

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

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

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Ron Innes, Marlene Cameron, Nikita, Max

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Stan Kobylko Seconded: Paul Cardinal

3. Review and approval of minutes from May 18 Board meeting.
Moved: Neil Fleming Seconded: Paul Cardinal

4. Executive Report: Stan Franklin referred us to items 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. Kelly and Neil will prepare a financial statement. Neil pointed out that there are no membership dues but donations are welcome. Some board members made donations last year, but there are none for this year yet. This raises the question of how we should solicit donations. One suggestion is to ask for donations from all members for specific projects as they are undertaken.

6. Meeting with CAO's – July 15, 2016.

Stan explained that the purpose of this meeting was to come up with issues and projects that could be addressed by the municipalities around the lake in the near term, without new legislation or bylaw changes. We also addressed the issue of improving communications and collaboration amongst all municipalities in the watershed.

A copy of the notes from this meeting is attached to these minutes.

7. Parkland County Grant Program Information Session

Kelly attended this session presented by the County on July 6th at the county office. The purpose was to introduce new NGO grant processes and procedures. The Parkland County Council has asked their administration to improve the process to make it more formal, to provide clear criteria and dollar limits for grants, and to provide accountability by requiring recipients to report how the grant moneys are spent.

There are now three categories for the grants: Operating, Capital, and Projects. The only category we would be eligible for at the present time would be the Project category, since we don't have significant operating costs or capital projects. The maximum annual grant for an NGO is \$10,000, however the maximum for project grants is \$5,000, so this would be our yearly maximum.

The application process is now quite rigorous, much like the process was for Land Stewardship grants. The deadline for submission is September 8th, 2016. Our executive will meet in early August to review potential projects and will make a proposal to our Board at the August 17th monthly meeting.

8. Watershed Stewardship Grant Funding:

Due to fiscal constraints, the Alberta Government has suspended this program.

Nature Alberta Property Consultation Program:

Kelly has agreed to coordinate this Living by Water program for Lake Wabamun. Consultants are able to do consultations on the weekend of August 18th to 21st, at 10:00, 12:00, and 1:00 o'clock. Each consultation takes about one hour.

We need your help to find 12 waterfront properties around the lake to receive consultations.

Please take a few minutes to visit some of your neighbours or friends who might be interested. **Please advise candidates that funding is available for waterfront and septic system improvements.** As

a past recipient of my property report, I can assure you the report we received was very useful.

Attached to your e-mail of these minutes is a copy of a one page description of the program to give to potential participants.

Contact Kelly with the name addresses of interested property owners.

9. Highvale Area Structure Plan Public Hearing July 12th, 2016

10. Parkland County – Lakefront Stewardship Workshop, July 19, 2016

Stan, Kelly, Don Meredith and Jack Latham attended this session at the Blueberry Hall. It was an information session with displays. Stan and Don had a table with our information. There were several other tables, including ALMS, NSWA, Nature Alberta, etc. Presentations were given by Darren Haarsma, who spoke about the ALUS program at Lake Isle, and the Green Acres program. Funding is available for lakeshore property owners to improve septic systems, build rain gardens, and develop shoreline restorations.

Parkland County has created an interactive version of Living on the Edge. Jenna Curtis spoke about the Love Your Lake program.

11. Wabamun Village Boat Launch Project

Art Erikson explained that they are awaiting a response from AEP to remove old creosote pilings from the lake before commencing work on the boat launch. The current rate of launches is about 300 per weekend. Funding for the third launch is \$135,000 from the Village and \$165,000 from Parkland.

12. It was suggested that we ask TransAlta for a field trip to the mine for a look at their reclamation plans.

13. Fishery

Don Meredith has advised us that some Alberta Fish and Game members are concerned about the zero catch limits on most Alberta Lakes. They have arranged a meeting on September 7th in the St. Paul area to discuss this issue with their members and their MLA's. They have included Lake

Wabamun among their Lakes of concern. We will ask Don to speak to this issue at our August Board meeting.

14. Buoys

Neil will be meeting shortly with Seba Council to discuss the possible purchase and deployment of buoys for protecting sensitive areas and shorelines.

17. Wetland Assessments.

Don Meredith has asked Gabriel Clarke to provide data the wetlands in the county. Darren Haarsma will identify high quality wetlands to be assessed. Don and WWMC volunteers will then do a feet on the ground assessment of these wetlands.

18. Stan Franklin mentioned that the LWSWLUP should be completed soon.

19. Adjournment 9:00 PM

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

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

**Wabamun Lake CAO Meeting
Seba Beach Heritage Pavilion
July 15, 2016
9:30 AM**

**In attendance: Sue Evans (Seba Beach, Betula Beach, Lakeview)
Charlene Smylie (Village of Wabamun)
Duncan Martin (Parkland County)**

**Dave Mussell (AEP)
WWMC - Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming,
Kelly Aldridge, Jack Latham, Don Meredith,
Paul Cardinal**

**Regrets: Jim O'Brien (Point Alison)
Dwight Moskalyk (Kapasiiwin)**

Discussion Notes

1. As indicated in the agenda circulated in advance of the meeting, the primary purpose of the meeting was to explore the potential for all Wabamun Lake watershed municipalities to work together to develop, implement and enforce uniform watershed management policies on matters of common interest.
2. AEP, NSWA and WWMC are prepared to assist the municipalities and suggest that such a working relationship, if it were to proceed, would be documented through a Letter of Understanding.
3. A number of watershed priority issues were discussed that potentially could be implemented as operational measures:
 - Invasive species control (mussels in particular) - Dave Mussell will investigate whether there is potential for a mobile inspection/decontamination station, what it would look like and what the estimated costs would be. Dave will report at the next meeting.

The optimum risk management approach would see all of the "informal" boat launch sites closed and inspection stations located at the Village of Wabamun and the Provincial Park. A less effective compromise for the time being might involve placing prominent signage at the informal sites warning of the risk. Also in the absence of inspection stations at the 2 major launch sites, personnel could be assigned to each site and tasked to speak to boat owners as they prepared their boats for launch. It would be an education opportunity and also a quick assessment of the risk.

All of the invasive species control measures have cost implications that will need to be considered as well means of sourcing the necessary funds.

- Informal boat launches - this is an ongoing problem that has and will continue to generate conflict between watershed residents as well as conflict between residents and day users. The use of informal boat launch sites increases the risk of the introduction of invasive species as well causing damage to the shore and lakebed.

Sue commented that Seba has received considerable blow back resulting from Council's decision to close/restrict the use of the lake access next to the Heritage Pavilion. There will always be people who will complain about launch closures or other changes to things they have been doing for years but that really is the appropriate test for municipal decision making in the watershed.

- Sewage system inspection, fertilizer use and storm water management - this is an area of concern raised by Dwight in his written response to the agenda. Fertilizer use and storm water management are matters that could be the subject of bylaws. There is also an opportunity to start to address these practices through public education such as has been done at Pigeon Lake. The question of inspection of sewage systems seems to present a jurisdictional question. Dwight referred to his experience in Yellowstone Beach on Lac Ste Anne. Neil and Stan will follow up with Dwight and report at the next meeting.
- Engagement with the Paul Band First Nation - it was agreed that the absence of the Paul Band in watershed management is a gap that should be looked at. Neil, Stan and Dave will discuss a possible future meeting with the Chief once we have a better idea where this municipal collaboration is headed. The primary purpose would be to reintroduce ourselves and let the Band know what we are trying to accomplish. We could also use meeting to see if there is a watershed issue that they have that we could work on together on.
- Recreation management including on lake enforcement and potential regulations under the Canada Shipping Act - due to a shortage of time, this item was not addressed and will be discussed at the next meeting, time permitting.
- Identifying and respecting shoreline property boundaries - Dwight identified this as an issue at Kapasiwin and from the brief discussion it is clear that this is an issue around the entire lake. Further discussion is clearly warranted and this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Parkland Subwatershed Land Use Plan for Lake Wabamun - Duncan reiterated that he would like to receive feedback from the Villages on the content of the Phase 2 Report on this project that was distributed at the last meeting. Dave suggested that Duncan consider extracting from the report those proposals or recommendations that would require the participation of all or some of the watershed municipalities. Presumably, if that was done, the Villages could then provide feedback to Duncan individually or as a group as they may choose. It would be helpful if comments could also be forwarded to WWMC who would be responsible for circulation to AEP and NSWA.

5. It was agreed that a follow up meeting should occur early in August and that Mike Heck should be invited to the meeting. Tentatively, August 10th at 9:00 AM at the Seba Beach Heritage Pavilion was selected. Dave Mussell suggested that Dave Trew from NSWA be invited to this meeting to facilitate a

discussion on the creation of a Wabamun Watershed Management Plan. That invitation will be extended.