

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

MINUTES

Town of Milk River - January 13, 2005 - 9 am

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Rob Oswald, Roy Hummel, Rosemary Jones, Ken Graumans, Bill Entzminger, George Henline, John Ross, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Emma Hulit, Kerv Thiessen, Ross Ford, Cheryl Dash, Roger Houghton, Ken Brown, Ken Miller

Guests: Tim Romanow, AESA Cardston County, Keston Prince, AESA County of Warner

Agenda Item 1. Welcome

Tom G. welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Review Minutes from December 13, 2005

Minutes accepted as read. George H. (1) and John R. (2).

Agenda Item 3. Reply from Montana and IJC Update

Tom G. provided an update on Montana's involvement in discussions and an IJC Update. The Governor thought that a meeting was a good idea but not until the IJC has completed its work.

Dave McGee and the other Task Force members have not finished the final report to the IJC that summarizes their advice. The Task Force cannot agree on the facts. Moy wrote a 20 page report to Dan Jewell without sharing it with other members of the Task Force.

In February, Montana may withdraw the Letter of Intent that allows Canadian uses of US water to be balanced at the end of the diversion season. This may mean a return to a two week accounting period. Should this occur, water users in Alberta may run short in July and August.

Alberta may look at using water that can be transferred from St. Mary reservoir to the Milk River via Verdigris Coulee to meet demands greater than that supplied by Alberta's share of the natural flow. This will allow water users to meet volume demands but not water quality requirements.

<p>Action: Tom G. and Ken M. to try and attend an already organized meeting in Edmonton with the Ministers.</p>
--

Agenda Item 4. Meeting dates for the next 3 months

In effort to help people plan their schedules, we have identified meeting dates for the next three months. All meetings will be held at the Town of Milk River office. February 10, March 10 and the AGM March 31.

Agenda Item 5. WPAC Summit

Action: Ross Ford, Rosemary Jones and Sandi Riemersma will attend the WPAC Summit on behalf of the MRWCC.

Agenda Item 6. Time and In-Kind Contributions for April 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Action: Members of the Steering Committee will provide Sandi with their In-kind contributions by January 20, 2006.

Agenda Item 7. Nonprofit Society Status Report

Our application for nonprofit Society status was returned by Corporate Registries as deficient since the Bylaws were not signed and there was a word missing in the watershed name – oops... The application was resigned and the same individuals signed the Bylaws. Our application fee stays the same and we should see our Nonprofit status very soon!

Action: Sandi will resubmit the application.

Agenda Item 8. Action Plan for 2005-06

Annual General Meeting

- i. Date and Time – March 31, 2006 at 11:30
- ii. Location – Civic Centre, Milk River
- iii. Itinerary
 1. Lunch provided by local caterers
 2. Keynote speaker(s) – Alberta Water Council
 3. Overview of the Milk River Watershed
 - i. State of the Watershed – Dave McGee, landowners, activities
 4. Overview of the Council
 - i. Management Committee overview
 - ii. Goals and objectives
 - iii. Plan that has been developed
 - iv. How people can participate – individual membership
 5. Elections to Board
 - i. Secret ballot
 - ii. Automated ballot counter
 - iii. Nonprofit Organizations to include for notice of nominations:
 - i. Milk River Fish and Game Association
 - ii. AWA
 - iii. SAGE
 - iv. ACA
 - v. Cows and Fish

- vi. CWS
- vii. Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Province, Municipalities, Towns, Health appointed positions
- Nominations to be submitted by March 1, 2006
- Advertisement – Town TV (Channel 10), Forty Mile Commentator, Prairie Post, Lethbridge Herald, Town Newsletters

Water Quality Monitoring Program

Sandi presented a proposal for a Water Quality Monitoring Program in the Milk River Watershed.

We need to include turbidity, suspended solids (surface and subsurface) and salt content in the list of parameters to study.

Tim Romanow, AESA Cardston County and Keston Prince, AESA County of Warner are able to provide assistance with collection of samples. Warren Burgevitz, AESA County of Forty Mile and Cypress County has not replied. Tim and Keston would like to see the landowners involved in the program in some capacity to keep it relevant.

AAFRD is able to provide Technical support for setting up monitoring locations and maybe analysis depending on the contributions of other partners.

AENV is able to provide Technical support, water sampling training, and some funding for WQ analysis.

Action: Sandi will work with partners to complete the Water Quality Monitoring Program proposal and acquire necessary support to carry out the program.

Action: Sandi and John R. will discuss the Program more and will identify existing equipment (e.g. stilling wells) located on the tributaries.

Stockman's Range School – funding of range cages – follow-up study

The Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School will be held in summer June 2006 in partnership with the County of Warner, Cardston County and County of Forty Mile. Stockmen are invited to attend a 1, 2 or 3 day session. Topics for discussion include range management, plant ID, stocking rates, riparian management, weed control, and beef grading among others.

Motion: The Steering Committee of the MRWCC agrees to support the Milk River Stockman's Range School by making a contribution of \$ 2 000.00 for Range Cages, contingent upon receipt of funds from AENV. Rosemary J. (1), John R. (2)

Action: The Team Leaders (Rob. O, Bill E. and John R.) and Sandi will meet with Tim, Keston, Warren and others to discuss the project in more detail on January 25, 2006 in the County of Warner office.

Stylizing logo

Motion to work with Alex Wong to stylize logo pending receipt of funds from AENV. Rob O. (1), Rosemary J. (2)

Action: Sandi will initiate the work to be done on the logo with Alex when funding is in place.

Motion to purchase a 1 GB i-Pod for logo contest. Rob O. (1), John R. (2)

Milk River Watershed Booklet

Sandi provided an update on the status of the Milk River Watershed Booklet.

Budget (see Amended Attachment 1)

- Amended cost for hall rental from \$200.00 to \$ 250.00. Bill E. (1), George H. (2)
- Newsletter amount accepted. John R. (1), Rosemary J. (2)

Accounts set up with the Town of Milk River

Action: Sandi will work with Travis Peter, Town of Milk River, to set up accounts for the MRWCC.

Agenda Item 9: Action Plan for 2006-07 (Attachment 2)

The Action Plan for 2006-07 was reviewed briefly. Additions were made to the Water Supply and Management Team and amendments made to other Teams. Overall, it is likely that all Teams will work closely together to implement the Action Plan and specific tasks may be assigned to individual Teams to help move a project forward.

Once membership is formed, the Teams will further develop the Action Plan for 2006-07 and beyond.

Action: Sandi will begin to estimate a budget for the 2006-07 Action Plan.

Project Coordinator

Action: Sandi will discuss role of the position of Project Coordinator with AENV.

Next Meeting Date

February 10, 2006 at 10:00 am

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Amended Attachment 1

Amended 2005/2006 Budget – To spend by March 2006

	MRWCC					
	Cash	InKind				
Board						
Annual General Meeting						
Hall Rental	250.00					
Food and Beverages	1500.00					
Speaker(s)	500.00					
Advertisement	800.00					
Water Quality Monitoring Equipment Requirements						
Stilling Wells	5800.00					
Float Pots	1000.00					
Data Loggers	5000.00					
Stockman's Range Course (Range cages)	2000.00					
Milk River Booklet	8667.00					
Milk River Booklet Printing	2000.00					
Winter/Spring Newsletter	2000.00					
Logo - stylize	200.00					
Logo – contest	250.00					
	29 917.00					

Amended Attachment 2

Table 1: Summary of key goals and specific objectives.

Strategic Goals		Specific Objectives	Outcomes
1.	<p>Water Supply and Management</p> <p>To foster the sustainable use and integrated management of land and water resources.</p>	<p>To investigate and ensure a secure water supply for future generations.</p> <p>To investigate water supply options including storage and pipelines.</p> <p>To use our apportioned share of Milk River water to generate maximum economic benefit.</p> <p>To partner with Alberta Research Council, AENV and others to determine actual water use in the Milk River watershed.</p> <p>To increase understanding of water use in the watershed to support good management decisions.</p>	<p>Greater understanding of water use in the Milk River watershed.</p> <p>An improved economy in the Milk River watershed due to a secure supply of water.</p> <p>Information on water use in the Milk River watershed is available to the public.</p> <p>Water quality and quantity information is used to achieve sustainable use and integrated management of water resources.</p>
2.	<p>Quality Water</p> <p>To monitor the quality of water in the Milk River and its tributaries, and promote quality domestic water supplies.</p>	<p>To collect baseline water quality and water quantity information that will support local understanding of the current state of water quality in the basin.</p> <p>To understand the impact of the water diversion from the St. Mary River on the quality of Milk River water.</p> <p>To understand the quality of water in the tributaries of the Milk River.</p> <p>To understand geological formations relating to sandstone seeps and their water quality.</p>	<p>Greater understanding of water quality and quantity in the Milk River watershed.</p> <p>Baseline water quality information is available to the public.</p> <p>Water quality and quantity information is used to achieve sustainable use and integrated management of water resources.</p>

3.	Conservation of Wildlife & Plant Species Diversity To increase knowledge and awareness of conservation initiatives in the watershed and facilitate partnerships that will conserve wildlife and plant species diversity.	To understand the interaction of land use, water quantity and quality on the three <i>threatened</i> fish species: the Stone cat, St. Mary Sculpin and the Western Silvery Minnow.	Preservation of aquatic health to support <i>threatened</i> fish species. Greater awareness of aquatic habitat requirements. Increased participation in conservation initiatives.
4.	Riparian Protection To support and initiate programs that protect, maintain and improve riparian areas.	To understand the function and value of riparian areas in the Milk River watershed. To understand the impacts of current and future water and land management decisions on riparian function.	Healthy, functioning riparian areas.
5.	Informed Community (Awareness and Education) To increase community awareness of the watershed.	To develop an active membership in the Milk River Watershed Council Canada.	A community that is informed and actively involved in the Milk River Watershed Council Canada and its initiatives.
6.	International Issues To maintain open and accurate dialogue between the Milk River Watershed Council Canada and the U.S. Milk River International Alliance.		
7.	Economic Development To pursue issues that will encourage economic development in the watershed.		

Table 2. Summary of key actions to be undertaken by the Milk River Watershed Council Canada.

Team	Link to Goals	Actions			Implementation
		2005	2006	2007	
Board of Directors	5	<p>Host Annual Stakeholder Meeting.</p> <p>Host Annual Water Workshop to bring current water related information to the Milk River community.</p>	<p>Host Annual Stakeholder Meeting.</p> <p>Host an Annual Water Workshop to bring current water related information to the Milk River community.</p> <p>Hire Project Coordinator</p>	<p>Host Annual Stakeholder Meeting.</p> <p>Host an Annual Water Workshop to bring current water related information to the Milk River community.</p>	
Water Supply and Management Team	1, 6, 7	<p>Maintain and improve International relationships with regard to water resources.</p> <p>Facilitate mutual understanding of our current water use in Montana and Alberta.</p>	<p>Maintain and improve International relationships with regard to water resources.</p> <p>Facilitate mutual understanding of our current water use in Montana and Alberta.</p> <p>Continue to investigate water supply options.</p> <p>Participate in hydrological investigations of the Milk River.</p>	<p>Maintain and improve International relationships with regard to water resources.</p> <p>Facilitate mutual understanding of our current water use in Montana and Alberta.</p> <p>Continue to investigate water supply options.</p>	<p>Monthly meeting update and action.</p> <p>Meetings and consultation with the Milk River International Watershed Alliance.</p> <p>Active involvement in the hydrological investigation of the Milk River.</p>

Team	Link to Goals	Actions			Implementation
		2005	2006	2007	
Monitoring and Research Team	1 , 2	Develop a Community Water Quality Monitoring Program to acquire baseline water quality and water quantity information that will support local understanding of the current state of water quality in the main stem and main tributaries of the Milk River.	<p>Initiate Water Quality Monitoring Program</p> <p>Summarize Water Quality Information in useable format, quarterly, to coincide with Newsletter.</p> <p>Develop a watershed resource map.</p> <p>Literature review in preparation for the State of the Watershed Report.</p>	<p>Evaluate success of monitoring program. Refine protocol as necessary.</p> <p>Prepare the State of the Watershed Report.</p>	<p>Support the remote monitoring project to better understand water use and water quantity concerns.</p> <p>Work with partners (i.e., Ag. Service Boards/AESA Cardston County, County of Warner, County of Forty Mile, Cypress County, AENV, AAFRD, PFRA, CHR, Community Development - Parks and Protected Areas) to implement the water quality monitoring program.</p>
Community Awareness and Involvement Team	5	<p>Produce Quarterly Newsletter.</p> <p>Host an Annual Watershed Tour.</p> <p>Develop promotional Items.</p> <p>Enhance and maintain Council website.</p> <p>Organize Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School.</p>	<p>Produce Quarterly Newsletter.</p> <p>Host an Annual Watershed Tour.</p> <p>Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School</p> <p>Float for local parades.</p> <p>Develop a GIS-based resource map of the watershed.</p> <p>Develop a school program (i.e. annual poster contest, sustainable schools)</p>	<p>State of the Watershed Report.</p> <p>Host an Annual Watershed Tour.</p>	

Team	Link to Goals	Actions			Implementation
		2005	2006	2007	
Project Team	2, 3, 4	<p>Recruit 12 members to the Project Team through local advertising.</p> <p>Identify steps to assess water use in the watershed.</p> <p>Organize Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School.</p>	<p>Assess current water use in Towns and Villages and develop Water Conservation Program.</p> <p>Develop a Water Conservation Program.</p> <p>Milk River Watershed Stockman's Range School</p> <p>Develop demonstration project. Work with the Community Awareness and Involvement Team to develop appropriate signage.</p> <p>River enhancement project (i.e. river cleanup, BMP demonstration, invasive weed day).</p> <p>Host Bioengineering Workshop to develop local expertise.</p>	<p>Implement the Water Conservation Program.</p> <p>Assess current agricultural water management practices and develop a Good Management Program based on water quality results.</p> <p>Implement demonstration project.</p>	<p>Design an access point to the river and develop interpretive signs that will be visible to all.</p> <p>Create proper washroom facilities that are maintained and sealed to prevent contaminants from entering the river.</p> <p>Program to help clean up the river in collaboration with local counties.</p>

**STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROPOSED MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
MEETING**

**Town Hall, Milk River
May 31, 2005
5:00 pm**

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Brown, Rob Oswald, Sandi Riemersma, Kerv Thiessen, Emma Hulit, Bill Entzminger, John Ross, Ross Ford, Ken Miller, Ken Graumans

Absent: Rosemary Jones, Roger Houghton, Roy Hummel, Don Welsh, George Henline

Agenda Item 1. Welcome

Tom Gilchrist welcomed everyone.

Agenda Item 2. Review of May 11 meeting

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 11th meeting and accepted as prepared.

Agenda Item 3. Changes in wording to mission, vision and goal statement if required

The Committee discussed the first draft Mission, Vision, and Goal. A few minor changes were made and the following statements were accepted.

Draft Mission

The Milk River Watershed Council strives to proactively preserve and improve the economic, social and environmental interests of the basin through effective partnerships and sound science.

Draft Vision

A basin where community well being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment that will endure as our legacy for future generations.

Draft Goal

To achieve balance between a thriving community, a healthy environment and a prosperous economy through understanding, dialogue and action.

The Committee proceeded to identify goals related to each of the concerns expressed in the surveys submitted by various stakeholder groups. The following Table 1 summarizes the concerns and the goals that were developed.

Table 1: Summary of goals related to the concerns expressed by the people living and working in the Milk River watershed.

Watershed Concern	Goal
Water Supply/Fair Water Management	<i>To foster the sustainable use and integrated management of land and water resources.</i>
Quality Water	<i>To monitor the quality of water in the Milk River and its tributaries, and promote quality domestic water supplies.</i>
Conservation of Wildlife & Plant Species Diversity	<i>To increase knowledge and awareness of conservation initiatives in the watershed and facilitate partnerships that will conserve wildlife and plant species diversity.</i>
Riparian Protection	<i>To support and initiate programs that protect, maintain and improve riparian areas.</i>
Informed Community (Awareness and Education)	<i>To increase community awareness of the watershed.</i>
International Issues	<i>Maintain open and accurate dialogue between the Milk River Watershed Council and the U.S. Milk River International Alliance.</i>
Economic Development	<i>To pursue issues that will encourage economic development in the watershed.</i>

Agenda Item 4. Review Pakowki as part of basin

A discussion was held on whether to include the Pakowki Basin as part of the Milk River watershed. Some of the points that were made in favour of excluding Pakowki Basin were:

The Milk River irrigates less than 8,000 acres in the Milk River Watershed. Approximately 35,000 acres are irrigated in the Pakowki Basin with water that is supplied by the Raymond Irrigation District.

There are many Ducks Unlimited projects in Etzikom Coulee that is a tributary of Pakowki Lake.

Raymond and Stirling get their water from the St. Mary’s River Irrigation District which is located in the Oldman River Watershed.

The overall consumptive use is greater in the Pakowki Basin than in the Milk River watershed.

The Committee determined that, at this time, Pakowki Basin will be excluded from the Milk River watershed.

Agenda Item 5. Action Plan

1. Confirm present members act as an interim board.

The present Steering Committee was put together to draft the structure of the proposed Milk River Watershed Council.

2. Set up Committee to draft bylaws, set number of board members, business plan.

A sub-committee was identified to work together to begin the drafting of bylaws for further discussion with the Committee as a whole. The Committee believed this to be the most efficient way to generate bylaws in a timely fashion. The business plan will be undertaken following the further development of the bylaws.

The appointed sub-committee is:

- Ken Brown
- John Ross
- Rob Oswald
- Rosemary Jones (pending Rosemary's agreement)
- Sandi Riemersma

Action: Sandi will send out the bylaws generated by the other Watershed Councils in the province for review by the Committee as a whole and as reference for the sub-committee.

All members will read the bylaws in preparation for future discussion.

Once the bylaws have been drafted, a public meeting will be held to obtain feedback on the work of the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 6. Miscellaneous

- A.** The question was raised whether travel expenses for the Committee members could be covered in a per diem.

Action: Sandi will determine whether a per diem can be obtained for Committee members.

- B.** The website for the Milk River Watershed Council is available but has not been developed. The web address is www.milkriverbasin.org and is currently hosted and maintained by the County of Forty Mile

Action: Steering Committee can forward ideas for the website to Sandi to develop.

- C.** A logo should be developed for the proposed Council. A logo contest will be held for all people living or working in the Milk River watershed which will increase awareness of the Steering Committee's activities and involve the community. The contest will be advertised in the next newsletter (Summer Issue).

**Milk River Basin Water Management Committee
And
Milk River Watershed Council Steering Committee**

MINUTES

September 8, 2005; Town Office at 2:00 PM

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Roy Hummel, Bill Entzminger, Emma Hult, John Ross, Ken Miller, Roger Houghton, Ken Brown, Rosemary Jones, Sandi Riemersma, Ken Graumans, Cheryl Dash, Tess Larson

Absent: Rob Oswald, Kerv Thiessen, George Henline, Ross Ford, Don Welsh

Welcome: Tom G. welcomed everyone and explained that a split agenda was presented to accommodate the responsibilities of on-going work by both entities. All Steering Committee members will benefit from exposure to the ongoing work of the Management Committee.

Agenda Item 1: IJC presentation by Dave McGee, AENV

Dave McGee provided an overview of the work that the Task Force is doing to support the IJC. The Task Force was created to provide advice to the IJC regarding the water sharing agreement between Montana and Alberta.

Agenda Item 2: Questions and discussion

The Milk River Watershed Council Steering Committee and Milk River Water Management Committee would like to have the same information that was shared by Dave McGee, explained again to Montana water users and a greater number of water users in the Canadian portion of Milk River. The Committee's would like to have Montana and Alberta's Task Force representatives present and provide the facts, as they understand, to the Montana and Alberta water users at the same time. This will ensure that everyone is receiving the same information and has the same level of understanding to move forward with the decision-making process.

<p>Actions: Tom Gilchrist will draft a letter on behalf of the Water Management Committee and the Milk River Watershed Council Steering Committee to request a formal workshop, in Milk River, that will facilitate a greater understanding of the facts surrounding the water sharing agreement between Montana and Alberta. This workshop should be held in second half of November and an invitation should be extended to Alberta and Montana's water users.</p>

Agenda Item 3: Report on tour by Montana Action Committee of Middle Coulee and Verdigris system June 20

Six people from the 16 member Montana Action Committee came to Milk River to see St. Mary's Reservoir, Ridge Reservoir, and Verdigris Coulee. Tom Gilchrist and Ken Miller hosted the group and provided a tour of the watershed. From this meeting, it was recommended that a follow-up meeting be held in Montana to promote better communication between Montana and Alberta and to identify a plan to move water-sharing discussions forward.

Agenda Item 4: Basin air tour by Ministers September 26 in conjunction with opening of SE Water Coop

October 6, 2005, the Minister's Guy Boutilier, Lyle Oberg and Doug Horner will be taking an air tour of the Milk River Watershed. The Ministers will be meeting with Producers – the time and location will be confirmed before October 6th.

Action: Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting prior to the air tour and/or after the air tour.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

Dave McGee excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Receive report of Bylaw Committee - Ken Brown

Ken Brown led a discussion on the Draft Bylaws, as developed by the Bylaw Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion and input for possible amendments to the report

Overall, the Draft Bylaws were well done and ready for public review. A few recommendations were received and will be incorporated into the Draft.

Action: Ken B. and Sandi will incorporate the recommended changes into the Bylaws and forward to the rest of the Bylaw Committee and Steering Committee. The Bylaws will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Action plan

Action: A Business Plan will be developed to accompany the Draft Bylaws. Sandi will begin to draft a Business Plan using the information collected at the Public Open House and the Draft Mission, Vision and Goals of the Milk River Watershed Council and provide an overview at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Next Meeting date

October 14, 2005 - Town Office – Milk River

Topics: Draft Bylaws, Date for Public Meeting to review Draft Bylaws and Business Plan

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Note: Tom G. will be away until November 15, 2005. Ken Miller will be acting in his place.

**Proposed Milk River Watershed Council
Steering Committee Meeting**

Draft MINUTES

November 8, 2005; Town Office at 5:00 PM

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Rob Oswald, Ken Brown, John Ross, Roger Houghton, Cheryl Dash, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Roy Hummel, Emma Hulit, Rosemary Jones, Kerv Thiessen, George Henline, Ross Ford, Don Welsh, Ken Graumans, Ken Miller

Agenda Item 1. Minutes

Sandi reviewed the Minutes from October 14, 2005. The Minutes were accepted as read.

Agenda Item 2. Update on activities

Tom G. updated the Steering Committee on the latest meeting with the Ministers in Lethbridge. The Ministers were impressed with the welcome they received on October 6, 2005.

Sandi updated on the status of the logo contest. No submissions have been received to date. The logos will be displayed on November 30th at the Public Meeting and everyone will have a chance to vote on the one most suitable for the MRWCC.

Cheryl D. updated on the status of the Terms of Reference for the development of the MRWCC educational booklet. The Terms of Reference are drafted and the Request for Proposals will be sent out to a few consultants. The booklet should be completed by the beginning of March and the Steering Committee will review two draft versions prior to the final product.

Rob O. provided an update on the meeting with AENV regarding a Water Coop between Warner, Milk River and Coutts.

Agenda Item 3. Text for Meadowlark Express

Tom G. provided everyone with the latest text that will be published in the Meadowlark Express. The submission summarized the Minister's visit.

Agenda Item 4. Bylaw committee report

Ken B. provided an update on the bylaws. A few minor changes were made to the document and we agreed that the bylaws are ready for public input.

Agenda Item 5. Business plan and action

We reviewed the Action Plan and came up with specific objectives for the Water Supply and Management Team.

Action: Sandi will make the changes and the Action Plan will be reviewed again on November 16th at 4:00 pm before it is posted on our website.

Agenda Item 6. IJC update for Nov. 16 meeting

The IJC Task Force will be presenting an update on their progress on November 16th at the Senior's Centre (across from the Town Office). Dinner will be served around 6:00 pm with the meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm. We will be joined by members of the Oldman Watershed Council Board of Directors and members of SMRID.

Agenda Item 7. Nov. 30 meeting

The November 30th meeting will be held at the Senior's Centre at 7:00 pm. The objective of this Public Meeting is to gain public support to move forward with the proposed Milk River Watershed Council Canada. We reviewed the draft Agenda for the November 30th meeting and assigned speakers to cover the topics. Tom G. will chair the meeting.

7 pm – Welcome and history of the proposed MRWCC. (Tom G.)
7:15 – Mission Vision and Goals (Rob O.)
7:25 – Overview of the draft Bylaws and Council structure (Ken B.)
7:45 – Discussion (Tom G.)
8:05 – Overview of the draft Action Plan (Sandi R.)
8:20 – Discussion (Tom G.)
8:40 – Next steps including membership (Sandi R.)(?)
9:00 – More discussion (Tom G.)
Adjourn and Coffee

We will have sign-up sheets available for those people who wish to join a Team to help further develop the Action Plan.

Agenda Item 8. Adjourn

Ken B. motioned to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 16, 2005 at 4:00 pm at the Milk River Senior's Centre prior to the IJC meeting.

Proposed Milk River Watershed Council Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

October 14, 2005; Town Office at 2:00 PM

Present: Ken Miller, Rob Oswald, Bill Entzminger, Ken Brown, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Tom Gilchrist, Roy Hummel, Emma Hult, John Ross, Rosemary Jones, Kerv Thiessen, George Henline, Ross Ford, Don Welsh, Roger Houghton, Ken Graumans, Cheryl Dash, Tess Larson

Agenda Item 1. Updates on the Water Management activities

Ken Miller and Ken Brown provided an update to the Committee on the Minister's visit to the Milk River watershed. Ken Miller requested that Minister Boutilliere extend an invitation to the Governor of Montana. The Minister agreed to support the review of water management in the Milk River watershed and the efforts to collaborate with Montana.

Agenda Item 2. Review of Bylaws

The Steering Committee reviewed the Bylaws. It was decided that the Bylaws are ready for public review, with a few modifications.

<p>Action: Ken B. and Sandi will revise and have the final draft available to the Sub-Committee. A final Bylaw Sub-committee Team Meeting is scheduled for October 28.</p>

Agenda Item 3. Action Plan/Business Plan Discussions

Priorities were reviewed and more ideas for the Action Plan were developed based on the proposed Council's goals.

Items to be included in the Action Plan:

- i. Water Quality Monitoring Program
- ii. Riparian Areas Protection
- iii. Stewardship Activities – river clean up, coulees and tributaries
- iv. Water conservation in towns and villages

Structure of the Milk River Watershed Council

Board of Directors and Project Coordinator

There will be four teams established to implement the Action Plan:

- Monitoring Team
- Water Supply Team
- Project Team – Urban and Rural
- Community Awareness and Involvement Team

One member of each of the Monitoring Team, Water Supply Team, and Project Team will be a member of the Community Awareness and Involvement Team to maintain communication between the groups and coordinate activity.

Agenda Item 4. Education Budget for 2005

The proposed Milk River Watershed Council has \$ 10 000.00 to spend before the end of March on a contract that will provide education material for use in the watershed. The Steering Committee discussed options and decided that a small booklet on the watershed should be created. Ken M. provided those present with a copy of the Milk River International Alliance's "The Milk River: International Lifeline of the Hi-Line – A Guidebook.

Action: Sandi will source a writer and determine the cost to have an overview of the watershed written. A draft Terms of Reference will be created and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Ken M. will look into getting more copies of the Guidebook for distribution at a later date.

Agenda Item 5: Next Meeting and Important Dates.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on November 8, 2005 at 5:00 pm at the Milk River Town Office.

Mark your calendar for **November 30, 2005**. The Steering Committee will host the 2nd Public Meeting to accept comments on the Bylaws and Action Plan and agreement for the next steps as we move toward registering the Council as a non-profit Society and applying for Watershed Planning and Advisory Council status with Alberta Environment.

Action: Rob O. will book the Civic Centre for the November 30th meeting. The Steering Committee will identify agenda items for the Public Meeting prior to our next Steering Committee Meeting. Bill E. will arrange to post advertisements for the Public Meeting on the Towns billboard.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

Ken B. motioned for adjournment of the Steering Committee at 4:45 pm.

**Proposed Milk River Watershed Council
Steering Committee Meeting and IJC Meeting**

Draft MINUTES

November 16, 2005; Milk River Senior's Centre at 4:00 PM

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Rob Oswald, Ken Brown, John Ross, Don Welsh, Kerv Thiesen, Cheryl Dash, Sandi Riemersma, ?

Absent: Roy Hummel, Emma Hulit, Rosemary Jones, George Henline, Ross Ford, Ken Graumans, Ken Miller

Agenda Item 1. Review Schedule for the November 30th Meeting

Reviewed the Agenda for the November 30th Public Meeting.

The November 30th meeting will be held at the Senior's Centre at 7:00 pm. The objective of this Public Meeting is to gain public support to move forward with the proposed Milk River Watershed Council Canada. We reviewed the draft Agenda for the November 30th meeting and assigned speakers to cover the topics. Tom G. will chair the meeting.

Agenda:

7 pm – Welcome and history of the proposed MRWCC. Introduction of the Steering Committee (Tom G.)

7:15 – Mission Vision and Goals (Rob O.)

7:25 – Overview of the draft Bylaws and Council structure (Ken B.)

7:45 – Discussion (Tom G.)

8:05 – Overview of the draft Action Plan (Sandi R.)

8:20 – Discussion (Tom G.)

8:40 – Next steps including membership (Tom G.)

9:00 – More discussion (Tom G.)

Adjourn and Coffee

We will have sign-up sheets available for those people who wish to join a Team to help further develop the Action Plan.

We also identified Interim Team Leaders for the four sub-Teams that will be formed within the Board of Directors.

Water Supply and Management Team – Tom Gilchrist

Rural and Urban Project Team – Rob Oswald

Monitoring Team – John Ross

Community Awareness and Involvement Team – Bill Entzminger

Agenda Item 2. IJC Update Meeting

At 7:00 pm, we were joined by three members of the IJC Task Force (Dave McGee, Ross Harrington and Dan) and members of the Oldman Watershed Council, SMRID, TID, U of L and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Members of the IJC Task Force provided an update on the status of the advice that would be provided to the IJC.

A comparison of Milk River and St. Mary's River average monthly flows from 1980 to 2004 was made showing the substantial difference in flow between the two rivers. Peak flow in St. Mary's River occurs in June and prior to April in the Milk River.

The Blackfoot Tribe does not recognize the Boundary Waters Treaty.

According to , combined flow from the St. Mary's and the Milk River allocated between the two countries equals 45% (350 000 acre feet) to U.S. and 55% (435 000 acre feet) to Canada. Actually received is 80% (281 000 acre feet) to the U.S. and 115% (503 000 acre feet) to Canada.

The average natural flow in the Milk River is 127 000 acre feet, and the U.S. receives 114 000 acre feet.

Bottom line is that Canada can't use its apportionment on the Milk River and U.S. can't use St. Mary's apportionment.

The difference is about 70 000 acre feet – U.S. is not using 100 000 acre feet and Canada is not using 30 000 acre feet.

The Task Force is exploring:

- Updated natural flow calculations – they are now more accurate
- Looked at varying the 15-day accounting period,
- Establishing a methodology for allowing some type of credit for surplus flows,
- Establishing a methodology for allowing some type of credit for winter storage release
- Upgrading current reporting procedures for operational changes as well as data recording and processing procedures,
- The impact of a range of canal capacities (20 scenarios, including 5 balancing periods and 4 canal capacities)
- Various approaches to addressing compensation for water
 - o water banking may provide a mechanism to afford flexibility in meeting apportionment targets,
 - o upgrades to existing infrastructure
 - o additional storage on the St. Mary's or on the Milk River
 - o modernizing water delivery systems and on-farm irrigation management improvements could potentially make better use of the available water supply
 - o joint facility operations between U.S. and Canada could potentially afford a means to optimize basin-wide water management facility operations

The applicability of the Letter of Intent should be considered if changes to current apportionment procedures are implemented. Letter of Intent can be withdrawn at anytime prior to February 15th of each year.

Eastern Tributaries are split 50/50 with upstream storage in place because water can be metered out. On St. Mary's, storage is downstream of border and can't be metered out.

Lee and Rolf Creek are unapportioned on the St. Mary's, but some suggest that these should be included in the apportionment.

Bureau of Reclamation

- U.S can currently take an additional 20 000 acre feet toward meeting their apportionment

1972 – Montana had no paper work for water rights – individuals claimed water when needed through the courts. Files claimed in 5 years – when claim is considered “adjudicated”. Only 6 of 60 basins have been cleared or “adjudicated”.

Task Force openly answered questions posed by those assembled.

Ended by saying, “If we can't do any good, we at least don't want to do any harm”

Agenda Item 3. Adjourn

Ken B. motioned to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Public Meeting November 30, 2005 at 7:00 pm at the Senior's Centre in Milk River. Door will be open at 5:30 for the Steering Committee if anyone wants to come and help set up or go over the evening events.

**Proposed Milk River Watershed Council
Steering Committee Meeting and IJC Meeting**

Draft MINUTES

November 30, 2005; Milk River Senior's Centre at 7:00 PM

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Brown, John Ross, Don Welsh, Cheryl Dash, Sandi Riemersma, Emma Hult, Rosemary Jones, Ken Graumans, Ken Miller

Absent: Rob Oswald, Roy Hummel, Kerv Thiessen, George Henline, Ross Ford, Roger Houghten

A total of 35 people were present at the Public Meeting. AAFRD brought a display on the Remote Monitoring Project that is underway in the watershed and Lois Gilchrist brought a display of photos taken in the watershed. Cheryl Dash brought the Water for Life display.

Agenda Item 1.

Tom G. welcomed everyone to the Public Meeting, introduced the Steering Committee and provided a brief history of the proposed MRWCC.

Agenda Item 2.

Mission, Vision and Goals were presented by John Ross as prepared by Rob Oswald.

Agenda Item 3.

An overview of the draft Bylaws and Council structure was provided by Ken Brown.

Agenda Item 4.

A brief discussion of the Bylaws followed Ken's talk. There were not many questions regarding the Bylaws and, overall, they were accepted as written with a few minor alterations.

Agenda Item 5.

Sandi provided an overview of the draft Action Plan.

Agenda Item 6.

Tom G. summarized the next steps that need to be taken toward formally registering the MRWCC.

Tom G. put forward two motions:

1. Be it resolved that the interim board be authorized to register the bylaws as presented to gain non-profit society status for the Milk River Watershed Council Canada.

Moved by Ken Miller, second by Roy Hummel. Passed.

2. Be it resolved that the interim board be authorized to proceed with an application to AENV to grant Watershed Planning and Advisory Council status to the Milk River Watershed Council Canada.

Moved by Emma Hulit, second by John Ross. Passed.

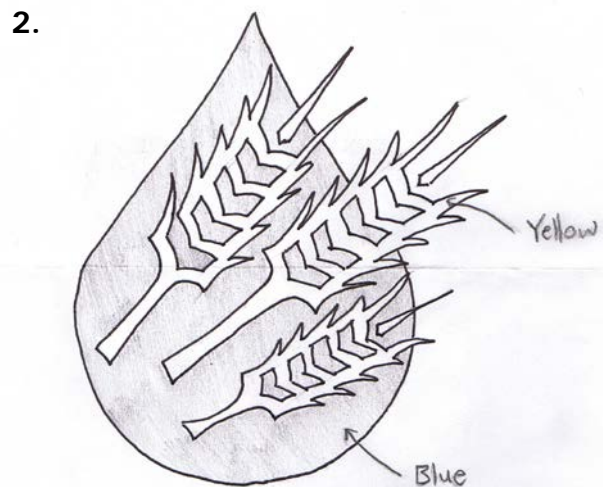
The MRWCC is on its way!

Agenda Item 7.

A brief overview of the Logo Contest was presented by Sandi. Everyone was asked to vote for the one that best suited the MRWCC. Three options were provided, including the two submissions (below) plus a "neither suitable" category. Karen Ellert Garber's art work was chosen to represent the MRWCC receiving 17 of 19 votes. The results of the Logo Contest will be made public following a discussion of the Steering Committee on December 13, 2005.



Karen Ellert Garber, Milk River, AB



MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

"Our Water – Our Legacy"

Travis Peter, Milk River, AB

Agenda Item 8.

The meeting adjourned early at about 8:30 followed by coffee and socializing.

NEXT MEETING DATE: For the Steering Committee is December 16, 2005 at 5:00 pm at the Town Office.

**Milk River Watershed Council Canada
Steering Committee Meeting**

MINUTES

December 13, 2005; Milk River Town Office at 5:00 PM

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Rob Oswald, Ken Brown, Bill Entzminger, Emma Hult, George Henline, Ross Ford, John Ross, Ken Miller, Sandi Riemersma

Absent: Roy Hummel, Rosemary Jones, Ken Graumans, Kerv Thiessen, Cheryl Dash, Roger Houghton

Guest: Terry Clayton, Alberta Fish and Wildlife

Agenda Item 1: Discuss the recent article on the St. Mary sculpin

The Milk River Water Management Committee received a letter from Fisheries and Oceans Canada requesting input into their decision to list the St. Mary sculpin ("Eastslope" sculpin) as *threatened* under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Currently, the sculpin is not listed federally, but is listed as threatened under Alberta's *Wildlife Act* (2004). Tom brought this letter forward and a response is to be generated on behalf of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada. A brief statement will be provided stating the Water Management Committee is in transition and that the Council's opinion is also that of the Water Management Committee.

Terry Clayton, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, provided an overview of existing knowledge on the St. Mary sculpin to the Committee. The Steering Committee had a number of questions for Terry, in order to gain better insight into the current state of knowledge on the St. Mary sculpin and to draft an informed response to Fisheries and Oceans.

It is the opinion of the Council that there is not enough information on the St. Mary sculpin to make a decision regarding its risk of extinction. Our input must be submitted by December 31, 2005.

<p>Action: Tom, Emma and Ken M. will provide comments to Sandi who will draft a response for the review of the Steering Committee.</p>

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and review of Nov 30th Public Meeting

The minutes were briefly reviewed and accepted. We were pleased with the outcome of the Public Meeting on Nov. 30, 2005 where the draft Bylaws were accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Review comments received on Bylaws and polish

Sandi reviewed the comments that were received by Len Ring and Wendy Devent on the Bylaws and had incorporated the necessary changes into a final document. The main comments that were provided to the Committee were on the clarity of some statements and consistency in terminology.

Action: A final comment was received and Sandi is to make the necessary change prior to submitting the Bylaws to Corporate Registries. The change occurs on page 8 under the Length of Membership. Any member, upon a majority vote of two-thirds of voting members of the MRWCC “present” – rather than “in good standing”.

Agenda Item 4: Discuss actions to register and documentation required

The Steering Committee reviewed the next steps that are required to become a non-profit Society under the *Societies Act*. Five members of the Steering Committee signed the application form for submission to Corporate Registries (Ken Brown, Emma Hulit, George Henline, Rob Oswald and Ross Ford). Tom G. witnessed the signatures. Sandi brought a copy of the NUANs report showing that our name will be unique. The NUANs report must accompany the application form and Bylaws when submitted to Corporate Registries. Tom G. agreed to use his address as the contact address for the Council. This address can be changed when the need for a new address is required.

Action: Sandi will compile the submission and mail to Corporate Registries.

Agenda Item 5: Logo contest discussion

The winner of the logo contest was Karen Ellert Garber. Ken B. purchased an i-Pod to present to Karen. Ken will be reimbursed for his purchase. The presentation and “unveiling” will be made at the Annual General Meeting in March. The plan is to have the winning logo digitized and stylized so that it will copy in black and white as well as in colour.

Action: Sandi will draft a letter to those who submitted a logo to the contest, identifying the winner and providing a thank-you for submissions.

Agenda Item 6: Next Steps

A proper Action Plan needs to be developed with specific activities and costs. We will work on the Action Plan at our next meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Next meeting date

January 13, 2005 – **9:00 am**. (A Friday!) This meeting will require a fair bit of time to develop our Action Plan. An agenda will follow.

Agenda Item 7: Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm following a motion put forward by Bill E..