



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

March 30, 2017 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Roy Audet, Lloyd Closson, William King, Warren Cunningham, Suzanne Liebelt, Ken Miller, Ed Sloboda, Brian Hills, Ron McNeil, Lorraine Nicol, Kristen Dykstra, Ross Ford, Will Lindeman, Dennis Spackman, Joan Hughson, Kandra Forbes, Tim Romanow and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: John Ross, Darcy Wills, Frank Larney, and Scott McGarty,

1. Welcome and introductions

- Ken Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 1:35pm
- Introductions were conducted
- Kandra introduced herself stating that she is from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where her family has a bison and grain farm, and is excited about the opportunity to work for the MRWCC

2. Minutes from January 26, 2017 meeting

- Ron pointed out that there were two errors in the minutes that needed to be amended:
 - Page 3, eighth bullet should read: Academia and government feel that the SOW report is a synthesis of data the government already has, best value of our SOW reports is as an outreach tool that bridges the scientific community and general public, builds better understanding of all the work happening within the watershed, beyond GOA including academia, municipal, and helps identify data gaps for future research
 - Page 5, item 6, and second bullet should read: The proposal is for \$40,000 US taken over six different filming locations, interviews, and topics

Motion: William King moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ron McNeil seconded.

Carried.

3. Financial update

- a. Financial statements update
 - January Financial Statements
 - January closing balance was \$191,164.49
 - February Financial Statements
 - February closing balance was \$237,013.60

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to accept the financial statements as presented. Suzanne Liebelt seconded. **Carried.**

b. AEP Deferred Funding – Financial statements revision update

- After the January 26, 2017 Board meeting, Tim Received a call from Andrew Schoepf, Acting Director, Community Engagement for South Service Area with Alberta Environment and Parks. Andrew had concerns with a line in the 2015/16 financial statements that stated that there was \$179,997 of Alberta Environment deferred revenue
- There was need to demonstrate that this amount is not from AEP restricted grant funds in order for AEP to formally release any claim to these funds, failing which the funds will be deemed as restricted funds in which case, AEP would then look to incorporate this unexpended surplus as part of the total financial contribution under next year's grant agreement
- The deferred contributions from AEP have been reported in previous audited statements, however the difference in fiscal yearend financial reporting made it impossible to determine
- In response we have provided proof that over the years, Council has raised over \$179,000 from other sources to offset this amount. However, it appears that there are some restrictions with some of the funds so we are working with KPMG, which requires a lot of combing through books to resolve this
- If resolved the 2017/18 financial statements will reflect the change
- However, if we are unable to provide adequate proof, the amount will be withheld in the 2017/18 grant funding
- AEP staff is working well with us to resolve this issue

c. AEP 2017-18 grant update

- Have submitted a grant application for \$390,000 for core and project funding
- For projects:
 - Source Water Protection workshop - \$30,000
 - Transboundary Watershed Video - \$10,000

Action: Kandra to follow-up on the video project

- The GOA has made a commitment to fund WPACs for the next 3 years
- The 11 WPACs will receive \$3.2 million each year
- AWC will receive \$750,000 each year for the next 3 years
- Minister Phillips made a press release on March 22, 17 in Calgary and Mary attended

d. 2017 Water Monitoring funding

- AEP-EMSD (Environment Monitoring and Science Division is now responsible for water monitoring which was previously led by AEMERA
- The government felt that monitoring work should be the Government's direct responsibility
- In the past the Government partnered with MRWCC by partially funding for analytical cost at \$8,000 to \$10,000
- Brian advised that there is no money for MRWCC this year
- Last year GOA started monitoring some sites on the Milk River themselves
- The following are the sites being monitored on the main stem of Milk River:
 - N. Fork at 501
 - Milk River at 501
 - HWY 880
 - U/S Milk River
- And the following tributaries:
 - Red Creek at Mouth
 - Verdigris Coulee
 - Miners Coulee B
- There was concern that lack of coordination will result in duplication of programs and misuse of resources

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to fund the program using general revenue and also seek ways to collaborate with AEP monitoring program for efficient use resources. Roy Audet seconded.

Carried.

e. HSP grant – Milk River Over-Wintering Habitat Stewardship Project update

- We were unable to complete this year's deliverables as a result, we switched things around by moving expenses on some equipment purchase for habitat protection from year 2 of the project to year 1, and undertaking the remainder of the field program that couldn't be completed this winter in year 2

4. Ann Tollestrup Professional Corp. contract renewal

- Ann Tollestrup Professional Corporation contract was reviewed
- The monthly cost remain at \$400
- The Annual cost has gone up from \$350-\$700 to \$500-\$1,000
- The terms of the contract agreement state that the agreement can be terminated by both parties or either party at anytime

Motion: Will Lindeman moved to renew Ann Tollestrup Professional Corporation as the MRWCC bookkeeper subject to ongoing performance review. Roy Audet Seconded. **Carried**

5. Community Appreciation Forum report

- The fundraising brought in \$3776.00
- Apologized for starting the meeting late and some presentations were longer than allotted time
- Will need one less speaker in future as the presentations ran too long
- Start an hour earlier
- Received good feedback from participants
- Weather played a role in the meeting starting late
- About 150 participants including students and parents
- Serving alcohol during dinner was not a distraction to the meeting
- The consensus was that it was valuable to separate the community meeting from the AGM business meeting and that this should be a free event for community appreciation
- Would like to incorporate a science forum in winter

6. Milk River Watershed Alliance Meeting report – (Glasgow, MT)

- Ken and Tim attended the meeting March 23, 2017
- Gave a presentation on MRWCC activities
- Aquatic Invasive Species was discussed and there was a concern that boat traffic is not going through proper inspection
- Building drought mitigating guidelines with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the 5 Conservation Districts
- There was a lot of background information needed in the planning process available from the MRWCC Transboundary SOW report, DNRC stated that the information was invaluable to the project and saved the MRWA thousands and time to complete the project
- They were happy with the progress of the Milk River video project and they were able to revise original \$45,000 to less than \$40,000 with a minimum of 3 shooting locations on the Alberta side
- Discussed water, ageing infrastructure, and land use issues in the watershed
- Planning a MRWA tour of the Headwaters on June 27 including the Canadian side with MRWA and a group of legislators. We will assist in logistics and planning for the tour
- They have a good Executive Director and Board and working well with the Conservation Districts
- Ron advised that PCF is looking at undertaking a grassland related film shoot, and maybe able to partner on the video project and provide a share of the cost if we incorporate Native Rangelands and the work to sustain grassland habitats

- Need to connect PCF with Jeff Patterson to see if there is an opportunity to partner on the project which will reduce cost

7. 2017 AGM agenda – May 25

- The following Board of Directors seats are open for nominations:
 - Recreation
 - Commercial/Industrial
 - Individual Member
 - Towns/Villages/Hamlets
 - Federal Government
 - Academia
 - First Nations (currently vacant)
- Agenda is set as follows:
 - 10:30am - Registration
 - 11:00am - Greeting and Welcome by John Ross, Chairman
 - 11:15am - MRWCC Financial Statements Presentation by Will Lindeman, Treasurer
 - 11:30am - Elections by Election's Chairman, to be determined
 - 12:00am - Lunch
 - 1:00am - Milk River Watershed Council Canada - Activity Report by Tim Romanow, Executive Director
 - 2:00am - Meeting Adjournment
- There was a proposal to call for a Board Meeting after the AGM

Motion: Ron McNeil moved to accept the AGM agenda as presented and call for a Board Meeting after the AGM. Lorraine Nicol seconded. **Carried.**

8. EO Coordinator update

- Kandra commenced her role as Education Outreach Coordinator March 27, 2017
- Completed orientation and working on her work plan
- Will be working with WOSPP personnel to incorporate school field tours. So far, she is planning to give a presentation in May to 120 students at WOSPP

9. MRWCC draft donation/funding policy

- The draft policy was reviewed

Motion: Suzanne Liebelt moved to adopt the policy as presented. Ross Ford seconded. **Carried.**

10. Species at Risk Act (SARA) – County of Warner response discussion

- Comment period was extended to March 31, 2017

- The County of Warner submitted their comments to Canadian Wildlife Services, Environment Canada
- Ron McNeil also compiled his comments on the policy changes related to SAR
- Both comments were reviewed and Council was in agreement with the comments
- The consensus was for the MRWCC to submit a response, but with limited submission timeline, Council advised that Tim draft the MRWCC comments emulating comments submitted by Ron.
- Ron was comfortable with Council's directive
- County of Forty Mile also agrees and compliments the County of Warner's comments

Motion: Joan Hughson moved to incorporate Ron's and the County of Warner's comments and come up with the MRWCC response and send the draft to the Executive Board members for input before submitting the response on March 31 deadline. Ed Sloboda seconded. **Carried.**

11. Team update

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
 - Youth Range Days update
 - Scheduled for July 18, 19, and 20, 2017 at Gold Springs in the County of Warner
 - Working to finalize agenda
 - Soliciting sponsorship
 - Have raised \$5,000 to date
 - Spring Hike Tour
 - Scheduled for April 21
 - Registration feeling up fast, 25 registrants so far
 - Will visit Sandstone Ranch area
 - If access is granted, we plan to visit the McIntyre Ranch as well
 - Canoe Trip
 - Previously planned a 2 day trip but due to logistical problems we are looking to do a 1 day trip on June 24
 - From John Ross' place to past the Taber place but will depend on being granted access
 - William will coordinate a scouting tour in May
 - Working Well Workshop report
 - 23 participants
 - Good feedback from participants
 - Septic Sense Workshop
 - 12 participants

- Great feedback from participants
 - Recommend day time workshop in future to attract more people
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
- February 17 meeting report
 - Surface Water Monitoring
 - Sampling schedule has been set
 - Trying to coordinate program with AEP
 - Source Water Protection Workshop
 - Rescheduled for April 28 to accommodate some participants
 - Sandi will facilitate the workshop
 - Agenda has been set
 - Under Ice Over-wintering Habitat HSP Project
 - Were unable to complete this year's deliverables as a result, we switched things around by moving expenses on some equipment purchase for habitat protection from year 2 of the project to year 1, and undertaking the remainder of the field program that couldn't be completed this winter in year 2
 - WRRP Producer Stewardship Projects
 - Submitted a grant application for 2017 to 2020 for \$250,000
 - Sampling Substrates Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Dennis advised that the WOSPP has placed substrates on 4 locations at the Park
 - To date, no mussel attachments have been found
 - Planning to place 6 more substrates on different locations along the river
- c. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)
- Ken advised that 2 reports have been finalized
 - The third has been revised and scheduled to be out soon
- d. Transboundary Watershed Team
- MRWA has been supportive and wants to work with us

12. Upcoming Events

- a. Spring Hike Tour – April 21, 2017
- b. Source Water Protection Planning Workshop, April 28, 2017
- c. MRWCC AGM – May 25th, 2017, Milk River Town Council Chambers
- d. Canoe Trip (2 day trip) – June 17th and 18th, 2017

13. Round table discussions

- Tim:

- Southern Alberta WRRP grant recipient showcase is scheduled April 7, 2017
- Minister Phillip will be in attendance
- Good opportunity to showcase our projects, learn about other organizations' projects and present questions to the Minister
- Tim:
 - Submitted an abstract for the CWRA conference presentation and waiting for a response from them
- Ed:
 - There was a pile of ice on the river
 - Milk River jammed up and created a dam
 - There was water on Spite Ditch

14. Other items

15. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm. **Carried.**

16. Next Meeting Date

- April 27, 2017 in Milk River at 1:30pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____