

# Wabamun Watershed Management Council

## Board Meeting

AEP Spruce Grove  
6:30PM January 17, 2018

## Minutes

In Attendance: Renee Bliss, Stan Kobylko, Jordyce Van Muyden, Don Waterman, Kenn Petruk, Don Meredith, Neil Fleming, Jack Latham, Kelly Aldridge, Denise Purdy, Arin MacFarlane Dwyer, Petra Rowell (NSWA), Stan Franklin

1. Welcome and introduction of guests  
Charlie Patching (AOSA), Carmen McNary, Sheila McNary (Whitewood Sands), Margaret Le Gron, Lloyd Le Gron (Seba Beach), Dan Chugg (Fallis), Randy Heil (Sherwin Beach), Stan Anderson (Seba Beach), Jack Bannerman, Audrey Bannerman, Joe Hewko (Whitewood Sands) Rick Flesher (Lakeshore Drive).
2. Review and approval of meeting agenda  
Approved (Kelly Aldridge/Don Meredith)
3. Review and approval of minutes from November 15, Board meeting  
Approved (Don Waterman/Kenn Petruk)
4. Treasurer's Report  
Approved (Kelly Aldridge/Jack Latham)
5. Website, Newsletter, Facebook Update  
Don presented his 2017 annual website report with respect to activity on the site. Don also reminded the Board that we should be putting together material for the Winter Newsletter. In view of the recent ice event and related property damage, this could be the focus of the Newsletter.

Neil reported that there has been a 40% increase in the number of Facebook posts as a result of the shoreline damage posts. Current membership is 103.

6. Executive Report – meeting notes from December 20, 2017 Exec Meeting

- The notes were reviewed. Neil advised that Parkland County's Septic Workshop has been scheduled for February 22nd and a similar workshop will be held in Seba Beach in July.
- Neil advised that the Minister's office had responded to our letter regarding our request for a meeting regarding the Alberta Water Council recommendations for watershed management. While the Minister did not offer to meet, she did confirm the Department's commitment to the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan.
- Stan will contact Parkland County to obtain an update on the status of the County's negotiations with TransAlta with respect to the redevelopment and reopening of the Sundance boat launch site.
- The timetable and design of the reclamation of the Highvale Mine will need to be priority considerations for the WMP to ensure that the reclaimed site will meet the lake's historic requirement for water supply from the site both from the perspective of water quality and water volume.
- Lakes of Parkland County Chemistry Survey. Kelly reported on his attendance at a presentation by the authors of the study, Dr. Duane Froese and Katherine Snihur. The study undertaken over 2 years looked at surface and well water samples provided by volunteers at each lake. In essence the process involved the study of oxygen and hydrogen isotopes in the water samples. This study led to the conclusion that at Wabamun Lake precipitation and evaporation are the primary processes that regulate lake levels. Ground water does not contribute to the lake. The study also found higher sodium levels in the samples than in other Parkland lakes in the study. The sodium is not in the form of salt (sodium chloride) but in carbonates and bicarbonates. This may be a function of sodium levels in the soils in the watershed.

## 7. WMP Update

Petra indicated that the first meeting Steering Committee will be convened in February to discuss organizational matters and process. Arin is the Chair of the Technical Committee (that will supply technical support to the project) and indicated that she is in the process of securing members for that committee.

## 8. Ice Heave North Shore

- Don Meredith presented a number of pictures of the shoreline damage at Seba Beach and other locations on the North shore. A site visit has been scheduled for Monday January 22 and will include Parkland staff, AEP staff, WWMC Board members and the local MLA.
- Don Meredith has been involved in discussions with a consultant (Spectre AUV) who is prepared to film the shoreline damage using a drone vehicle. The consultant is prepared to donate his time and charge mainly his expenses. The total cost to the WWMC would be in the neighbourhood of \$1000. The combination of weather and the consultant's availability makes it possible for the work to be done on the 19th with the material potentially being available for the site meeting on the 22nd. Motion to approve retaining Spectre AUV to undertake this work - Don Meredith/Stan Kobytko - Carried.
- Residents attending the meeting expressed their concerns about getting timely approval for shoreline restoration measures as the work is very time sensitive and much of the work needs to be done before the ice goes out. AEP, in collaboration with watershed municipalities, will need to consider how the process can be expedited. The risk is that many property owners will take matters into their own hands if the normal 1 year approval timetable cannot be compressed significantly. Undertaking remediation without the necessary approvals could expose those property owners to regulatory enforcement actions.

- Some residents also expressed the opinion that the damage was worsened by abnormally high water level resulting from pumping operations. Further investigation will be undertaken by the Board to address the questions about water level contributing to the amount of damage and also what the TAU pumping operations contribute to the lake level on an annual basis.

#### 9. ARL Forum, (Respect our Lakes Program)

With all of the other activity expected this year, it was agreed that it would not be a good year for the WWMC to offer to host the annual ARL Forum.

#### 10. Fisheries

Stan reported on the Open House held in St. Albert on the Province's Recreational Fisheries Management Policy. This Open House was the 2nd of 5 such events planned. The policy will be lake specific and based on data from each lake. While concerns have previously been expressed by fishers in North and Central Alberta (and repeated at this Open House) about the apparent adverse effect of Walleye on other species, the Department is not prepared to consider a walleye harvest as a fisheries management tool until it is satisfied that there is a sustainable walleye population in the particular lake. Their view is that there will be a natural rebalancing of the various species in the lakes over time. This debate will no doubt continue but for the foreseeable future the fishery at Wabamun Lake will continue to be catch and release for all species.

#### 11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: The date of a February Board meeting will be discussed at the February Executive Meeting.