

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
ESRD Spruce Grove  
Time: 6:30 PM Date: April 20, 2016

1. In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Paul Cardinal, Art Erickson, Neil Fleming, Stan Franklin, Jack Latham, Craig Merrills, Dave Mussell, Dan Saunders

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Richard Whenham, Maureen Whenham, Jim O'Brien, John McNab, Gary Laschuk, Renee Bliss, Walter Neilson, Darren Haarsma, Gabriel Clarke, Sandy Gunderson, Mark Gunderson, Janet Greidanus, Tom Greidanus

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Craig Merrills Seconded: Dan Saunders
3. Review and approval of minutes from December 16, 2015 Board meeting.  
Moved: Art Erikson Seconded: Craig Merrills
4. Presentation: Parkland County Shoreline Naturalization Project (Lake Wabamun)  
Gabriel Clark and Darren Haarsma - Parkland County

Darren and Gabriel explained Parkland County's work on sustainability, including ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services), which is primarily an agricultural area program, Green Acreages services, an educational program for sustainable practices on acreage properties, and work to restore damaged riparian areas on County owned shorelines, A Shoreline Naturalization Pilot Project is planned at Lake Wabamun, with work to begin in the spring of 2017. The NSWA/WWMC Riparian Assessment Report completed in 2015 was used to select a suitable area for the project. This report can be found on our website, wwmc.ca. Darren and Gabriel discussed the selected area for the project, and asked if anyone present had other suggested areas. A lot of discussion took place regarding the public use of the unofficial Fallis boat launch, where there is significant damaged riparian area. The consensus was that this area, while In need of attention, would not be suitable for such a project until other issues were addressed by the Province, the County, and the residents of Fallis.

There is funding in the County budget to help people who want to reduce their impact on the environment by restoring riparian health or upgrading their sewage treatment facilities. Parkland is looking to the Province to assist with this funding. The county will pay 60 % of the costs of such projects up to a maximum of \$2,000. The grants will last until funding runs out, and will be on a first come first served basis. The County has applied for additional grant funding for Green Acres work specific to Wabamun Lake but has not received a decision yet.

5. Executive Report: Stan Franklin went over the minutes of the Executive Meetings of March 16, 2016 and April 8, 2016.

There was discussion regarding the use of buoys around the lake to designate low speed areas. Residents are concerned about dangers of boats coming too close to swimmers and the potential damage of boat wakes to wildlife habitat and shorelines. WWMC is working with the municipalities and the Province to develop a proposal for the introduction of buoys. We have purchased one example of a buoy which is presently located at the Seba Beach municipal office. Stan Franklin pointed out that

the previous federal government delisted all but 80 lakes in Canada from the requirements of the Fisheries and Oceans Act, Wabamun is no longer subject to regulation under the Act. The result appears to create a gap in legislation so that no one presently has authority to regulate the recreational use of the lake.

6. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming reported that our current bank balance is \$11,626.20. Since the last expenses were \$284.54 for a demonstration buoy, and \$583.34 for a conference for Don Meredith.

Motion to accept the Treasure's Report as presented: Art Erikson      Seconded: Craig Merrills

7. Update Parkland Subwatershed Land Use Plan.

A steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. We have been advised by Duncan Martin that Stantec's Phase 2 report will be circulated to members of the Steering Committee for comment later this week.

8. Village of Wabamun Boat Launch upgrade.

The Village of Wabamun has received approval of its application for grant funding for expansion of its boat launch facility. The Village hopes to commence construction this year. Currently the Village does not have funding to staff on site control and management of the existing facility for this season. Because of a shortage of adequate launch facilities around the lake, this boat launch serves the broader community. It is hoped that the Village will receive financial support for the management of the facility from the Province and other municipalities in the watershed.

Much discussion took place about the risk of invasive species, particularly mussels, getting into the lake. At present there is limited signage at boat launch locations and no boat inspections. Signage needs to be posted at all formal and informal boat launches. Dave Mussell will check on the Department's plans of this season and will convey the Board's concern about the need for immediate action to address the risk.

9. 2016/2017 Planning.

10. Lakes of Parkland County - Tracking the Water Cycle Project.

The Lakes of Parkland County Group has agreed to partner with a team of researchers from the U of A to collect surface and well water samples from lakes in Parkland County. Their investigation is intended to help in understanding how different ground water sources are affecting the lakes. We have agreed to assist, and six of our members have volunteered. Stan Franklin will coordinate the collections from Lake Wabamun. Walt Neilson (Mayatan Lake) asked if we could assist financially by paying the \$10 cost to analyse each sample. There was consensus that we would do so. Kelly will determine an estimate of the number of samples required, and present a motion for financial support for consideration by the Board.

11. Green Acres Program Open House April 13, 2016. Gabriel Clarke indicated that 55 people attended this event and it was very successful. Also please note:

Parkland County Acreage Days 2016

Date: April 27, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Garden Valley Community Centre Map it  
Highway 627 and Range Road 274  
Parkland County, AB

12. Future Events:

NSWA NGO Forum - Sherwood Park April 28, 2016

CARL Forum - Sylvan Lake May 24, 2016.

WWMC strongly supports attendance at these events, especially for newer members. They are both great sessions with interesting speakers. Board members who are interested should contact an executive member.

13. Adjournment 9:30 PM

Next meeting: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:30 PM at AEP in Spruce Grove