



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

April 26, 2012 – 1:30 PM

Alberta Environment, 2nd Floor

Present: Ed Sloboda, Joan Hughson, Brian Hills, Mike Gervais, Ken Miller, Lorraine Nicol, Will Lindeman, John Ross, Paulette Fox, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Don Welsh, Darcy Wills, Greg Ottway, Ken Brown, Darlene Sakires

Plaque presentation

- John presented a plaque to Terrence Lazarus at 1:32pm. He thanked him and acknowledged his service as a Director for the MRWCC from 2008 to 2012.
- Terrence expressed his appreciation to the group for being a part of MRWCC

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:35pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Introductions were conducted

2. Minutes from last meeting

- There were a couple of spelling errors that need to be corrected

Motion: Mike Gervais moved to correct the spellings and accept the minutes as presented. Brian Hills seconded. **Carried.**

3. Elections of the MRWCC Board Executive

- a. Chairman
 - John Ross was nominated as Chairman
- b. Vice-Chair
 - Ken Miller was nominated as Vice Chairman
- c. Treasurer
 - Will Lindeman was nominated as Treasure
- d. Secretary
 - Warren Cunningham was nominated as Secretary

Nominations were called three times.

Motion: Joan Hughson moved that nominations cease and be accepted as presented. Brian Hills seconded. **Carried.**

4. Elections of the Team Leaders

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
5. SOW Team – Brian Hills

Nominations were called three times.

Motion: Lorraine Nicol moved that nominations cease and be accepted as presented. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

5. Appointment of AWC rep on the Board

- Ken Brown was appointed the AWC representative on the Board. Ken will then be appointed the WPAC rep at the AWC

6. Alberta Water Council Report – Ken Brown

- Ken was absent at this meeting

7. Tim/Sandi/Mary contracts review

- The executive was asked to review the contracts after the board meeting and discuss Tim and Mary's employment status

8. Financial Statement Update

- The financial statements were reviewed
- The Board would like to review a more in-depth Simply Accounting financial report at the Board meetings to have a better understanding of the budget

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

9. KPMG Recommendations

- KPMG sent a letter detailing the following observations and recommendations:
 - The council might wish to ensure that procedures are in place to guarantee rigorous and timely review procedures exist to compensate for lack of segregation of duties
 - Council is treating the self employed contractors as employees by paying vacation pay. This need to be reviewed to ensure that they are comfortable with the term of the contract.

10. Alberta Environment and Water invoices

- An invoice for a sum of \$33,000 was submitted to Alberta Environment for work done on Riparian Health Monitoring, State of the Watershed Terms of Reference and Water Quality Report and Draft Integrated Watershed Plan

11. Milk River Watershed Water Level Data Acquisition Project update

- Data was collected from Counties of Cardston, Village of Foremost, Water Coops, Conservation Districts in Montana
- Attempts to collect data from Saskatchewan were made but no observation wells were found
- Geological Survey of Canada will use the data collected to synthesize a 3-dimensional numerical model of the entire aquifer that will help improve the MiRTAP numerical model
- The data was presented at the April 4, 2012 MiRTAP meeting
- Joan Hughson advised that there are some complaints in the County of Forty Mile well monitoring results due to high levels of fluoride and arsenic chemistry

12. Milk River Watershed Invasive Weed Collaboration Meeting report

- The Invasive Weed Collaboration meeting took place on March 23 in the Heritage Hall
- Participants comprised of personnel from County of Forty Mile, Alberta Parks, SRD, Alberta Invasive Plant Council, ACA (MULTISAR), Nature Conservancy Canada and Cardston County
- A subcommittee was put together to take the lead on the Invasive weed component of the 2013 SOW
- There is weed data plotted and mapped but some of the data had gaps that need to be addressed
- Jim Gerkie, a District Weed Management Coordinator in Montana was invited to discuss the weed status in Montana with regard to early detection, mapping and reporting but he was unable to attend.
- Cardston County has a boat that can be loaned to the group and used to survey weeds on the entire reach from boarder to boarder

13. WPAC Summit Planning Committee

- Scheduled for September 24 to 27th, 2012
- Looking at facilities and content. Already booked 80 rooms at Holiday Inn in Lethbridge
- This summit will be longer than previous ones
- Will incorporate international issues, cultural , archeological , and historical resources in watershed management planning
- Would like to see First Nations cultural and historical content incorporated
- Among other places that will be toured, we are also planning to tour Montana and Lethbridge College Aquaculture Centre of Excellence
- Looking at forming a subcommittee to help with planning. The following will be part of the committee:
 - Paulette Fox, Ed Sloboda, Ken Miller. Also will need to ask Greg Ottway and Ken Brown to be part of the subcommittee
- Will need to invite the Minister of AEW and MLAs within the watershed to provide greetings.

14. Sponsorship request for the 2012 Canadian Water Summit

- A request to join SEAWA to sponsor the 2012 Canadian Water Summit held in Calgary June 28 was presented.
- Five or more WPACS that are interested can contribute at least \$500 each to a sum of \$2,500

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to contribute no more than \$500 to sponsor the 2012 Canadian Water Summit. Brian Hills Seconded. **Carried**

15. 2012 AGM Report

- a. Financial donations
 - i. A total of \$3,272.00 was raised
- b. Comments and Feedback
 - i. People liked the round table set up
 - ii. Supper was good
 - iii. In future, we will need to incorporate an entertainment value to it to attract participants
 - iv. Had to switch the agenda due to cancellations
 - v. Need to feature First Nations aspect
 - vi. Possible presenter: Need to look at inviting a rep from the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) to present on the effects of the increase in exploration in the area
 - vii. Overall it went well

16. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
 - i. 2012 Canoe Tour
 1. Scheduled for June 23, 2012
 2. Canoe trip will be west of Del Bonita from the 501 below Remington's to the Del Bonita camp ground on Hwy 62 following lunch, interested participants can go on a tour to the Buffalo Jump and Mazapa Ashe deposits at Twin River Grazing Reserve.
 - ii. Hike Tour
 1. Scheduled for end of September at the Pinhorn Ranch and Milk River Canyon
 - iii. Bonanza Day
 1. Schedules for August 4, 2012
 2. The theme this year is "A Salute o the Pioneers"
 3. The board was asked to think of ideas that that can incorporate the theme into the watershed float.

- iv. Spring Newsletter
 1. The current newsletter has 4 pages at a printing cost of \$700/1000 copies
 2. Looking at increasing page numbers to 8 due to increase in materials to be covered. If we use the current printing company it would cost \$1268/1000 copies
 3. Would like to try another company (Southern Alberta News Group) and produce a larger format newsletter similar to the local rural municipalities which would cost \$1048.95/1000 copies.
 4. Would produce 8 page newsletter twice a year compared to the 3 times that we are currently producing which would reduce the cost to slightly more than what we are currently paying.
 5. Will try this format for the spring/summer newsletter and if works well will continue for the fall/winter.

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

➤ Planning a meeting May 29th, 2012

i. Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update

1. A project that initially started due to increase in fecal coliform which resulted in issuing an advisory notice to the public at Writing On Stone Provincial Park beach
2. Working on a source tracking project with Alberta Ag. And AEW
3. There are 4 sites being monitored: Upstream Milk River, Down Stream Milk River, Writing On Stone Provincial Park Beach site, and at Highway 880
4. Analysis will be done in-house at Alberta Ag in Lethbridge
5. Board members were asked to help obtain fecal specimen for the project

ii. 2012 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project

1. Started water monitoring for this year April 17
2. Tim and Mary collected samples from Pinhorn Ranch, North Fork at 501, Shanks Lake outlet, Milk River at 501, Upper Stream Milk River, Red Creek at Mouth, Red Creek Upper Stream, and Red Creek Mid Stream
3. Next sampling date is April 30 which will include the three eastern tributaries
4. There is need to also include dissolved oxygen in the analysis which we have not been able to do due to lack of DO meters despite attempts to look for funding to purchase DO meters
5. We have some money left from the Ground Water project and would like to use part of the money to purchase 3 DO meters
6. The cost of each meter will be no more than \$1500
7. It is an excellent tool and very user friendly for field staff
8. We would use one for Cardston and Warner; one for Pinhorn Ranch and the other for the eastern tributaries

Motion: Ken Miller moved to purchase the 3 OD meters for no more than \$5000 each. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

iii. Ground water monitoring update

1. 36 out of 40 wells were sampled
2. There is need to have all the 40 wells sampled
3. The data was sent to Geological Survey of Canada
4. Summarized data has been sent to landowners
5. The results showed very little change in water chemistry for the wells further east

iv. Water Level Acquisition Project Update

1. As discussed on part 11

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

i. Submissions update (SRD, WQO, Riparian)

1. Team meeting May 29th, 2012

2. Have SRD submissions with few concerns that need to be addressed
- ii. Access Management Recommendations for the draft IWMP update
 1. Access management recommendations will be incorporated into the IWMP
 2. No feedback from AEW yet
 3. Brian Hills will replace Terence Lazarus on the IWMP Team.

- d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)
 - i. There was nothing to report

17. Upcoming events

- Youth Range Days – July 17 to 19, 2012
- 2012 Canoe Trip – June 23, 2012
- Bonanza Day – August 4, 2012
- 2012 WPAC Summit – September 24 to 27th, 2012

18. Other items

- None presented

19. Next Meeting Date

- May 24, 2012 at Milk River Town Hall at 1:30pm

20. Meeting Adjournment

- Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____