



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

January 22, 2009 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Miller, Ross Ford, Warren Cunningham, Ken Brown, Lorraine Nicol

Guest: Marv Anderson

Agenda

1. Welcome

Tom Gilchrist welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting

We reviewed the Minutes from last - **Did we approve?

3. General Liability Insurance

REAs and Water Co-ops are insured as one body. Ag Society taps into the County of Warner.

Motion: Ross Ford moves to acquire Commercial General Liability Insurance for the MRWCC. Ken Brown second, all agreed.

Action Item: Ross Ford will approach the County of Warner to determine if we could be insured under the County of Warner policy.

4. Contracts Update for Instream Flow Needs, sediment analysis etc.

Action Item: Sandi to complete the Instream Flow Needs Study – RFP – to be completed by February 29, 2009.

5. Charity status

Motion: Ken Brown moves to gather more information to determine whether charity status is appropriate for the MRWCC. Lorraine Nicol second, all agreed.

Action Item: Sandi to gather more information

6. Results from the December – Strategic Watershed Management Planning Workshop

Action Item: Sandi to complete by the end of March – provide another update in February.

7. 2009-10 grant application

Action Item: Sandi to follow-up with rain barrel initiative for the Town of Milk River and riparian health assessments (follow-up after 10 years). Executive will finalize the grant application.

8. Water for Life Renewal Team – Ken Brown’s Appointment

Ken Brown has provided a success story to Water for Life Renewal.

9. Lorraine Nicol update

Grew up in Saskatchewan, background in dryland farming. Studied permanent trade of water rights. Completed surveys with irrigators in the irrigation districts. Will also work with the private irrigators. How to access water for economic development (South Grow Initiative – Economic Development) – final report available. Linda Erikson

10. Financial Update

Board reviewed financial update provided by Don Welsh.

Motion: Warren Cunningham moved to accept the financial statement as prepared. Ross Ford second, all agreed.

11. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team

Sandi provided an update on the Community Awareness and Involvement Team efforts. Currently, the team consists of Sandi, Shilo and Shannon Frank. The group is receiving help from Pam Nielson and Austin Hook

- i. River signage – completed. The County of Warner will be putting these along the river in the appropriate places.
- ii. Annual Canoe Trip – scheduled for June 27, 2009
- iii. Annual Report – completed. Has been mailed out to everyone.
- iv. Annual General Meeting Date – Board decided on April 9, 2009 as the appropriate date, from 1:00 pm to 7 pm. Agenda to be prepared.
- v. Newsletter – Shilo is working on this and will have completed for next Board Meeting.
- vi. Website – Shilo is working on this and we hope to have up and running for next Board meeting.

b. Research and Monitoring Team

- i. Erosion Study – 850 cfs model draft report
 1. Factsheet is being developed, Sandi will review and work with AMEC to have a user friendly document that will include definitions and terms
- ii. Water Quality Monitoring Program
 1. Will continue again with a different sampling program: twice per month from April through June, July through October; Funding also available for the eastern tribs sampling – 3 times in 2009

- c. Water Supply and Management Team
 - i. Montana – Alberta St. Mary & Milk Rivers Water Management Initiative

Alberta representatives: Duncan Lloyd and Gerald Perry are the citizen reps, Ken Miller, Tom Gilchrist, Brent Paterson and Robert Harrison

The Montana group has not brought baggage from the Task Force with them. Group is moving along quite well.

Water Supply and Management Team has met with the Minister of Agriculture. Agrees with the approach of the WS&M Team. Minister of Environment does not understand that well.

Will you preserve water for Alberta's use? Will government support necessary actions for development or will it become a trade item? Alberta should place boundaries for discussion at the Joint meeting.

- d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

12. 3:00 pm – Marv Anderson attended meeting to present results of the economic study (i.e., Part 2 of the Supplemental Water Supply Investigation)

13. Next meeting – Lethbridge, February 26, 2009; 1:30 pm

14. Adjourn: 4:00; Tom, Ken and Sandi stayed to discuss more details with Marv Anderson



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

February 26, 2009 – 1:30 PM

Lethbridge, AENV Office, 2nd Floor

Present: Ken Miller, Warren Cunningham, Don Watson, Don Welsh, Terrence Lazarus, Greg Ottway, John Byrne, Lorraine Nicol, John Ross

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes from last meeting

John moves to accept the Minutes, Joan Hughson, second and everyone agreed.

3. Review Grant Application Submission to AENV and Workplan
 - a. Administrative Assistant job posting
4. Annual General Meeting – April 9, 2009, Milk River Civic Centre, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
 - a. Catering -
 - b. Elections

Notice of meeting and change in the bylaw. Order of business,

The term of office of a Director is renewable for a second term upon nomination and election by the members **but must stand down for at least one term**, unless uncontested. Should the office of a Director be uncontested or vacant, a Director may serve for additional terms until contested.

Motion: Don Welsh moves to adopt this change in bylaws, Terrence Lazarus second, all agreed.

Randall Wolftail – sits on the Oldman Watershed Council. Bloods.

To do: Sandi to contact First Nations Dorothy First Rider, Kim Shade – aboriginal affairs.

- c. Draft Agenda
 - 1:00 pm Welcome and opening remarks
 - 1:40 New Developments in Conservation
 - Nature Conservancy of Canada – Stewardship Credit Program - Sandstone Ranch (15 min)
 - DUC Wetland Restoration Program – (15 min)
 - MultiSAR Species at Risk (15 min)
 - 2:30 Supplemental Water Supply: Economic Evaluation (15 minutes)

- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Cumulative effects management and you (Terrence Lazarus – 20 – 30 minutes)
- 4:00 Montana-Alberta Joint Water Management Initiative (30 mins) (Brent Paterson, AFRD)

Rehabilitation of St. Mary Diversion Infrastructure John Sanders – Mike Daily

- 4:30 Milk River Watershed Council Canada Updates
 - Financial Report (10 min)
 - Water Supply and Management Team (10 min)
 - a. Research, Monitoring and Project Team (10 min)
 - b. Instream Flow Needs
 - c. Water Quality Monitoring Report
 - d. Benthic Invertebrate Study (Cam Goater – University of Lethbridge?)
 - e. Erosion and Sedimentation Factsheet
 - Community Awareness and Involvement Team (10 min)
 - Integrated Watershed Management Planning Team (10 min)
 - Elections (20 mins)
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 Water for Life/Land Use Framework – Rob Renner or Bev Yee

- d. Displays
- e. Raffle – 5.00 a ticket, 3 for 20.00? Or Silent Auction?
- f. Speaker gifts...

To do: Everyone...canvas organizations etc....

- 5. Water for Life Renewal Team – Ken Brown

Not available – deferred to next m

- 6. Financial Update – Don Welsh

Report is at the auditors (KPMG) in Lethbridge).

- 7. Team Updates
 - a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team
 - i. Annual Canoe Trip – June 27, 2009
 - ii. Newsletter
 - iii. Website

To do: Send SOWs to Senior centres,

- b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team
 - i. Erosion Study – Factsheet
 - ii. Instream Flow Needs Study RFP
- c. Water Supply and Management Team

i. Montana – Alberta St. Mary & Milk Rivers Water Management Initiative

Team has been appointed by Minister of Environment. Six members from each side.

Alberta Robert Harrison, AENV
 Brent Paterson, AFRD
 Duncan Lloyd
 Jerry Perry – potato grower
 Tom Gilchrist
 Ken Miller

Montana

Team has had three joint educational meetings.

Review of IJC activities. Task force could only look at administrative rule changes, this team can also look at infrastructure to make better use of water.

Next three meeting will be toward establishing interests of groups along the river through structured decision making.

Any recommendation made will be delivered to the appropriate jurisdictions.

d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

Deferred to next meeting.

8. Next meeting – Milk River, March 26, 2009; 1:30 pm

9. Adjourn at 4:05 pm



DRAFT Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

March 26, 2009 – 1:30 PM

Town of Milk River

Present: Ken Brown, Don Welsh, Tess Larson, Ken Miller, Lorraine Nicol, Darlene Sakires, John Ross, Terrence Lazarus, John Byrne, Sandi Riemersma, Greg Ottway

Minutes

1. Welcome – Ken Miller chaired the meeting
2. Minutes from last meeting -

Ken moves to approve the minutes in principle. Tess seconds. All approved.

To do: Sandi to clean the Minutes up and send out.

3. Build Agenda:
4. Annual General Meeting – April 9, 2009, Milk River Civic Centre, 12:30pm to 7:00 pm

Membership renewals: Membership does not need to be renewed annually. However, if you would like to cancel your membership notify the Executive Director.

- a. Displays
- b. Raffle – 5.00 a ticket, 3 for \$10.00

Colleen Ward – Stirling – librarian at highschool, framed rock art
CNRL
DUC
County of Warner
Writing-on-Stone

5. Water for Life Renewal Team – Ken Brown

Just submitted a list of 11 objectives that they would like to meet over the next year – have completed 65 objectives. Online to be published by early July.

Made up of people from Federal, provincial government, industry, WPACs. Hired Golder to complete report. Ensuring that every Albertan has safe drinking water. Industry concerned that they have access to water. Terry Sly is now the coordinator of the Renewal Team. WPACs asked to submit short success story – several to be published. Untangle the many levels of “Bureaucracy”. Team meets every two months or so via conference call or in person in Calgary. Alberta Water Council

Irrigation Council has come out with their conservation, productivity and efficiency report.

6. First Nation's Involvement – Terrence Lazarus

Not a lot of information right now, but Terrence contacted Kim Shade who works on the same floor as Terrence. Not hopeful because we do not have reserve land in the watershed. The land in the Milk River watershed is traditional lands.

Work with the Oldman Watershed Council and visit First Nations to try and solicit participation. Duty to consult is not present...evolving process. Names were provided for contact, but at this point, just a conversation.

With WOS relations, Greg Ottway meets every two months with the Mookaakinn Foundation (Blood).

About 8 or 10 years ago, an aboriginal skeleton was found at WOS.

7. Southern Watersheds Meeting – Terrence

Audrey Goodwin arranges a meeting in High River, annually. The next meeting is going to be on May 20, 2009. Links between Land-use Framework, Water for Life and Cumulative Effects Management.

8. Financial Update – Don Welsh

No current report because waiting for the Audit to be complete. Waiting for the formal contract from Sandi.

To do: Sandi to resend the signed contract to KPMG. Provide Don with the inkind contribution estimate.

9. Administrative Coordinator – update

Laptop (1,000.00)
Back-up Unit (100.00)
Printer/Scanner/Copier/Fax
Data stick

Desk and Chair?

Darlene Sakires moves that Sandi make the appropriate purchases to the sum of 2,000.00. John Ross seconds. All agreed.

Tess to look at desk and chair options for the library –
Greg Ottway – maybe filing cabinets
Terrence Lazarus to explore surplus

10. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team
 - i. Annual Canoe Trip – June 27, 2009

- ii. Newsletter – in the mail
- iii. Website

b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team

- i. Erosion Study – Factsheet
- ii. Instream Flow Needs Study RFP

c. Water Supply and Management Team

- i. Montana – Alberta St. Mary & Milk Rivers Water Management Initiative
 - 1. Going to Havre in a week.

d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

- i. To Do: Deferred to AGM

11. Next meeting – April 9, 2009; 12:30 pm; April 23, 2009 – 1:30 pm

12. Adjourn – Ken Brown motions to adjourn 3:44 pm



DRAFT Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

September 24, 2009 – 9:30 AM

Coast Plaza Hotel, 526 Mayor Magrath Drive South

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Sandi Riemersma, Ken Miller, John Ross, Marc Dubord, Terrence Lazarus, Joan Hughson, Warren Cunningham, Ross Ford, Greg Ottway, John Byrne, Lorraine Nicol, Gayna Welsh.

Agenda

1. Welcome back!

Tom opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Motion: Ross/Joan moved to adopt minutes, Carried

3. Vacancies on MRWCC Board – Water Co-ops, First Nations, and Federal Government

Sandi mentioned that Don Watson is no longer with DUC but would stay on the Board but we may want to be searching for someone who is actually with a non-government organization. DFO, former PFRA, Environment Canada personnel are options for the federal position.

First Nations: Sandi has met Kim Shade; she is willing to help us set up a meeting with Blood Tribe. Ken Miller has some suggestions: an acquaintance that is CEO of Red Crowe College may be willing to help find someone for our Board. Ken and Sandi will draft a letter to send to him. Water Co-ops suggestions Cam Schmitt, Will Lindeman, Harold Halvorson.

Action: Sandi will draft a letter to recruit these positions. Could attend as observers until next AGM when they could be officially appointed.

4. Charity Status Update

The current MRWCC charity status application is on hold. Amendments to the original applications were suggested that clarify the goals and align them with those of a charitable organization. A special resolution is required to amend the MRWCC original goals. The amendments are in line with the original intent.

Motion: John R/Marc moved that the Board adopt this special resolution to be made available to the general membership. Carried

5. Conferences and Tour attendance

- a. Bow River Basin Council: Sandi provided an MRWCC update at the BRBC quarterly forum, well received. Next quarterly forum will be in December. There is very good information presented and all are encouraged to attend.
- b. WaterEdWest Conference: Education forum. Sandi presented the MRWCC SOW and how it is used as a tool to educate members and stakeholders. Bev Yee spoke on the Milk River transboundary issues.

- c. Oldman Watershed Council Rural Team Tour: Gayna attended on September 15th and observed many different demonstration projects.
- d. Joan made a comment that we are receiving accolades as to our operation and progress as a Council. We are used as an example.
- e. Annual Southern Alberta Watershed Workshop: Tom and Sandi attended this May workshop where the Landuse Framework was presented, along with other provincial updates. It was noted that the Water Quality Objectives work would be undertaken by the Province rather than at the WPAC level for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.
- f. Meeting with Morris Seiferling: Ken M., Tom and Sandi attended a meeting in Red Deer with all WPACs represented. Presentations to inform how the Land Use Framework will integrate with the *Water for Life Strategy*. The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan encompasses the area north of Calgary south to the Alberta-Montana border. The SSRP is moving ahead very quickly and will likely surpass the work we are undertaking. The Milk River Integrated Watershed Plan will likely be considered a “Subregional Plan”. The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is overseeing the SSRP process; Lisa Fox is the WPAC rep on that team. We need to provide a two-page synopsis of major issues/concerns for the Milk River watershed to Dough Ohrn, AENV Calgary. Recommendations from here will be made to Cabinet and will become regulation. The creation of Geo-Discover Alberta was introduced; all available watershed data will be hosted on this website – a similar concept as the Alberta Water Portal.
- g. Southgrow meeting: Sandi and Tom attended and were consulted on several water related issues so that they can set up a site on water use within the Southgrow Region (i.e., southern Alberta). The information will be supplied to prospective developers/industry who are attracted to the region and looking for information. A second meeting is planned for October 6th.

6. Team Updates

- a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team
 - i. Annual Canoe Trip – June 27th, had so many participants that we scrambled for rafts and canoes. About 45 people attended. Next year, perhaps will float the north fork to give those attending annually a chance to see a different part of the Milk River. Ken Brown acts as guide and is great to have as a resource.
 - ii. Website Updates: all maps, research and news items are available. There is a member’s only area where Agendas/Minutes/JIT Updates will be posted. The instructions outlining how to use the site will be forwarded. Everyone could have a milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca email address if they wish.
 - iii. School program – CAIT is promoting the Yellow Fish Road program that is designed to educate on stormwater impacts by placing a painted yellow fish next to the storm drain. This fish reminds people that stormwater flows untreated to the Milk River. A Poster Contest will be held this fall with the local schools with the theme of “What does the Milk River mean to you?”. School Meetings are scheduled to introduce the Poster Contest.
 - iv. Xeriscape Tour: The xeriscape tour was well attended by 40 people on September 19th. CAIT hopes to follow up with a workshop in Milk River for those people who would like to design a project for their yards.
 - v. A gift for you!! Gayna handed out vests for each Board member.
- b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team
 - i. Instream Flow Needs Study: Golder Associates hired, approximate cost \$190,000. Good technical team to help steer the project and includes Kasey Clipperton, Terrence Lazarus, Ken Miller, John Ross, Stewart Rood, Wendell Koning, Werner Herrera and Terry Clayton. In Phase 1, the background data will be collected and delivered to provide an overview of Milk River conditions – this will be completed by October 5. The Team emphasized that we want direction as to minimum and maximum flow at the end of the project.

- ii. Streambank Stabilization Project: Team meeting on October 13th to prioritize sites for this project. Ross asked if we were interested in partnering with the County of Warner on the Weir Bridge site. We do have \$25,000 from EnCana that we can use for anything that is deemed a priority. This is one candidate for those funds. Whatever project this money is used for, EnCana will receive the proper recognition (i.e. signage). It is very important to have a demo site that is quite visible for awareness. Greg made a suggestion for a site, south side of the river at WOS, very visible for awareness and very necessary to address as public visits are increasing annually to the Park. Since this site is currently not on the list.
Action: Greg to provide pictures of the site to Sandi. Tom will fly over the site and take some aerial photos.
 - iii. Water Quality Monitoring Program: The program has continued, although the number of sampling times during the hottest months (July onwards) was reduced now that there is three years of complete data available. Have not heard back from AENV as to funding this as a project – the proposal was submitted in June.
 - iv. There will be an IFN Team meeting on October 7th and a Research and Monitoring Team meeting on October 13th.
- c. Water Supply and Management Team
 - i. Montana – Alberta St. Mary & Milk Rivers Water Management Initiative Update. Ken and Tom fully engaged with the Montana/Alberta Team. Meeting today and tomorrow will consider the first stretch of modeling results to achieve higher percentage use of apportionment share. The Team met at Many Glaciers in Montana in June. On July 23rd the Team was hosted in Milk River and toured storage sites west of Milk River. Moved to Miller's where pumps and remote monitoring equipment is situated (Ken's are telephone reporting). Weir Bridge was next, used Ken Brown's rafts to float to WOS Park where the Team saw some erosion sites along the way. A meeting was held at the Interpretive Center. Tour of Gilchrist ranch followed along with supper and refreshments. Deadline is end of April, 2010.
Action: Tom will send the JIT update to members via email.
 - ii. Southgrow: Lorraine is commissioned to update her original report and has requested that any significant reports be forwarded to her so results can be included in Southgrow report.
Action: All 7 JIT reports should be sent to Lorraine. Sandi also commented that these reports can be put on the Board Member's Only website.
- d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team
 - i. Draft Terms of Reference: Sandi presented the draft Terms of Reference for the IWMP that will be brought to the first IWMP Team meeting for review and editing. The draft TOR is strictly a starting point to help provide the Team with direction.. Ken Miller will Chair the IWMP Team and members were identified for the Team that represent the major stakeholder groups in the watershed.
 - ii. Schedule: A draft schedule for the IWMP was developed. An initial meeting will take place on October 20th where the schedule will be reviewed.
- e. Tom asked for any other concerns:
 - i. Ross Ford made a request that MRWCC consider cost sharing the Weir Bridge entry site upgrades with them (the County intends to make it a day use camp area). They have received a grant for \$60,000 and still require \$30,000.
Action: Sandi to send Ross the aerial photo of the site for their records.
 - ii. John Byrne offered to look into a dugout workshop and would like input on the best time and place for the workshop. He had met with Vic Brown and Vic was enthused about presenting. The consensus was that combining it with the Working Well Workshop would be too much for participants and that early spring should be considered as a possible date.

iii. Financial Statement, Gayna will email these to Board members.

7. Important Dates

- a. WPAC Summit – October 26, 27, 28: Lorraine, Sandi and Gayna will attend; Marc will likely attend for at least one day. The consensus was that there will be no limit on how many from the Board may attend. Costs for travel will be covered by the MRWCC.
 - b. Town of Milk River Council Meeting, October 13, 2009 – 5:30 pm. Sandi and Gayna will attend.
8. Next meeting – Milk River, October 22, 2009 – 1:30 pm start
9. Adjourn: Tom moved adjournment at 11:50 a.m.



Draft Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

October 22, 2009 – 1:30 AM

Town of Milk River, Town Hall

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Ken Brown, Greg Ottway, Brian Hills, Ken Miller, John Ross, Sandi Riemersma, Gayna Welsh, Warren Cunningham, John Byrne **Guest:** Brian Hills, AENV

Agenda

1. Welcome

Tom welcomed everyone, opened the meeting at 1:35 pm.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Sandi highlighted the Minutes. John R/Warren moved adoption. Carried

3. Guest – Brian Hills, AENV – Water Quality Objectives

Ken M, Sandi and Tom all asked questions about our role in the SSRP.

Brian commented that due to the extremely tight timeline, proper public consultation was difficult. When future water quality problems are detected in the Milk River, the WPAC is the most logical body to determine how to address them using established WQOs.

Sandi and Tom reminded Brian that we have sites along the Milk River that have been monitored for quality for 4 years now – John Ross pointed out that this year we were not provided funding for the water monitoring program but continued with it because we believe the data is valuable.

Use of old data to develop the WQOs was questioned, Brian cited the January deadline as the reason they chose to use the data from the old monitoring sites. Brian wanted to know how they could keep MRWCC best informed, consensus was that email updates and presentations to the Board are the best way.

4. Vacancies on MRWCC Board Update – Water Co-ops, First Nations, and Federal:

Sandi has drafted up the letter that will be sent out to some potential candidates. Will see what their responses will be and their time available. First Nations: Sandi spoke to Kim Shade, Kim has drafted letter to Pikani and Blood Tribe seeking a meeting between the MRWCC and them. Currently revision stage between Sandi and Kim, soon to be sent out. Kim will facilitate a meeting between Sandi and First Nations candidate.

Action: Sandi will mail out the letters to the potential candidates and follow up with Kim Shade.

5. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team

School meetings: Gayna and Shannon Frank with SRD have been visiting the local schools to update the Watershed Awareness Tool Kits that were provided to them previously by the MRWCC. The Tool Kits are well received and teachers have offered suggestions on other items that could be placed in the kit. Gayna presented the poster contest for the schools – the deadline is November 2009.

Town meetings: Sandi gave presentations to both Milk River and Coutts Town Councils to update them on our progress and to ask for a representative to be on our IWMP Team. She also let them know that we will keep updating them on our progress. We have applied to Eco Trust for funding for the xeri-scape project, sites yet to be determined.

b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team

John Ross reported that the Team has had a couple of IFN and bank stabilization meetings. The IFN Study is moving along and already have initial report from Golder. The team has identified two sites where the 3-dimensional model data collection will take place. Golder went to these sites last Thursday and Friday; one is on Reed Snow's ranch, the other on the Pinhorn Ranch. The team decided more emphasis on gravel and sandbed reaches was necessary as opposed to choosing sites based on north and south fork locations. The target is for a February report to review.

Water Quality Monitoring is now finished for the year. MRWCC has had to fund this project this year as AENV's monitoring budget was reduced by 60% and all external water monitoring projects were cancelled. A special project application was submitted by what was perceived to be the correct deadline in June, but we were later informed that the deadline had lapsed. Application has been resubmitted for this quarter, aiming for retroactive funding. Sandi has asked for a schedule of the project application deadline so that missed deadlines can be avoided but was informed that it is impossible to publish the deadlines. AENV had stated that projects may be applied for quarterly on a separate application from the operational budget.

Streambank Stabilization: Three sites were prioritized for further study: Goldsprings Park, Weir Bridge and Hillmer Bridge. The EnCana donation will likely be used for this project. As well, we will be applying to Eco Action Canada for funding. The Counties of Cardston and Warner are very interested in this project and have offered equipment and manpower to facilitate implementation. We will need AENV and DFO approval to implement, the team is hoping to start next October when the water level is down again. PFRA is also interested as they assisted with the original erosion study; Bunny Mah is taking our proposal to a meeting to see if we can get support via in-house engineering for design. If not, an RFP will be sent to appropriate consultants.

Sandi discussed a letter from County of Warner seeking money donation from us to help with their day use project (to supplement their Badlands Grant application). Will refer that letter to the RM team and receive a recommendation from them. RM team needs the streambank project data so that we know which sites we can afford to do and prioritize.

c. Water Supply and Management Team: nothing to report.

d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

Meeting tomorrow to review draft Terms of Reference. Sam Wirzba, ASRD, passed the plan to his staff and was able to provide comments as he can't attend tomorrow.

e. Joint International Team

Currently in the modeling phase so that proper comparisons can be done on increased water volume made available for use. Once recommendations have been made about which scenario is most effective, economic analysis will be the next step. On the Alberta side, we have good data already. Timelines: "What if" scenarios should be completed in New Year with final reports to be completed in April, then prioritizing the alternatives will be completed.

6. Financial Report: Reviewed statements

Motion: Ken/John R moved adoption as presented. Carried

7. Alberta Environment Grant Application due date November 16, 2009

Action: Sandi will submit a grant application for the same or a bit more than last year. The operational budget is due in November, projects are to be applied for separately.

8. Choose date for the Annual General Meeting, venue and time

Consensus was Thursday, April 8th, 2010, Milk River Civic Center, 1:30 p.m. until after dinner and guest speaker/entertainer (about 8:00 p.m.). A silent auction will be held.

9. Other news and events:

- a. PD day May 20, 2010 in Horizon School District and the principal of Coutts and Erle Rivers schools requested that we put together a tour for the staff to part in.

Action: Gayna to inform them that we would be interested in a tour and more details will be determined closer to the date.

- b. Working Well Workshop, information attached. Only one person registered for the day thus far. We are hosts, AB Ag will be presenters.

10. Important Dates

- a. WPAC Summit – October 26, 27, 28: Ken B, Gayna, Sandi, Marc, Lorraine are all attending the full conference.

11. Next meeting – Lethbridge, November 26, 2009 – 1:30 pm start

12. Adjourn:

Motion: Ken B moved adjournment at 3:30 p.m.



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

November 26, 2009 – 1:30 AM

Lethbridge, AENV Office, 2nd Floor

Present: Tom Gilchrist, Lorraine Nicol, Ken Miller, Marc Dubord, Will Lindeman, Ross Ford, John Ross, John Byrne, Sandi Riemersma, Gayna Welsh

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom opened meeting at 1:40 p.m. Introduced Board to potential new board member, Will Lindeman.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Sandi highlighted the minutes for those present. **Motion:** Ross/John R moved to adopt the minutes. Carried

3. Vacancies on MRWCC Board Update – Water Co-ops, First Nations, Federal

We had two responses to our letters, Harold Halvorson (Foremost) and Will Lindeman (Milk River) Kim Shade: 2 letters sent to First Nations from Bev Yee and we are waiting for responses.

Action: Prepare letter to Federal Agencies (ie. Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans) requesting First Nations participation on our board.

4. Appointment of MRWCC Board Secretary (member of Executive)

It would be more efficient if we had one more signing authority so we are looking to appoint another person to executive as secretary to board. One name brought forth was Warren Cunningham.

Motion: John R/Lorraine moved to accept Warren's as Secretary to Board. Carried

5. Alberta Environment Grant Application submitted November 16, 2009

Sandi is looking to post entire application on member's only site. Full proposal is attached. Has been submitted, request was for \$182,000 with the full realization that we won't receive the full amount. Sandi explained the in kind amounts recorded on the grant application and the value of our partnerships. The request was for core dollars only but Sandi did submit our project amounts, too so that they could get the correct perspective on our activities.

6. WPAC Summit Review

a. Land Use Framework Update

Marc reported on the presentations, everyone had different levels of information to present. He noticed that there was much discussion on Land Use Framework, especially the exercise on our (the WPACs) message to Land Use Framework team. Lorraine thought it was well worth attending and meeting people involved in WPACs. Lorraine would have liked if everyone would have explained where each group was in their watershed planning strategy. Each watershed is at a different stage and has various issues. attached is a letter going to Morris Seiferling, Land Use Framework Secretariat explaining why including WPACs would be an asset to Land Use Framework planning.

b. Recent release of the *Water for Life Strategy* Action Plan

7. Team Updates

a. Community Awareness and Involvement Team

Poster contest over and Gayna will be gathering up all entries. Response was good!! On the downside, Eco Action denied our grant request that was to fund our xeriscape demo project and follow up workshop.

Action: Gayna will look into other funding and contact Eco Action committee to see how our application could have been more effective.

b. Research, Monitoring and Project Team

John reported that this team couldn't get together for a scheduled meeting. New project: Sandi met with the Geological Survey of Canada team that contacted us with their research project on the Milk River aquifer. Sandi will be assisting them by initially compiling a list of professionals for their steering committee. Once this is complete, Sandi will meet with them again. Sandi suggested they hold a community meeting to get more participation.

Eco Canada (federal money) was denied for Streambank Erosion Project. It was to be a matching amount to the EnCana donation. Sandi will be sending out the RFP for this project so that we can see if we have enough money to start this project.

c. Water Supply and Management Team

i. Joint International Team

November 17: Alberta Co-chair of the JIT presented to the AB Irrigation Project Association on the activities. Was an excellent powerpoint presentation (created by Robert Harrison) that could be delivered to the citizens of the entire watershed as an information night. It would take about 3 hours, including the questions. IWMP discussed hosting a meeting in February and that could be a possible venue.

Alternative: information sessions throughout the winter featuring a different area at each. Tentative plan: JIT update in January some evening (7:00 to 9:00), IWMP in February.

Action: CAIT to discuss the planning of these events.

Action: Seek permission to give presentation to public.

JIT meets on December 3 and 4 and the modeling is to be complete. Next step, evaluate, look at combinations and determine what is doable or possible.

d. Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team

Meeting held this morning. Terms of reference were concentrated on, another meeting in January and they should be ready for publishing in February. There are about a dozen people on the committee, half of which are on the MRWCC or associated with it. Sam W. reported that his superiors may not allow his participation due to some issues with TOR. After much discussion, they believe they have addressed this issue. Draft TOR will be ready shortly. By AGM this team would like to devote some time presenting this plan to the public for feedback and input. Water supply, quality, riparian health, biodiversity, have been covered within the TOR. Once TOR is accepted by municipalities, provincial government and public, targets and thresholds can be developed. We have already been asked by Doug Ohrn for environmental outcomes but are not ready yet but we do have some that have already been accepted that we will pass on to the LAF team. Will be posting TOR on website a month in advance of public meeting. Once endorsed by public and municipalities we will take it to province for approval.

Action: advertise the website clearly on next newsletter so that people will start to use it.

8. Annual General Meeting and 2008-09 Annual Report

April 8th in Milk River at the Civic Center (Agora Room).

9. Financial Report

Motion: John B/John R moved to adopt the statements as presented. Carried

10. Other news and events

a. South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Public Consultation (All sessions 4-7 pm)

i. November 30 – Calgary (Glenmore Inn)

ii. December 7 – Lethbridge (Eagles Hall)

iii. December 10 – Milk River (Heritage Hall)

Action: We should attend as a group and make a presentation or have some very direct questions to be answered.

Action: Lorraine and Marc will attend sessions prior to the Milk River one and will inform Sandi about the direction those presentations take.

- b. Member's only section of website, Sandi explained how to go on and get access and encouraged all members to enroll.
- c. Two letters received from County about donation for Weir Bridge day use update, Sandi responded that we need engineered design in place before we can commence project. County very much in support of the Streambank Stabilization project but we need to design the project first before we can support the day use area. As far as the donation we have not allocated money for this type of expenditure especially when we are trying to seek funding for the Stabilization project. We will commit support in any other way especially as they support us in our water monitoring project.

Motion: Ken M/Lorraine moved that we write a letter stating that our support for Streambank Stabilization precludes supporting other projects at this time but that we commit our support in other ways to their day use project.

11. Important Dates

- a. MRWCC 5th Annual General Meeting – Thursday April 8, 2010
- b. Possible information night in January to present JIT progress.

12. Next meeting – Milk River, January 28, 2009 – 1:30 pm start

13. Adjourn

Tom thanked all for attendance and reports. **Motion:** Ross moved adjournment at 3:25 p.m.