

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ESRD Spruce Grove

Time: 6:30 PM Date: June 15, 2016

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

Stan Franklin advised the board that Craig Merrills has resigned his seat due to work pressures. We look forward to his return in the future, when he is able to devote more time to the board.

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Walt Neilson, Gordon Kerr, Gary Laschuk, Renee Bliss, Stan Anderson

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Paul Cardinal Seconded: Jack Latham
3. Review and approval of minutes from May 18 Board meeting.
Moved: Art Erikson Seconded: Stan Kobylko
4. Executive Report: Stan Franklin referred us to item 6 on the agenda.
5. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming reported that there were no changes from last month, and the bank balance remains at \$13,377.

Out of pocket expenses: Neil commented on the board's policy with respect to out of pocket expenses. Our policy is to reimburse expenses for necessary supplies and services. We do not reimburse travel expenses for meetings, and other travel expenses will only be reimbursed if approved prior to them being incurred. The executive meets once a month and sometimes incurs expenses associated with these meetings. In the past they have not been reimbursed, but it is their intention ask for reimbursement in future.

6. Meeting with CAO's – June 9, 2016.

Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming, Kelly Aldridge, Dave Mussell, Jack Latham and Paul Cardinal attended this meeting as well as all but one watershed CAO. Several of Parkland County's planning department staff also attended, and they presented an update on progress with their Wabamun Lake Sub-watershed Land Use Plan (WLSWLUP) project. Dave Trew from NSWA was also present. We believe the meeting underscored that the organizations represented at the meeting, collectively bear the responsibility for watershed management and stewardship of Wabamun Lake. We also noted that there are pressing issues that need to be addressed immediately. That is to say, they cannot wait for new legislation, regulations or bylaws to be passed. We agreed to meet again in July to identify the top priorities and develop approaches to dealing with these. The Lake CAO's will meet before that meeting to develop our own priorities and plans to take to the July meeting.

A summary of the June 9th CAO meeting is attached to these minutes.

7. Land Stewardship Centre/Nature Alberta “Love Your Lake” proposal.

This project is a shoreline property assessment done from the water by trained assessors. They will use Geographical Information System data from Parkland County to associate individual property owners with each property assessed. Their intention is to send each owner a copy of their assessment, and provide information on how they can make improvements to better protect the Lake.

WWMC will assist this process by supplying boats and drivers to the project.

8. Nature Alberta Property Consultation Program.

As a separate project, Nature Alberta is once again preparing to do on-site property consultations with shoreline property owners. WWMC has assisted with this project in the past at Seba Beach in 2008 and at Moonlight Bay in 2009. (**See attached program outline**). This year they will concentrate on summer villages, and they have asked for our assistance in identifying property owners who may be interested in participating. For our lake the dates for consultations are August 18, 19, 20 and 21 at 10:00am, 12:00 noon and 2:00pm each day. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Kelly Aldridge, as he will be facilitating the project for WWMC.

9. Wetland Fieldwork Project

Don Meredith acts as a steward for the Beaver Creek Wetland area on the south side of the lake. He does this on behalf of the Alberta Fish and Game Association. Don has also undertaken to inspect wetlands around the lake by going to see them and assessing their condition. This is to see if some of them need to be better protected or are in need of improvements. He will be asking for WWMC volunteers to help with these assessments.

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

Dave Mussell is coordinating WWMC’s involvement in this project, which uses well and surface water samples from Lake Wabamun to better understand how groundwater and surface water are connected. Dave indicated that the early samples have been analysed by the U of A project leaders, and the results are very encouraging. He will keep us updated on progress. It appears that our members who are doing the sampling each week are doing a good job in preventing contamination of samples. Care is needed to ensure proper labelling.

11. Fisheries update

Kelly Aldridge reported that he has contacted John Tchir, (Senior Fisheries Biologist at AEP). John has many years of fisheries experience at several Alberta Lakes. Kelly has concerns about the quickly changing number and sizes of fish in each species in Lake Wabamun, and wonders if the food supply is changing, or if the introduction of Walleye to the lake has put it out of balance. John said that it is not uncommon for fisheries to change over a short time period. Each species has a cycle. Once they become successful (large in size and numbers) they tend to peak as their particular food source diminishes. They then die off, and another species becomes more dominant. The cycle repeats itself with each species.

They also discussed the amount of attention (or lack thereof) being given to Lake Wabamun in terms of assessing the fishery. Kelly noted that there is much more complete data at Pigeon Lake than there is for Wabamun. Fall fish counts are only done once every three years at Wabamun, but are done yearly

at Pigeon. John indicated that it is a question of putting AEP resources where the problems are greatest.

12. Highvale Area Structure Plan

Stan Franklin indicated that a public hearing will be held July 12 regarding this plan. He noted that the plan still includes “intensive livestock feeding” as a viable land use after reclamation of the Highvale mine, although the County’s Land use plan for the watershed precludes intensive livestock feeding. This means that parts of the Highvale Area outside the watershed could still be contaminated with manure and urine, and it is possible that this could in turn contaminate ground water that may find its way to the lake.

Another concern we have is about the runoff and ground water that is currently blocked by the mine. At present this runoff is replaced by TransAlta through their water treatment plant. We need assurance that when the mine is reclaimed, the runoff and ground water reaching to lake will be at least as much as prior to the mining. Stan pointed out that the reclamation of the mine is governed by the Alberta Energy Regulator, not by AEP.

Don Meredith suggested we at least attend the hearing as an observer, and that we should make our concerns known our concerns about livestock feeding and water inflows after reclamation. Stan agreed to write a letter to the County, cc’d to the Alberta Energy Regulator stating our concerns.

13. Don Meredith presented a website report which was sent to Board members before the meeting. He noted that our site has much greater use than the typical results for NGO’s.

Adjournment 8:45 PM

Next meeting: July 20th, 2016 – 6:30 PM at AEP in Spruce Grove

**Wabamun Watershed Management Council
Meeting with Watershed Chief Administrative Officers**

**June 9, 2016 9:00-11:00AM
Alberta Environment and Parks
250 Diamond Avenue Spruce Grove**

Attendees: Michael Heck, CAO, Parkland County
Peter Vana, General Manager Development Services, Parkland County
Carol Bergum, Manager, Planning and Development, Parkland County
Martin Frigo, Supervisor of Long Range Planning, Parkland County
Duncan Martin, Long Range Planner, Parkland County

Sue Evans, CAO, Seba Beach, Lakeview and Betula Beach
Shawn Patience, CAO, Village of Wabamun
Jim O'Brien, CAO, Point Alison

David Trew, Executive Director, NSWA
MaryEllen Shain, Watershed Planning Coordinator, NSWA
Jamie Bruha, Director Integrated Resource Planning, AEP

Dave Mussell, Planner, AEP

WWMC: Kelly Aldridge, Neil Fleming, Jack Latham, Paul Cardinal,
Stan Franklin

Regrets: Dwight Moskalyk, CAO, Kapasiwin

Meeting Summary

1. Presentations:

- Kelly Aldridge - A brief history of the by WWMC and its role in watershed management.
- Dave Mussell - Alberta's Water for Life policy and Integrated Watershed Management Planning.
- David Trew - The role of the NSWA in watershed planning within the North Saskatchewan watershed.
- Duncan Martin - Update on the Wabamun Lake Watershed Land Use Plan

2. Discussion and Observations:

- Lake health is directly affected by land use and land use practices within the watershed.
- Watershed Management and Stewardship is a collective and shared responsibility of the Province, Watershed Municipalities and Stewardship organizations.
- Completion of Parkland's LUP and implementation of appropriate watershed bylaws and policies will be at least a year away and probably longer due to legislated municipal process protocols.
- There is a need to identify priority issues that can be addressed through expedited operational decisions at the Provincial and Municipal levels. One such priority issue is the risk of the introduction of quagga or zebra mussels into the lake. While there is an interprovincial program to intercept and inspect boats entering the Province, the risk remains that a contaminated boat or boats may slip through. Consideration will be given to the possibility of weekend boat inspections at the 2 major launch sites on the lake - Village of Wabamun and the Provincial Park.
- Duncan Martin distributed copies of the Phase 2 Report on the Parkland LUP to the other Municipalities and invited feedback.

3. Next Steps:

- Dave Mussell will coordinate the scheduling of the next meeting of representatives of the participating organizations. The meeting is to take place in early July and will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the Parkland LUP and also discuss priority issues for short term action.



NATURE
ALBERTA

Living by Water

The Program

For more than 15 years, Nature Alberta has delivered the Emerald Award-winning Living by Water (LBW) program, which provides information to Alberta's lake residents about healthy shoreline living. The program informs and educates lake shore residents about the importance of maintaining the integrity of the natural ecosystem associated with their lake property, while supporting suitable recreational use, preserving property values and ensuring use for future generations.

The Process

The property consultation is at the core of Living by Water. During the free and confidential consultations participants learn about the ecology of their lake, any environmental concerns associated with their lake, and they understand how they can reduce their impact on the lake through small changes they can make on their properties.

Consultation participants work one-on-one with Nature Alberta's trained Shoreline Advisors. Shoreline Advisors provide a personalized experience for each individual property and its needs. The consultation process takes about one hour and covers topics such as naturalized shorelines, invasive species and the benefits of fostering biodiversity on the property.

The Outcome

All participants receive an individualized, quality report outlining beneficial management practices, suggestions and the results of the consultation, along with additional resources to support property management decisions to benefit their property and the lake.

Sustained Effort

Nature Alberta has been working at over 30 lakes throughout the province and performed nearly nine hundred home site consultations since the start of the program. Even with the number of consultations already completed, there continues to be a need for information and resources. Working with local community-based watershed stewardship groups, Nature Alberta will continue to promote beneficial management practices around Alberta's lakes.

In addition to the property consultations, program staff attend community events and workshops to increase awareness of ways to keep our lakes healthy and usable. If you would like to bring the program to your community, want to sign up for a property consultation or would like a Shoreline Advisor to attend a local event, please contact us at lbw@naturealberta.ca. For more information about the LBW Program please visit <http://naturealberta.ca/programs/living-by-water/>.