

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
ESRD Spruce Grove  
Time: 6:30 PM Date: September 21st, 2016

In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Paul Cardinal, Art Erickson, Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming, Don Meredith, Stan Kobylko, Jack Latham, Dave Mussell, Tracy Muloin, Renee Bliss, Dan Saunders

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Jordyce van Muyden (Wabamun Sailing Club)
2. Review and approval of agenda Moved: Pail Cardinal Seconded: Neil Fleming
3. Review and approval of minutes from August 17, 2016 Board meeting.  
Moved: Paul Cardinal Seconded: Art Erickson
4. Executive Report: A written report is included below.
5. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming indicated that the current bank balance is \$17,804.99.  
A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.
6. Wabamun Watershed Management Plan Terns of Reference. (TOR)

Dave Mussell indicated that he is planning to have a draft of the terms of reference ready by early October. It will include a scope and terms of reference as well as a community engagement plan to ensure that all the municipalities are included in the process as partners. When it is ready we will schedule an executive meeting to review it. When we are happy with it Dave would like to present it to the NSWA Board for their approval. The next NSWA board meeting is on October 19<sup>th</sup>, the same night as our AGM.

Dave asked for some input regarding what we would like to see in the TOR and the WMP. Feedback was provided and Dave will consider it as he proceeds with the draft.

Dave told us he has a new assignment and title at AEP. He is now **Community Engagement Lead**.

7. Fisheries Forum St. Paul - September 7, 2016

Don Meredith spoke to us about the forum, which was arranged by Ray Makonecki, a retired AEP biologist. The forum was attended by approximately 350 people, including 3 MLA's and 4 mayors. Most of the rest of the attendees were anglers who are unhappy with the way AEP is managing the fisheries in Alberta. The group plans to submit a report of their forum to the AEP Minister, with a request for changes.

WWMC may be prepared to add our support to Forum's submission. We will decide this after we see the submission.

A copy of Don's notes on the forum is attached to these minutes.

8. Parkland Watershed Management Plan Open Houses.

These were held recently at the Village of Wabamun and the Summer Village of Seba Beach. Parkland has indicated that their Council will attend a workshop on the project October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Phases 3 & 4 final drafts will be ready by the end of October, and the project report will be presented to Parkland Council on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

9. AGM October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Neil and Kelly will be working on this. Stan reported that Bob Gibbs of Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) will be our guest speaker and will tell us about their stewardship work and their process for developing their PLWA Lake Management Plan.

10. North American Lake Management Society Forum Banff November 1-4, 2016.

Dave Mussell will be attending from AEP and will brief us on the Forum. We will also try to obtain a copy of the Proceeding from the Forum.

11. Lake Day 2017 (potential project).

Kelly has made little progress so far as he has had difficulty contact the people involved. Contact information was forthcoming from the other members, and contact has since been made. Kelly will prepare a progress report before the AGM.

12. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Mussels

Art Erickson indicated that the lake municipalities sent a letter to the AEP Minister requesting funding for a boat inspection and cleaning facility at the Village of Wabamun. He received a reply indicating that the Village could use its capital funds for this purpose but at this time there is no funding available for operating such a facility. The letter also indicated that the Government was concentrating its efforts on highway inspection at key entry points to the Province.

13. Jordyce van Muyden of the Wabamun Sailing Club indicated that there is a private application to Parkland County to create a 2 metre wide walking path to the lake through a nearby municipal reserve. Stan explained that our resources and mandate are limited and the WWMC does not get involved in local issues that do not impact the health of the lake. The proposal goes before Parkland Council on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

14. Adjournment: 9:15 PM Next meeting: AGM October 19, 2016 –**7:00 PM** at AEP in Spruce Grove.

# Wabamun Watershed Management Council

## Executive Committee Meeting

September 15, 2016

### Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Jack Latham, Kelly Aldridge, Art Erickson, Don Meredith and Stan Franklin.

1. Wabamun WMP Terms of Reference: Dave Mussell and Dave Trew met last week to discuss. Dave Mussell will prepare a draft Terms of Reference for discussion. A final draft will be presented to the Boards of the NSWA and the WWMC for approval.
2. Wetlands Project.  
  
We will attempt to inspect up to 3 wetland sites before winter (Beaver Creek, Rich's Point and Fallis - Franklin Wetlands) to develop a protocol for assessment of wetlands in 2017.
3. Fisheries Forum St. Paul. Don attended this forum and will provide a report at the September Board meeting .
4. Parkland Watershed Land Use Plan Open Houses.
5. Boat Launch Committee.  
  
Jack will be the WWMC representative on this committee and will report periodically following committee meetings. The committee's mandate is to make recommendations on interim measures to increase the boat launch capacity in 2017 pending long term measures being developed.
6. NSWA Headwaters Tour. Art and Don attended this tour. Art will provide a report at the September Board meeting.
7. AGM - vacancies, nominations, officers, keynote presentation by Bob Gibbs of PLWA.
8. Nature Alberta Naturalization training September 21/22. Jenna Curtis will be working with a Love Your Lake staff person from Ontario to look at a couple of shoreline properties to train staff on site specific naturalization planning. For 2017 we may want to consider partnering with Nature Alberta to establish an award program for individual shoreline restoration or naturalization projects that have been undertaken and completed.
9. NSWA Forum on Future of Water Supply in the NSR watershed - October 4.  
As usual an excellent agenda and Board members should be encouraged to attend. Don, Stan and Art are already registered.
10. NALMS Forum Banff November 1-4. This is an important conference and it was felt that it would justify the expense of sending one Board member. This will be discussed at the September Board meeting.
11. Lake Day 2017. Kelly has researched similar program that was run at Pigeon Lake this year. He will speak to it at the September Board meeting.
12. Watershed Mayors' Meeting September 21. This meeting has been scheduled for the evening of the September 21st at the TransAlta Sundance site. Sue Evans is organizing the meeting and will let us

know if there is a need for a member of the Board to attend. It may not be necessary as we already have established a forum (CAO meetings) to discuss municipal watershed issues.

## **WWMC Treasurer's Report As of Sept 21, 2016**

Balance as of Aug 17, 2016	\$16,832.32
----------------------------	-------------

Income:

Credit interest	\$.65
Corporate Sponsors	\$400.00
Donations	\$575.00

Expenses:

Ser Chg PayPal	\$2.98
----------------	--------

Current Balance	\$17,804.99
-----------------	-------------

### **Membership to Date**

Paid Corporate Members 2015/2016	20
Paid Regular members 2015/2016	9
Paid Corporate Members 2016/2017	12
Paid Regular Members 2016/2017	10

**Underutilized Fish Stock Meeting**  
Lac Bellevue Community Hall (S of St. Paul)  
September 7, 2016

- About 350 people attended.
- **Organized by Ray Makowecki**, fisheries biologist, former Northeast Regional Director for Alberta Fish and Wildlife, former President of the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA), and current Fish Chair for Zone 5 of the AFGA.
- **Meeting was sponsored** by Lac Bellevue Recreation and Agricultural Society, St. Paul Agricultural Society, St. Paul Fish and Game Association, Beaver River Fish and Game Association, Zone 5 Fish and Game Association
- Moderated by former PC MLA, Ray Danyluk.
  
- In attendance:
  - 3 MLAs (Wild rose; ND MLA declined)
  - 4 Mayors and Reeves
  - 2 government biologists
  - 5 AFGA officials
- **The Problem**—as outlined by Ray Makowecki
  - For up to 20 years, 40 to 50 lakes in the northeast (Lakeland) region of Alberta have had zero limits or very restrictive catch-and-keep limits (Wabamun also falls into this group).
  - Older anglers remember fishing was very good in the 1970s and 1980s when some walleye, pike and perch would be caught and used. Now, there is very little consumptive use.
  - Many anglers suggest there are large numbers of walleye, lack of forage fish, thin pike and less yellow perch in many of these lakes—indicating to them that the walleye could and should be harvested. (We are seeing similar at Wabamun Lake.)
  - Anglers do not want to eliminate healthy fish stocks. However, they are concerned that they are denied access to consume the surplus from healthy and publicly owned fish stocks.
  - **Alberta Environment and Parks** does not believe there is a problem and uses a precautionary fisheries management strategy—setting higher standards for which lakes are collapsed and which can stand some harvest. They are not in step with neighbouring jurisdictions. (FWIN, Fall Walleye Index Netting)
  - **Pike and Perch Condition**
    - It appears that pike condition is poor when walleye populations are high.
    - As well, forage fish are reduced.
    - Perch populations may be affected.
  - **Walleye Condition**
    - The condition of Wolf Lake walleye (for example) caught in June 2016 was poor with normal 5 pound fish only 3 pounds.
    - 93% of mature females were not producing eggs in fall sampling.
- **Anglers who spoke** at the meeting mentioned the following concerns and conclusions:
  - Large numbers of walleye are present in these lakes and many examples were provided, resulting in negative impacts on pike, perch and walleye populations.
  - Leaving all of these 40-50 lakes closed for walleye (zero catch and keep limits) forever to the consumptive public angler was not acceptable (unanimous).
  - Issuing the walleye tag lottery for all these lakes was not acceptable (unanimous).
  - Harvesting one walleye for each angler in all these lakes was a major comment by many of the people.
- **Other comments** included:
  - Control cormorants
  - More fish stocking
  - Protect and develop fish habitat—crucial; also improve water levels
  - Much criticism of provincial government public communications and arrogance.
- Each of the provincial and municipal politicians presented comments at the end of the meeting.

- The biologists did not speak.
- All who attended were given a short questionnaire to capture the concerns and possible solutions that were not mentioned by the speakers.
- **Next Steps**
  - The most preferred solutions will be determined from the questionnaires and presentations and confirmed with all who participated.
  - A plan will be developed for the anglers to work with the local municipalities and local MLAs to lobby the government to make firm changes in the way fisheries are managed so that by April 1, 2017, anglers will each be able to take a walleye home for dinner.