

**WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

AEP Spruce Grove

Time: 7:00 PM Date: October 18th, 2017

In Attendance:

Board Members: Kelly Aldridge, Jocelyn Wiggins, Stan Franklin, Neil Fleming, Don Meredith, Jack Latham, Arin McFarlane-Dyer, Tracy Muloin, Erin Reid, Jordyce van Muyden, Don Waterman

Regular Members and Guests: Maurice Lemieux, Breda Muldoon, Walter Nielson, Elain Fleming, Charlie Patching, Dr. Patrick Hanington

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

STAN FRANKLIN

PRESENTATION:

DR. PATRICK HANINGTON – UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

THE ECONOMICS OF BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS

Neil Fleming introduced our Dr. Hanington and told us a bit about his background. Dr. Hanington has a PhD in Evolutionary Immunology. His past work includes the study of Schistosomiasis disease caused by snails in Africa and Asia. It turns out the same science can be applied to snails in Alberta's lakes that are the cause of "swimmers itch"!

He is now working with a team at the U of A to try to place a value on ambient recreational waters in Alberta. They are collecting a wide variety of data regarding recreational use, revenue from businesses, property values and changes in these values over time, etc. Basically it is any data that may eventually assist in determining the economic value of Alberta's lakes.

They have chosen Summer Villages as a primary source of data, because these are the only municipalities that are fully and consistently concerned with lakes. For example, they have data on numbers of properties in a summer village, the assessed values, the number and revenues of local businesses. They can also help in determining the number of users of their lakes. This will be supplemented with data from Alberta Environment and Parks on provincial park visits. When the database is ready, (perhaps as early as the end of this year), they will make it available to groups such as ours and provide tools to allow us to analyse the data.

Another very interesting thing he told us is they have portable DNA analysis equipment that allows them to test water samples in the field to see if there is DNA of any invasive species in it! This will be extremely helpful in early identification of problems.

We are eager to hear what new information the U of A team is able to tell us.

APPROVAL OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Moved: Kelly Aldridge

Seconded: Neil Fleming

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved: Jordyce Van Muyden

Seconded: Don Meredith

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

STAN FRANKLIN

See attached: "CHAIR REPORT"

TREASURER'S REPORT: Neil Fleming explained the banking transaction for the past month. The current balance October 17th is \$18,158.90

See attached: "Treasurer's Report"

Kelly Aldridge presented the 2016-17 Financial Statements.

See attached: "WWMC Financial Statements 2016-17"

ELECTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

KELLY ALDRIDGE

Kelly explained his role as Past Chair includes managing the election process. He said that there were several open board positions. The board has the option to appoint board members during the year, and if there are any they must be confirmed at the next AGM or Special Meeting. Stacy was appointed to the board last spring. Jack Layton moved that Stacy Gibb be confirmed as a board member, seconded by Jordyce Van Muyden. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by _____ to appoint Don Waterman to the board, Seconded by _____. The motion was approved.

Kelly then asked for any further nominations from the floor. As there were none, Kelly declared the election process closed. He noted that the board would elect an executive committee at the next regular board meeting.

Stan Franklin advised that Dan Saunders has resigned from the WWMC board.

CLOSING REMARKS

STAN FRANKLIN

Stan thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM

**CHAIR REPORT
WWMC AGM
OCTOBER 18, 2017**

1. For the third year in a row, WWMC Board members attempted to visit all 700+ lake front property owners on Wabamun. We have found that this personal contact has raised the profile of the WWMC and is increasing awareness of the impact that we all have as individuals on the health of the lake. In the past we have focused on the use of fertilizers and the need to protect the lake from invasive species such as mussels. Last year we delivered copies of "On the Living Edge", the cost of which was covered by Parkland County and participating Summer Villages.

In 2015, the WWMC in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance undertook a Riparian Health Assessment study. That report which is available on the WWMC website found that 43% of Wabamun Lake's shoreline is in an "impaired" condition and is not properly performing its natural function to protect the lake. Improving the condition and function of "impaired" shoreline is an important water quality stewardship goal.

This year we chose to piggy back on the "Love Your Lake" program sponsored by Nature Alberta. Over the last two summers Nature Alberta staff have surveyed all shoreline properties from boats operated by WWMC volunteers. The reports produced for each property could be accessed by the owner on the net and provide information and recommendations specific to the property on measures to reduce impact on the lake. We followed up with our visits to the shoreline properties providing literature and a list of resources with respect to shoreline preservation and restoration.

The response from shoreline owners has been positive. Nature Alberta staff have been working with a number of owners regarding the planting of native species, sourcing the plants and in some cases assisting with the planting. Some financial assistance through the Program is also available. Interested owners should contact Nature Alberta or WWMC for more information.

2. Proposed South Shore Boat Launch

With the closure of the Sundance boat launch following the CN oil spill in 2005 and the increased demand on existing boat launch sites, Parkland County undertook an investigation in late 2016 to find a suitable launch site on the south shore. A broad based ad hoc boat launch committee was established by the County and considered the limited opportunities on the south shore. A site on TransAlta land east of Sundance Meadows was identified as a possible site. Investigations revealed environmental as well as water depth issues. In late summer 2017 TransAlta reconsidered its position regarding reopening the Sundance boat launch. TransAlta staff are currently engaged in discussions with Parkland County with a view to reaching an agreement on the terms under which the site could be reopened. Reopening that site should take some of the pressure off informal sites on the south shore and permit consideration of restricted use or closure of some sites. Reducing the number of active informal boat launch sites will go some way to reducing the risk of shoreline damage and the introduction of invasive species into the lake.

3. Fisheries

Wabamun has been a "catch and release" lake for many years. It has been observed by the fishing community and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) that species such as whitefish and perch have declined almost to the point of disappearance. Midsized pike appear to be underweight and are frequently found washed up on the shore. The reasons for the decline of whitefish and perch are not clear. The condition of pike could be a combination of being out competed for food by walleye (introduced into the lake a few years ago) and stress caused by angler recycling - i.e. the same fish being caught and released on more than one occasion. The walleye appear to be doing well and AEP considers that the lake will remain "catch and release" for perhaps another 5 years to allow the walleye population to reach a sustainable level. They also expect that there will be a natural rebalancing over time with respect to all species.

Shoreline observations by residents over the past few years have noted the apparent decline in populations of clams and snails, water bugs and other aquatic invertebrates as well as "in shore" small fish and minnows.

Going forward the Board will work with AEP to determine if these observations are accurate and whether there is any evidence that would raise concerns about the long-term health of this important segment of the ecosystem and food chain.

4. Wabamun Watershed Management Plan

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is proceeding with the development of the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Terms of Reference for the Plan have been completed and are available on the WWMC website. The project will have a Steering Committee, a Technical Committee and a Municipal Implementation Committee.

The Steering Committee will provide high-level direction for the project. Membership on the Committee includes representation from all watershed municipalities, WWMC, AEP and TransAlta.

The Technical Committee will include staff resources from the major players and will provide technical support as required.

The Municipal Implementation Committee will be led by Parkland County and will be responsible for identifying and managing the implementation of priority municipal initiatives that can be undertaken prior to completion of the WMP.

The commitment to collaboration represented by the broad participation in this project is in itself a major step forward not only toward the creation of the Plan but, equally important, to timely and ongoing implementation of sound stewardship within the watershed.

5. 2017 - 2018

In the upcoming year, the WWMC will be taking an active role to assist the NSWA in the development of the Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan. This will include work with the Municipal Implementation Committee on short-term municipal stewardship initiatives.

We will continue to work with TransAlta, AEP and the Alberta Energy Regulator with respect to the reclamation of the Highvale Mine. The area of the mine represents approximately 1/3 of the total area of the watershed and its water contribution to the lake (both quantity and quality) following reclamation is critical to the long term health of the lake.

Safety on the water for all users of the recreational lakes in Parkland County is an unaddressed concern. Some communities (Seba Beach and Fallis) have already installed buoys for "no wake" or "low speed" zones. These appear to be having an impact on boat/pwc operator behaviour. In the upcoming year we will be working with our partners to explore means by which some form of periodic on water boat patrols on high recreational use lakes within Parkland County can be implemented.

6. Thanks

Given the complex jurisdictional issues surrounding watershed stewardship, effective stewardship is only possible with the cooperation and collaboration of all decision makers and stakeholders. As mentioned above, 2017 may well be a turning point given the decision of AEP, NSWA, all watershed Municipalities, and TransAlta to work together in the development and implementation of the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan.

The Board would like to express our appreciation for the support, guidance and assistance we have received in the last year from all of our partners, corporate members and donors.

Stan Franklin
Board Chair

WWMC Treasurer's Report As of Sept 13, 2017

Balance as of Aug 16, 2017		\$17,748.38
Income:	Credit interest	\$0.76
	Corporate Sponsor	\$300.00
	Reg Members	\$25.00
Expenses:	Paypal	\$1.03
Current Balance		\$18,073.11

Membership to Date

Paid Corporate Members 2016/2017	21	
Paid Regular Members 2015/2016		10
Paid Corporate Members 2017/2018	11	
Paid Regular Members 2017/2018		4

Corporate members

Camp Oselia Society
 Degner Construction
 Derby's Lakeview General Store
 Drayden Insurance Ltd
 EBC Holdings Paul Cardinal
 Edmonton Yacht Club
 Falher Drugs
 Home Hardware
 Kokanee Springs RV Park
 Pineridge Golf Resort
 Seba Beach Ice Cream Stop
 Shoreside Management Ltd.
 Stony Plain F&G/Wabamun Gun Club
 Summer Village of Betula Beach
 Summer village of Kapasiwin
 Summer Village of Lakeview
 Summer Village of Point Alison
 Summer Village of Seba Beach
 Trans Alta
 Village of Wabamun
 Wabamun & District Seniors Centre
 Wabamun and District Lions Club
 Wabamun Lakeside Liquor
 Wabamun Sailing Club