



Minutes

11th MRWCC Annual General Meeting

May 31, 2016 – 1:00 PM

Milk River Civic Center

Attendance: 117 participants attended this year's AGM including 45 participants (students, parents, and teachers) who attended the school poster contest awards. This year's participants were comprised of residents from across the watershed, MRWCC members, Municipal representatives, Government representatives, and other stakeholders of the MRWCC.

Business Meeting:

Welcome:

- John Ross, MRWCC Chairman brought the meeting to order at 1 pm
- He welcomed everyone and gave a brief MRWCC activity outline
- He thanked the board members, team members, staff, and all volunteers

MRWCC Financial Statements Presentation

- Will Lindeman, MRWCC Treasurer, presented the financial statements

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statements as presented. Ed Sloboda seconded. Adopted by consensus. **Carried.**

Milk River Watershed Council Canada Activity Report

- Tim Romanow, Executive Director of the MRWCC gave a brief activity report of the council. He stated the role of the MRWCC: To engage governments, stakeholders, other partnerships, and the public in watershed assessment and watershed management planning considering existing land and resource management planning processes and decision-making authorities
- He gave the MRWCC approach to Watershed Management that largely involves volunteers on the board and team members

Elections

- Ken Brown, elections chairman led the election process as follows:
 - **Position: Non-Government Organization - General**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Ed Sloboda**, Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Ed Sloboda elected by acclamation for another two year term
 - **Position: Non-Government Organization – Environmental**

- Nomination brought forward: **Ron McNeil**, LandWise Inc. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Ron McNeil elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Agriculture – Farmer**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Ken Miller**, Farmer (Miller Seeds). Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Ken Miller elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Agriculture – Rancher**
 - Nomination brought forward: **John Ross**, Milk River Cattle Company. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - John Ross elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Water User**
 - Nomination brought forward: **William Lindeman**, Milk River West Water Co-op Ltd. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - William Lindeman elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Municipal District/County**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Ross Ford**, County of Warner. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Ross Ford elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Municipal District/County**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Joan Hughson**, County of Forty Mile. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Joan Hughson elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Provincial Government (AEP)**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Brian Hills**, Alberta Environment and Parks. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Brian Hills elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Provincial Government**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Dennis Spackman**, AEP, Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Dennis Spackman elected by acclamation for another two year term
- **Position: Health**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Kristen Dykstra**, Alberta Health Services. Ken asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Kristen Dykstra elected by acclamation for another two year term

- **Position: First Nations**
 - Nomination brought forward: **Cecilia Soto**, Cree. Darcy asked three times for further nominations, none received
 - Cecilia Soto elected by acclamation for a new two year term

Presentations:

Water Quality and Pesticides

- Claudia Sheedy, Water Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada gave a presentation on pesticides in southern Alberta's waters and their impact on the environment (water, soil, and air quality)

Alternative Land Use Services: A Mechanism for Society to Pay Agricultural Producers for Ecosystem Services

- Ken Lewis, Red Deer County Program Coordinator gave a presentation on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), a community-developed, farmer-delivered program that provides support to farmers and ranchers to enhance and maintain nature's benefits. ALUS has a simple goal: create a healthy working landscape that sustains agriculture, wildlife, and natural spaces for all Canadians
- ALUS pays farmers to retain and reconstruct natural areas such as wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and trees. It rehabilitates life-support processes, such as water filtration and purification, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration, and helps restore declining biodiversity. Natural benefits include habitat for fish and wildlife including waterfowl, species at risk and native pollinator insects, cleaner air and water, and sustainable food production on working landscapes.

South of the Divide Conservation Action Program (SODCAP)

- Orin Balas, Executive Director, SODCAP presented on the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program. SODCAP Inc. is a partnership between stakeholders and government with a goal of implementing actions relating to the South of the Divide Multi-Species Action Plan
- SODCAP Inc. believes that success lies in developing programs cooperatively that make habitat management for species at risk an important priority and economically sustainable on the landscape. A healthy ecosystem is a sustainable one, for everyone involved: wildlife, birds, native plants, species at risk, livestock, and humans.

Award Presentations

- School Poster Contest
 - Dusty Stauth, Branch Manager, Milk River ATB Financial presented prizes to

Poster Contest winners from local schools as follows:

<p>Grade 1 1st place - Neven Hout 2nd place - Jade Prunkle 3rd place - Julien Runka</p>	<p>Grade 5 1st place - Wrennah Walker 2nd place - Nancy Stoesz 3rd place - Grayson Thompson</p>
<p>Grade 2 1st place - Wreesah Walker 2nd place - Koel Gibbs 3rd place - Courtenay Shampaign</p>	<p>Grade 7 1st place – Marly King</p>
<p>Grade 3 1st place - Hadlee Gaehring 2nd place - Kieran Bakke 3rd place - Kymberly Court 3rd place - Jordan Wensveen</p>	<p>Grade 8 1st place – Kathryn Court 2nd place - Victoria Prestidge 3rd place - Bradley Wright</p>
<p>Grade 4 1st place - Xing Yi Chen 2nd place - Vanya Gorbachev 3rd place - Aurora Lorente</p>	

- Winners who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd were awarded cash prizes and books
- Caring For Our Watersheds Contest
 - Robin Stelten and Brooke Johnston from Erle Rivers High School won 4th place at the Caring for Our Watersheds Contest in Calgary. They were not able to attend and present their winning project “Nesting Sites For Hawks” however, their teacher, Mrs. Karen Ellert Garber gave a brief overview of the project on their behalf. Mrs. Karen Ellert Garber and the winning students were thanked and applauded for a job well done
- Environmental Stewardship Award
 - Kerry Gross presented Nelson & Paula Doenz as the MRWCC 2016 Environmental Stewardship Award winners in recognition of outstanding conservation efforts to sustain, protect, and enhance the environment within the Milk River Watershed and were the recipients of a gate sign
 - Paula and Nelson have implemented many beneficial management practices on their operations over the years including pasture watering systems and pasture management
 - Both Nelson & Paula have been involved in the Red Creek Watershed Stewardship Group since its inception in 2013

- They have worked hard to recognize the potential of good management and enhancements through completion of Riparian Health Assessments with Cows and Fish
- They have been involved in many of the projects on Red Creek and have helped encourage other community members to become involved
- Heritage Trees Award
 - A program launched by the Milk River Watershed Council Canada to allow residents of the Milk River watershed to celebrate the pioneering spirit of our community by identifying and nominating trees of local significance within the watershed
 - This year's chosen trees are cottonwood trees that were planted in the early 1900s, by the Hall family. They drove green cottonwood poles into the ground for corral posts. These green limbs took root, and have grown into the trees that are still evident today
 - Today these trees are on John Ross' property. John was awarded a heritage tree sign to be placed on the location.

Keynote: The Grasslands Project

- Four short films produced by the National Film Board of Canada 'Then and Now' featuring Cattle Country and documentaries about life on the Southern Prairies were shown

Dinner by Laura Balog Catering Services

Displays and end of Silent Auction