

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
EAP Spruce Grove  
Time: 6:30 PM Date: June 21st, 2017

In Attendance: Kelly Aldridge, Paul Cardinal, Stan Franklin, Don Meredith, Stan Kobylko, Jack Latham, Arin McFarlane-Dyer, Renee Bliss, Don Waterman

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests
2. Review and approval of meeting agenda: Moved: Stan Kobylko Seconded: Paul Cardinal
3. Review and approval April, 2017 Board meeting Minutes  
Moved: Paul Cardinal Seconded: Stan Kobylko
4. Executive Report – the Executive Committee has not met since the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
5. Treasurer's report – No report submitted – Neil Fleming is away.
6. Wabamun Watershed Management Plan Update

- Meeting – NSWA and Parkland County re Parkland's role in WMP.

This meeting was attended by Dave Mussell of AEP and Dave Trew of NSWA (Among others we presume). Dave Trew has since indicated to Stan that purpose of the meeting was to discuss a Parkland County proposal for configuring a process to proceed with implementation of their LUP and WMP objectives. Apparently the County wants to meet again at the end of August to discuss their new ideas.

After much discussion we decided that we (WWMC) do not want this initiative by Parkland County to delay our existing project to prepare our Lake Wabamun Watershed Management Plan. We wish to see a steering committee finalized soon and move forward as planned, with or without Parkland County's participation.

- Meeting with TransAlta and NSWA on June 23, 2017

This meeting was postponed by NSWA.

7. Summer Shoreline Walkabout update.

Kelly reported that we are nearly ready to proceed with this in mid-July. He passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet and most positions are filled with 7 board members. Kelly will distribute the updated list to our board members.

Arin has provided us with the "Respect Our Lakes" brochures and Environmental Hotline magnets.

## 8. Wetland Assessment Project Update.

Don Meredith reported that he has recently visited three wetlands, accompanied by Nature Alberta staff: Marie Breiner (Living by Water Shoreline Naturalization Technician), Delaney Schlemko (summer student) and Anya Batycky (summer student).

They started at Beaver Creek wetland (south shore east of RR 53) where species of riparian and emergent vegetation were identified. It was observed that much of the land around the pond had been disturbed in the past but the riparian plant community was taking over with mostly native (some invasive) plants. Marie Breiner commented that the wetland was doing its job in filtering and otherwise cleaning the water going to the lake from an apparently underground source. Much wildlife was noted using the wetland.

Stan commented that the wetland had once been a TransAlta holding lagoon for water coming off the Highvale mine. Alberta Environment disallowed that process, and the water was rerouted and the lagoon abandoned. As such, the wetland might be a good example of how to create a wetland on disturbed land...?

Although the Fiera report classified this wetland as bog and fen, this one appears to be a Shallow Open Pond and Marsh, as described by Wetlands Alberta ([www.wetlandsalberta.ca](http://www.wetlandsalberta.ca)).

The crew then visited the so-called Sundance wetland (about a kilometre east of Beaver Creek), where the Fiera report had classified the area as being a bog and fen. However, the land where the proposed Parkland County boat launch is to go is not a wetland but an upland. The crew did not have permission to investigate the wetland on the eastern site of the wetland area identified by Fiera.

Moving to the north shore, the crew visited the Franklin wetland (Fallis) but were prevented from entering too far by high water levels. Of the diverse vegetation they did see indicated the wetland had had very little disturbance in the last few years.

Don and the Nature Alberta crew will return to the Franklin wetland later this summer when water levels are lower. As well, they will pick another important wetland to evaluate.

## 9. Lakes of Parkland County water monitoring Project

Following the meeting on Monday June 26th Elisa Brose of the NSWA and the U of A researcher, Katherine Snihur, took water samples from the sites that have been monitored by volunteers over the last year. The testing that she will be undertaking is broader than last year's isotopic testing and should provide more information about the health of the lake. One issue that came up and which will be of further interest is that there appears to be a much higher level of sodium in Wabamun than in the other regional lakes tested (approximately 3 time higher). This is of course just a preliminary observation and will need to be studied further by Katherine. The concentration, probable sources and longer term projection of infiltration from the watershed will be important to understand.

## 10. Adjournment. 8:30 PM

Next Meeting: July 12, 2017 (Note this change to the second Tuesday... July 2017 only)