

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Meeting Minutes

Town of Milk River – February 10, 2006 - 10 am

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Rob Oswald, Ken Miller, Rosemary Jones, Ken Brown, Bill Entzminger, John Ross, Don Welsh, Emma Hult, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Kerv Thiessen, Ross Ford, Cheryl Dash, Roger Houghton, Roy Hummel, Ken Graumans, George Henline

Agenda Item 1. Welcome

Agenda Item 2. Review Minutes from January 13, 2006

Minutes were reviewed and accepted as read. Ken Miller (first), John Ross (second)

Agenda Item 3. Nonprofit Status Report

The MRWCC is officially nonprofit. Tom Gilchrist has the registry papers on file.

Agenda Item 4. Update on Minister's Meeting in Edmonton

On January 30, 2006 the Minister's met to gain better insight into the Milk River watershed. We need to keep moving forward following the Minister's fly-over of the watershed. We can expect a more immediate and positive response from Montana. We need to proceed with modeling to determine if infrastructure investments will change the amount of useable water – storage being one option. There may be no benefit in a joint project with Montana. Local people in Montana are beginning to have a better understanding of Alberta's position, but they have not been provided with much information on which to base opinions. Sal Fugliuzzi has provided Tom G. with a spreadsheet of 20 years of daily flow in the Milk River. Tom G. will explore the spreadsheet and model. Peter Watson is committed to working toward a solution in the Milk. We need to work with Montana counterparts to develop mutual understanding.

Action: Some members of the Milk River International Watershed Alliance will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting.

Agenda Item 5. WPAC Summit Presentations, Calgary

Request was made to Board for increased attendance at the WPAC Summit. Ken Miller and Ken Brown volunteered to attend. We now have 5 members of the MRWCC attending the 2-day Summit in Calgary (Rosemary Jones, Ross Ford, Ken Miller, Ken Brown, Sandi Riemersma)

Agenda Item 6. WPAC Application to Alberta Environment

Signing Authority will be maintained by Tom Gilchrist and Don Welsh. Don Welsh will continue to be the Secretary/Treasurer of the MRWCC with Travis Peter from the Town of Milk River. The Town will be handling the MRWCC Accounting.

Agenda Item 7. Water Quality Monitoring Program

An update on the Water Quality Monitoring Program was provided. The Counties have agreed to help with water sampling, AENV will provide some technical assistance and AAFRD may help set up sites and analyze samples.

Agenda Item 8. Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School Update

The application for funding of the Stockman's School was submitted. The Funding Review Committee acknowledged that this project will likely be successful.

Agenda Item 9. Hydrocoding Project in the Milk River Watershed Update

Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) is in the process of coding all of the tributaries in the Milk River watershed, according to the Strahler Order Coding. Small, headwater tributaries are labeled 1 (e.g. coulees), two tributaries labeled 1 combine to form a level 2, two level 2 tributaries combine to form a level 3 etc. This will standardize systems and allow for better comparison of information among watercourses. In this project, SRD has acknowledged that Pakowki Basin is part of the Milk River Watershed. There is some disagreement on this.

Action: A meeting should be arranged among the Milk River Watershed Council, the Oldman Watershed Council and SRD to discuss.

Agenda Item 10. Crown Manager's Partnership Meeting and Presentation, Lethbridge

The Crown Manager's Partnership is meeting on March 1 to 3 in Lethbridge. Members of the MRWCC were invited to attend. Ken Miller, Rosemary Jones and Sandi Riemersma will be attending on our behalf. John Ross may attend for March 3.

Agenda Item 11. Milk River Watershed Council Canada Logo

The logo is still waiting to be digitized.

Agenda Item 12. AGM (See attached Agenda)

- a. Membership forms
- b. Call for nominations – Ken Brown and Ken Miller will head up the Nominating Committee; Ken Brown will accept Membership Applications
- c. Speakers, meals - Lori Balog will be asked to prepare Beef on a Bun
- d. Call for Displays
- e. Organizational Meeting

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Annual General Meeting

**Milk River Civic Centre
March 31, 2006**

4:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Draft Agenda

- 4:30 Registration and Displays
- 5:00 Welcome
- 5:10 Message from the MLA's
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Milk River Watershed Council Canada
- 7:00 Nominations from the floor; Presentations from Nominees; Members Vote
- 7:30 Dave McGee – Transboundary Water Perspectives and Update
- 8:00 Dave Hill – AIPA and Alberta Water Council
- 8:30 Discussion
- 8:45 Comments to the Board of Directors
- 8:55 Members Adjourn
- 9:00 Organizational Meeting

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Minutes

Town of Milk River – March 10, 2006 - 10 am

Present: Ken Miller, Roy Hummel, Ross Ford, Bill Entzminger, Rob Oswald, Cheryl Dash, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Brown, Ken Graumans, John Ross, Don Welsh, Roger Houghton, George Henline, Rosemary Jones, Emma Hulit, Kerv Thiessen

Guest: Louella Cronkhite – Alberta Environment

1. Welcome

- Ken Miller chaired the meeting

2. Review Minutes from February 10, 2006

- Minutes were reviewed and accepted

3. Update on WPAC Summit in Calgary

- Ken Miller, Ken Brown, Rosemary Jones, Ross Ford, Cheryl Dash and Sandi Riemersma attended the WPAC Summit in Calgary (February 22 and 23, 2006).
- The Milk River Watershed Council Canada display was set up
- The Oldman Watershed Council, the Bow River Basin Council, the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance and the North Saskatchewan River Watershed Alliance were all present
- Discussions revolved around the WPAC mandate as viewed by the WPACs and Alberta Environment
- Discussed the Water Management Plan as a legal document and the limited capacity of the WPACs to implement the Plan
- Two documents will be prepared by AENV: Framework for Integrated Watershed Management Planning and an Implementation Plan
- A need to harmonize existing legislation to enable implementation of a Plan was discussed.
- Discussions were had around funding, and were left unresolved
- We discussed First Nation's involvement in the Councils and heard that it may be a disadvantage for First Nation's to be involved from a legal aspect. Any official First Nation's involvement would have to go through Band Council for approval but involving and improving relationships on any level may be beneficial.

- We heard from a professional fundraiser and how to hold effective conversations.

4. Update on WPAC Application Status with Alberta Environment

- Our WPAC grant application has been submitted to Alberta Environment and could receive our funding before March 31, 2006.
- Louella Cronkhite was introduced as another resource for the Council. Moses Bitew and Laurent Conrad (AENV) will also be available to the Council for GIS and modeling aspects of our program.

5. Update on the Crown Manager's Partnership Meeting in Lethbridge and visit with Minister Boutilier

- Ken Miller, Ross Ford and Sandi met with Minister Boutilier on March 1, 2006 at the Sandman Hotel following the Minister's greeting to the Crown Manager's Partnership.
- The Minister acknowledged and supported the need to develop a Bilateral Committee that would allow for better discussions with Montana neighbours.
- Modeling will take place to look at options for water supply in the Milk River watershed (e.g. infrastructure changes, storage, pipelines etc.); the MRWCC should work with Dave McGee on this activity.

6. Pakowki Basin

- Pakowki Basin is a recurring topic in discussions with AENV, SRD and other departments. We need to facilitate a discussion with everyone (e.g. SRD, Oldman Watershed Council) to finalize where Pakowki fits in watershed planning.

Action: Sandi will summarize the MRWCC's thoughts on Pakowki Basin and circulate to everyone. A letter will be drafted inviting OWC representatives, Dave McGee, Livio Fent among others to discuss Pakowki.)

7. Stockman's Range School

- We were successful in getting \$ 7 500.00 from the Greencover Program for the Stockman's Grazing School to be held June 19 to 21, 2006.

8. Milk River Booklet – finalize text

The Milk River Booklet is nearly finished. Copies of the draft text were circulated. The Booklet will hopefully be published in time for the AGM.

9. Membership Update

Ken Brown is away on holidays so we are unsure on the status of membership. Board members filled out their membership forms.

10. AGM Update

- a. Speakers – David Hill, AIPA and Dave McGee, AENV – arranged
- b. Dinner – Laurie Balog will provide a quote
- c. Displays – MRWCC, OWC, Water for Life, Remote Monitoring
- d. Nominations received from: John Ross – Agriculture/Rancher, Ken Brown – Recreation, Warren Cunningham – Fish and Game Association/NGO
- e. Advertising – mailouts done by Tim, Warren and Keston to rural areas
- f. Post Office Box

Action: Cheryl will talk to the Health Region regarding membership on the Board. Sandi will talk to Lori Goater about Board Membership. Sandi will look into getting a Post Office Box for the MRWCC in Milk River

8. Action Plan 2005-06

Action: Sandi will draft details for the Action Plan and circulate to Board members for review.

9. Next Meetings

- March 31, 2006 – AGM
- April 10, 2006 – Organizational Meeting

10. Adjourned at 12:15 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 25, 2006 – 3:00 PM

Town of Milk River

Present: Tom Gilchrist, John Byrne, Andrea Angus, George Henline, Ken Miller, Don Watson, Louella Cronkhite, Ken Brown, Rosemary Jones, Darlene Sakires, Sandi Riemersma, Don Welsh, Warren Cunningham, Rob Oswald, Ross Ford
Guests: Ryan Davison, Wendell Koning

Absent: Edith Olson, Les Scory

Agenda:

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom G. welcomed everyone to the meeting. Darlene Sakires and Ryan Davison were introduced to the Board.

Item 2. Review Minutes from April 10, 2006

Minutes were reviewed and accepted with a few revisions.

A motion was made to move the March 10, 2006 Minutes from the Agenda by Ken Brown. Darlene S. seconded. This was carried.

A suggestion was made to remove the review of Minutes from the meeting agenda other than to ask if any changes are required. This will allow more discussion time for other agenda items.

Item 3. IJC Task Force Meeting Updates (Havre, Lethbridge)

Tom G., Ken M., Ken B., George H. and Sandi R. attended the IJC meetings in Havre and Lethbridge on May 23 and 24, 2006, respectively. Louella C., Edith O., and Ross F. attended the Lethbridge meeting

Ken Brown provided his perspectives of the meetings and found that the meetings were more “tame” than in the past and, although there were clear signs of opposite sides (i.e. Montana-Alberta) there was more will to collaborate and work together. A key issue in the future will be the Blackfeet Reservation.

Ken Miller saw a similar softening of positions, although certain individuals have clearly taken a “sides” approach. Collaboration is forthcoming with more willingness to collaborate to discuss measuring procedures and balancing periods.

George Henline described the predicament that the DNRC is facing. There is no capital reserve set aside in Montana for infrastructure rehabilitation. First Nations should have received their water benefits but

have not to date.

Tom G. thanked everyone for their confidence in his ability to make the presentations on behalf of the MRWCC. The Board also thanked Tom for his effort at the IJC meetings.

Tom provided an overview of his presentation in Havre and Lethbridge and explained that we need to file our report with the IJC by June 30, 2006.

Tom was in touch with Rick Casson who updated him on his discussion with Herb Gray. It is important that the politicians understand all of the implications surrounding the IJC.

Next step in the process is for the IJC to prepare a Final Report – the Commission will have to make a decision whether to open the 1921 Order or not.

Action: MRWCC to submit final comments to the IJC by June 30, 2006.

Item 4. Ken Brown's Great News

Ken B. has been chosen as 1 of 3 delegates in Alberta to attend the Stewards in Action Conference in Cornerbrook, NFLD. A bursary is provided to cover expenses. Congratulations Ken!

Action: Sandi to provide Ken with MRWCC material to hand out at the Conference. Ken to report back to the MRWCC on the Conference.

Item 5. Team Chair Updates

Rob O. provided an update on the Rural and Urban Project Team. We discussed the State of the Watershed and what information might be required. The Team is obtaining access to aerial photography along the Milk River that is GPS-linked from Fisheries and Oceans and Sustainable Resource Development. The photos will provide an overview of the basin for the Team to begin planning. We discussed the logistics of the Stockman's Grazing School. An urban project that would aim toward water conservation was identified in a water wise garden. The Team is working to develop the three-year action plan. Weed and a River Clean-Up Program were also discussed.

Procedure for Team Updates to the Board was discussed. Minutes from each Team will be posted on our revised website. Team Updates should be limited to 5 minutes and Motions should be presented to the Board if there is need for money or assistance.

Sandi provided an overview of the Research and Monitoring Team meetings. The water quality monitoring is moving forward with funding from AENV and AAFRD. Most of the flow monitoring is already being done and the IJC Task Force Report recommended that the remaining tributaries be gauged. A second project will begin to look at erosion on the Milk River, occurrence and processes. This project will be linked to the Rural and Urban Project Team that will identify possible stabilization strategies for priority reaches.

A motion was made by Ken Brown to send a letter to the appropriate people to request that the gauging stations be put in place as soon as possible to coincide with our water quality monitoring program. Motion carried.

Ryan D. thought that a PFRA program may address streambank erosion.

Sandi provided an overview of the Community Awareness and Involvement Team. The Team will be

responsible for the AGM, and for supporting the other Teams by disseminating information through workshops, forums and other activities. They will also manage the MRWCC website. John Byrne has made the request to Vic Brown to consider working with the MRWCC to maintain and revise the website. A suggestion to include a member of the media on this Team was made.

Tom G. provided an update on the Water Supply and Management Team. This Team just completed a major effort with the IJC comments. The request has been made for more modeling and Laurant Conrad, a member of this Team, will have results soon.

Ryan Davison provided an overview of the current partnership (Forty Mile/ Ag. Canada and AENV) on a groundwater monitoring program. The program completed a proper well plugging initiative for abandoned wells and is now following up with a monitoring program to identify with what kind of results may be seen from the program since the SE Water Co-op went in to provide a water source other than groundwater. Future work could include more well-plugging and modeling of the Milk River aquifer. Also would like to study how the aquifer is connected to the Milk River. Ryan has a monitoring report that can be reviewed but it has not been entirely released yet. Close to 100 wells were plugged – need to review consumptive use and areas of depletion. How could this tie in with the MRWCC?

About 5 to 10 years ago, the Water Management Committee tried to obtain a report related to Milk River gravels that showed a negative water balance between two sites upstream and downstream of Writing on Stone. The WSC may have this study.

Wendell K. discussed an email from Audrey Goodwin requesting IFN priorities from each WPAC. In discussion, there may be money from AENV to SRD to do IFNs on the southern tributaries. The Action Plan may be aligned with SRD?

IFN for the Milk: impact of flushing flows on riparian areas, the W. Silvery Minnow, natural or impressed flows – highly regulated by the St. Mary diversion.

Action: Wendell K. to discuss the potential to move ahead with the gauging stations on the tributaries with Dave McGee and Sal Figliuzzi.

Sandi to look into possible fund on either Montana or Alberta's side to address streambank erosion.

Sandi to look into the groundwater study identified as indicating a relationship between the Milk River aquifer and the Milk River.

Louella C. to put a letter together for circulation to the Board discussing some of the implications of IFNs for the Milk River.

Item 6. Business cards and letter head

Sandi passed a prototype business card around for feedback. The business card was accepted for use.

Action: Sandi to produce business cards for all Board members for next meeting and to follow-up with letterhead.

Item 7. Sandi's Job Description

The Board reviewed the Project Coordinator's job description. The first paragraph read more like a job advertisement and should be removed. The job should continue to be flexible to a minimum of 20 hours per week and a maximum of the total contract dollars. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for

managing the time commitments to achieve the goals of the MRWCC.

A motion was made by Ken M. for Rose and Sandi to work together to prepare a contract between the MRWCC and the Project Coordinator. Warren C. seconded the motion and it was carried.

Sandi asked if the continued use of her business phone was acceptable for the MRWCC and all agreed that this arrangement worked fine.

Funding for a Project Coordinator is still unclear. A letter from the Board will have to be written to try and reallocate funds

Action: Sandi to revise the job description according to the comments received at the meeting.

Sandi to prepare a draft letter for the Board to sign requesting change to allocation of funding and for the Water for Life program to review their funding mechanisms.

Rose and Sandi to discuss the contract between the MRWCC and the Project Coordinator for circulation to Board Members.

Item 8. Review of 2006-08 Action Plan and Budget

Sandi provided an overview of the 2006-08 Action Plan. Comments on the content should be made by the Board by June 9th.

Action: Board to review the Action Plan and provide input by June 9, 2006.

Item 9. Announcements/ important dates/ Other

An invitation was extended to Ryan Davison to become a member of the Board to represent the Federal Government as PFRA. Ryan accepted this invitation. Welcome to the MRWCC Ryan!

On June 7 and 8, the MRWCC Board members have been invited to attend the Prairie Conservation Forum AGM in Milk River. Louella C. has more details.

Stockman's Grazing School – June 19, 20 and 21, 2006.

Item 10. Next Meeting Date

July 6, 2006 at 1:00 pm in Milk River.

Item 11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

July 6, 2006 – 1:00 PM

Town of Milk River

Present: Ken Miller, John Byrne, Don Watson, Sandi Riemersma, Don Welsh, Warren Cunningham, Rob Oswald, Ryan Davison, John Ross

Absent: Tom Gilchrist, Edith Olson, Les Scory, Andrea Angus, George Henline, Louella Cronkhite, Rosemary Jones, Darlene Sakires, Ross Ford, Ken Brown

Agenda:

Item 1. Welcome

Ken Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and chaired the meeting.

Item 2. Accept Minutes from May 25, 2006

A motion was made by John R. to accept the May 25, 2006 Minutes as revised, Don W. second the motion and it was carried.

Item 3. Sandi's Contract Reviewed

Sandi's contract was reviewed. A change was suggested to increase the \$ 100.00 pre-approved spending limited to \$ 500.00.

Action: Sandi to make necessary change and finalize for the next meeting.

Item 4. Update on Funding Revisions

Sandi provided information relating to the funding revision request to Alberta Environment. No word had been heard but Louella had been quite optimistic. John R. made a motion to allow the Executive to handle the funding once AENV has accepted the revisions. Second by John B. and carried.

Action: Executive to handle funding expenditures once revisions have been approved by AENV.

Item 5. Team Chair Updates

a. Water Supply and Management Team Update

Ken M. provided Team Update. Tom G. has been in touch with AENV for modeling of flows on the river and infrastructure changes. Modeling is ready to be done later this summer. Possible scenarios include instantaneous division vs. a season long balancing period. Leonard Mitzel and Minister met and they are interested in supporting the development of a grassroots, collaborative effort to water sharing. Neighbours helping neighbours approach.

b. Rural and Urban Project Team Update

Rob O. provided Team Update. Last meeting was held on June 28, 2006. Only four members could attend because it occurred on the same day as the first water sampling. Would like to summarize existing information so that efforts are not duplicated. Weeds and stream bank erosion could be documented and sites prioritized in collaboration with the Research and Monitoring Team and projects developed from those sites.

Don Watson provided an update on the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) and suggested the MRWCC become members. He passed out the latest PCF Action Plan for 2006-2010.

c. Research and Monitoring Team Update

John R. provided the Team Update. Team meetings were held in April and May. At the first meeting water quality sampling program was designed. Since then the water sampling program has been deployed and working quite well. The Team would like to gain a better understanding of the erosion issue with background information. The Team seems to be working well together and has the necessary people and skill set to move ahead.

d. Communication Team Update

John B. provided the Team Update. Team met on May 9. Andrea A. to bring forward TOR for the Communication Team. Team is going to ask if Louella would like to meet with the Communications Team to bring ideas on displays, interpretive signs etc.

e. Brief slide show of recent events

Sandi showed a few slides on the May trip to Havre Montana and the Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School.

f. Possibility to combine effort for future Team meetings?

The Board discussed the possibility to combine the Team meetings until directions and action plans are clearer. All agreed this was a good idea for at least the next meeting.

Item 6. Discuss protocol for missed meetings and provision of alternate

Action: Moved to next meeting.

Item 7. Finalize the 2006-07 Action Plan and Budget

Action: Moved to next meeting.

Item 8. Review request to AENV to release the Feasibility Study

Sandi drafted a letter to request the release of the Feasibility Study. The draft letter was discussed with Denis Magowan, AENV who thought we would be more successful if we request only those chapters that could assist with the State of the Watershed Report and not the entire document.

Action: Sandi to revise the letter according to Denis Magowan's advice and send to Tom G. for approval.

Item 9. Business cards for all and letter head

Sandi handed out business cards to Board Members. More business cards can be printed upon request. Letter head was reviewed.

Item 10. Announcements/ important dates/ new business

Item 10. Next Meeting Date

September 7, 2006 at 1:00 pm in Milk River.

Item 11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

September 7, 2006 – 1:00 PM

Town of Milk River

Present: Tom Gilchrist, John Ross, Andrea Angus, John Byrne, Ken Miller, Ross Ford, Louella Cronkhite, Ken Brown, Darlene Sakires, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Don Welsh, Warren Cunningham, Rob Oswald, Ryan Davison, Edith Olson, Les Scory, George Henline, Rosemary Jones, Don Watson

Agenda:

Item 1. Welcome

Tom Gilchrist welcomed everyone to the meeting and chaired the meeting.

Item 2. Accept Minutes from July 6, 2006

John R. moved to accept the July 6, 2006 Minutes, Ken B. second the motion and it was carried.

Item 3. Team Chair Updates and Discussion

a. Water Supply and Management Team Update

Tom G. provided an update to the Team activities. Tom and Ken spent time with Laurant Conard and continued discussion on how storage might benefit the whole watershed and what options might be most applicable.

The Minister is interested in setting up a Committee of two or three to see how we can look at managing the Milk River as one watershed. Leonard Mitzel is ready to begin that process.

Tom provided information from the Senate Field Hearing in Havre on Sept. 1, 2006. Two Bills were presented at the meeting, including \$5 million for environmental and feasibility studies and development of emergency response plan for a catastrophic failure of works and \$2 million for irrigation investigations for the Fort Belknap and Blackfeet Reservations. More information was provided with the Agenda handouts.

b. Research and Monitoring Team Update/ Rural and Urban Project Team Update

A combined meeting of the Teams was held on August 24, 2006. The Teams discussed roles, the water quality monitoring program, erosion monitoring project and the Clean Up Day. The Teams are moving along really well. Water quality monitoring was initiated on June 28 and there have been 5 or 6 samples collected already. The LCC may be involved with erosion monitoring along the Milk with assistance from

the MRWCC. We discussed the options of a synoptic water quality survey or groundwater monitoring project to help with the State of the Watershed Report. Another meeting is planned for September 27, 2006.

c. Community Awareness and Involvement Team Update

John Byrne presented on behalf of the Team. There are a few concerns with the Team. Another meeting is needed. Website needs to be addressed.

Item 4. Discuss protocol for missed meetings and provision of alternate

Only 50% of Board members were present. The Board discussed meeting schedules. It seems like the reason most meetings cannot be attended is other meeting conflicts. The Board thought that by eliminating July, August and December Board meetings, attendance may improve. Having a fixed day allows people to plan around the Board meetings, but the MRWCC Board meetings would have to be a priority for the fixed day to work. It was noted that in the MRWCC Bylaws two missed meetings in a row is cause for concern and may result in a loss of Board position.

MOTION: Ken B. moved that meetings continue to be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm, alternating between Lethbridge and Milk River. In addition, July, August and December Board meetings will not be scheduled, unless required. John R. second the motion, and all agreed.

Item 5. Request for Feasibility Study

Sandi forwarded the letter requesting the release of certain chapters of the Feasibility Study on August 23, 2006 to Jay Litke and Denis Magowan. To date, no response has been received.

Item 6. State of the Watershed Report – Terms of Reference

Sandi provided a copy of the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) Table of Contents to Board Members. Sandi started a very draft Table of Contents for the Milk River.

A reminder that the Milk River Board Executive, plus the Team Chairs will form the group to draft the Table of Contents.

MOTION: Ross F. moved that the activity begin on the State of the Watershed Report. Ken B. second, all agreed.

Action: The SOW Group will meet in Lethbridge AENV office Rm 2:96 on September 27 at 1:00 pm. If anyone has ideas for the content, please forward before September 27, 2006.

Item 7. Provincial Activity Report

WPAC Summit and MRWCC Board Participation

We discussed the draft agenda for the WPAC Summit. The agenda includes discussions on Coal-Bed Methane, Synergy Groups and Watershed Groups, the Framework for Watershed Management Planning, and Land Use Planning.

Questions arose: How does the Municipal planning process fit into this?

Action: Tentatively, Tom G., John R., Ken B., Darlene S., Louella C. and Sandi will attend the Summit. Sandi will find out if the Summits will be held twice per year.

Item 8. Finalize and sign the 2006-07 Action Plan and Budget and Sandi's Contract

The Action Plan and grant application are ready to submit. Tom G. and witness to sign the copies.

MOTION: Ken B. moved to authorize a signature for the grant application, Ross F. second, all agreed.

MOTION: Louella C. moved to authorize a signature for the Addendum providing for revisions to the 2005/06 grant application, Darlene S. second, all agreed.

MOTION: John B. moved to authorize a signature for Sandi's contract, John R. second, all agreed.

Action: Louella C. will submit our application after review and signing by Ian Dyson.

Item 9. East Slope Sculpin Update

Ken M. provided an overview of the work completed by the Milk River Fish Species Recovery Team. Although this Team was struck to study the Western Silvery Minnow, the Team also discussed the East Slope Sculpin. Facts about the fish changed from the first draft of the report to the final draft that caused local Committee members some concern. A meeting will be held in October to discuss the changes.

Item 10. Wild Rose Country Interview with the MRWCC and Bill Berzins

Bill Berzins (BRBC and the Alberta Water Council) has requested that the MRWCC participate in an interview on water resources in the watershed. The Board discussed this and would like more information on how the interview will proceed. The Board is cautious due to the sensitive negotiations right now.

Action: Tom G. will phone Bill B. and discuss the interview. Based on the phone conversation, the interview may be held on Thursday September 14, 2006. Sandi will confirm the time of the interview.

Item 11. Meeting dates (morning, afternoon or evening – weekday, weekend)

We discussed the timing of meetings to see whether they should be changed from the last Thursday of every month. The Board felt that this was still a suitable time, although the location should be rotated from Lethbridge to Milk River to accommodate traveling distances.

MOTION: See Item 4.

Item 12. The Meander/MRWCC Activity Sheet (Invoice)

The Summer Issue of The Meander and the MRWCC Activity sheet that is part of the MRWCC Watershed Booklet have been printed and are ready to distribute.

MOTION: Darlene S. moved that the Invoice for printing The Meander be paid, Ken M. second and all agreed.

Item 13. Ken Brown's Trip to Newfoundland

Ken B. provided an overview of his trip to Newfoundland for the 2006 Stewardship Conference, titled: Valuing Nature – Stewardship and Conservation in Canada. He mentioned that the 2009 Conference will be held in Alberta and the WPACs will likely be asked to participate in planning. Ken recommends our involvement in the conference planning.

Ken handed out our Milk River Watershed Booklet and received good feedback.

Item 14. Announcements/Important Dates/New Business

- a. Oldman Watershed Council's Stakeholder Workshop – September 14, 2006
- b. Milk River Clean Up Day - September 30, 2006
- c. Southern Watersheds Workshop - October 4, 2006 (Red Deer)
- d. WPAC Summit - October 4, 5 and 2006 (Red Deer)

Louella C. provided an overview and handout of AENV programs that pertain to the Milk River, including Southern Alberta Landscapes, Watershed 101, the draft Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines, Water for Life Factsheet, Getting Involved Website, the Ecological Goods and Services Project and the Grassland Vegetative Inventory (GVI).

Item 15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be October 26, 2006 in AENV Lethbridge Office Rm 2:96 at 1:30 pm.

Item 16. Adjourn

We adjourned at 3:45 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

October 26, 2006 – 1:30 PM

Alberta Environment Office, Lethbridge
2nd Floor, 200 5th Av. S, Rm. 2:96

Present: Tom Gilchrist, John Ross, Andrea Hohne, Don Welsh, Warren Cunningham, Ken Miller, Ken Brown, Darlene Sakires, Rosemary Jones, Don Watson, Sandi Riemersma

Guest: Carrie Elliot, Simon Fraser University

Absent: John Byrne, Rob Oswald, Ryan Davison, Edith Olson, Ross Ford, Louella Cronkhite, Les Scory, George Henline

Agenda:

Item 1. Welcome

Tom Gilchrist welcomed everyone to the meeting and chaired the meeting.

Item 2. Accept Minutes from September 7, 2006

Andrea Hohne had two changes to make to the Minutes: 1. A reminder that Andrea's last name has been changed to Hohne and the Minutes should reflect that, and 2. In Item 14. Andrea had discussed that there are Health Regulations associated with hosting special public events and that food safety is always a concern. Andrea would provide the rules to the Board at our next meeting.

With these changes,

John R. moved to accept the September 7, 2006 Minutes, Ken B. second the motion and it was carried.

Item 3. Guest: Carrie Elliot, Master's Student – Simon Fraser University, Public Policy Program

Carrie is a Master's student required to do a mini-thesis in 6 months. She has chosen to review the options recommended to the IJC by the Task Force regarding water banking, joint operations and infrastructure improvements. She has reviewed the Red River Management and the Board that helps manage cross-border water sharing as appointed by the IJC.

As part of her project, Carrie has developed a survey that looks at how much awareness is there about the issues, the level of support for the three options etc. She will also be interviewing key stakeholders.

After Carrie left the Board meeting, it was proposed that the MRWCC should support Carrie's effort and provide a little funding for her project that is currently being self-supported.

MOTION: Ken Miller moved to provide Carrie with \$500.00 in support of her research. Don Watson second the motion and it was carried.

Action: Sandi will prepare a letter to Carrie to inform her of the Board's support. The Board should think about ways to assist Carrie in her research.

Item 4. Team Chair Updates and Discussion

a. Water Supply and Management Team Update

Tom G. provided an update to the Team activities. Tom and Sandi participated in an interview on the CBC Wildrose Forum. One of the last question's posed to Tom was, "What would be the best and worst scenario arising from the IJC?" The best would be status quo and the worst would be to re-open apportionment.

The IJC met on October 16, 17 and 18 to receive the final report – no timeframe has been provided for a decision. The IJC recognizes that there are problems with on of the US Task Force members.

Tom attended the Rosenberg Forum in Banff and had a chance to meet with some of the politicians. Tchurnak mentioned that the IJC is supposed to smooth feathers and not ruffle them.

Laurent Conard, AENV, is still working on modeling scenarios.

b. Research and Monitoring Team Update/ Rural and Urban Project Team Update

A combined meeting of the Teams was held on September 27, 2006. An update on the water quality monitoring and the clean-up day was provided at the meeting. Micheal Gerrand and Cheryl Bradley were invited guests at the last meeting. They each provided an overview of activity that has been done regarding riparian areas, and channel migration and erosion. Cheryl provided her Master's Thesis and other material for Sandi to photocopy.

c. Community Awareness and Involvement Team Update

Andrea Hohne presented an update on the Team's activity. The Team held a meeting on October 23, 2006 and discussed the website and a number of other potential projects (i.e. a DVD with weblinks, local events – World Water Day, PD Days, tours, newsletters and a photo contest). The Team also discussed the AGM and beginning to look for Sponsors and developing a template for organizing the event.

Ken Miller mentioned that he presented to the High School and provided the students with a copy of the MRWCC Brochure.

Warren Cunningham took the brochures to the Fish and Game Association Meeting. Warren also asked about the history of the Spite Ditch.

Ken Brown mentioned that Myron Verter had a collection of information on the Spite Ditch.

Question: Would it be possible to mark the Spite Ditch with a historic plaque? MRWCC may be able to do this.

Tom Gilchrist thought it might be a good idea to put a column in local newspapers and newsletters to provide public with more information.

Actions: Don Welsh has access to 10 or 15 years of water depth measurements in the Milk River watershed – he will provide information to Sandi.

Andrea Hohne to look into developing a column, either 2x2 or 2x3 in local newspaper for communication

with the public.

Ken Brown to look into accessing information on the Spite Ditch from Verter's.

Sandi to send information to the Board on the Spite Ditch.

Item 5. State of the Watershed Report – Update

a. Feasibility Study Request Update

Denis Magowan has provided Sandi with relevant Chapters of the Feasibility Study.

b. Table of Contents

Tom discussed that a draft Table of Contents has been generated and that the SOW Team is currently considering options for how to get the SOW managed and written, two options are to contract the project out completely, the second is to have Sandi manage the contract and sub-contract writers for different sections or request various agencies participation in the writing.

Don Watson suggested that the SOW may be more credible if it is contracted out.

c. Public Meeting – Date and Agenda

We would like to have a State of the Watershed Evening. We need to develop a two page document for the meeting describing the process. We will hold off on developing a date until we see that funding is in place on November 2, 2006.

Action: Sandi will summarize the meeting results from November 2, 2006 and email to the Board. A conference call will be set up to discuss the next steps for the SOW.

Item 6. WPAC Summit and Southern Watersheds Meeting Update

Darlene Sakires summarized the WPAC Summit and Southern Watersheds Meeting. Darlene, Tom, Ken Brown, Sandi and Louella represented the MRWCC. Our issues regarding funding were brought forward. In general, WPACs would like to share information among the different Councils and “steal ideas with permission” so not to re-invent material. The various groups provided an update on where they are at and it was noted that different WPACs have different issues. It was clear that all stakeholders need to be included in the process. The Framework for Watershed Management was discussed to put planning into place. Tom G. chaired the Land Use Framework and Integrated Land Management session. There were heated discussions on Coal Bed Methane (CBM). A new regulation requires industry to test water wells within a 600 m radius of new developments.

Item 6. Board of Directors Membership and Replacement of Board Members Mid-Term

Tom G. led this discussion. He summarized the options available for replacing Board Members Mid-Term:

1. The constitution does not provide for interim elections or a process of appointment, although we put a federal rep from PFRA in place after the annual meeting.
2. The two positions to be filled are people that are to represent a segment of the basin community, in the

case of Rob, he and George are the reps from the municipal sector and Rose and Louella are from the Prov Govt sector. Their names came forward from a meeting of each sector and were placed on the list by the nominating committee.

3. One option is to repeat that process for each sector and appoint their choice.
4. A second option is to accept and appoint the replacements and then have those positions open for nomination at the next annual meeting as part of the process to stagger the terms of the directors as per the constitution.
5. We must bring in an amendment for the annual meeting to vote on to provide the needed direction.

The Board discussed the potential of running the MRWCC with only a half of Board in place and it was agreed that this would not work. We need a process to bring in interim Board Members and have the process formally ratified at the AGM.

MOTION: Ken Brown motioned to send a letter to all members within the Director category under review to request approval for the new appointment. Darlene second the motion and it was carried.

Action: Rosemary Jones and Robert Oswald will contact their peer group to gain approval to reappoint their Board seat to another in their organization.

Item 7. Announcements/ important dates/ new business.

Andrea Hohne provided Board Members with guidelines required for special events to protect public health.

Item 8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be November 23, 2006 in the Milk River Town Office from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Item 9. Adjourn

We adjourned at 4:00 pm.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

November 23, 2006 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Council Chambers

Present: Ken Miller, John Ross, Andrea Hohne, John Byrne, Don Welsh, Warren Cunningham, Ken Brown, Rosemary Jones, Don Watson, George Henline, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Tom Gilchrist, Darlene Sakires, Ryan Davison, Edith Olson, Ross Ford, Louella Cronkhite, Les Scory

Agenda:

Item 1. Welcome

Ken Miller chaired this meeting and welcomed everyone.

Item 2. Accept Minutes from October 26, 2006

John Ross moved to accept the Minutes from October 26, 2006. Ken Brown second and it was carried.

Item 3. Update on Finances

Sandi provided an update on the state of our finances. AENV has approved our budget at \$ 120 000.00 for 2006-07. We hope to receive this before Christmas.

Item 4. Team Chair Updates and Discussion

a. Water Supply and Management Team Update

Ken M. provided an update. Laurent Conard has completed the modeling. We can expect an update in the near future. A joint committee for cross-the-border water management, planning and collaboration will be put together but this is several months away (3 to 6 months).

b. Research and Monitoring Team Update/ Rural and Urban Project Team Update

Water Quality monitoring is finished for the year. We are compiling the data in a summary report. Sandi photocopied all of the information related to erosion and is drafting a proposal to submit to PFRA for funding. A draft should be ready soon. There is a little overlap with the initiation of the State of the Watershed Report. A Team meeting will be held in January.

c. Community Awareness and Involvement Team Update

The Team will be meeting on November 28, 2006 from 9 am to 12 pm to discuss the website development with Vic Brown. The Communications Team is moving along and will be choosing a date for

the AGM in the next few weeks.

Item 5. State of the Watershed Report – Update

a. State of the Watershed Technical Forum - December 5

The SOW Team has organized a technical workshop on December 5th to bring together Technical experts to discuss the production of the State of the Watershed Report.

b. Table of Contents

The Board reviewed the Table of Contents and the reaches as delineated by the SOW Team. We discussed the OWC and how they delineated sub-basins. A more thorough review should be done on December 5th to make sure we have the appropriate delineation.

Item 6. Board of Directors Membership and Replacement of Board Members Mid-Term – Review Bylaw Amendment and update on current status.

The Board discussed whether Directors appointed mid-term should or should not have voting rights. It was decided that new Directors should be “given the benefit of doubt” and allowed to have full voting rights and privileges. A notice of change of Director should be given 60 days in advance to the membership.

MOTION: Don Watson moved that a letter signed by each category member will be submitted to the Board prior to the appointment of a replacement Director mid-term. Upon receipt of the letter recommendation, the MRWCC Board will accept the appointed Director with full rights and privileges, without condition. Don Welsh 2nd the Motion and all agreed.

**Do we need a timeframe for the receipt of the letter (e.g. two months prior to the appointment of a replacement Director)?

Action: Directors will review the wording of this motion and suggest any changes. The motion will be brought to the Membership at the next AGM. .

Item 7. Announcements/ important dates/ new business.

- a. Water and Climate Forum (Dec. 1)
- b. Facilitation Training (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 8)
- c. Watershed Forum – Cochrane AB (Dec. 12 and 13)

Action: A suggestion was made to send Christmas greetings to influential people and membership of the MRWCC. Sandi will put something together for this.

Item 8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be January 25, 2006 in Lethbridge from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Item 9. Adjourn

We adjourned at 4:00 pm. Sandi gave a quick slide presentation of her trip to El Salvador! :o)