

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

Monthly Board Meeting – April 11, 2012 – 6:30 pm
AEW Office – 250 Diamond Avenue, Spruce Grove

Minutes

Attending: Reg Wood, Jack Latham, Kelly Aldridge, Frank Brunning, Neil Fleming, Phil Sutton, Denise Locher (alternate for Tracey Melnyk), Nicole Richardson, Glenn Gustafson (recording)

Regrets: Stan Kobyenko **Absent:** Vicki Specht

Guests: Dwayne Wilmer

Welcome and introduction of guests – Dwayne Wilmer, guest speaker and Denise Locher alternate for Tracey Melnyk

Dwayne Wilmer from Lac La Nonne Watershed Protection Assoc – Invasive Weed Removal

- started work due to concerns with water quality issues
- have done land inventories, home-site assessments, public awareness work, web site, plus weed education work that will describe
- need to distinguish between native aquatic plants and introduced plants that are of concern
- with revised weed act onus is on the property owner to control invasive plants – identified an arising problem – much info from Counties and AB Invasive Plant Council (have fact sheets for all plants of concern)
- was so much information – wanted education piece to provide guidelines on how to identify and deal with weeds of concern locally, those that municipalities and individuals need to address (e.g. municipalities should have a weed inspector identified)
- sat down with municipalities and Cows & Fish to explore what they could do – first identified weeds of concern at their lakes – there were ten of concern. Identified where they occurred and what do they look like. How to control – what is best technique.
- Focused on one weed/month with info from several sources and used to focus on ones most of concern for their lakes.
 - o Gave overview on first sheet.
 - o Then a sheet on Alberta Weed Act, plus definitions
 - o Then monthly sheets focused on problem weeds, e.g. Himalayan Balsam
- Did a June demo on the dock on what to identify and how to remove – had about 40 turn out – advertised through web site, via newsletter, via counties, word of mouth, etc. Worked well as could show them and what to do (brought in some of weeds not growing at the presentation site).
- Continuing with more weeds of month or re-advertise. Public confusion about what is a problem plant and what is native aquatic vegetation – need to

- educate more on why we need to retain the latter. Need to be careful to not confuse the two. For last four years have also been working with others, e.g. Camp Nakamun, AAFC, County, etc. to hold a wetland education day for local grade 5 & 6 kids. Hope to bring in a module focused on weeds this year.
- Also looking at doing an adult education day and an actual weed pull – a real event. Difficult to find people to organize, plus at mercy of weather – hard to mobilize something like this.
 - There is also a GIS based inventory of invasive plants – post your own on-line (AIPC would confirm) – from SRD?
 - ACTION: Glenn – call again for brochures from the AB Invasive Plant Council
 - Jack – mentioned idea of having a professional photographer/video of invasive plants and putting them along with narrative onto a DVD to give/sell. Could look at in-situ to get good idea of what to look for and how to control.
 - Dwayne – idea is to create an app for I-phone to allow ID in the field. AIPC can do workshops if requested too. Municipalities have it on their radar – need to reach the cottage owner.
 - Phil – suggest promoting this via CARL meeting using expertise & resources Dwayne’s group has created. Also should focus around boat launches as must be coming from unwashed boats.
 - Frank – perhaps use Bob Chelmiak (sp?) and his radio program to promote

BREAK

Review and Approval of March 14th Minutes

- Frank moved acceptance & Reg seconded – Carried.

Review and Approval of Agenda

- Denise moved acceptance & Jack seconded – Carried.

Executive Report (see full report at end of minutes)

- James Wright from the Stony Plain Fish & Game received 8 votes for appointment to our Board – he will be our newest member.
- Glenn, Michelle & Kelly to meet this Friday to create a WWMC filing system
- Kelly has not produced insurance recommendation yet due to personal reasons
- Don is looking for information to put in the Spring Newsletter (suggested we focus on things like the Weed Program and other summer events)

Invasive Plant Removal

- Glenn reviewed his proposal which was agreed to with direction given for workshop to occur at an outdoor location where many examples to show, e.g. Rich’s Point. Glenn will check with Hugh Wollis re: best site. Also talk to Hugh and AB Invasive Plant Council about June 24th (alternate Jun 23rd) for afternoon workshop (2 to 4 pm). Check if Sailing Club building available if needed for bad weather (Jack will check on Seniors Hall if Sailing Club not available).

- Bob Schimmel was suggested as possible point-person for weed pull – date TBA based on meeting with Parkland Committee on April 20th. Kelly can help with the Farmer’s Market promos and Don with advertising. Don is also contacting his Fish & Game club about getting involved.

Treasurers and Membership Report

- Vicki cannot continue in this role, so Neil (with Kelly) is willing to take on the budgeting aspects and financial records. The big job is dealing with memberships (tracking on database) and depositing membership cheques – also produce membership card that is sent back with information package.
- Motion for Neil to become official secretary/treasurer replacing Vicki – Jack moved acceptance & Phil seconded – Carried.
- ACTION – Kelly to work with Don & Neil to provide training for Neil.
- Current balance is \$7,582.43 – no membership report this month, but more have come in. Lion’s Club membership has come in too.

Membership Renewal Plans

- Need to generate letters for all members and send out for those who are due
- Focus on donations to stress what we need based on examples, e.g. SOW report. Noting we are not paying any expenses to board members – are self-financing. ACTION: Kelly will work with Don & Neil to create letter.
- Suggest going directly to Corporate Members about renewals.
- ACTION: Kelly to put this information in Newsletter.

Fund-raising Committee Report

- Did get approval of grant from Land Stewardship Council – need to complete agreement form to send in. ACTION – Kelly to complete and send to Council for approval.
- Found out Alberta EcoTrust have a Spring (Ap 17th) and Fall grant program – should apply, but may not be a lot of money – Kelly is planning to apply.
- Golf Tournament:
 - o Jack handed out a template for event on August 10th. ACTION – Jack to talk to Nicole re: using their POS. Important to generate list of who will contact as hole sponsors or cart sponsors – ACTION: all to send Jack names of company and a contact by April 30th. Advertisement decisions in May.
 - o Frank will help Jack with Committee
- Charitable Status:
 - o Kelly has helped with the financial statement for the application. Plan to submit in May/June.

State of the Watershed Report Committee

- Have one proposal submitted from Aquality. Kelly called and explained where we are at for funding (what’s in bank and what’s coming). They are willing to wait to start for when we have funds or work in segments as funds are available. ACTION – Glenn to double check with Dwayne what they paid

for their SOW report for reference – note that their SOW report is on the Lac La Nonne web site at www.laclanonnewatershed.com

- Will review and make decision quite soon
- Also approached by NSWA, but they needed more info on WWMC. Kelly met with them to discuss and outline who we are. Kelly also learned a lot about their experience as a group. ACTION: Kelly will check with them about a reciprocal membership – ACTION: Glenn will also check with Alberta Invasive Plant Council re: membership.

Budget Preparation

- ACTION: all to provide Kelly with feedback by April 30th and he will refine and bring forward at next meeting. For example – Reg suggested that the \$35 K might not be feasible.

Secchi Disc Project Update

- Moving ahead with program. If you know of people beyond Pigeon, Wabamun & Pine let Phil know (suggest contacting Dwayne Wilmer).
- Phil has the discs for sale (\$40 per disc)
- Phil suggesting the program is separate from WWMC (works best as it is confusing to affiliate with a specific lake)
- Indoor training on April 21 and on-water in May (middle)
- Looking at doing a Dip-in-Day in late June/early July with data going to national site. Glenn helping to support the communication/education aspects of this day.
- Data is going to be measured bi-weekly – a separate web site is being set up to collect and share data in Alberta.
- Have about 20 interested in Wabamun so far, but few or none on other lakes
- ACTION: Glenn to add info on AWQA Day to our web site.

Outreach Activities

- ACTION: Glenn to compile a list of WWMC activities as discussed and provide to Don for newsletter. Need to add in a few other things such as the Farmer's Markets

Watershed Applications & Activities

- Glenn had none to report

Announcements & Next Meeting – May 9th

- ACTION – Glenn to ask Stephen Spencer to present about the status of fisheries by species – interactions/stocking/success of stocking/aquatic health/any effects of oil spill (e.g. whitefish deformities)/catch & release status/fish health.
- If not Stephen – perhaps David Prescott

Adjournment – Neil moved

Executive Report April 2012

Kelly Aldridge - Chair

An executive meeting was planned for last Wednesday, but was cancelled at the last minute because of the blizzard warning that evening.

Our Annual Report has now been accepted by Alberta Registries and we have written Proof of Filing for both the annual report and the bylaw changes. The corrected financial statement will be filed shortly.

We have received approval of a grant of \$6,000 from the Land Stewardship Centre (LSC)), formerly Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN). It requires that I sign a detailed agreement on behalf of WWMC. It has many conditions to satisfy before any money is released to us, and will depend on the timing of our State of the Watershed project. I will bring the agreement to our Board for approval, probably at the May meeting, before signing it.

I have written thank you letters for our grants to both Parkland County and LSC.

I have been working with Reg Wood on our application for Revenue Canada Charity status. To say it is a complex undertaking is an understatement. I admire Reg for his perseverance. We have determined that we need to base our application on our 2012-13 budget, so once that is prepared we plan to submit our application in June of this year.

I have invited Glenn to set a meeting date to make plans for our records management and storage. He and I will meet with Michelle Giroux at their Spruce Grove Office before the May meeting. I think Neil Fleming and Vicki Specht should also be involved, as Neil is our Secretary and Vicki receives and distributes the mail as our Treasurer. We will report back to the Board at the May meeting.

I have not yet prepared an insurance proposal due to time constraints. I intend to do so before the May meeting.