



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 24, 2012 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Ed Sloboda, Will Lindeman, Warren Cunningham, Don Welsh, Brian Hills, Ken Miller, Ken Brown, John Ross, Darcy Wills, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Joan Hughson, Darlene Sakires, Lorraine Nicol, Paulette Fox, William Schamber

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:42pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes from last meeting

- The minutes from April 26th, 2012 were reviewed.

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept the minutes as presented. Ken Miller seconded. **Carried.**

3. Alberta Water Council Report – Ken Brown

- Next AWC Board meeting will be June 14th, 2012
- Planning a workshop
- Requesting to fund project proposals that meet AWC's criteria such as:
 - State of the watershed education
 - Aquatic health
 - Water for life matrix
- Discussion:
 - Looking to get input for head water's strategy
 - Is there data available for the water matrix?
 - Water monitoring data collection is expensive as it requires a lot of sampling and data analysis
 - The province is putting together a panel to come up with monitoring guidelines
 - Alberta Water Council is not the right organization to do monitoring but they can give recommendations
 - Each WPAC is doing their SOW reporting
 - Water matrix could be a project for major funding for WPACs

Action: Tim to take the matter to Alberta WPAC's meeting

4. Financial Statement Update

- DO meters have been purchased and they should arrive at the beginning of the week
- The price of the meters was a little more than expected about \$300 over
- There was a question whether we should look at bank stabilization projects along the Milk
- These projects are costly, Hilmer bridge could be a good demonstration site
- Would need good signage to promote the watershed initiatives
- Gold Springs Stabilization project should be led by Municipalities and MRWCC can provide technical expertise since there were studies done on the project

Action: Warren Cunningham to discuss with county council the potential to revisit the Gold Springs Park stabilization project.

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

- Ann Tollestrup provided a new contract for book keeping

- There is an increase from \$265.00 to \$400.00 per month for the additional payroll work and increase in time spent on book keeping
- The previous cost was based on 3 hours per month but she will need more hours for the work
- KPMG were happy with the 2011 books however there was little change on the cost stating the reason was that KPMG gave the MRWCC a break in 2010 yet they had done more work
- There is need to check other accounting companies to compare costs

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept Ann Tollestrup's new contract as presented. Ken Miller seconded. Approved by consensus with one nay. **Carried.**

5. Alberta Environment and Water Funding

- AEW has sent a contract with an addendum that MRWCC will receive an additional \$100,000 for core funding for the fiscal year 2012/13
- The contact was signed and sent back to AEW

6. Alberta WPAC Meeting Report

- The meeting was may 7th, 2012 in Red Deer
- WPACs to collaboratively sign the MOU
- Action plan discussed in the MOU on how WPACs can work together mainly on education
- 7 of the 11 WPACs have contributed to sponsor the 2012 Canadian Water Summit held in Calgary June 28 was presented.
- A conflict of interest policy was discussed to find out which WPACs have the policy

Action: Tim to bring forward a copy of the conflict of interest policy from another WPAC for the board to review

- Planning a 2013 Alberta WPAC Conference
 - It will be a 2 day event with a banquet
 - To be hosted in Red Deer, March 2013
 - Discussion topics will include:
 - Science initiatives
 - Stewardship sustainability
 - Promote WPACs and Water for life
 - Would like to have a bursary for environmental science students if there is surplus funds left after the conference
 - Similar format to past GOA – Environment Conferences
- There is a WPAC Forum in Leduc June 6, 2012 planned by AEW
 - Topics to be discussed will include:
 - Wetland policy
 - Cumulative effects
 - SOW Reporting
 - Geospatial information
 - Program planning and implementation
 - Tim and Mary to attend

7. 2012 WPAC Summit Planning update

- Summit is scheduled for September 24 to 27, 2012
- Registration packages have been sent to all WPACs
- Registrations are at \$225 per person and \$25 for the optional tour on the 24th
- Proposed draft agenda for the summit is as follows:
 - **September 24 International Headwaters Tour (Optional Day)**
 - Welcome - Holiday Inn South Lethbridge
 - Board Bus for tour to headwork's and headwaters of the St Mary and Milk River – Glacier Park Montana
 - Enter United States - Carway Crossing
 - Lake Sherburne Dam Site
 - Swiftcurrent Creek and the St Mary's River Bull Trout Project
 - St Mary/Milk River Diversion Infrastructure and History
 - 12:15pm Lunch – Hooks Hideaway or Three Sisters Café Babb, MT

- Montana State Invasive Species Management
 - Middle and South Fork Milk River
 - Return to Canada – Del Bonita Crossing
 - North Fork Milk River (Del Bonita)
 - Grassland Recovery after Fire – Deseret Ranch
 - 4:00pm Lethbridge – Holiday Inn
 - 6:30pm Wine and Cheese welcome reception – Banquet Room
- **September 25 - Respect the Past, and Stewarding the Future - Writing On Stone**
 - 7:45am Meet at Holiday Inn South, Lethbridge – Board Bus to Writing on Stone Provincial Park
 - Summit Welcome and Greeting from the MRWCC Chairman
 - Morning Select a Session:
 - **Session A** – Innovative collaboration on Stewardship Implementation (Off site tour)
 - **Session B** – Cultural, Historical, and Archeological inclusion in Watershed Management Planning: Defining Watershed Cultural Identity (From drumming circle main room)
 - **Session C** – Digital Storytelling: A tool for stewardship promotion (Smaller room, max 30 participants)
 - 12:00 pm Lunch – [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - Afternoon Select a Session:
 - **Session A** – Innovative collaboration on Stewardship Implementation (Off site tour)
 - **Session B** – Cultural, Historical, and Archeological inclusion in Watershed Management Planning: Defining Watershed Cultural Identity (From drumming circle main room)
 - **Session C** – Alberta Bi-lateral and Transboundary Water Discussions: North, South, East, and West Perspectives (Smaller room, max 30 participants)
 - Health Break – [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - Leave WOSPP for Lethbridge
 - 6:00pm Tour of Lethbridge College – Aquaculture Centre of Excellence Western Slivery Minnow Rearing project: Species at Risk Recovery
 - 7:00pm Dinner at Lethbridge College. [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - **September 26 - Watershed Planning: Cooperation and Science Supporting our Partners**
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 - 8:00am Meet at Holiday Inn South, Lethbridge – Board Bus to Milk River Civic Centre
 - Welcome – Honorable Minister of Environment and Water Diana McQueen
 - Provincial Guidebook for Watershed Management Planning Robert Wolfe, AEW
 - 10:00am Health Break -[Look for Sponsor](#)
 - TBD
 - 12:00pm Lunch - [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - DNA Fecal Source Tracking on the Milk River: A tool for guiding water quality improvement projects? Lisa Tymensen, ARD
 - 2:00pm Health Break - [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - TBD
 - The Blackfoot Challenge: A model for preserving the rural character and working as a community for watershed management Montana Perspective – Jim Stone & Greg Neudecker
 - WPAC Trade Fair and Q&A with the Executive Directors (Bar open)
 - 5:30pm Dinner Sponsored by: Cypress County, County of Forty Mile, County of Warner, and Cardston County
 - 7:00pm First Bus leaves for Lethbridge
 - 9:00pm Second Bus Leaves for Lethbridge
 - **September 27 - Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils: Success at Work!**

- 8:30am Welcome - (Holiday Inn South Lethbridge, Banquet Room)
 - WPAC Executive Director Updates (5 minute updates) What's one: Success, Challenge, and opportunity facing your WPAC this year
 - 10:00am Health Break - [Look for Sponsor](#)
 - Alberta WPAC's Action Plan implementation
 - Summit Closing, and Future Direction:
 - 2013 Alberta Watersheds Conference? (Discussion?)
 - 12:00pm Travel Safe!
- There was a discussion to invite the Premier to come and use this as an opportunity to sign on behalf of the GOA Water for Life and Alberta WPAC's agreement (MOU)
 - Minister of AEW and MLAs within the watershed to be invited as well
 - Other organizations like MULTISAR, ACA to be contacted so that they can give input for sites to be visited
 - Paulette Fox to lead the cultural aspect
 - Solicit for banquet dinner sponsorship from Municipalities within the watershed and ask Reeves to give a greeting from there respective municipalities
 - A question of whether Brian Keating could be invited as a possible guest speaker was raised
 - Registration is proposed for 100 participants
 - Kathy Ross would like to volunteer
 - Will host a planning meeting in Mid-June to work out further details.

Action: Letters of invitation to be sent to the Minister of AEW and the two MLAs in the Watershed

Action: Mary to circulate a list of planning subcommittees for the summit to the board

8. Penn West Exploration Request for Proposals
 - Asking for Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualifying WPACs up to \$100,000
 - A good opportunity to submit a project proposal in collaboration with other WPACs
 - Possibly to continue groundwater synoptic survey work or abandoned well decommissioning
 - Will Lindeman noted: Alberta Beef Producers are looking to fund watershed projects to do with beef production and stewardship. OWC has received this funding in the past for Watershed Legacy projects and stewardship summits.
 - Maximum of \$5000.00
 - Council can support the Alberta Beef producers by use of our capacity for science based implementation of stewardship projects. (targeted implementation of IWMP)
9. Shell FuellingChange grant
 - The MRWCC will receive \$10,000 from Shell FuellingChange program for being one of the qualifying members whose project was chosen for the contest
 - Need to discuss how the funds will be disbursed
 - Some ideas presented were to carry out two pilot projects that could be used as educational demonstration sites and also produce fact sheets on importance of decommissioning abandoned wells.
 - Would like to form a subcommittee to seek additional matching funds from industrial partners active in the watershed.
 - Further discussion needed.
10. Invitation letters to MLAs
 - Letters were sent to congratulate MLAs Bikman and Barnes and invite them to attend the MRWCC's upcoming Board meeting
 - Gary Bikman responded that he would like to attend a Board Meeting in June
 - John Ross will be meeting with Mr. Barnes and will ask if he would attend on the same day

Action: Tim will prepare a brief presentation on who we are and what we do to provide at the June meeting.

11. Team Updates
 - a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
 - Last meeting was May 17, 2012
 - i. 2012 Canoe Tour

1. Scheduled for June 23, 2012
2. Ken Brown will be the guide tour
3. 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 Mazama Ash deposits at Twin River Grazing Reserve.
4. An ad was sent out
5. Currently taking registrations
6. Ask if we can use the bridge east of the area due to easy access

Action: Ken Brown to give Mary Number of canoes left to rent

- ii. Hike Tour
 1. Planning to visit Milk River Canyon and Pinhorn area
 2. Proposed date is October 6, 2012
 - 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 float for the watershed
 - iv. Geocache sites
 1. Looking for new sites
 2. The old site was being vandalized
 3. There is already a site called spite ditch
 4. Need to change the theme
 - v. Caring For Our Watersheds (CFW) Report
 1. Mary had a meeting with the Caring For Our Watersheds Coordinator from Agrium May 22, 2012
 2. MRWCC is willing to participate next year
 3. CFW has a \$500 grant that is given to student groups working towards watershed initiatives
 4. MRWCC will be applying for the grant towards the Youth Range Days Project
 5. Discussed the problem with enrollment in the southern region:
 - a. Some students do not like the implementation process
 - b. Inequity with prize disbursement
 - c. Should look at other groups such as 4-H for participation
 - vi. Spring/Summer Newsletter
 1. A copy of the Meander Spring/Summer newsletter was presented to the Board
 2. The newsletter is scheduled to be mailed first week of June
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
- Next meeting schedules for May 29, 2012
 - Sandi's goal is to set up a subcommittee for Research and Monitoring team to work on SOW report
 - Will scale changes to the 2008 format
 - Continuing to identify chapter leads
- i. Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update
 1. Done two runs to date
 2. Discussed a letter requesting Board Members to help with collection of fecal matters from identified animal and bird species within the watershed to be used for the fecal library for the project
 3. Fecal collection techniques were discussed
 - ii. 2012 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project

1. Monitoring going well
2. Everyone has been trained
3. DO meters have been purchased and waiting for them to be delivered

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

- i. Next meeting schedules for May 29, 2012
- ii. Sam Wirzba just submitted SRD feedback
- iii. Next step is consultation with GOA and Municipalities
- iv. Ask Sandi to come to the June meeting for a report

d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)

- i. There has been 2 major obstacles:
 1. economic constraints in the US
 2. Black Foot Tribes are in the process of having conversations with the federal government on the water impact which should be resolved in the next 2 months
- ii. Expecting to windup the next meeting end of July
- iii. Fourteen cross border consultation meetings were held to reach and sign off recommendations

12. Upcoming events

- WPAC Forum – June 6, 2012
- 2012 Canoe Trip – June 23, 2012
- Youth Range Days – July 17 to 19, 2012
- Bonanza Day – August 4, 2012
- 2012 WPAC Summit – September 24 to 27th, 2012

13. Other items

- Lisa Fox with Sustainability Resource is assisting in the development of a Watershed Toolkit targeted to stewardship groups and local governments/municipalities. The project has developed a tool directory based on records of past projects, evaluation of those projects, and effectiveness of the projects. The searchable directory is also developed on a social media platform and interface so additional information can be added. Lisa is requesting feedback and implementation assistance on the project and is looking to host a local meeting in Lethbridge sometime later in June.
- Will provide more information when available.
- More information can be found at <http://watershedresources.ca/>

14. Next Meeting Date – June 28, 2012 – AEW Office, Lethbridge at 1:30pm

15. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10pm. Brian Hills Seconded. **Carried**

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____