

# **Wabamun Watershed Management Council**

## **Executive Meeting**

**January 8, 2021 (Zoom)**

### **Meeting Notes**

**In Attendance:** Dave Ball, Neil Fleming, Don Meredith, Carman McNary, Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Stan Franklin

#### **1. Financial Update**

- Going forward the Financial Statements will be amended to reflect that the amount of the Land Stewardship Centre grant is encumbered by the terms of the grant.
- Carman indicated that he picked up most of the WWMC documents that Kelly had stored and will update Neil on the status of corporate memberships and sponsors.
- There are a few expense claims outstanding and rather than getting two signatures for cheques, Carman will investigate whether our TD account will permit e-transfers.

#### **2. TransAlta Highvale Mine Reclamation Plan**

- Arin confirmed that TransAlta was to submit a revised Reclamation Plan to the Alberta Energy Regulator by December 31, 2020. Dave will check with TransAlta (Ken W) for an update on the status of the Plan and if and when TransAlta would be prepared to make a presentation to the Board regarding the updated Plan.

#### **3. Fisheries Report Update**

- Don will update the website with the highlights of the 2020 AEP netting program. Apparently, the walleye are considered low risk, while pike numbers are showing a downward trend and are at a higher risk. While some whitefish were netted the population was not assessed in the report. Only a single yellow perch was captured in the entire netting program.

#### **4. Winter Water Sampling (ALMS)**

- Dave will conduct the January sampling. Neil indicated he would assist and Dave will attempt to recruit one of our newer Board members to join them.

## 5. Watershed Management Plan

- Finalizing the Plan - Stan will contact Petra regarding the finalization of the Plan. Given that many of the original WMP Steering Committee members have moved on, it was not considered to be worthwhile to attempt to repopulate the Steering Committee to simply formalize the completion of the Plan. Instead, Stan will propose to Petra that a letter be sent to the Municipalities and TransAlta (on behalf of NSWA, the WWMC and AEP and signed by Petra, Stan and Arin) requesting their Council's (or management's in the case of TransAlta) approval and endorsement of the Plan and a commitment to participate in the implementation. There would also be appropriate contact with the Paul First Nation to enlist its endorsement of the Plan and participation in implementation.
- Next steps will be informed by the finalization of the Plan and the results of Strategic Planning described below. This will include the appointment of members to an WMP Implementation Committee and a Technical Committee in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Plan.
- MLA Getson - Neil will contact the MLA's office and thank him for his attendance at the WMP webinar and advise that we will keep his office informed as we proceed.

## 6. Strategic Planning

- Carman led the discussion about the work he is doing to put together a planning proposal to the Board. He has had a very useful discussion with Leah Kongsrude, the Executive Director of the NSWA, regarding collaboration and support from the NSWA. Carman will circulate his proposal prior to the January 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

## 7. Communications Chair

- A discussion took place with respect to managing communications in light of Don's move the BC. This may be informed by the results of Carman's further discussions with NSWA.

## 8. Next Meeting: January 20, 2021