



## Minutes

### MRWCC Board Meeting

April 27, 2017 – 1:30 PM

### Town of Milk River Office

**Present:** William King, Warren Cunningham, Ed Sloboda, Brian Hills, Ron McNeil, Lorraine Nicol, Ross Ford, Will Lindeman, Joan Hughson, Darcy Wills, Frank Larney, Kandra Forbes, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

**Absent:** John Ross, Lloyd Closson, Roy Audet, Dennis Spackman, Suzanne Liebelt, Kristen Dykstra, Ken Miller, and Scott McGarty,

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

- Will Lindeman welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 1:40pm

#### 2. Minutes from March 30, 2017 meeting

- There was an action for Kandra to follow-up on the video project. Still waiting for feedback from Montana

**Motion:** Ross Ford moved to accept the minutes as presented. Lorraine Nicol seconded.

**Carried.**

#### 3. Financial update

##### a. Financial statements update

##### i. March Financial Statements

- March closing balance was \$269,184.38
- There were some concerns with the way the financial spreadsheet was presented:
  - Core funds are not easily depicted in the spreadsheet
  - The payroll amounts should show net expenditures
- A second spreadsheet depicting core funding revenue and expenses was presented
- Need to update the spreadsheet to make it more user friendly and AEP core funds should be shown in a separate spreadsheet

**Action:** Mary will work on refining the spreadsheet and provide options at the next meeting.

**Motion:** Ed Sloboda moved to accept the financial statements as presented. William King seconded. **Carried.**

##### b. 2017/20 WRRP Grant Approval - \$250,000

- The \$250,000 grant has been approved
- \$60,000 of the grant will go towards education outreach

- Part of the grant will be used for monitoring sites, and outreach efforts
  - Waiting for additional information and grant agreement
  - County of Warner had also applied for \$350,000 and have been approved for \$157,000 to support ongoing work to improve WQ and Riparian areas around Ridge Reservoir
- c. AEP Deferred Funding – financial statements revision update
- We are working very hard to demonstrate that \$179,997 is not from AEP restricted grant funds in order for AEP to formally release any claim to these funds
  - We had come up with \$126,000, that we thought could be released to unrestricted funds, however, after meeting with KPMG, the amount was revised to \$92,291.00 as some of the funds had to pay for taxes
  - This means the balance of the funds (\$87,706) will be deemed as restricted funds in which case, AEP would then look to incorporate this amount as part of the total financial contribution under 2017/18 grant agreement
  - Mary is meeting with KPMG tomorrow to finalize the 2016/17 financial statements
  - There are 4 other WPACs that have gone through similar circumstances
  - Tim will talk to Andrew one more time to see if we can move these funds to old project money, and further reduce the amount that will be recovered by AEP
  - AEP grants and external partnerships were reviewed by the Auditor General in 2016 and more attention is being placed on transparency and grant agreement conditions

**Motion:** Ross Ford moved to invite a rep from KPMG to give a presentation at the AGM on May 25, 2017 in order to address questions on the financial complexities. Darcy Wills seconded.

**Carried.**

- d. AEP Grant status update
    - AEP has advised that the grant amounts will be released by May 19
  - e. HSP grant – Milk River Over-Wintering Habitat Stewardship Project update
    - Have received the \$35,050 grant which has been spent on some equipment purchase for habitat protection and contract for initial work done
4. **2017 Water Monitoring Program – AEP/MRWCC program collaboration discussion update**
- On April 25, Tim and Mary met with Brian Hills; Wendell Koning, Water Quality Specialist; Dr. Jason Kerr, Wetland Ecosystems Scientist; and Ryan Martin, Water Quality Technologist to discuss program collaboration. Sandi also attended the meeting through a conference call

- Agreed to collaborate on the 5 of the 11 sites which will reduce MRWCC cost by just under \$5,000. Some questions around timeliness of data availability and program integrity need to still be worked out
- This will be reviewed in November to assess how the collaboration went
- Jason stated that he was not responsible for assessing and providing source funds for work like ours, but it was valuable for him to hear about the MRWCC program
- The Board thanked AEP for their support
- Mary and Ryan will plan on syncing the sampling schedules

#### **5. WRRP Grant Recipients Showcase report**

- Minister Shannon Phillips attended the meeting
- Good meeting and it was good to learn what other organizations are doing
- Will presented a question to the Minister on behalf of the MRWCC in support of the water supply and storage solutions in Milk River

#### **6. WPAC Manager's Meeting report**

- WPACs are planning to standardize in-kind contribution reporting and will use the MRWCC's template
- Project alignment meeting viewed positively with budgeting process
- BRWA is restructuring away from Lakeland Industry & Community Association (LICA)
- AWC rep for WPACs is Cheryl Fujikawa from OWC and the alternate is from BRWA

#### **7. 2017 AGM Planning update – May 25 update**

- Looking for election's chairman

**Motion:** Darcy Wills moved to ask Ken Brown to be election's chairman. Warren Cunningham seconded. **Carried.**

- Frank Larney announced that he will not be letting his name stand for Federal Government representative. He talked to Ben Ellert, who has agreed to let his name stand as a nominee for Federal Government representative on the MRWCC Board of Directors
- Ben will attend the AGM
- Frank thanked everyone for his time on the Board
- Council thanked Frank for his time and contribution to the Board
- Lorraine Nicol advised that she will let her name stand for Academia
- Currently First Nations seat is vacant

#### **8. Team update**

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
  - i. Education Outreach report

- Kandra is setting up meetings with schools in partnership with Suzanne Lodermeier with WOSPP
  - Looking at what schools would like to see in terms of presentations and will develop program based on feedback from teachers
  - Has had good reception from teachers
  - WOSPP is currently booking schools for field trips
  - So far, 120 students from Calgary School Board region have been booked for 4 different programs
  - Darcy advised that we need to see continuity on the online credit courses
- ii. Youth Range Days update
- Logistics underway
  - Committee had a planning meeting and scouting tour for program last week
  - About \$8,000 has been raised in sponsorship
  - Registration coming along – still spaces open if anyone wants to promote
  - Moving forward with the \$300 to \$400 bursary to help youth going to post-secondary in environmental sciences or agriculture, or to sponsor youth to attend the high school youth forum to represent Alberta with the Society for Rangeland Management.
- iii. Spring Hike Tour update
- Had to cancel the April 21 tour due to weather conditions
  - A question was raised if the tour should be rescheduled
  - Staff recommended postponing the tour to fall as they are pressed for time this spring
  - The consensus was to postpone the tour until fall and maybe have 2 tours in fall one to the east and one to the west
  - Need to work with Sustainable Canada to involve eastern people as well and that South of the Cypress Hills would be a possible location for a future tour

**Action:** Mary to send an email to all registrants advising them of the Spring Hike Tour postponement

- iv. Canoe Trip
- Scheduled for June 24, 2017
  - From Ross' place to Kanna's place
  - William and John to scout the area for access, TFA will be required for public lands then will advertise the trip.

- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
    - i. Surface Water Monitoring
      - o Monitoring is underway
    - ii. Source Water Protection Workshop
      - o Workshop scheduled Friday, April 28, 2017
      - o Coming up with different stress scenarios and a plan for the coming year
  - c. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)
    - The County of Warner had a teleconference with the ministry
    - Agreed to do a feasibility study on the water storage project and also update the previous study already done
  - d. Transboundary Watershed Team
    - i. MRWA – River Rendezvous Tour June 27<sup>th</sup> Planning discussion
      - o Tour the St Mary diversion system and the Canadian irrigation system, Milk River Ridge Projects, and stop in Milk River at the visitors centre to discuss Milk River challenges with water security and MRWCC programming before returning to Shelby MT for dinner.
    - ii. Joint Milk River Film Project update
      - o Likely filming on the Alberta side the day after the River Rendezvous Tour
      - o Waiting on AEP grant agreement to determine AB funding.
    - Ron advised that the Transboundary Grasslands Core team and Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) has put up the conference the past 2 years and planning the next workshop to be hosted by MT FWP and MRWA in Havre or Glasgow, Montana this coming winter.
    - PCF confirmed there is \$2100 surplus that will be carried forward to the Montana meeting expenses next January
    - Tim is giving a presentation at the Sustainable Canada AGM to be held in Manyberries, on May 31
9. Upcoming Events
- a. Source Water Protection Planning Workshop, April 28, 2017
  - b. MRWCC AGM – May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Milk River Town Council Chambers
  - c. Sustainable Canada AGM – May 31<sup>st</sup> 2017
  - d. Canoe Trip – June 24, 2017
  - e. MRWA – River Rendezvous Tour June 27<sup>th</sup> 2017
10. Round table discussions
- Warren:
    - o Wanted an update on the zebra mussels

- Additional monitoring is occurring within the Blackfeet Reservation Lakes, some suspect samples are being analyzed now at the state lab.
- The MT Conservation Districts are hosting many community information and water user sessions on Quagga this spring and summer.
- 2 infested boats have already been intercepted from the east at the Dunmore station this season.
- Brian:
  - There is a 60 day comment period on the SAR Action Plan for Milk River and St. Mary Drainage Basin in Canada from mid-May
  - Need to form a subcommittee to work on at the MRWCC feedback
  - The following are currently on the committee: **Ron, Warren and Ken**
  - All feedback should be sent to Tim for amalgamation and then to be discussed at the May 25, Board meeting
- Warren:
  - Yellow Belly Racer snake has been confirmed in Alberta
- William:
  - Tess Larson passed away last Sunday and memorial will take place in Pincher Creek
  - Once the obituary is out will need to make a donation
  - Tess was the past MRWCC Board member and she helped with the MRWCC float during the Bonanza day last year
- Tim:
  - A \$100 donation was made to the McKillop United Church in memory of Mrs. Marjorie Ross (John Ross' mother)
- Lorraine:
  - A thank you card should be sent Janie King for all the cookies she is providing for the Board meeting. The card should be signed at the next board meeting

## 11. Other items

## 12. Meeting Adjournment

**Motion:** Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50pm. **Carried.**

**13. Next Meeting Date**

- May 25, 2017 in Milk River after AGM

**Signatures:**

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

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