



## Minutes

### MRWCC Board Meeting

March 22, 2012 – 1:30 PM

### Town of Milk River Office

**Present:** John Ross, Darcy Wills, Ed Sloboda, Mike Gervais, Warren Cunningham, Joan Hughson, Don Welsh, Tim Romanow, and Mary Lupwayi

**Absent:** Randy Taylor, William Chamber, Ken Miller, Lorraine Nicol, Ken Brown, Darlene Sakires, Terrence Lazarus, Will Lindeman and Greg Ottway

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross brought the meeting to order at 1:38pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### 2. Minutes from last meeting

**Motion:** Warren Cunningham moved to accept the minutes as presented. Darcy Wills seconded. **Carried.**

#### 3. Financial Statement Update

- The financial statements were reviewed

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

#### 4. 2012-13 MRWCC Project Funding Response

- Integrated Watershed Management Plan is the department's priority for funding
- 2013 State of the Watershed Report has been recommended to proceed with the hard copy
- The online component for the Alberta portion will be considered for funding after further discussion regarding SOW online reporting
- We could still add the SOW report link on our website
- \$25,000 will be the expected amount for Montana and Saskatchewan portion of the hard copy production contribution
- April 15, 2012 is the deadline to submit the full application

#### 5. WPAC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

- Was discussed at the last meeting but there were some concerns with the document
- A decision was made to bring back the discussion to the next meeting
- The core part of the document is to ensure that the 11 WPACs are represented in a uniform manner and also ensure that there is cooperation and communication within WPACs. A number of other WPACs Already signed.
- The document need to be signed and if there are other issues there is a "Voluntary Disassociation" clause that gives the MRWCC an opportunity to pull out at any time if there is cause to do so

**Motion:** Don Welsh moved that the MOU be signed by the Chairman and Executive Director. Warren Cunningham Seconded. **Carried.**

#### 6. Milk River Watershed Water Level Data Acquisition Project update

- Data has been collected from the Water Coops, Village of Foremost and Montana Conservation Districts.
- We are in the process of trying to get the data from Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- So far the trend from the data we have seen surprisingly does not vary too much over a long period of time as expected
- The project report is to be submitted end of the March

- There is a meeting with Geological Survey on April 4, 2012 before the AGM to discuss the MiRTAP project
- There is need to look at ways that we can continue with well decommissioning project
- There is the \$10,000 grant from Shell Fuelling Change program that can be used for well decommissioning. We can also look at raising more funds from the industry for this project

## 7. 2012 AGM Update

- a. Agenda changes
  - i. Blackfoot Challenge will not be able to present
  - ii. Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment and Water, Bev Yee will present on Property Rights Taskforce Key Findings and possibly answer questions on how the Land Stewardship Act will affect the WPACs
  - iii. The Honorable Minister of Alberta Environment and Water, Diana McQueen is tentatively booked to give an address depending on time commitments due to the elections. Her allotted time is flexible
  - iv. BJ Smith, a retired RCMP and historian will be the Key note speaker and will present on the Perspectives on the March West
  - v. Tim will introduce the speakers and Ed could introduce BJ Smith
- b. Donations for silent auction
  - i. We have been getting some donations
  - ii. An email will be sent to remind those who would like to donate
- c. Nominee Biographies
  - i. Brian Hills is the Science and Technical Support Team Lead for the Southern Region of Alberta Environment and Water. He has been nominated to represent AEW. Brian is a good candidate who will bring a wealth of expertise to the council with his experience in water issues
  - ii. Paulette Fox has been nominated to represent First Nations.
- d. Volunteers to help setup
  - i. An email will be circulated with time and place to meet

## 8. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)
  - i. 2012 Agrium's Caring for our watersheds
    - Mary attended the 2012 Teacher's convention February 24 to promote the Caring for our watersheds program
    - Mary and Raven met with Erle Rivers Principal to solicit program participation. To date there has not been a response
    - Darcy Wills also met with Horizon School Division to promote the program – It was noted that most students are discouraged because of the implementation process and some are not happy with the distribution of winning prizes
  - ii. 2012 Canoe Tour
    - It was decided that July 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> are tentative dates, but 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 Del Bonita to High-Way 62 and if possible to Twin River
- b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)
  - i. Milk River Microbial Source Tracking Project Update
    - Had a meeting with Alberta Agriculture
    - Picked WOS Provincial Park as the main site
    - Other possible sites are: Hwy 880, Upstream Milk River and Down Stream Milk River
    - Analysis will be done in-house by Alberta Ag in Lethbridge
    - This year's main objective is source tracking and determine the type of ecoli present ( harmful or environmentally safe ecoli)
    - Next year will make decisions depending on this year's findings
    - Sampling will be done bi-weekly

- ii. 2012 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project
  - Ray Walker and Wendell Koning will come to train volunteers on water sampling
  - April 12 is the tentative date to start sampling
  - We may drop some main stems depending on funding availability
  - So far Cypress, Warner and Cardston will participate
- c. Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)
  - i. SRD submissions update
    - SRD has submitted feedback on water quality objectives
    - On target to get the draft IWMP done end of the month
  - ii. Access Management Recommendations for the draft IWMP report
    - Comments from the Recreational Access Management meeting submitted to Sandi for inclusion
    - There is a detailed map being sold for recreational access points
    - Could add the map's link on the MRWCC site
- d. Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)
  - There was nothing to report

**9. Upcoming events**

- March 23, 2012 - Milk River Watershed Invasive Weed Collaboration Meeting
  - Might be postponed due to weather
- April 4, 2012 – MRWCC AGM, Milk River Civic Center

**10. Other items**

- A question on whether testing has been conducted for hydro carbons at the areas where seismic and well activities are being constructed and whose responsibility it is was raised

**11. Next Meeting**

- April 26, 2012 – AEW Office, Lethbridge at 1:30pm

**12. Meeting Adjournment**

- Warren Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:30pm

**Signatures:**

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_