



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 22, 2014 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Will Lindeman, Warren Cunningham, Lloyd Closson, David Cody, William King, Dennis Spackman, Trevor Murray, Kristen Dykstra, Suzanna Liebelt, Brian Hills, Ed Sloboda, Roy Audet, Ron McNeil, Tim Romanow Cyd Cunningham, and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Ken Brown, Paulette Fox, Joan Hughson, John Ross, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Frank Larney, Ross Ford

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross sent his regrets, Will Lindeman brought the meeting to order at 1:32pm and welcomed everyone
- Introductions were conducted

2. Minutes from last meeting

- March 27, 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed
- An amendment was previously made to the minutes relating to two bullets on point 9 where the word “mussels” was misspelt

Motion: David Cody moved to accept the minutes as amended. Suzanne Liebelt seconded. **Carried.**

3. Member at large Appointment

- Tim thanked and welcomed all the new members

a. *Ken Brown - Member at large (AWC)*

Ken Brown had indicated that he would like to step down on his roles as the board member. However, he will need to be reappointed as a board member in order to complete his term on the AWC as the rep for WPACs which will continue until October

- Nomination brought forward: **Ken Brown**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

b. William King – Member at large (Milk River Natural Area)

- Nomination brought forward: **William King**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

4. Elections of the Board of Director's Executive Seats

a. Chairman

- Nomination brought forward: **John Ross**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

b. Vice Chairman

- Nomination brought forward: **Ken Miller**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

c. Treasurer

- Nomination brought forward: **Will Lindeman**, Ed Sloboda asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

d. Secretary

- Nomination brought forward: **Warren Cunningham**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Suzanne Liebelt moved that nomination cease, and that the executive be acclaimed for a one year term. David Cody seconded. **Carried**

5. Elections of the Team leaders

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team

- Nomination brought forward: **Ed Sloboda**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Roy Audet moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

b. Research and Monitoring Team

- Nomination brought forward: **Will Lindeman**, David Cody asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

c. Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team

- Nomination brought forward: **Ken Miller**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: Roy Audet moved that nomination cease. Warren Cunningham seconded.

Carried

d. Water Supply and Management Team

- Nomination brought forward: **Ken Miller**, Will Lindeman asked three times for further nominations, none received.

Motion: David Cody moved that nomination cease. Dennis Spackman seconded.

Carried

e. Transboundary Watershed Team

- This is a newly formed team
- Looking to recruit team members to host a Transboundary sharing forum with the intended outcome of a Transboundary watershed monitoring and reporting action plan for research and monitoring needs assessment for the next State of the Watershed Report.
- John Ross was the interim chairman
- Nominations for the Chairman of this team to be tabled for a later date
- Those interested to become members of this team were asked to let Tim know
- Pending funding approval, a team chair will be appointed when needed.

6. Sandi's contract review

- Last contract was for 20 hours per week for \$80 per hour with a 5% office fee
- For this agreement, the Contractor is requesting to increase the rate to \$100 per hour to the sum of \$40,000.00, including 5% of labour costs to cover office expenses

- The agreement is to complete the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and provide analytical and technical support for the Water Monitoring Program

Motion: Warren Cunningham moved to accept the contract agreement NO. 2014-01 as presented. Roy Audet seconded. **Carried.**

7. Financial Statements Update

a. March Financial Statements

- March end of year closing balance was \$175,855.39

b. April Financial Statements

- April closing balance was \$188,733.96

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

c. Core and Project Funding update

- ESRD approved \$248,924 in grant funding to the Milk River Watershed Council Canada for 2014/2015 for both projects and core operations
- This amount is approximated 83% of what was requested
- WPACs are requested to find other funding sources for their shortfalls
- There is a shortfall of approximately \$50,000 for what was requested
- Tim to discuss sustainable funding that benefits WPACs and GOA at the next WPAC management meeting
- A Strategic Fund Development Plan for the MRWCC with fundraising strategies has been put together
- Will need a subcommittee to look at fund raising and implementation of the Fund Development Plan
- With the shortfalls we will need to prioritize projects, a revised schedule of work for the fiscal year and budget is required for ESRD submission by October 2014.
- The following volunteered to be on the Strategic Fund Development Plan Subcommittee:
 - Trevor Murray
 - Ron McNeil
 - Mary Lupwayi
 - Cyd Cunningham

- Will Lindeman

8. Alberta Water Council update – Ken Brown

- Ken Brown was absent for this meeting and Tim presented a brief report on his behalf
- Call for Working Group Members - Managing and Monitoring Alberta's Lakes; Looking for one sector rep for WPACs to act as a liaison between AWC and WPACs on Lake management
- Anyone interested to let Tim know

9. AGM report

a. Meeting

- It was a good meeting
- Good presentations
- Staff, volunteers, and presenters were thanked

b. Revenue

- Registration - \$575
- Silent Auction - \$2,173
- Total revenue - \$9,778
- Expenses - \$6,070
- Balance - \$3,708

10. MRWCC Environmental Stewardship awards

- Looking to set up an Environmental Stewardship award program that will honour individuals, families and commercial businesses that are good environmental stewards of the Milk River watershed
- Could be recognized annually. Next year being the 10th AGM, will be a great year to have this program
- An ad has been included in the upcoming Meander newsletter. However, the ad will be posted pending board's approval
- Still working on the logistics of the program

Motion: Ed Sloboda moved to introduce the MRWCC Environmental Stewardship awards. William King seconded. **Carried.**

11. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team (CAIT)

- *Meeting report*

- A CAIT meeting was held April 1, 2014
- *Youth Engagement Program Report*
 - School Field trips and Classroom presentations
 - a. Yellow Fish Road
 - Cyd advised that Monday, May 26, the MRWCC in conjunction with the Town of Milk River will carry out the Yellow Fish Road Program with 16 Grade 8 students from Erle Rivers Middle School
 - This program educates the public about the impacts of pollution entering urban storm drains. In most communities, water entering storm drains goes directly into local rivers, streams and lakes untreated. Storm drain pollution can harm fish and wildlife, as well as reduce water quality for human use
 - Town of Milk River Public Works will shuttle each group to and from their assigned storm drainages Mario (the Town CAO) and Cyd will address the students
 - b. Field Trip
 - May 30, 2014, twenty-eight grade 4 and 5 students from Milk River Elementary School will go on a Palaeontology field trip for half a day
 - Wendy and Ed Sloboda will help with the interpretive expertise
 - Ed will drive one of the school busses
 - Trevor and Kristen have volunteered to help on the field trip
 - The WOSPP and MRWCC are working on the MOU this fall to collaborate on education material
 - Trying to get Warner School involved as well in future programing
 - Update on CTS courses
 - On line course development is going well

- Tim and Mary have been invaluable with content critiquing
- Planning to make course available to Warner school as well as they already have a free learning management which will make it easier to upload the course material
- Trevor has given sources of information for the material as well
- YRDs
 - Is scheduled for July 15 to 17th, 2014 at Aden, Warner
 - In the process of getting registrations
 - Looking for volunteers during the event since 2 of the organizers will not be available
- *Canoe Tour*
 - Scheduled for June 14, 2014
 - Need to confirm location as soon as possible

Action: Mary to contact John Ross and Ken Brown to confirm site access

- 19 people have registered so far
- Roy, Warren and William also registered for two spots each
- *Meander Newsletter*
 - Newsletter articles have been sent for production
 - The newsletter is due to be released June 2

b. Research and Monitoring Team (R&M Team)

- *Surface water monitoring*
 - On going
 - Collected 3 samples before water is turned on
- *Pathogen Microbial Source Tracking Project*
 - ARD did not get funding for the project
 - Still looking for funding
- *Invasive weed mapping cooperative project*
 - Looking to get a joint project with municipalities to map invasive weeds along the river

- This project will help in getting comparable data for the four municipalities
- Cardston County has offered to lend their boat for the project
- Planned to use the data for the 2013 SOW report but were unable to go on the river because of low flow

c. *Integrated Watershed Management and Planning Team (IWMP Team)*

○ *IWMP Update*

- Sandi was not able to attend the meeting so Tim presented the IWMP update
- Scheduled a meeting May 26 to go through the final plan revisions
- Plan should be submitted to ESRD by May 30th to fulfill grant obligation, \$4,000 remaining
- Next step is to schedule meetings with Municipalities

d. *Water Supply and Management Team (WSM Team)*

○ *Milk River Water Storage Update*

- Have been asked to produce a brief report on history of studies done
- The report is done and will be circulated to the board members
- The process was delayed due to the wrapping up of the JIT and political changes in Edmonton

e. *Transboundary Watershed Team*

- Members interested to be part of the team to let Tim know
- Ron and Brian volunteered to be team members

12. Upcoming events

- Canoe Trip June 14, 2014
- WPAC Summit – to be hosted by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, October 21-24 in the Capital Region.

13. Round table discussions

- Ed Sloboda
 - Discussed erosion problems near the Lagoon and the effect on the water
 - Kristen Dykstra to look into the Department of Health sampling requirements
- William King

- Stated that the Milk River Natural Area Ecological Reserve is in good shape
- There was no grazing in the ecological reserve. Grazing is allowed and hoping that this will control invasive species
- Dennis Spackman
 - WOSPP will be featured on the History Channel as well as online
 - Alberta Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation will attend the Rodeo , August long weekend
- Ron McNeil
 - PCF Fall Tour will be in the Manyberries area in September
 - In the process of looking for environmental projects in the area, Multisar has been contacted

14. Other items

15. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Warren Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:42pm. **Carried.**

16. Next Meeting Date

- Next Meeting Date is September 25, 2014 in Milk River at 1:30pm

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____