



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 23, 2019 – 1:00 PM

Town of Milk River Office

Present: William King, Ben Ellert, John Ross, Ron McNeil, Ed Sloboda, Scott MacCumber, Joan Hughson, Brian Hills, Aaron Domes, Darcy Wills, Lorraine Nicol, Ross Ford, Will Lindeman, Warren Cunningham, Suzanne Liebelt, Kandra Forbes, Tim Romanow, and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Kristen Dykstra, Devon Ford, and Ken Miller

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 12:35 pm

2. Approve Agenda

Motion: Lorraine Nicol moved to approve the agenda as presented. Suzanne Liebelt seconded. **Carried**

3. Minutes from March 28, 2019 meeting

- Lorraine Nicol to be noted as absent at the March 28 Board meeting

Motion: Ross Ford moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ron McNeil seconded. **Carried**

4. Organizational elections

a. Member at large, special assignment appointment

- This seat has been removed

b. Executive Board election

- i. Chairman
 - Ed Sloboda nominated **John Ross**
- ii. Vice Chairman
 - Two nominations were brought forward:
 - Ross Ford nominated **Ken Miller**
 - Ben Ellert nominated **Ron McNeil**
- iii. Treasurer
 - Warren Cunningham Nominated **Will Lindeman**
- iv. Secretary
 - William King nominated **Warren Cunningham**

- The two nominations for Vice Chairman went through a secret ballot vote and **Ron McNeil** was declared the vice chairman

Motion: Darcy Wills moved to accept the Executive Board appointments as presented. Suzanne Liebelt seconded. **Carried.**

c. Team Chair elections

- i. Community Awareness and Involvement Team
 - Ed Sloboda
- ii. Research and Monitoring Team
 - Will Lindeman
- iii. Water Supply and Management Team
 - Ken Miller
- iv. Transboundary Watershed Team
 - Ron McNeil

Motion: Scott MacCumber moved to accept Team Chair appointments. Ross Ford seconded. **Carried.**

5. WPAC Core/Project Grant Status Update

- Grant application was submitted based on the work plan presented at the last Board meeting
- We have since received an advancement of \$100,000 towards 2019/20
- No decisions have been made by the new government on the grant status as of now
- On other grant applications
 - TD Friends of the Environment grant application was declined
 - Received confirmation that we will receive grant for 8 weeks of the summer intern position. Will start looking at candidate selection process from the 4 resumes received
 - Tim thanked WOSPP staff for their help in setting up the workplan for the position

6. Milk River Water Storage Investigation Study Summary Project update

- a. Next Steps, Community Survey and information session, GOA
 - Currently there are no commissioners appointed for both Canada and US
 - Thanks to Brian Hills, Brian Yee, and Carmen for their support and collaboration in producing the summary report
 - The Water Supply Management Team was thanked for their input
 - Summary report was released and there is need to develop a community survey and ensure the information is disseminated to residents and stakeholders to garner support
 - A cover letter was put together to be presented with the summary

- Now that the summary is released, will need to be prepared on how to deal with feedback and questions from the public

Action: Tim to put together a more in-depth briefing to be used publicly

- Lorraine Nicol offered to act as an advisor for the survey and will help with the feedback analysis
- Need to plan a Team meeting before fall to come up with project Terms of Reference
- Will need to have a meeting in summer to plan the community information session to be held in fall

7. New AEP Minister welcome letter

a. MRWCC Sector feedback

- There is need to send out a welcome letter to the Minister of Environment urgently and give a description of MRWCC as one of the WPACs
- The letter should be tailored specific for the MRWCC's role
- There is also a plan to send a delegation of 3 WPACs (Executive Directors and the Chairmen) to meet the Minister and give an overview of the role of WPACs and highlight the success of partnerships
- Can offer a tour of the watershed for the politicians
- Can also offer the letter to the MLAs to take to the Minister

8. Milk River Basin Approved Water Management Plan - *Status update for fall 2019*

- Still waiting for the review
- Might be held up with approval (low priority)

9. 2019 AGM Report

- Good meeting

10. Upcoming Events

- Canoe Tour – June 21, 2019
- Women Grazing School – July 16th and 17th, 2019
- YRDs – July 23rd, to 25th, 2019 – *Registration is now full*
- Science Forum November 7, 2019
- Transboundary Grasslands Workshop - February 25 and 26, 2020

11. Round table discussions

- William King:
 - Would like to see YRDs past winner stories highlighted in the Newsletter and other medias
 - Central and Northern WPACs have shown interest in adopting the concept of YRDs
- Ron and Aaron

- Planning a WOSPP and MRWCC Fall Hike Tour in the remote south of the river
- This will be a strenuous and difficult hike that will take 7 to 8 hours from Humphry coulee down to the tributary of Davis to Police Coulee. About 12 km
- Can be offered as half day hikes for those interested
- Need to be concerned with risk and safety management
- There is a planning committee in place to handle logistics
- Will need participants to sign claim waiver

Action: Mary to send out an ad by mid-August

- Lorraine Nicol:
 - Pleased with how the article by OWC on Precision Agriculture Study was covered and it garnered a great deal of attention from different media outlets
 - Good study that acknowledges farmers' environmental friendliness and consciousness
 - The study will be undertaken by the Bow River and St. Mary River Irrigation Districts
- Brian Hills:
 - Raise awareness on water supply in the Oldman River basin
 - There is below average runoff
 - It is very dry in the Foothills
 - Have a cap on allocation
- Will Lindeman:
 - Looked into the issue of Water Coop pipes sticking out of the ground
 - County of Warner has been unable to track where they came from
 - Ben looked at records of location for monitoring wells, but was unable to establish ownership as well
- Will Lindeman:
 - Wanted to inquire on water rights to irrigate new lands within the St. Mary district
- Tim Romanow:
 - Looking at different unique ways of promoting the MRWCC and the work done
 - There was a proposition to look into having a watershed beef contest at future Bonanza Day as a fundraising event and present the connection between water management, range and grazing management, and stewardship
 - Ask interested watershed beef producers to donate beef
 - Have a BBQ contest
 - Proceeds to go towards MRWCC work initiatives
 - Will need to check with Kristen on health concerns

- Can also be done as a separate event not during the Bonanza Day to avoid conflict with other food events
- Can tie in with a local brewery and offer advertisement for the company
- The consensus was to go ahead with the feasibility study of the event

12. Other items

13. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: William King moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20pm

14. Photo op.

15. Next Meeting Date

- September 26, 2019

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____