 2013
  - Have not yet received reimbursement money from U of A for the Fire impact monitoring program analytical cost
  - U of A will work with the MRWCC to write a project report
- iii. Enviro-coli test Project
  - On going
  - The deadline for project activity is on October 31st, 2013
  - Final report deadline is on December 31st, 2013
  - Planning to develop 2 types of factsheets for the project; a general factsheet and a more technical factsheet
- iv. Red Creek Watershed tour report
  - A steering committee set up by County on Warner to help manage the Red Creek
  - Interested in baseline water testing
  - Data collection is expensive and will need to zero in the most important areas

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

- i. IWMP municipal review and endorsement update
  - As discussed

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

- i. Spring months were busy

- ii. Harrison was busy with research and the dam in BC
- iii. Montana/Alberta teams will go on with plans
- iv. There are talks that Harrison might retire would like to finalize report before this occurs.

## **11. Upcoming events**

- Hike Tour – October 5, 2013
- MRWCC Strategic Planning Session and Tour - October 16 to 18, 2013, Double Arrow Resort, Montana

## **12. Other items**

- AWA
  - There are funds available at AWA for environmental education and we need to tap into it
- Letter from SAGE
  - A question was raised whether there was need to for the MRWCC to comment on the matter
  - The letter from SAGE was copied to the MRWCC and we should not deal with it at this level but it is good for information
  - Darcy Wills to report back on the proceedings from the Oil and Gas meeting and discussion with DeeThree
- AHS
  - Can MRWCC partner with AHS to get funding for water monitoring
- Oil and Gas Development Information for landowners
  - There were some booklets distributed at the WPAC Summit with contact information for different organizations that landowners might find useful
  - Council felt that the information is good and that the MRWCC invest in a similar booklet, possible partnership project with the Municipalities to continue educational focus of IWMP implementation.

### **13. Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion:** Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15pm. Carried.

### **14. Next Meeting Date**

- Because the board will be meeting again on October 16 to 18 for the Strategic Business plan, it was decided that there will not be a board meeting again in October.
- The next board meeting is November 28 in Lethbridge at 1:30pm

**Signatures:**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_