



Minutes

MRWCC Board Meeting

May 27, 2021 – 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Present:

John Ross, Brian Hills, Suzanne Liebelt, Ken Miller, Darcy Wills, Will Lindeman, Scott MacCumber, Ron McNeil, Lorraine Nicol, Aaron Domes, Ross Ford, William King, Joan Hughson, Warren Cunningham, Ben Ellert, Ken Brown, and Mary Lupwayi

Absent: Tim Romanow, Kristen Dykstra, Ed Sloboda

1. Welcome and introductions

- John Ross welcomed everyone to the zoom meeting
- He brought the meeting to order at 1:02pm

2. Approve Agenda

Motion: Scott MacCumber moved to approve the agenda. Lorraine Nicol seconded.
Carried

3. Minutes from March 25, 2021 meeting

- Some corrections were identified:
 - WSM Team sub-bullet 2 should read: Retrieved some historical information on discussion between MT and AB with regard to shared storage
 - WPAC/Municipal study on the response rate, should read: BRWA 18%

Motion: Ross Ford moved to accept the minutes as amended. Suzanne Liebelt seconded. **Carried**

4. Organizational election

- Scott MacCumber led the elections
- **Executive Board election**
 - i. Chairman
 - Nomination brought forward: **John Ross** as Chairman
 - ii. Vice Chairman
 - Nomination brought forward: **Ron McNeil** as Vice Chairman
 - iii. Treasurer
 - Nomination brought forward: **Will Lindeman** as Treasurer
 - iv. Secretary
 - Nomination brought forward: **Warren Cunningham** as Secretary

- Nominations were called out 3 times as they were read. No further nominations were received

Motion: Scott MacCumber moved to accept the Executive Board nominations as presented and elections to cease. Ken Brown seconded. **Carried.**

➤ **Team Leader election**

- 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: Ross Ford moved to accept Team Chair appointments. Ben Ellert seconded. **Carried.**

➤ **Member at Large**

- i. Warren Cunningham

➤ **Alternate Board Members Appointments**

- i. Scott MacCumber - Towns and Villages (Alternate) - appointed by the Village of Coutts
- ii. Darcy Wills - Individual Member (Alternate)

Motion: Ross Ford moved to accept Darcy Wills as the Alternate Individual Member and as an alternate member, Darcy can only vote in the absence of the main Individual Member. Ron McNeil seconded. **Carried.**

5. 2021/22 AEP Core/Project Grant Status Update

- Still pending
- This will be the second year of the multi-year grant from AEP
- The total expected for 2021/22 is \$275,000
- An interim report and 2021/22 application had been submitted

6. Other Grants

- Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) update
 - Still pending
 - Joint application with OWC
- Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Education Grant
 - Approved \$10,000

- Grant for virtual field trip educational series project that allows for the development of curriculum linked grade 8-12 in classroom virtual fieldtrips with wildlife researchers, habitat managers, and cow-calf farmers/ranchers that are responsible for sustainable management of land, water, and biodiversity in southern Alberta

Action: Mary to provide more information on the ACA grant in terms of needing help from the Board to source contractors

- Canada Summer Jobs 2021
 - Approved
 - In the process of getting a candidate
 - If successful, they will start July 5, 2021
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Priority Places Grant - Producers leading the way project
 - Approved \$50,000
 - A producer leading way project
 - Species At Risk driven
 - In the process of putting together a workplan
- 2021-22 Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) Myotis Bat stewardship project
 - Still pending
 - Working with land owners to identify bat location to help populate Species at Risk data

7. Round table discussions

- John Ross welcomed Ken Brown back to the Board
- Lorraine Nicol: WPAC/Municipal study
 - The report was approved and it will be distributed to all Board members that participated
 - Requested a minor comment that was to be added relating to how the work of WPACs impact municipal real estate industry
 - The report has been approved
 - The report and a one-page synopsis will be provided to the 4 WPACs that participated in the study for feedback and later will be distributed broadly
 - The report will be very useful for individual WPACs
 - There will be a generic press release after wards

Action: Loraine Nicol to give a presentation of the report at the September Board Meeting.

- Brian Hills:
 - IJC Accredited Officers letter of intent:

- Up to the 15th of May the US had not created any deficit on the St. Mary's. There is no water to offset Milk River use. So, in July and August, there is a possibility that they may create a deficit for the last 2 weeks of May. Waiting for confirmation
 - Next meeting of the IJC Accredited Officers is scheduled for June 23rd
 - Could not release water from Sherburne due to canal failures last year
- Ron McNeil:
- Ecotrust Foundation Grant: Any indication of how many organizations will submit proposals? As of now, we are not sure. We received feedback from 2 organizations and will know by the deadline how many we will get
 - The WSM Team is overseeing the proposal selection process. Ron McNeil has volunteered to help with the selection process
- Lorraine Nicol: EO Coordinator position
- Why it was concluded
 - It was a term position
 - Funding limitations with the phase out of WRRP program which paid \$20,000 per year of the salary
 - Work capacity due to covid restrictions in schools
 - Are there plans to bring back the position?
 - Had plans to make it a more permanent joint position with other WPACs and tried to source funding for the position but have not been successful
 - Will keep trying source funding for the program as it is an important program
- Ross Ford: Insight Chartered Accountants Performance
- They are working very well
 - Payment has been stable as in the agreement
- Lorraine Nicol: Council needs to get a baby gift for Tim and Robyn
- Ron McNeil: Get a children's book relating to importance of water online for Tim to read to the baby

Motion: Lorraine Nicol moved to spend \$100 to get a baby gift for Robyn and Tim on behalf of Board members. Ross Ford seconded. **Carried.**

- John Ross: wished everyone a good summer break and the next meeting will be in September.

Action: Tim to send updates over the summer to keep the Board abreast of Council's activities

8. Other items

9. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Ken Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04pm.

10. Next Meeting Date

- September 23, 2021

Signatures:

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____