



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 23, 2013 – 1:30 PM

ESRD, 2nd Floor (Alberta Environment Office)

Present: Will Lindeman, Warren Cunningham, Lloyd Closson, Aaron Domes, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, Clark Selk, Ken Brown, Roy Audet, Frank Larney, Mike Gervais, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Darlene Sakires, John Ross, Brian Hills, Paulette Fox, Lorraine Nicol and Joan Hughson

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross was absent so Ken Miller chaired the meeting
- Ken brought the meeting to order at 1:31pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes from last meeting

- April 25 meeting minutes were reviewed

Motion: Clark Selk moved to accept the minutes as presented. Darcy Wills seconded.
Carried.

3. Financial Statements Update

- SOW Report Grant update
 - Received \$70,000 funding for SOW report from ESRD
 - This is the total amount that was requested
- Core Funding update
 - Received a letter from the Province (ESRD)
 - Advising approval of a grant of \$237,500 to support the core operations for the fiscal year 2013/14
 - Also received \$50,000 as the first installment and the remainder of the funding to be paid later
 - MRWCC is one of the three WPACs out of eleven that received lower amounts
 - With limited funding we will not be able to hire a part time position to work on education programs
 - There has not been an explanation as to how the funding amount was reached
 - The Minister also thanked Tim and the team for the excellent work the MRWCC is doing

Discussion:

- There is need to find out how funding level was established, and what was the rationale for differing funding levels and what core activities were to be funded and what is not.
- Will Lindeman presented the financial statements as follows:
 - Closing balance as of April 30, 2013 was \$188,248.73

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

4. Office Space update

- Mr. Bogle's business plans have been slightly delayed due to employment issues
- Tim had a meeting with the Milk River Town Council May 13 where they discussed the Town Council's supportiveness for the MRWCC move to the Town building if there was need
- The subcommittee is planning to see if a meeting is feasible June 5, to come up with a decision that will be reported at the June board meeting

5. Strategic Business Plans

- Tim had a meeting with the Executive Board members
- Strategic Business Plans were discussed as follows:
 - Current projects status
 - Current projects wrapping up and need to look at 2 or 3 major projects
 - Budget and fundraising
 - Source grants for stewardship project implementation
- There is need for the whole board to get away and have a retreat to brainstorm on Strategic Business Plans
- Sandi has offered to facilitate the process
- A question was presented as to how many days would be adequate for the retreat
- The consensus felt that two days were adequate
- The time frame proposed was end of September or early October at which time the entire board would participate in a facilitated planning session.

6. Municipal Meetings update

- Town of Milk River
 - Tim had a meeting with the Town Council
 - Discussed fire recovery project and its impact on the Town
 - There was also a discussion on high organic (algae) levels in the water and how this can impact human health
 - Also discussed the office building issue
- Cypress County
 - Tim also had a meeting with Cypress County Ag. Service Board where a number of topics were discussed including:
 - ❖ Surface water monitoring program on the eastern tributaries
 - ❖ Update on the IWMP and SOW report
 - ❖ Update on the Microbial Source Tracking project
 - The County is happy with the approach MRWCC has taken
 - In the past the County has underutilized environmental funding that they had received from the province through the Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture program and are looking to see if there is an opportunity for a collaboration with the MRWCC to ensure that there is adequate funding for successful program delivery
 - A question was raised as to whether residents on the eastern part of the watershed felt neglected by the council and it was discussed

that was not the case, though IWMP stakeholders with the Eastern Grazing Co-ops should be notified of the progress.

7. SOW Report Progress update

- SOW Unveiling event
 - Event will be held May 31 and a flyer with more information was presented
 - Menu for the event was discussed and the consensus was to have a beef on burn and salads catered by Laurie Balog
 - There will be some recognition announcements
 - It was noted that those participating but had not yet registered to do so as soon as possible
 - Information Center is available for presentations
 - The event could be open to visitors at the center who wish to view displays
 - Saturday will be informal. However a bus for 20 will be available for tours
- SOW report update
 - Might not be able to get all 100 copies for the event on May 31
 - We will produce the 1500 copies by end of June
 - Have purchased CD/DVD sleeves to hold the CDs and will be placed at the back of each copy
 - 100 copies of card USBs with cover photos have also been purchased
 - There has been some delays due to ongoing revisions on certain chapters
 - Making last minute revisions on the industry chapter
 - The updated draft copy of the SOW report to be presented at the end of the meeting
 - After the celebration event two weeks will be provided to proof the report and make minor revisions such as spelling.

8. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)

- Canoe Tour
 - ❖ Scheduled for June 22
 - ❖ A schedule of events was presented and has been advertised
 - ❖ John and Ken Brown have not scouted the reach yet but plan to do so shortly. However, John has communicated an area that can be used for river accessing
 - ❖ In the event that the area can't be accessed, an alternative plan is in place to use the Coffin/Weir reach
- Hike Tour
 - ❖ Looking at dates and to be discussed at the CAIT meeting
- Well Decommissioning Workshop
 - ❖ Todd Cloverdale had been busy in the field and had to postpone the workshop
 - ❖ Will resume plans to scout the area shortly

- ❖ In the process of getting all parties ready and finding a suitable date for the workshop
 - Spring/Summer Meander Newsletter
 - ❖ Soliciting articles
 - ❖ Deadline for article submission is June 7, 2013
 - Coutts Day Parade - June 15, 2013. Theme is “Under the Big Top”
 - ❖ The CAIT team will work on planning for the parade
 - Youth Engagement Tour Report
 - ❖ 18 students from Calgary schools came to WOSPP for a field tour
 - ❖ The theme of the tour was “Healthy people come from healthy places and healthy food”
 - ❖ Had a chance to tour Roy Audet’s farm
 - ❖ Appreciated hearing Roy’s stories and learning about the watershed
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)*
- Team proposing a meeting June 18, 2013 to discuss updates on existing projects and plans for future projects
 - Meetings were put on hold due to IWMP and SOW report work load
 - Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update
 - ❖ Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (ACCP) letter of intent for grant application
 - i. Letter of Intent had been submitted and accepted
 - ii. Were asked to submit a full application
 - iii. In the process of submitting a grant application
 - iv. The project objective is to develop a practical, rapid, and broadly-applicable test that will discriminate fecal and environmental E. coli in surface water
 - v. Specific and accurate monitoring of fecal contamination in surface water is critical for determining human health risks that are associated with water that is used for irrigation and recreational purposes
 - vi. Submission deadline for the project is Sunday, May 26 at midnight
 - 2013 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project
 - ❖ Ongoing, in the 3rd sampling period
 - ❖ Need to replace membranes for the DO Meters
 - ❖ Will be rounding off fire impact sampling unless the rain flushes cause an increase in DOC then will need to do more sampling to make sure the water is not contaminated beyond acceptable standards
- c. Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)*
- IWMP progress update
 - ❖ No report until SOW report is completed

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

- JIT update
 - ❖ There was an error found in the computer hydrological modeling software which slowed progress
 - ❖ Most of the corrections have been done and minor corrections will be done in 2 weeks
 - ❖ Alberta team will be meeting mid-June
 - ❖ There will be bilateral meetings with BC and Robert Harrison will be negotiating on behalf of Alberta
 - ❖ There are talks on additional storage of water on the Milk and also plans to sign out the management plan to ensure that the flow emulates natural river flush and provides suitable habitat for fish

9. Upcoming events

- Well decommissioning Workshop – TBA
- SOW Unveiling event, WOSP Park - May 31, 2013
- Coutts Day Parade - June 15, 2013. Theme is “Under the Big Top”
- Canoe Trip – June 22, 2013
- WPAC Forum – June 27, 2013
- Youth Range Days – July 16 to 18, 2013
- Bonanza Day Parade – August 3, 2013
- 2013 WPAC Summit – September 23 to 26, Lakeland Inn, Cold Lake

10. Other items

- Water Trough
 - Ed has resumed work on the trough
 - Ed was asked to let Tim know if he needed help

11. Next Meeting Date – June 27, 2013 – Milk River, at 1:30pm

- Will need to change date for June Board Meeting due to conflict with WPAC Forum
- There is need to have at least two board members attend the forum
- Proposed date for the June board meeting is **July 4, 2013** in Milk River at 1:30pm
- Circulate proposed date prior to the meeting to give the board ample notice

12. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Ken Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm. **Carried.**

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____