



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

January 24, 2013 – 1:30 PM

ESRD, 2nd Floor (Alberta Environment Office)

Present: Darcy Wills, Don Welsh, Ed Sloboda, Brian Hills, Lloyd Closson, Clark Selk, John Ross, Mike Gervais, Lorraine Nicol, Aaron Domes, Sandi Riemersma, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Will Lindeman, Darlene Sakires, Ken Brown, Warren Cunningham, Ken Miller, Joan Hughson, and Paulette Fox,

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairman Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:34pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Introductions were conducted

2. Minutes from last meeting

- November 22, 2012 minutes were reviewed

Note that at the November meeting quorum was not obtained. Financial statements from October will be approved at the February 28th meeting as they were not presented at this meeting.

Motion: Clark Selk moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Gervais seconded. **Carried.**

3. Financial Statements Update

- Since there was no meeting in December both November and December financial statements were presented at this meeting
- Closing balance as of November 30, 2012 was \$269,785.58
- Closing balance as of December 31, 2012 was \$246,537.43

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept the November financial statements as presented. Aaron Domes seconded. **Carried.**

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to accept the December financial statements as presented. Lorraine Nicol seconded. **Carried.**

4. ESRD core funding application and project funding expression of interest

- ESRD requested WPACs to submit their 2013/14 project funding Expression of Interest (EOI)
- The intention of the EOI is to provide certainty earlier in the process of what projects can be funded, and provide an indication of what projects the WPAC's are interested in undertaking.
- Requesting \$30,000 for IWMP implementation and \$10,000 for stakeholder meeting expenses
- Also asking for \$250,000 for core funding
- \$20,000 of the core funding request is for a part time staff (2 days a week) to deal with communications programs such as Youth Engagement programs and also help with social media production

Discussion:

- Increase the amount for part time to \$30,000 which should increase the core funding to \$260,000 as it will be difficult to get a part time employee with the required qualifications for \$20,000 a year

5. Water Conversation Conference call with ESRD (January 22, 2013)

- Attended a conference call Tuesday, January 15, 2013 to discuss Minister's meetings scheduled to start February or March
- There will be a total of 20 community meetings scheduled and 11 stakeholder meetings and WPACs are asked to send representatives

- The meetings will focus on water conservation awareness
- There are four main issues that will be addressed
 - Healthy lakes
 - Hydraulic fracturing
 - Clean drinking water and waste water
 - Water Management questions
- Inviting WPACs to identify any local issues relating to water conservation
- Minister and ESRD is looking for a “social license to move forward with water policy”
- A list of stakeholders to be invited will be provided by ESRD
- Asking for 2 to 3 representatives from each WPAC
- Invites and follow up discussion anticipated in the next couple weeks.

6. MRWCC 8th Annual General Meeting Draft Agenda

a. *Change of time*

- Would like to shorten the meeting time to 2pm to 6pm
- Presentations should be shorter
- Meeting time should be left from 1am to 6pm as previously done

b. *Elections*

- The following Board of Directors seats are open for nominations:
 - Academia
 - Recreation
 - Commercial/Industrial
 - Individual Member
 - Towns/Villages/Hamlets
 - Federal Government (is currently vacant)
- Board members who do not wish to keep their seats were asked to let Tim know
- Darcy Wills will chair the elections

c. *Presenters*

- Welcome - John Ross, Chairman
- Minister's Address (letter of invitation has been sent)
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada - Activity Report
 - - Tim Romanow, Executive Director
 - - Sandi Riemersma, Project Coordinator
- MRWCC Financial Statements Presentation
 - - Will Lindeman, Treasurer
- Elections - Darcy Wills, Elections Chairman

Invited Presenters

- Microbial Source Tracking Project Update - Dr. Lisa Tymensen, ARD
- Impact of the Milk River Fire on water quality and grassland recovery - Dr. Uldis Silins, University of Alberta
- Aquatic Invasive Species - Caryn Miske, Executive Director, Flathead Basin Commission, Montana
- Poster Contest Award Presentation, ATB Financial rep
 - Speed up by having a group presentation
- Displays and end of Silent Auction
- After Dinner presentation - Birds of Prey and ACA
- Can use “the Milk River Transboundary Aquifer Project (MiRTAP) update on the Data Acquisition and Ground Water Sampling” by Alfonso Rivera, Chief Hydrogeologist and Program Manager, Geological Survey of Canada as an alternate
- Can also ask Geological Survey of Canada to send a poster for the AGM
- If needed can always invite U of L professors to present

d. *Keynote Speaker/Entertainer*

- Two comedians were discussed as entertainers
- Consensus was not to invite an entertainer but have Dr. David Sauchyn, University of

Regina as the Keynote speaker and he will speak on Historical Climate Modeling through Dendroclimatology

e. *Silent Auction items*

- o Soliciting items for silent auction

f. *Bylaw Amendment?*

- o A question was raised to see if there are any suggestions for bylaw amendments

g. *SOW Report*

- o Host a celebration to unveil the SOW report on a separate day as it is a big event and there will not be enough time to properly recognize everyone at the AGM

Discussion:

- o Book the Writing On Stone Provincial Park for the unveiling
- o Invite everyone involved with producing the report to the unveiling for acknowledgement
- o Could announce the SOW unveiling event at the AGM
- o A Friday in the Month of May was proposed for the event
- o Need to come up with a date
- o Aaron to book the park for the event once the date is announced

7. Team Updates

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

i. *Caring for Our Watersheds program*

- o All schools within the watershed including Hutterite schools were contacted for their involvement
- o 4-H Clubs within the watershed were also contacted
- o A presentation to solicit participation was made at Erle Rivers School

ii. *Poster competition*

- o All schools within the watershed including Hutterite schools were contacted for their involvement
- o Deadline to submit posters is January 31, 2013
- o Posters will be displayed at the Town Hall in February and March
- o Judging will be conducted end of March
- o Winning posters will receive prizes sponsored by MRWCC and ATB at the AGM, April 11, 2013

iii. *Shell FuellingChange Program: Partnering to improve water quality in the Milk River Watershed voting in progress*

- o We are currently ranking 15 with 2,316 votes
- o Requesting the members to keep supporting the project by voting online
- o We will be awarded \$10,000 just for participating

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

- o There was no report

c. *State of the Watershed Team*

o *SOW report update*

- o Slowly getting contributions
- o Offered a photo contest for the report and have received some good photos
- o Blair is working on mapping
- o Might not meet the deadline of March 31st, 2013, so need to revisit how to invoice ESRD for the SOW
- o Riparian section is done
- o Samples of maps layout were shown
- o Received oil and gas information
- o Have seen draft from Fisheries
- o Once all the chapters are in they will be compiled in the report and sent back to the team to review
- o Working on some inconsistencies on the transboundary maps due to GIS inaccuracies

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

i. Draft IWMP update

- The team met the morning of January 24, 2013
- Went through the survey responses from the Stakeholder meeting
- There are a lot of unanswered questions with the Alberta Bakken
- Sam Wirzba will look for some answers
- There was a question on why the diversion license for water use has drastically reduced post 2003 and where the oil and gas companies are getting water
- Ed Sloboda approached the company 3D Oil and Gas to see if they could join a team on the MRWCC and they have shown willingness to participate
- Need to invite a rep from 3D Oil and Gas to present at a future board meeting

Action: Sandi to circulate the comments from the Stakeholder meeting to the board

- Overall the Stakeholder meeting went well
- All comments will be incorporated and posted on the website
- Planning the IWMP public input meeting in March 6, 2013, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm at the Heritage Hall in Milk River

Action: Mary to produce an advertisement flyer for the meeting

- After public input the plan will be reviewed by municipalities and back to the public
- There will be a recommendation to investigate any topics that are not understood but will not impede the IWMP's production process

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

- There was no report

8. Upcoming events

- Landowners Rights and Energy info session, Elk Hall, Warner – January 30, 2013
- Working Well Workshop – February 21, 2013
- IWMP Public input meeting – Heritage Hall, Milk River - March 6, 2013, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm
- Water and the Environment: Watershed Planning and Management in Alberta Conference, Black Knight Inn in Red Deer – March 12 to 15, 2013
- MRWCC AGM – April 11, 2013

9. Other items

- Sandi will be giving a presentation on water managements on behalf of the MRWCC at the Treaty 7 Management Meeting January 28, 2013
- Will ask for the First nation's input on the IWMP
- Tim will be giving a presentation at the Landowners Rights and Energy info session January 30, 2013 on Groundwater research, monitoring and vulnerability mapping within the watershed.

Bioengineering/Bank Stabilization Demonstration Projects

- There is continued interest in completing a watershed Bioengineering and Bank Stabilization project along the Milk River, as was first proposed following the past MRWCC erosion and sedimentation study work.
- The three sites previously evaluated were Weir Bridge which has naturally stabilized; Gold Springs Park, and Hillmer Bridge Sites. We are still not in a position to work on Gold Springs Park Site, due to financial requirements and parties involved are not ready to proceed due to the complexity of the project. The Hillmer site is still of interest to Cardston County and the county is prepared to offer inkind support. Though funding for engineering support and additional materials is still a challenge.
- In response, John Ross has offered his barn site as a possible demonstration site and field day for the municipalities and interested stakeholders.
- John would fund the project, as he noted it may be cheaper to assist in the stabilization rather than then attempting to move his barn, wells, and other infrastructure from the site to a suitable location. Also noted that the history of the site would be better preserved.
- It's a great opportunity to work with other partnerships and stakeholders like municipalities, ACA, and Alberta Agriculture to show multiple benefits to not only the landowner but improved habitat potential and demo BMP's to minimize the potential of runoff or contamination from livestock facilities.

- Good opportunity to case study potential solutions to be applied to other sites in the watershed.

Discussion: More research needs to be done before a motion is given from council whether to proceed with project planning and MRWCC assistance.

- Will need to form a committee to investigate further
- Will need a round table discussion with John, ARD, ESRD, MRWCC and other interested parties
- Opportunity to revisit the other sites and see if a consulting company can look at both sites and estimate feasibility and reaffirm partners if there is interest in proceeding as well and potentially cost share.

Action: Tim to bring more information at the next meeting

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta

- Meeting will be held February 27, 2013 the MRWCC was invited to attend.
- The purpose of the meeting is:
 - to increase knowledge and understanding of ecosystem services, market based instruments, and potential business opportunities on farm and municipalities
 - to participate in a networking and relationship building opportunity between producers, industry organizations, topic experts, academics, government representatives and other organizations with an interest in ecosystem services
- To bring information to the next meeting if anyone is attending this meeting

March Board Meeting Venue

Action: Mary to investigate if March board meeting can take place at ARD office in Lethbridge

- Lisa Tymensen has offered to do a lab tour for council to see how the fecal source tracking project has progressed and to better understand the analytical methods used in lab.

Water Licenses

- A question of what has been done with the issue of water licenses/transfers was raised
- Still waiting for the JIT report before moving with any resolution from the MRWCC.
- MRWCC has put together some recommendations for a Water Management Plan which is at a halt as we are waiting for the JIT report to come out first, as we do not want to contravene the JIT report recommendations.
- This can be revisited with the Draft Water Management Plan in the fall. Noted that there is a process in place to resolve license amendments and transfers, and that all outstanding notices that Dave McGee presented at the October meeting have been dealt with.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:21pm, seconded by Brian Hills. **Carried.**

11. Next Meeting Date

- February 28, 2013 – Milk River Town Hall at 1:30pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____