

**WUQWATR Annual General Meeting Minutes March 29, 2012 Bethune Community Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

Attendance: Denis Miller, Lorne Doig, Prashant Rajurkar, Rhonda Phillips, Wayne Wessner, Jim Elliott, Roni Goulet, Spencer Laroque, Fred Wright, Leland Greenfield, Bob Wilson, Terry Slack, Ron Ackerman, Terry Rollie, Joan Moore, Bill McKenzie, Don McDonald, Tracy Edwards, Tim Davies, David Sloan, Sandra Bathgate, Jim Hipkin, Don Linton, Ann Walz, Karen Bergermann, Nicola Banton, Orval Brownlee, Peter Hagar, Margot Hurlburt, Rod Halyk, Jim Supynuk

Staff: Duane Haave

Guests: Wayne Dybvig, Sam Ferris, Ryan Evans

Guest Speaker Wayne Dybvig, President of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was introduced. Mr. Dybvig gave a presentation on the allocation of water to potash mining operations. He gave background on the way applications for allocations are assessed, and pointed out that the cumulative amounts requested were assessed, as well as on an individual basis. Funds were being allocated to continue the water Availability Study, with priority given to the Lake Diefenbaker and Qu'Appelle systems. SWA has also been looking at basic flood standards and working to incorporate climate change impacts on their availability assessments.

Mr. Dybvig also provided information on 2012-13 budget initiatives at SWA, including the Water Availability Study, Watersense labelling, groundwater maps on the SWA website, and the creation of an online portal for temporary water rights license approvals.

Questions:

Q: Will the Qu'Appelle system run out of capacity

A: SWA is looking at joint studies of demand to determine how capacity should be managed for all potential users.

Q: Could the Moose Jaw River be diverted to enter Buffalo Pound Lake instead of the Qu'Appelle River to help mitigate flood problems.

A: Unfortunately, Buffalo Pound does not have enough storage capacity to make much difference for flood control

Q: Who makes the decision to operate the control structure at Craven? (Valeport)

A: The control structure is operated to achieve the desirable operating water level in Last Mountain Lake and downstream.

Q: Is there a minimum quantity of water required for the environmental functions of rivers and lakes.

A: In general full supply level seems to be best, but there are other considerations.

Q: Does SWA take preservation of Nicolle Flats into account when managing flows?

A: Yes

Q: Is there a priority given to human consumption in water allocations?

A: Saskatchewan has abandoned first in time, first in right for allocations. Human and municipal consumption now receives top priority and industrial users will have to design in cut offs for times of scarcity.

The chair thanked Mr. Dybvig for his presentation, and invited Sam Ferris, of Saskatchewan Environment for a presentation on domestic waste haulage regulations.

Mr. Ferris explained that the Septic Haulers code is on the ME website. All septic haulers will be required to register again after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

ME is responsible for regulating 91 waste systems that must meet Municipal Waste Water Effluent standards. There have been conditions on land spreading if there is no lagoon exists within 50 km. However standards for land spreading are going to become more stringent, monitoring and record keeping will be more stringent, and some municipalities will no longer have spreading this as an option. More details will be available when everything is published.

Q: Will funding be available to help communities build new lagoons?

A: Ministry of Environment does not currently have funding, this has been done through infrastructure funds, and to date the building Canada Fund is fully subscribed.

The Chair thanked Mr. Ferris, and the business portion of the meeting was called to order.

Moved to approve the Minutes of March 28, 2011. J. Supynuk/D. Sloan Carried

#### Chairs Report

The WUQWATR Board has been functioning well with good attendance from all members. The Board has been very active in Provincial Water Consultations and in the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds.

General Manager report: A written report was circulated.

Financial Report: Treasurer Tim Davies made a brief verbal report and moved the acceptance of WUQWATRs audited financial statement as prepared by Marcia Herback CA. Moved T. Davies, seconded D. Sloan carried.

Moved by T. Davies that Marcia Herback CA be appointed as WUQWATR auditor for 2012/13, seconded by C. Halladay carried.



SAW Report: David Sloan made a verbal presentation on the activities of the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds. He noted that the Annual Watershed Conference was being held April, 2013 in Moosomin and delegate spaces were still open.

Motion to adopt the reports C. Halladay/ T. Rollie

#### Resolutions

1: Whereas the Upper Qu'Appelle and Wascana source water protection plan "Getting to the Source" was published and circulated in March, 2008;

And whereas the WUQWATR source water protection plan is scheduled for renewal beginning in 2013;

Be it resolved by the WUQWATR Annual General Meeting that the WUQWATR Board of Directors be instructed to begin consultations with the local Watershed Advisory Committees and the community to begin identifying new and emerging issues, and to begin the development of recommendations and actions to address these issues. (WUQWATR Board)

Moved C. Halladay/J. Supynuk carried

2 :) Whereas the completion date for the consultant's report on the Upper Qu'Appelle Water Supply development is September 2012,

Whereas current projections of increased water demands indicate that water volumes will exceed the capacity of the existing canal by 2020,

Whereas the development of new potash mines would also increase future demands,

Whereas the erosion in the valley will only increase with increased flows in the existing canal,

Whereas the goals of the WUQWATR Source Water Protection Plan (Recommendations #51-56) support the development of an adequate water conveyance from the Qu'Appelle,

Whereas to make this major infrastructure project viable the project should consider all potential water demands including domestic, industrial, irrigation, agricultural, recreational and environmental uses along the Qu'Appelle River system and Buffalo Pound Lake,

Whereas WUQWATR places a high priority on the urgency of the project.

Therefore be it resolved by this Annual General Meeting that WUQWATR express its continued support for the planning and development of the Upper Qu'Appelle water conveyance channel project,

and;

Be it further resolved that the WUQWATR Board communicate to the Provincial Government the importance of continued progress on the development of a new conveyance, and;

Be it further resolved that the WUQWATR Board communicate our position to all elected officials and municipal governments in our watershed. (WUQWATR Board)

Moved C: Halladay/J. Supynuk carried

Any other business

Lorne Doig of the University of Saskatchewan gave a brief presentation about research at the Global Institute for Water Security. He highlighted the need for further research on the impacts of increased demand on our natural and constructed waterways.

## 6. Elections

### a. WUQWATR Rep to SAW Board

David Sloan was nominated by T. Davies/E. Zsombor acclaimed

### b. WUQWATR Alternate Candidate to SAW Board

Rod Halyk was nominated by S. Bathgate/J. Supynuk

### c. WUQWATR Delegates to SAW AGM

David Sloan was nominated by C. Halladay/Bob Wilson

Tim Davies was nominated by Bob Wilson/ C. Halladay

They were acclaimed

### d. Nominee for SAW director at large

Jim Supynuk was nominated by C. Halladay/Bob Wilson acclaimed.

Other business

K+S Potash announced their offer to sponsor a WUQWATR Delegate to the SAW conference.

Mitigation Funds for Aquatic Habitat Compensation are being spent by SWA.

Cottage Development and industrial development were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM