

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AEP Spruce Grove
Time: 6:30 PM Date: May 17, 2017

In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Art Erickson, Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming, Stan Kobylko, Jack Latham, Arin MacFarlane-Dyer, Ken Petruk, Jordyce van Muyden

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests: Tracy Melnyk (Parkland County) Don Waterman, Jocelyn Wiggins – Village of Wabamun (will replace Art Erickson on WWMC Board) Dan Ahout.
2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Stan Kobylko Seconded: Ken
3. Review and approval of minutes from April, 2017 Board meeting.
Moved: Art Seconded: Jordyce
4. Executive Report:

See the following agenda items and attachments to these minutes.

5. Treasurer's report: Neil Fleming reported that activity for the month included:

Income:	Interest Credit	\$0.76
Expenses	Meeting Expenses	\$73.66
	Web Site Hosting	\$310.63
Current Balance as of May 15, 2017		\$18,188.93

6. Wabamun Watershed Management Plan Update
 - Meeting with AEP and NSWA May 3, 2017.

Arin MacFarlane-Dyer discussed the meeting held at Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) with The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) and WWMC.

See attached Executive Meeting Notes

- Meeting with CAO's May 11, 2107.

See attached Minutes prepared by NSWA

- Steering Committee Composition.

The steering committee will meet approximately 4 times a year. The Terms of reference for the project will be approved by the steering committee. WWMC will nominate one steering committee member and an alternate.

7. Spring 2017 Shoreline Walkabout update.

Neil Fleming is organizing this summer education project where WWMC will hand deliver materials to all shoreline properties in the lake. This will be the third time we have done this. Neil explained that this year we will be concentrating on trying to encourage property owners improve the riparian area along the shoreline of their property by returning it to a more natural state. Neil is working with Jenna Curtis of "Love Your Lake". They have selected three short pamphlets for each owner which will be handed out along with a letter from the WWMC Chair explaining its importance for a healthy lake. Arin MacFarlane-Dyer indicated that AEP could supply fridge magnets and stickers with the environment hotline phone numbers on them.

Neil is asking for ten volunteers to work with us to visit the approximately 700 lakeshore cottages (about 50 per person). We have learned that weekends are the best time to catch cottagers at home. Volunteers will be given maps of their territory and can choose the day or days they want to work.

8. Wetland Assessment Project Update. Don Meredith was unable to attend, and instead supplied the following report

Wetland Survey Report

Don Meredith May 17, 2017

The following three wetlands I plan to survey this summer, starting in late May. The objectives will be to 1) confirm their classification from the Fiera report and 2) make a photographic record of the wetland. I will also do some wetland plant identification and record any wildlife seen.

Franklin Wetland
Sundance Wetland (near proposed boat launch site)
Beaver Creek Wetland

Those who would like to participate, let me know, and I will let you know of the proposed dates, once they become clear.

9. Website report and spring 2017 Newsletter.

Dom Meredith is commended for his excellent efforts in monitoring the website usage.

See attached Website Report.

10. Recreation Management opportunities.

Stan Franklin indicated that now is not the time to undertake a comprehensive recreation management plan. However we are working on efforts to control the speed of boats near the shoreline. Neil Fleming reported that the Summer Village of Seba Beach has agreed to purchase enough marker buoys to help protect the full length of the Seba shoreline. These will be installed this summer.

Art Erickson indicated that the Village of Wabamun will take part in The Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up. Other subdivisions or villages may undertake clean-ups. Visit <http://shorelinecleanup.ca/cleanups/create>

11. Adjournment: 8:20 PM Next Meeting: June 21, 2017

Wabamun Watershed Management Council
Executive Meeting
May 3, 2017 9:00AM
AEP Spruce Grove

Meeting Notes

1. **Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan**
 - Breda Muldoon (NSWA) reviewed the draft agenda for the CAO meeting scheduled for May 11, 2017.
2. **Summer Education Project (Neil)**
 - Neil indicated that there are already a number of published materials on shoreline stewardship and restoration and that the challenge will be to select and source a limited number that can be discussed with shoreline owners and left with them. Neil proposed that the "walkabout" be conducted in July and will require approximately 10 volunteers.
3. **Spring Newsletter (Don)**
 - Don advised that the Spring Newsletter will be going out by mid May.
4. **Wetland Assessment Project (Don)**
 - Don will provide an update on the project at the May Board meeting. He will be identifying a representative sample of "high value" wetlands to visit and assess early this summer.
5. **Parkland County - Shadybrook Campground expansion**
 - There is some concern that this expansion project was approved by Parkland County without any real prior consultation with the SV Seba Beach or the WWMC. The expansion is in close proximity to a creek and wetland that drains into the lake. Construction has now been completed. Stan will contact the County regarding the watershed consultation and communications issue.
6. **SV Seba Beach buoy program (Neil)**
 - Neil reported that the SV Seba Beach Council has approved the acquisition of sufficient buoys to mark a slow or no wake zone in front of the SV shoreline properties. Neil is assisting with the sourcing of the buoys.
7. **Recreation Management (Stan)**
 - A full scale RMP would be a major undertaking but the WWMC should be able to work with the municipalities and shoreline communities to start some management practices and boater education. There is the potential for lake wide boating regulations under the Canada Shipping Act if all of the municipalities are in support and follow the protocols for requesting such regulations.
8. **Pigeon Lake Leaders Session April 29, 2017 (Stan and Arin)**
 - Arin reported on this event. It was well attended by Municipal leaders and First nations. The Pigeon lake Watershed Association presented its latest draft of its Watershed Management Plan and was looking for community "buy in" on the principles of the Plan and its implementation.
9. **Yellowhead MP roundtable - June 24, 2017**

- The WWMC should have a representative attend this event to be held at Parkland County's offices. We also need to determine if in addition we should provide the MP's Office with a letter outlining our position on the issues raised.

10. U of A water monitoring program 2017

- This Program will be continued in 2017 but sampling will be less frequent, perhaps once every 2 weeks. The Lakes of Parkland County group have applied for a grant to cover the costs of supplies and analysis but may be looking for financial contribution from the individual lake groups to cover any shortfall. The Board has previously indicated that it would be prepared to assist financially. Stan has requested information from the group with respect to the potential costs and how those might be shared among the lake groups.

11. ALMS workshop September 29, 2017 Lac La Biche

- We should take advantage of this opportunity and send a Board member and cover the member's costs.

Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Meeting with Chief Administrative Officers

May 11, 2017 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm
Boardroom D, AEP (Telus Building),
250 Diamond Avenue, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 0G6

In attendance:

Sue Evans, CAO Seba Beach, Lakeview and Betula Beach
Art Erickson, Councilor, Village of Wabamun
Arin Macfarlane Dyer, Integrated Resource Planner, AEP
David Trew, Executive Director, NSWA
Breda Muldoon, Watershed Planner, NSWA
WWMC: Stan Franklin, Don Meredith, Jack Latham, Kelly Aldridge

Regrets:

Mike Heck, CAO, Parkland County
Jim O'Brien, CAO, Point Alison
Dwight Moskalyk, CAO, Kapasiwin
Cheryl McNeil, Senior Advisor Stakeholder Relations, TransAlta

Meeting Minutes

1. **Meeting Objective:** as indicated in the agenda circulated in advance of the meeting, the purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the progress of the Wabamun Watershed Management planning process and to discuss the method of municipal and TransAlta engagement during the planning process.
2. **Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan (WLWMP) Update:**
 - a. The WLWMP will be framed under the NSWA's North Saskatchewan River Basin *Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)* and Alberta Government's *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability* and the *North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP)*.
 - i. Question that was discussed: Could the WLWMP be considered a "subregional" plan under the NSRP? AEP staff have received direction to consider watershed management plans when reviewing development projects in affected areas.
 - ii. May be an opportunity for WLWMP to form some aspect of an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP); IDPs or municipal collaboration framework will be required under the updated *Municipal Government Act*.
 - b. The WLWMP will be structured similar to watershed planning documents authored by the NSWA including: North Saskatchewan River Basin *IWMP (2012)*, *Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan (2012)* and *Mayatan Lake Watershed Management Plan (2016)*.
 - c. Intermunicipal collaboration and stakeholder involvement is key to informing management directions and ensuring successful implementation of recommendations.
 - d. Stewardship projects will be implemented alongside development of the Plan.
 - e. The WLWMP process is funded through municipal and stewardship grant donations (to NSWA). Funding grants will be sought to implement Actions outlined in the Plan.

- f. Public engagement will be key and the Steering Committee will draft a public engagement strategy. Engagement of day use visitors and recreational boaters will also be undertaken because Wabamun Lake is a popular day use destination in the region.
- g. A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) were prepared by the NSW, AEP and WWMC in winter 2016-17. The TOR will be approved and finalized by the Steering Committee once it is formed. The TOR was circulated at the meeting.

3. Priority Issues and opportunities discussion

- a. Several priority issues of municipal concern were identified at the Wabamun Lake CAO Meeting with WWMC in summer 2016 and reviewed at this meeting. Priority issues included: invasive species control; informal boat launches; sewage system inspection; fertilizer use and stormwater management; engagement with Paul First Nation; recreation management; and identifying and respecting shoreline boundaries.
- b. Several additional priority issues of municipal concern were identified:
 - i. There is a need to improve intergovernmental communication to ensure coordinated development approvals, referrals and enforcement within the watershed. There is also a need to notify municipalities within the watershed that may be affected by a development about the development project before it is approved.
 - ii. Development permitting processes need to consider Environmentally Significant Areas during approval process.
 - iii. Development permitting gaps need to be addressed to ensure the lake and watershed are protected and developmental impacts are appropriately mitigated.
- c. The TOR also outlines priority issues which apply more broadly to the WLWMP including: lake water quality and water supply; shoreline and riparian health; reclamation of Highvale Mine; and Fisheries and Wildlife management.
- d. There are opportunities to collaborate among the province, municipalities, WWMC and NSW on projects to begin to address lake and watershed issues including: shoreline restoration; critical wetland identification and protection; recreational management; and invasive species monitoring and education.

4. Municipal/TAU Engagement during Wabamun Lake Watershed Management planning process

- a. A Steering Committee will be formed in summer 2017. The Steering Committee will lead the planning process. Membership for the Steering Committee is being sought from all watershed stakeholder and from municipalities in the region. Steering Committee meetings will be held quarterly with subcommittee meetings (formed as needed) held more regularly.
- b. Stakeholders unable to participate directly on the Steering Committee will be actively engaged and informed during the planning process (task of NSW).
- c. Letters will be sent to all municipalities within the watershed asking for membership on the Steering Committee.
 - i. A letter was sent to Parkland County on May 5th, 2017 by the NSW requesting membership on the Steering Committee from a Councillor or staff member. NSW to follow up.
 - ii. Ms. S. Evans has said that she is available to represent the Summer Villages on the Steering Committee if needed. NSW to formally follow up with the Summer Villages.

- iii. NSWA will also send a letter to the Village of Wabamun requesting a member for the Steering Committee.
- d. WWMC will appoint two members (one alternate) for the Steering Committee at their Executive meeting on May 17th, 2017.
- e. AEP will provide a staff member (and alternate) for the Steering Committee. AEP will have an internal technical committee to review and provide advice on technical information as needed during the planning process.
- f. Membership will be sought from landowners and agricultural producers within the watershed. NSWA to follow up.
- g. Membership will be sought from TransAlta. NSWA to follow up.

Web Site Report

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

May 17, 2017

Don Meredith

Communications Chair

Website Stats (Google Analytics)—April 17 to May 16

- 104 users in 135 sessions
- 346 page views; 2.6 pages/session
- Average session duration (minutes): 2:59
- 50.4% bounce rate (only visited one page)
- 71.1% new sessions (new visitors)
- Top Ten Pages visited
 - Home—96 views
 - What's New—35
 - Get Involved—24
 - Meeting Information—24
 - Council Members—22
 - Lake Water Level—18
 - Studies-Reports—17
 - Newsletters—16
 - FAQs—10
 - Priorities and Plans—9

Mail Chimp Stats—May 15 “WWMC Spring Newsletter” campaign:

- 195 subscribers
- 52.1% opened.
 - Our avg. = 47.6%
 - Non-profit org. avg. = 22.6%
- 26.3% clicked a link (newsletter)
 - Our avg. = 7.3%
 - Non-profit org. avg. = 2.3%