

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ESRD Spruce Grove
Time: 6:30 PM Date: August 17th, 2016

In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Art Erickson, Stan Franklin, Don Meredith, Stan Kobytko, Jack Latham, Dave Mussell, Ken Petruk, Renee Bliss

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Gordon Kerr, Mark Gunderson, Carol and Keith Epton, Ian McClelland, Dave Florence
2. Review and approval of meeting agenda,
3. Review and approval of minutes from July 20, 2016 Board meeting.
Moved: Don Meredith Seconded: Stan Kobytko
4. Executive Report: A written report is included below.

Kelly Aldridge reported that Justine Kummer, a U of A graduate student has contacted us to see if there are opportunities to further her studies. Her work included a Birds and Windows citizen science project where she used science outreach and various forms of scientific communication to recruit homeowners to participate in a project and inform the public about a conservation issue. Kelly told her we would be interested in hearing more about it, and invited her to come to an upcoming meeting to speak to us about it.

Kelly gave a brief report on some of the outreach and education work that the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) is undertaking. They put on a Lake Family Fun Day recently where they had many activities for children and adults that were designed to inform people about the importance of all residents and visitors in helping to protect the lake. They had the cooperation on this project of many other organizations such as ALMS, Alberta Environment and Nature Alberta. Funding was from the Edmonton Community Fund. Kelly suggested that WMC put on a similar event next summer.

5. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming was absent from the meeting but presented a report which is attached to these minutes.
6. Meeting with CAO's – July 5, 2016.

Stan Franklin spoke briefly about the meeting, which is included in the executive report attached.

7. Highvale ASP meeting with Parkland County & TransAlta July 17, 2016

Stan Franklin spoke briefly about the meeting, which is included in the executive report attached.

8. Watershed Management Plan organizational framework.

Stan explained that we are working on a proposal work with our partners on a proposed framework for producing the plan. It was decided that we should not get into details until a proposal is put forward to the WWMC Board by our Executive.

9. Parkland County Grant Program grant application deadline

Kelly explained that the deadline for applications is September 8th, 2016, and the maximum available for a project grant is \$5,000 per year. After some discussion of possible projects we might undertake, it was decided there is no point in applying until we are able to clearly scope out a project and prepare a budget.

10. Nature Alberta “Love Your Lake” shoreline assessments.

Stan Franklin worked with Nature Alberta on this project, and he reported that all the assessments are complete, and the data is being entered into an Ontario database for analysis. Once this work is completed a report will be prepared and individual property owners will be able to access their shoreline assessments. Stan noted that the assessments were only for County of Parkland properties. The reason for this is that the other municipalities on the lake could not provide the information the team needed to identify each site. Nature Alberta hopes to do the other municipalities next summer.

11. Nature Alberta Living by Water shoreline consultations.

Nature Alberta scheduled and completed twelve consultations at Lake Wabamun. At the end of the summer each property owner will receive a detailed report on their property, including suggested improvements,

12. Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up. www.shorelinecleanup.ca

Art Erikson explained that this is a national project that takes place on September 17th this year. Volunteers in the Village of Wabamun will be cleaning up that day, but Art said that municipalities and stewardship organizations are encouraged to schedule a day for this once a year at any time.

13. Wetlands Survey.

Don Meredith reported that he had met with Darren Haarsma of Parkland County on August 11 with regard to getting information from the county’s wetland survey. Darren provided Don with a PDF map that the county’s GIS people put together, showing the current wetlands the study identified in the Wabamun watershed. This map identified which wetlands are bogs, fens, marshes and swamps as seen from the air. There is a lot more information we can obtain with regard to biodiversity value, ecological function and hydrologic functions, for example. He can put together maps for each of these. We will have to sign a data-sharing agreement with Parkland. Until council approves the final report from the consultant, we cannot divulge specific data to the public. Darren’s hoping the Parkland report will be made public but that’s a county council decision

14. Pigeon Lake Watershed Association “Clean Runoff Action Guide”.

See link: <http://www.plwmp.ca/clean-runoff-guide/>

15. Adjournment Next meeting: September 21, 2016 – 6:30 PM at AEP in Spruce Grove

**WWMC Treasurer's Report
As of Aug 16, 2016**

Balance as of July 20, 2016		\$13,376.68
Income:		
	Credit interest	\$1.65
	Corporate Sponsors	\$700.00
	Donations	\$2775.00
	Reg Members	\$ 75.00
Expenses:		
	Ser Chg PayPal	\$8.16
	Office Supplies	\$87.85
Current Balance		\$16,832.32

Membership to Date

Paid Corporate Members 2015/2016	20
Paid Regular members 2015/2016	9
Paid Corporate Members 2016/2017	8
Paid Regular Members 2016/2017	3

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

Executive Report

August 17, 2016

1. Highvale Mine - July 27, 2016 meeting with Parkland County and TransAlta.

This meeting was a follow up to the Public Hearing before Parkland Council held on July 12th. The Public Hearing was to consider the approval of an amended Area Structure Plan for the area impacted by the Highvale mine, part of which includes about 1/3 of the Wabamun Lake watershed. Land uses in the proposed ASP are predominantly agricultural, but given the long time threshold before the mine will be closed, reclaimed and certified under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the uses proposed in the ASP at this time are somewhat speculative. The tone of the meeting was very positive and we (Neil Fleming, Dave Mussell and myself) indicated that our main interest was not so much in the ASP as the reclamation and its potential impact on the lake. The two major issues are water quality and water quantity. This will be a work in progress as the reclamation design becomes more refined. Based on our previous discussions with TAU and from the discussions at this meeting we believe that TAU's objectives are aligned with ours.

2. Watershed CAO's - meeting at Seba Beach Pavilion August 5, 2016.

This meeting was attended by all of the CAO's from the watershed municipalities and included Dave Mussell and a number of WWMC Executive members. The meeting was very productive and appears to be a signal that the municipalities are prepared to work together (and with other stakeholders) on watershed stewardship issues.

The lack of adequate boat launch capacity on the lake was identified as a priority for the CAO's. It was recognized that permanent solutions will take time to consider and implement and accordingly interim measures need to be looked at for next year. Parkland will take the leadership of this initiative. A small but representative committee will be constituted with the objective of presenting alternatives to Parkland Council in early January 2017.

3. WWMC Executive Meeting August 8, 2016

This meeting was convened primarily to discuss next steps following the CAO meeting on August 5th. Dave Trew and Dave Mussell attended the meeting. Based on the apparent success of the CAO meetings, it appears that we are at the stage where some structure and identification of roles could start to be discussed at least among ourselves, AEP and NSWA. It is probably too early to include the municipalities in that discussion. It appears that we should wait to give the municipalities a chance to work together on some specific objectives. Dave Trew and Dave Mussell will look at the structure and roles question on Dave Trew's return from vacation at the end of August.