

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ESRD Spruce Grove
Time: 6:30 PM Date: April 19, 2017

In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Paul Cardinal, Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming, Don Meredith, Stan Kobytko, Jack Latham, Ken Petruk, Tracy Muloin, Jordyce van Muyden, Stacey Gibb

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Dan Kuchmak - TransAlta, Tony and Julia Nelson, Breda Muldoon - NSWA
2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Stan Kobytko Seconded: Neil Fleming
3. Presentation: Highvale Mine Reclamation
Dan Kuchmak, Reclamation Specialist, TransAlta Utilities

Dan gave us a half hour presentation on the TransAlta Highvale mine reclamation process, both the work done to date and the plan for the remainder. The work is ongoing during the mining process as placing materials during mining reduces reclamation costs. They are ahead of schedule by about a year. In Pit 4 they are moving trees from new mining area to reclamation areas using "live-root" planting. This will give the trees an early start. Large plateaus are on grade and are being contoured now using strategic placement of fill. A question was asked about the expected quality of runoff water after reclamation. Dan explained that TransAlta is obligated to return clean water to the lake. Rainfall will hit vegetated area for clean runoff. Coal removal is almost finished in Pit 5, and reclamation has started in Pit 7. The cooling pond area is to be drained to its original level, and what remains will be a wetland.

4. Review and approval of minutes from March 22, 2017 Board meeting.
Moved: Stan Kobytko Seconded: Jack Latham
5. Executive Report – None for this month.
6. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming reported that there has been no activity this month. The bank balance is \$18,572.
7. Parkland Boat Launch update.

Stan Franklin, Jack Latham, and Jordyce Van Muyden attended a Parkland County Open House recently. They report that there was no presentation... just a request for feedback. It was attended by a few residents and a number of fishers, who are worried about closure of the informal launch sites. There seemed to be mixed support for the project with few strong feelings, except from the neighbouring landowner who was strongly opposed to it. Jack Latham said he thought there was a high level of support for limiting the number of boats on the lake.

8. Love your Lake update.

Jenna Curtis of Nature Alberta has indicated that letters went out on April 18th to Parkland resident shoreline owners asking them if they want personal property assessments in addition to last year's shoreline assessments. There are plans to conduct shoreline assessments of all the summer villages and the Village of Wabamun this summer.

9. Fisheries Management update.

Don Meredith, Stan Franklin and Neil Fleming met recently with Stephen Spencer (AEP Senior Fisheries Biologist) and John Tchir (AEP Fisheries Resource Manager) to discuss the state of the Wabamun fishery. They expressed our concerns regarding the health of pike and whitefish, and our desire to end the "catch and release" policy currently in place. The meeting went well and our board members found a high degree of credibility in the responses to their questions. AEP attributes much of the poor health of pike to stress caused by catch and release, and also to a natural cycle of dominant species in lakes. The pickerel population is doing well, but there is still time needed to fill out the numbers in each age category. The whitefish population is at historical lows. This is perhaps attributable to the shut-down of the Wabamun Power plant. The next test netting is planned for 2020.

10. Wetland Assessment Project Update.

Don Meredith is still working on the plans for this project.

11. Education projects for 2017.

Neil Fleming is working with Jenna Curtis on this project. They are exploring several possible ways of getting the information out to our constituents.

12. Recreation Management Plan

The need for some level of recreation management was identified as a priority. While a full recreation management plan may be a longer term objective within the WMP we should investigate the possibility of implementing strategic components of such a plan in advance of the completion of the WMP. This will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment. 8:50 PM Next Meeting: May 17th, 2017