

Wabamun Watershed Management Council
Annual General Meeting
(via Zoom)
October 21, 2020
Minutes

Board Members:

Neil Fleming, Stan Kobylko, Carman McNary, Dave Ball, Kelly Aldridge, Stan Franklin, Jordyce van Muyden, Randy Heil, Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Don Meredith.

Members and Guests:

Rob Hanke, Martin Baron, Brian Styles, Wanda Croft, Randy Collins, Julia and Tony Nelson, Caleb Sinn (ALMS), Brad Peter (ALMS), Sharon Blais, Robert Henderson, Ken Woollard (TransAlta), Clifford Faszler, Gary Pass, Ian Gray, Brent Lydiatt, Ian Simpson, Joanna Wynn, David Ingstrup, Dave Baker, Michelle Foster, Petra Rowell (NSWA), Tracy Melnyk (Parkland County), Terrie Gosset, Monique Veitch, Kirk Kenyon, Philip Sutton, Cathie Allsopp, John Henderson, Elaine Fleming, Ian MacLeod (Sunshine Bay Yacht Club), M Rowland, Cynthia Soneff, Harry Gnad.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Board Members** - Neil Fleming, Board Chair.
2. **Keynote Speaker: Brad Peter**, Executive Director, Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS).

"Water Quality in Wabamun Lake"

- ALMS' Lake Watch Program involves annual water sampling in up to 30 lakes in Alberta. Historically, sampling at each lake has taken place 4 times in the summer. More recently, they have offered a winter sampling program through the ice. The first year of sampling at Wabamun was 1980 and was regularly sampled by Alberta Environment (AEP) up until 2014 and with ALMS sampling since 2019 and likely continuing into the future.
- In 2020 ALMS has been engaged in a program to use satellite imagery to capture images of lakes like Pigeon and Wabamun and where possible do on-water sampling to coincide with the satellite passing overhead. This will be particularly useful in tracking the emergence and location of algae blooms.
- What is referred to as blue-green algae is actually a cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are distinguished from true algae in that they do not have a cohesive cell structure like algae. Cyanobacteria may produce toxins and come in a variety of different forms (some resembling pollen or grass clippings etc.) and colours. They are present in all lakes and are not considered to be invasive but can be problematic if they become over abundant causing what is referred to as a "bloom".
- Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic in that they produce living tissue from dissolved oxygen, mineral ions (nutrients) dissolved in the water (such as

phosphates and nitrates) and carbon dioxide. The nutrient level in the lake has a direct impact on the productivity of cyanobacteria. Light and temperature (especially in the spring) are also important factors in the development of harmful algal blooms (algae and cyanobacteria).

- Water sampling data from the 2020 season is not yet available. Based on the samples taken in 2019 (summer and winter sampling) phosphorus levels were found to be within historical ranges. There is a slight decline in the levels of both phosphorus and chlorophyll-a over time. A strong increasing trend was observed in the level of total dissolved solids (calcium, manganese and sulphate ions, etc). It is not clear whether this a hydrologic function of the watershed or is caused by external factors. Further study should be undertaken to clarify the source/s of this increased level. Lake clarity appears to be stable but residents were encouraged to contact ALMS regarding their observations.
 - The Lake Watch program also tests for invasive species including zebra mussels, quagga mussels, spiny water flea, and invasive plants such as Eurasian Milfoil. Control of these invasive species involves inspection and education based and use of the "Clean, Drain and Dry" protocol. No invasive species were detected in the lake.
 - In the coming months ALMS will be producing the Winter 2019 sampling reports and the 2020 summer sampling reports. In 2021 they will continue with winter sampling, the satellite imagery project and the 2021 summer sampling. Those interested in volunteering for either the coming winter sampling or the 2021 summer sampling should contact Brad or the WMMC.
 - In answer to a question from the audience about whether "the lake was in trouble", Brad said that the lake was doing OK but that every effort should be taken now to keep it that way. Waiting until a problem appears will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible to remedy.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved by Don Meredith /Seconded by Kelly Aldridge. Approved.
 4. **Approval of Minutes of the October 16, 2019 AGM**
Moved by Stan Franklin /Seconded by Tony Nelson.
Approved.
 5. **Chair Report by Neil Fleming**
Neil provided a Power Point Presentation giving some historical background of the WMMC, what the Society does and what it could be doing in the future. He indicated that the Society is at a "crossroad". Without significant funding to be able to hire an Executive Director, volunteers on the Board cannot continue to be both management and staff of the Society. Strategic planning currently underway will determine what course will be followed.

Neil updated the members on the goals of the watershed management plan that will soon be finalized. When asked what the priorities of the society would be with adequate funding, several WMP implementation priorities were listed: education and outreach, riparian shoreline restoration, and working with municipalities on policy alignment.

6. Treasurer's Report/Approval of 2019/2020 Financial Statement

Moved by Kelly/Seconded by Dave Ball that the Society's 2019/2020 Financial Statement be approved as presented.
Approved

7. Election of Board Members

Kelly Aldridge introduced Michelle Foster and Sharon Blais, both of whom had put their names forward to become members of the Board of Directors. Each provided a brief backgrounder and described their interest in stewardship of the lake.

By unanimous vote of the membership present, both Michelle Foster and Sharon Blais were elected to the Board of Directors.

Kelly Aldridge reminded those in attendance that in addition to the election of Directors at an AGM, the Society's bylaws empower the Board of Directors to appoint a Board member or members between AGMs, such appointments to be confirmed by the membership at the following AGM. Interested members should contact the website or a member of the Executive Committee.

8. There being no further business the **meeting was adjourned.**