

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ESRD Spruce Grove
Time: 6:30 PM Date: May 18, 2016

1. In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Paul Cardinal, Art Erickson, Stan Franklin, Stan Kobylko, Jack Latham, Craig Merrills, Dave Mussell, Ken Petruk, Tracy Muloin, Don Meredith

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests:

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Kelly Aldridge Seconded: Stan K.
3. Review and approval of minutes from April 20 Board meeting.
Moved: Paul Cardinal Seconded: Stan K.
4. Executive Report: Stan Franklin went over the minutes of the Executive Meeting of May 11, 2016.
(See below after minutes)
5. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming was not present but he sent a report stating that our current bank balance is \$13,376.68. Since the last report income was \$1,750.48 and expenses were NIL. Income included a \$1500.00 NGO Grant from Parkland County and a Corporate Sponsorship of \$250 from Dairy Queen.

6. NSWA NGO Forum April 28, 2016.

Stan Franklin, Don Meredith and Stan Kobylko attended this forum. Summary notes of some of the presentations were provided with the agenda. All presentations are available on the NSWA website.

7. Parkland Subwatershed Land Use Plan update.

There is nothing new to report on this project. Dave Mussell stated that he believes Parkland County recognizes that the Land Use Plan will inform the Watershed Management Plan. This will be discussed at the upcoming CAO meeting.

8. Land Stewardship/Nature Alberta "Love Your Lake" proposal.

WWMC have agreed to participate in this project, which is described in the May 11th executive minutes below. The project seems ambitious and still needs more planning by its proponents. We will wait until they ask for specific assistance, and let our members know when we have a better idea what is going to happen on the project. Volunteers will likely be required for the water based surveys.

9. Wetland Fieldwork Project

Don Meredith indicated that he has been appointed by Alberta Fish and Game as the Steward for the Beaver Creek Natural area on the south side of Lake Wabamun near Beaver Bay/Marine Drive. Last week he was doing his first assessment of this summer when he discovered serious damage to the site by a tracked vehicle. Someone has made a wide trail through the wetland and forest. AEP has been notified and an investigator has been assigned. The Department's Report a Poacher number can be used to report serious damage to lands and habitat.

Don also said that WWMC plans to obtain copies of recent and historic wetland assessment maps from Parkland County and to visit all Lake Wabamun watershed wetlands to do a feet-on-the-ground assessment of each wetland.

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

Dave Mussell explained that the project is attempting to better understand the sources of water affecting the water quality and quantity in Lake Wabamun. The sources include ground water, surface runoff, and direct precipitation. All water sources have a unique "signature" which can be identified in a lab by looking at isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen. Several of our members are collecting well samples and surface water samples from around the lake. Board members that are sampling water should send the coordinates of their sites to Elisa Brose at NSWA. She will assign a identification code to each site that the sampler will put on the label of each sample.

At our last meeting Kelly agreed to try to estimate the cost of paying for the testing of our water samples. We have agreed in principle to help pay for testing, but it has proven very difficult to estimate the costs as number of tests is not readily understood. He suggested we keep track of the number of tests and approved the expenditures when we know the amounts.

11. Potential Fisheries Assessment Project.

Kelly spoke with the AEP fisheries biologist about the fishery and was told that the monitoring of the fishery is only done every three years, and that there is no attempt to manage the fishery. It seems that the amount of research being done on the lake is very limited, and data is mostly anecdotal. At Stan Franklin's suggestion he is looking at the Pigeon situation to see what is happening there. Pigeon Lake has a Fisheries Management Advisory Committee and a Pigeon Lake Fisheries Management Plan. It is a commercial fishery (at least until 2014) where they produced 95,000 lbs of whitefish and 1,000 lbs. of Walleye in 2014 using 690 nets over 12 days. It also appears that catch numbers in net surveys are published for other lakes, but not for Wabamun. Kelly looked at 11 continuous years on Index Net Surveys from 2003 to 2013. There is also a lot of historical data on water temperature, catch ratios by species, etc. Dave Mussell suggested Kelly call John Tchir who is the Regional Resource Manager responsible for fisheries in the Red Deer area.

12. Meeting with CAO's of Summer Villages, Village of Wabamun and Parkland County.

A meeting has been scheduled on June 9th for some of our executive and Dave Trew of NSWA to meet with the CAO's. We see this as an opportunity to meet some of the CAO's for the first time, and to explain our work and our plans to everyone, and solicit their ongoing support. We think success at this meeting is critical if we are to accelerate our progress in developing a Watershed Management Plan. Dave Mussell suggested the executive meet before the meeting to plan our presentations, as time at the meeting is limited to two hours. After some discussion it was agreed that all Board members would be invited to attend to hear the presentations from AEP, NSWA and Parkland County.

13. CARL Forum – Sylvan Lake May 14, 2016.

Art Erickson attended this meeting and reported on it. He indicated that there is an Aquatic Plant Guide on the ALMS website; that Flowering Rush has heavily invaded Lake Isle; the Red Deer River is

now invaded by Russian Carp; and that there is a North American Water Management Society conference at Banff November 1-4, 2016.

14. Don Meredith presented a website report which was sent to Board members before the meeting.

Adjournment 9:00 PM

Next meeting: June 15th, 2016 – 6:30 PM at AEP in Spruce Grove

WWMC Executive Committee Meeting
May 11, 2016 9:30 am
AEP Spruce Grove

Minutes

In Attendance: Don Meredith, Art Erickson, Kelly Aldridge, Neil Fleming, Jack Latham Stan Franklin, Dave Mussell

Guests: Jenna Curtis (LSC), Brett Campbell (LSC), Tracy Maier (Nature Alberta), Darren Haarsma & Gabriel Clarke (Parkland County)

1. Presentation: Jenna Curtis
"Love Your Lake" project for Lake Wabamun

- Jenna initially spoke about the LSC's "Living by Water" program, an education program provides individual property consultations for lakeside residents. The consultation and subsequent report deals with the home, the yard, the shoreline and water recreation.
- "Love your Lake" is a program that originated in Ontario and was developed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Watersheds Canada. Regionally the program is delivered through local partnerships.
- LSC and Nature Alberta propose to apply the program to Lake Wabamun. The delivery of the program is still in the development stage. The first phase will involve a shoreline evaluation most likely by boat. The owner of each property evaluated will receive a personalized report that will include the current state of the shoreline, suggested voluntary actions to enhance the shoreline and lake health and will identify information sources and resources/funding available for shoreline improvements.
- There will need to be coordination with Parkland County's proposed riparian restoration initiative also for Lake Wabamun. A communication plan will also need to be developed to give appropriate notice to the community of the project.
- Jenna advised that funding has been secured for the initial evaluation that will rely on volunteers to transport the evaluators by boat. Board members advised Jenna that there were approximately 800 lakeside properties. Given the logistics and time available, they may need to reconsider whether to target something less than the entire lakeshore community.

- Don advised that we could assist with the announcement of the project in our Spring Newsletter if the necessary information could be in his hands by May 20th. Gabriel indicated that he would attempt to do that.

2. Fisheries

- Kelly indicated that he had raised his concerns about the health of the fishery in the lake with the AEP staff member currently responsible for this area. Kelly told him that the fish that were being caught in the Seba area were small and appeared to be under nourished. From his discussion with the staff member it appeared that the Province is not monitoring the fish population in the lake or the health of that population and does not intend to do so in the near future.
- Kelly will contact the Pigeon Lake group to see what their experience has been recently to determine if what he is seeing is regional or isolated to Wabamun. Depending on what information Kelly obtains, the Board may want to consider partnering with the Alberta Conservation Association to conduct an investigation of the status of the fishery in Lake Wabamun. The ACA is currently working on a fisheries restoration project at Isle Lake and Hasse Lake.

3. Meeting with Chief Administrative Officers of Summer Villages and the Village of Wabamun.

- Stan advised that all of the CAO's had responded to his request for a meeting to discuss watershed planning. The meeting would involve members of the Executive Committee and representatives of AEP and NSWA. Initially it was hoped that representatives from Parkland County would be able to attend on the proposed date of June 1st but that was not possible. The meeting with the CAO's will proceed on June 1st and we will attempt to schedule a subsequent meeting that will involve Parkland County