

**Wabamun Watershed Management Council
Annual General Meeting (by Zoom)**

October 20, 2021

6:30 PM

Board Members:

Dave Ball (Chair), Neil Fleming, Stan Kobylko, Kelly Aldridge, Randy Heil, Don Meredith, Stan Franklin, Doug Thomas, Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Sue Styles, Michelle Foster, Robert Fernandez.

Members and Guests:

Stacey Lauder, Ken Munch, Brandon Stewart, Rick Wallace, Brian Styles, Brent Lydiatt, Rob Legate, Brenda Black, Brent Lydiatt, Bob Peterson, Shelley Hatton, Julia Nelson, Robert Henderson, Martino Verhaeghe, Denny Thomas.
Janice, Bill and Marilyn (no last names).

1. Welcome and Introduction of guests - Dave Ball, Board Chair.

2. Keynote Presentation:

"TransAlta Highvale Mine Reclamation Plan"

Presenters: Stacey Lauder, Ken Munch, Brandon Stewart and Rick Wallace.

- TransAlta will cease using coal for power generation by the end of 2021. The two generating stations in the Wabamun area (Sundance and Keephills) will be fueled by natural gas.
- Sundance Units 1,2 and 3 have already been retired. Sundance 4 will be retired on April 1, 2022. Sundance 6 has been converted to natural gas. The proposed Sundance 5 repowering project has been suspended.
- Keephills 1 will be retired at the end of 2021. Keephills 2 has already been converted to natural gas and Keephills 3 will be converted to natural gas by the end of 2021.
- The Highvale Mine site contains approximately 12,000 hectares of which 7000 hectares were disturbed and currently 5000 hectares are to be reclaimed. The original mining plan anticipated coal mining into the early 2050's. The long-term reclamation plan was based on the anticipated state of the mining area when that mining was completed. The cessation of mining approximately 30 years earlier meant that the site was in a different condition than the original reclamation plan anticipated. Because of that as well as the need to review and update some of the objectives of the reclamation plan, TransAlta retained O2 Planning and Design to undertake a study of potential environmental measures that could be incorporated into a revised reclamation plan. Some of those features were outlined in TransAlta's presentation.
- Full completion of reclamation is estimated to be by 2046. Reclamation of some areas has already been completed and other areas will be added as reclamation proceeds.
- TransAlta plans to dispose of all surplus parcels of land contained within in the site following completion of reclamation. Depending on regulatory approvals, release of particular parcels of land, once reclaimed, may be staged over time.

- The revised reclamation plan is a work in progress. By June 2022 TransAlta is required to submit a Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan to the Alberta Energy Regulator. Prior to that, TransAlta will be engaging in stakeholder meetings in Q4 of 2021, and in Q1 of 2022 public consultation and Open Houses (if permitted by MOH).

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Don Meredith/Seconded by Brenda Black.
Approved.

4. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2020 AGM

Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and no omissions or revisions were noted. Minutes Approved.

5. Report from the Chair (Dave Ball)

- In conjunction with ALMS, 2020/2021 winter sampling was completed by WWMC volunteers and analysis of the samples by ALMS and U of A is in progress.
- The 2021 Lake Watch sampling was undertaken with ALMS staff. WWMC volunteers provided boats for the 4 sampling dates and assisted with the sampling.
- A new water sampling project was undertaken this summer and fall with ALMS. It involved taking samples at 35 locations on the lake on 3 separate occasions when the sky was clear, there was little wind and a particular satellite was passing over central Alberta. The satellite will provide images of different colors on the lake (the presence of chlorophyll) and the water samples will be used to identify what the colors in the images represent. This sampling program will permit calibration of what the images reveal such as formation of cyanobacteria blooms. Once calibrated it is anticipated that information on almost a real time basis will be available on line to assist in identifying the location and density of chlorophyll producing organisms in the surface waters of the lake.
- Dave reported on the short videos produced by Michael Short related to the roll out of the WMP (funded by a grant from the Land Stewardship Centre). The first video is complete and it was played for the meeting. Neil will post it on Facebook and additional distribution will be considered by Don.

6. Committee Reports

Communications Committee

- Don provided a detailed report for the period October 2020 to September 2021.
- The WWMC Facebook account is a public account and currently has 610 members.
- The WMP webinar on December 10, 2020 had 64 attendees.
- The Mail Chimp report on emails that go out to members (of which there are currently 240). 50% to 60% of the recipients open the messages. This is in contrast to the 40% average for NFP's.

- The website recorded 5032 unique visitors, i.e., 5032 different individuals. Additional visits by one of these unique individuals are not added to the total of visitors. This number reflects a 60% increase over the previous year. The total number of visits to the website were 6063, up 51% over the previous year and there were 11,649 page views up 43% over the previous year.

Sponsorship Committee

- Sue Styles reported on the activities of the Sponsorship Committee including donor and sponsor recognition on the website.

Financial Report

- Dave presented the approved Financial Statements covering the financial activity over the last year and the balance of funds on hand.

7. Election of Directors

- Two Directors (Sue Styles and Doug Thomas) were appointed by the Board during the year in accordance with the Society's Bylaws. Election at the AGM is required.
- Denny Thomas, who has attended several Board meetings as a member, indicated that he was prepared to sit as a member of the Board.

Accordingly:

Moved by Julie Nelson/Seconded by Michelle Foster that Sue Styles be elected to the Board of Directors. (Carried unanimously)

Moved by Julie Nelson/Seconded by Michelle Foster that Doug Thomas be elected to the Board of Directors. (Carried unanimously)

Moved by Julie Nelson/Seconded by Michelle Foster that Denny Thomas be elected to the Board of Directors. (Carried unanimously)

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