

**Wabamun Watershed Management Council  
Board Meeting  
January 20, 2021(Zoom)**

**Minutes**

In Attendance: Don Meredith, Dave Ball, Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Kelly Aldridge, Carman McNary, Neil Fleming, Stan Franklin, Petra Rowell, Michelle Foster, Sharon Blais, Robert Fernandez, Jordyce Van Muyden, Randy Heil.

1. Review and Approval of Agenda.  
Kelly/ Michelle
2. Review of Minutes of November 18, 2020 Board Meeting.  
No additions or alterations were requested.
3. Website, Facebook, Mail Chimp Report.  
Don referred to his report that was included with the Notice of Meeting. The website had additional activity presumably resulting from the November webinar on the WMP.  
  
There are currently 223 members of the Society.  
  
Neil reported that we currently have 482 members on Facebook. There was some discussion about Board members posting material on the site. Regarding the Province's announced reduction of boat inspections in 2021, it was agreed that Dave would send a letter of concern to the Minister of AEP in line with positions taken by other watershed and environmental groups.
4. Treasurer's Report.  
The report was submitted by Dave and reflects that the amount of available funds is \$7,122.92 while the proceeds of the Land Stewardship Centre grant (\$2692.50) are considered as encumbered funds.
5. WMP Webinar.  
Feedback from the community (including NSWA) indicates that the webinar was well received. In due course Arin will be preparing a summary of the event that will be part of our reporting to the LSC on the use of grant funds.

There was some discussion about hosting further webinars that would have one or more presentations on stewardship topics.

6. Watershed Management Plan Update.

The draft Plan is complete and formal finalization would normally see the WMP Steering Committee approaching major stakeholders and Municipalities for their acceptance of the Plan and to confirm their support for implementation. The passage of time since work began on the Plan has depleted the original membership of the Steering Committee. A Steering/ Implementation Committee will need to be established to manage long term implementation of the Plan but in the interim, Petra, Carman and Stan will consider the best method to approach major stakeholders and Municipalities to confirm their acceptance of the Plan and "buy in" to implementation. Part of that initiative will be a request for the appointment of representatives to a WMP Steering/Implementation committee and/or to the WMP Technical Committee.

7. Strategic Planning.

Carman had prepared draft Strategic Planning recommendations that were circulated with the Notice of Meeting. After lengthy discussion, Carman moved that the following 6 recommendations be approved by the Board:

*Strategies:*

*To achieve its Mission and in particular to effectively support the Watershed Management Plan, WWMC will:*

- 1. **Support** the Watershed Management Steering Committee in its work by effectively and actively participating in its work and engaging with that Steering Committee;*
- 2. **Activate** resources through active collaboration with the NSW and **support** the activities of the NSW in all manners possible, relying on NSW infrastructure and resources where reasonable to do so in activating the Watershed Management Plan and in turn aiding NSW where possible in gaining additional resources focused on Wabamun Lake;*
- 3. **Build** on existing educational activities with an initial focus on the topics of invasive species, riparian health and agricultural best practices, using and optimizing the WWMC website, Facebook page and the email list to do so;*
- 4. **Support** restoration of shoreline riparian function;*

*5. **Support**, and in turn rely on, ALMS to ensure continuation and, where appropriate, expansion of the existing water quality monitoring program; and*

*6. **Work** through the Steering Committee to align municipal policies, plans and processes that promote watershed health.*

Motion seconded by Neil and approved by the Board.

Based on Board approval of the motion, Carman will follow up with NSWA with a view to furthering his discussions with them regarding a potential draft memorandum of understanding.

8. Highvale Mine Reclamation.

TransAlta's revised reclamation plan was submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator for approval. TransAlta has agreed to make a presentation to the Board regarding details of the plan once it has been considered by the AER.

9. Fisheries Report and Sport Fishing Webinars by AEP.

The results of AEP's netting program in 2020 at Wabamun Lake have been posted on the website and a summary is also contained in the Executive Committee meeting notes of January 8th.

Dave advised that AEP is in the process of holding a number of webinars on sport fishing topics to inform potential regulatory review. The webinars are recorded and can be accessed by going to AEP's main page and clicking on the YouTube or Facebook link.

10. ALMS Winter Water Sampling.

Dave advised that the January sampling would be undertaken by him, Neil and Stan on Thursday the 21st.

11. Village of Wabamun Dissolution.

Robert Fernandez advised that effective January 1, 2021 the Village of Wabamun will become a Hamlet within Parkland County. Existing bylaws will remain through 2021 and will be replaced in 2022.

Robert also advised that the County will be commissioning a "visionary exercise" that will look at long term potential development within the watershed. AEP is developing a model to estimate the impact of different watershed land uses on lake nutrient loading.

12. Presentation to Kelly Aldridge.

In recognition of Kelly's dedication and leadership in watershed stewardship at Wabamun Lake, Dave presented Kelly with a visual image of a plaque that will be delivered to him shortly. The plaque reads as follows:

***The Wabamun Watershed Management Council recognizes and sincerely thanks Kelly for his leadership in establishing the Council in 2007 and for his dedication to and support of the Council's efforts to preserve the health and vitality of Lake Wabamun.***

***Largely due to his efforts, the WWMC has made great strides in protecting the watershed for the enjoyment of future generations.***

***Well done and thank you Kelly***

Next Meeting: February 17, 2021