



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

February 23, 2012 – 1:30 PM

Administration Building, 4th Floor, 909 – 3rd Ave N, Lethbridge

Present: Ken Brown, Terrence Lazarus, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, Greg Ottway, Mike Gervais, Will Lindeman, Warren Cunningham, Joan Hughson, Don Welsh, Darlene Sakires, Sandi Riemersma, Tim Romanow, and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Randy Taylor, William Chamber, Ken Miller, Lorraine Nicol, and John Ross

1. Welcome and introductions

- Will Lindeman brought the meeting to order at 1:32pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes from last meeting

- Tim Romanow reviewed the January 26th, 2012 Board Meeting minutes
- Will Lindeman looked into the possibility of signing up for telephone banking for ease of transaction. He felt that it was not advisable to let one individual carry out the signing authority and that he would rather see continuation of the status-quo.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Gervais seconded. **Carried.**

3. Financial Statement Update

- Will Lindeman presented the financial statement

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

Sandi was unable to stay for the entire meeting so she presented on the water quality summary report and MRWA AGM report

a) Review of draft water quality summary report

- Sandi presented the Water Quality Monitoring summary update for 2006 to 2011 by looking at variations in Precipitation, Fecal Coliform, Total Phosphorous, Total Nitrogen, and Total Suspended Solids of the monitored main stems and tributaries
- The report will be ready end of March
- Tim will be presenting the report to the Municipalities to keep them up to speed
- Tim Thanked Sandi for all her contributions and the help she has provided to ensure smooth transition and continuity with all the MRWCC projects.

b) 2012 AGM Update

- Sandi R and Ken Miller attended the 2012 MRWA AGM in Chinook, Montana
- They presented on the possibility of having a joint SOW report in 2013
- The MRWA seemed very interested and was impressed with the 2008 MRWCC SOW Report
- They are tasked with determining geographical scope of what boundary to use, (Fresno?).
- Still working out the budget contribution potential.
- They would like to see Saskatchewan Watershed Authority on board as contributors, and we are working on gaining those contacts.

4. 2012 WPAC Project Funding Expression of Interest Response

- Monique responded on the initial review of the three projects that were submitted:
 - Integrated Watershed Management Plan for \$60,000
 - This project was favourably reviewed and will be recommended for approval.

- A full proposal will be required later.
 - 2013 State of the Watershed Report for \$120,000
 - A budget break down of the total amount requested will be required to get an idea of what will be paid for before funding agreement of the project
 - Include budget for other jurisdictions involved to understand the MRWCC's share of the budget
 - Requirements for the SOW report will be readily available compared to IWMP so it might be easier to start with the SOW report submission
 - Online SOW reporting was discussed and how to collectively work toward a common approach
 - Will also need to know the required in-kind support for this project
 - It was also noted that the 5 years SOW update is not considered an expectation
 - Tim advised that Montana's contribution could be mainly technical support, not a major contributor and that there is some degree of uncertainty with the response
 - There were discussions on the possibility of having one portal site with all the eleven WPACs' SOW reports for public easy access
 - A question on whether there is need to approach the industry to sponsor part of the SOW report was raised
 - Riparian Health Data Investigation Project
 - This is considered a monitoring project and will not be recommended for contract funding.
 - The Expression of Interest has been forwarded to the Land Monitoring branch to indicate the desire for riparian monitoring for the Milk Basin

➤ The next review meeting by regional managers will take place in early March

5. WPAC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- A document to discuss how WPACs could work together on program delivery
- Looking to have Chairmen and Executive Directors of WPACs sign the document
- Terrence advised that he and other AEW staff members had a chance to review the document and had comments that would need to be sent to the WPACs. However, Terrence did offer the following personal observations:
 - Would like to see acknowledgement of other GOA who contribute to the WPACs in the preamble
 - AEW is a major contributor of the WPACs and yet was not properly acknowledged in the preamble
 - A question of the "statement of purpose" in the MOU and how binding it could be
 - Felt that the document read like it was intended to solve a problem
- Upon review of the MOU, the board decided to further review the MOU and discussions should be brought back to the table at the next Board meeting

6. Milk River Watershed Water Level Data Acquisition Project update

- A letter of project intent was sent to: Counties of Warner, Cardston and Forty Mile; Village of Foremost and the 3 Water co-ops in the Milk River Aquifer
- So far Warner West Co-op have submitted their electronic records
- Village of Foremost are sending their hard copy records in the mail
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has been approached
- Conservation Districts in Montana will be approached
- The project is due for completion end of March
- A question on whether the Hutterites colonies in the watershed and Lucky Strike should be contacted was raised

7. St Mary and Milk River Basin Study Report – Acknowledgement letter

- An acknowledgement letter was sent to the Bureau of Reclamation in Montana

8. MRWA AGM report

- As discussed

9. Grassland Vegetation Inventory Workshop report

- There was a good representation for MRWCC
- It was a great workshop to demonstrate how GVI can be used by different stake holders
- Mapping is done for the Milk basin
- The tool is available for everyone who needs to use it
- It would be great to have this workshop presented at the municipality level since they already have GIS programs in place

10. 2012 AGM Update

- Ad
 - Ads were sent for advertisement to:
 - Milk River Cable Network will run twice a week in March
 - Prairie Post – March 16th and 23rd, 2012
 - On the Electronic Bill Board in Milk River
 - In the winter newsletter and
 - Sent to all members
- Notice of Bylaw amendment
 - Was read and Board was asked to comment
- MC
 - It was decided that the Chairman should be the MC
- Donations for silent auction
 - Will start soliciting for donations next week
 - There is a list of contacts of donors, Mary will circulate the list to the board so that the board can help contact the companies or people they know
 - Board members wanting to donate items to contact Mary
- Minister of AEW letter of invitation
 - A letter was sent to the Minister so far there has been no response
- Other invitation letters
 - Letters of invitation have also been sent to the two MLAs and Counties of Warner, Cardston, Forty Mile and Cypress
 - It was also noted that a letter should be sent to the MP
- Call for nominations
 - List of seats that are eligible for nominations this year were discussed
 - A nominations review committee consists of Darcy Wills and Tim Romanow
 - Paulette Fox was approached to run for the First Nations seat and she had agreed. Mary sent her the information. We will need to follow-up
- Volunteers to help setup
 - Will need volunteers to set up on the morning of April 4 starting 8 am. Those who are available to help out with setup to contact Mary
 - Mary will send an email to remind everyone and with information on the setup
 - There are round tables available for setup this year

Action: Mary to send a letter of invitation to the MLA

Action: Mary to circulate the list of donors to Board Members so that the board can help contact the companies or people they know

Action: Mary to send an email to remind everyone of the AGM setup volunteers and include information on the setup

11. Team Updates

- Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)**
 - 2012 Poster Contest

- 44 posters were received from Milk River Elementary School
- The posters are displayed in the Town Hall
- Judging will be conducted February 28th, 2012
- Winners will be awarded at the AGM
 - ii. 2012 Agrium's Caring for our watersheds
 - Will have a display at the Teachers convention with OWC Feb 23 and 24, 2012
 - Meeting with Erle Rivers school principal February 28, 2012 to discuss the program
 - iii. MRWCC Display
 - Ed Sloboda purchased the display and it can be viewed at the MRWCC office
 - iv. 2012 Canoe Tour
 - It was decided that June would be better but the CAIT team should work with Ken Brown to see the best time for the tour as it will depend on the time when water will be opened and the ice reach
 - It was decided that the tour should be held on the west side starting from west of Delbonita to High-Way 62 and if possible to Twin River
 - v. AGM fundraising ideas
 - Silent auction and possibly 50/50
 - 50/50 requires a license. Will need to check with the Ag Society to see if we can use their license
 - vi. Website update
 - All Board Meeting Minutes and Dates can be accessed on the website and all members can access
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)**
 - i. Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update
 - John Ross was able to speak with the Minister of Alberta Ag on the funding of this project and he was very interested in helping out
 - A meeting with the province will be scheduled some time in March. Will, Greg and Mike would like to attend this meeting
 - ii. Review of draft water quality summary report
 - As discussed
- c. Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)**
 - i. SRD submissions now complete
 - A meeting was held this morning
 - Sandi presented the Water Quality Monitoring summary update for 2006 to 2011 by looking at variations in Precipitation, Fecal Coliform, Total Phosphorous, Total Nitrogen, and Total Suspended Solids of the monitored main stems and tributaries
 - The report will be ready end of March
 - ii. Cows and Fish riparian inventory update
 - Cows and Fish sent a letter addressing their willingness to provide riparian health results for the Milk River basin including an estimated cost for completion of 4 riparian health data sets this info will be provided over the next two weeks in consideration of GOA deliverables.
 - iii. Access management recommendations for the draft IWMP
 - 1. Subcommittee members to review requested from the BOD
 - Trespassing issues on the river accesses were discussed
 - There is need to bring awareness to the community of the authorized access points to the river
 - A subcommittee should be put in place to create a draft plan
 - Darcy, Greg, and Tim will be part of the committee
 - Need to be creative with recommendations

- Liability issues should be properly addressed to protect land owners from legal responsibility
- Meeting to be held over the next two weeks to review the draft recommendations for inclusion in the draft IWMP

d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)

- There was nothing to report

12. Upcoming events

- March 23, 2012 - Milk River Watershed Invasive Weed Collaboration Meeting
- April 4, 2012 – MRWCC AGM, Milk River Civic Center

13. Other items

14. Next Meeting Date

- March 22, 2012 – Milk River Town Hall , 1:30pm

15. Meeting Adjournment

- Terrence Lazarus moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____