

**Wabamun Watershed Management Council  
Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
February 17, 2021**

**Minutes**

In Attendance: Don Meredith, Dave Ball, Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Carman McNary, Neil Fleming, Stan Franklin, Robert Fernandez, Jordyce Van Muyden, Randy Heil, Stan Kobylko

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guest  
Denny Thomas from SV Kapasiwin
2. Review and Approval of Agenda.  
Neil/Don
3. Review of Minutes of January 20, 2021 Board Meeting.  
No additions or alterations were requested.
4. Website, Facebook, Mail Chimp Report.  
Don referred to his report that was included with the Notice of Meeting. The website had 335 hits on the Fishery page, likely a result of the AEP's Fisheries webinars. There are currently 230 members of the Society.  
  
Neil reported that we currently have 495 members on Facebook.  
  
Don raised the question whether the Minutes of Board meetings should continue to be posted on the public portion of the website. He indicated that a "Board Members Only" page could be created to house the Minutes. The matter will be discussed at the next Executive Meeting. Don also indicated that currently only he and his daughter (who designed the website) are the only ones who have access to manage the site. At least one other Board member should be designated.
5. Treasurer's Report.  
The report was submitted by Dave and reflects that the amount of available funds is \$6766.70 while the proceeds of the Land Stewardship Centre grant (\$2692.50) are considered as encumbered funds.

6. Watershed Management Plan Update.

In accordance with discussions at the January 20, 2021 Board Meeting Petra Rowell produced a draft letter to the Municipalities and TransAlta requesting confirmation of their acceptance of the WMP and their support for implementation. The draft was provided to Stan F and Carman following a conference call with Petra. Feedback was provided by both Stan and Carman. The letter will likely go out shortly. Petra has engaged a communications consultant (who worked with her on the Sturgeon Watershed WMP) to prepare a 2 page summary of the WMP. The summary will initially be used as an attachment to the letter going to Municipalities and TransAlta and will eventually be available for broader distribution.
7. Strategic Planning.

Carman has been in communication with Leah Kongsrud of NSWAre regarding the Strategic Planning initiative that was approved at the January 20, 2021 Board Meeting. He is optimistic that it will be favorably received.
8. ALMS Winter Water Testing

Stan will advise Dave when a sampling kit is available next week. In response to a question from Randy, Stan will try to get clarification from ALMS about the impact of the upward trend of dissolved solids in the lake as it relates to algal growth.
9. Selenium Levels in Wabamun Lake.

Selenium levels associated with coal mining in the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain prompted Stan F to contact TransAlta to obtain information about testing in the watershed and the lake for the release of selenium. Currently it appears that selenium levels in the lake are below levels that would cause concern. Two areas that need to be explored are as follows:

  - a. Given that natural surface runoff from the Highvale Mine has been collected and transferred to the Sundance cooling ponds for many years (and replaced with treated water) has that had any impact on the release of selenium into the lake. If it has, what measures will TransAlta be taking in its reclamation of the Highvale Mine to ensure that the existing baseline level of selenium in the lake will not be adversely affected when natural runoff from the reclaimed site resumes.
  - b. Is there selenium contained in the fly ash produced through power generation. If so where is that fly stored and how will

the lake be protected from any migration or leakage from the storage facility.

10. Fisheries Report from Don Meredith.

Don advised that a group of private fisheries biologists have analyzed the data produced from AEP's recent net survey at Wabamun. Don indicated that AEP is expected to come out with policy decisions based on the results of the net surveys and subsequent public consultations. This may result in a limited harvest of walleye. The conclusions of the private biologists with respect to Wabamun are that all species are under stress from an inadequate food supply. If the lake is left to "balance" itself there will be a significant die off as part of the rebalancing.

11. Former Wabamun Power Station Intake Channel

Part of TransAlta's reclamation obligations for the Wabamun site requires the removal of the intake channel and restoration of the channel site.

The berms on either side of the channel have protected the water and shoreline immediately east of the channel and the result of removing wave action has had an impact on plant growth to the detriment of some property owners at SV Point Alison. TransAlta currently has a consultant looking at the channel to determine whether removing the channel and disturbing the naturalization that has taken place is better than leaving it as is.

A decision will need to be made regarding what, if any, role the WWMC should take.

12 Village of Wabamun Update

Robert Fernandez advised that Parkland County is almost 8 weeks into the former Village being part of the County. They are currently working on a bylaw transition plan. In the Spring they expect to put out an RFP for consulting services to develop a long term vision/strategy for development in the north shore portion of the watershed. He will keep us advised as this progresses.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021

