

WUQWATR Board Meeting  
Minutes – January 22, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.  
Zoom Call

Attendees: David Sloan, Sandra Bathgate, Jim Elliott, Sherwin Petersen, Sharon Rodenbush, Rod Halyk, John Langford, Garth Burns and Barry Gunther.

Staff: Kirsten Colvin and Justine Melo.

**1. Call to Order**

David Sloan called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**2. In camera**

In camera began at 9:03 a.m. Kirsten and Justine left the virtual room.

Out of camera was 9:22 a.m. Kirsten and Justine entered the virtual room.

**3. Self-Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were expressed.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion (Rodenbush/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that the agenda presented be approved with the new laptop computers be moved into discussions of 2021 Budget.

**5. Minutes of November 4, 2020**

**Motion (Gunther/Petersen) (M/S/C)** that the minutes of November 4, 2020 be approved as presented.

**6. New Board Appointments**

**Motion (Langford/Halyk) (M/S/C)** that Jack Davidson be appointed rural representative from the sub-watershed of Last Mountain Lake.

**Motion (Elliott/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** that Shanon Zachidniak be appointed as the urban representative from the sub-watershed of Wascana Creek.

We still have one vacancy for the urban representative for the Last Mountain Lake sub-watershed.

**Old Business**

a) Business Arising from the Minutes

None was noted that was not included in the agenda.

## b) Items from Board conference calls

- Wetland/Agricultural Drainage Management Protection Plan – November 23
  - o There was discussion of the issue that a wetland policy is needed within WSA. We provided our comments and gave them to our SAW representative.

**Motion (Gunther/Petersen) (M/S/C)** that a general letter of support for the value of wetlands and the consideration of wetlands policy in the agriculture drainage programming be written to WSA and that if there are to be further consultations or discussions on that that WUQWATR would be willing to participate.

- Irrigation Project Presentation by Clinton Molde – January 6

**Motion (Rodenbush/Bathgate) (M/S/C)** that a thank-you letter be sent to Clinton Molde with a request for periodic updates and a willingness to participate given that this is within our watershed.

- SAW Presentation of Business Plan Proposal – January 18

The discussion with SAW and the consultants was reviewed by the board. The survey provided from SAW was reviewed and answered on line by the board. A copy of the survey results would be sent to the board.

Sherwin Petersen left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Meeting began again at 12:48 p.m. Garth Burns was not present.

- Qu'Appelle River System Update

There was mention of the use of groins and riffles to mitigate bank erosion and localize water retention, respectively. **A request to have WSA provide us the Management Plan for the Craven Structure.** There may be some value to having someone with hydrology expertise that can be referred to if there are questions that require this knowledge.

## 7. Strategic Plan Review

**Motion (Petersen/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** that personal reviews or comments on the draft plan are to be in to the committee of Sharon Rodenbush(lead), David Sloan, Kirsten Colvin, Justine Melo and John Langford as soon as is possible such that the final draft would be completed by February 26, 2021.

## **8. Correspondence**

a) Correspondence from MLA, Ministers, Premier & Opposition Leader letters

**Motion (Gunther/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the letters and emails in response to our letters were acknowledged.

b) Climate Risk Institute request for approval of information on Regina Water Conservation Program/Getting to the Source Document

Justine Melo and David Sloan reviewed the request and approved access to the documents.

**Motions (Langford/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** acknowledge the request and the approval of access to the documents.

## **9. Contracts**

a) WSA Education Kits

A review of the project to develop kits was presented. Contract had been signed.

**Motion (Langford/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** that the contract be acknowledged.

b) WSA Arm River Colony Project

A request to extend the contract to March 31, 2021 and to hire Julie McKenzie was received.

**Motion (Gunther/Petersen) (M/S/C)** that the extension of the contract to March 31, 2021 be approved.

**Motion (Gunther/Langford) (M/S/C)** that Julie McKenzie be hired under contract to finish the Arm River Colony Project.

c) RSTS Contract & Training Agreements

The Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) contract for the training has been completed for Kirsten Colvin and Ali Thompson.

**Motion (Rodenbush/Petersen) (M/S/C)** that the signed RSTS Covid related contract be acknowledged.

**Motion (Halyk/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that the signed RSTS contract with Blue Moose Media for training be acknowledged.

**Motion (Petersen/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the signed training agreements with the staff for the training be acknowledged.

## **10. Reports**

a) Chair & Executive Committee (attached)

Jim attended the first Government of Alberta board development webinars. It was fairly basic. Jim had the slide decks for the other webinars and can send along if interested. Justine Melo made a WUQWATR presentation to Nature Regina general meeting and was well received. Jim will be attending the National Freshwater Policy Forum on January 27/28 and a Prairie Freshwater Policy Forum on February 18. Sandra mentioned the Water Council is meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

b) Staff Report (attached)

- A Thank You letter needs to be sent to PAC members for their volunteer participation and in kind support for the program.
- The advertisement for the CAP/ALUS program needs to be sent to board members.
- Courtney will be returning early to mid July. She will have earned unpaid vacation time from her maternity leave. Ali Thompson has accepted the permanent part time job with us.

**Motion (Rodembush/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the verbal reports be acknowledged.

e) Sub-watershed Report

Rod Halyk talked about the BHP printed community newsletter for December and they say the Jansen project phase 1 will be brought to the BHP board to make a final investment decision/sanction in the middle of 2021. Work continues.

Rod Halyk left the meeting at 2 p.m.

c) Financial Report

**Motion (Petersen/Rodembush) (M/S/C)** that the Profit Loss Report as of January to December, 2020 with a net of \$52.85 be acknowledged.

**Motion (Bathgate/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020 totaling \$287,502.12 be acknowledged.

**Motion (Gunther/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the Account QuickReport for November 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 with a total of \$14,210.33 be acknowledged.

**Motion (Rodembush/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the list of fixed expenses as outlined be approved. This includes Sasktel Mobility(181.44 monthly plus long

distance and/or data), Sasktel Internet(88.75 monthly), Payroll(~4750 semimonthly with slight variations due to work hours), MyHSA(116.07), Rent(787.50 monthly), Payroll Remittance(~3500 based on payroll) and Collabria Credit Card Payment(automatic direct deposit based on balance).

**Motion (Petersen/Langford) (M/S/C)** that the Declaration of Employer/Employee Deduction Remittances and WCB coverage for July 1 to December 31, 2020 be acknowledged.

**Motion (Bathgate/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that the cheque tracking list totaling \$56,656.14 for ALUS payments be acknowledged.

**Motion (Bathgate/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that the Budget vs. Actuals for January 15, 2021 with a net income of \$5 be approved.

Kirsten will look into Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy again.

**Motion (Gunther/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** that Projected 2021 Budget be approved in principle based on the funding will come as indicated to have a net surplus of \$5.

- Computer Purchases

**Motion (Petersen/Rodenbush) (M/S/C)** that WUQWATR purchase three new laptop computers for the office up to total of \$3500.00.

- Deposit Only Account Card

**Motion (Gunther/Langford) (M/S/C)** that WUQWATR authorize Kirsten Colvin to get a Deposit Only Account Card for the Affinity Credit Union account.

- Carry Over of Holiday Time

**Motion (Langford/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that we acknowledge the carryover of holiday time as noted: Mandi Jenson (26.5 hours), Justine Melo (37.5 hours) and Kirsten Colvin (5 hours).

- Interest on Account Balances

Kirsten will review the accounts and the interest rates for the accounts.

**Motion (Langford/Gunther) (M/S/C)** that the Executive, once aware of the final amounts in the various accounts, will review the interest rates for the credit union accounts.

d) SAW Report

A verbal report on SAW activities was given talking about contracts, BRACE training, AIS and business plan.

**Motion (Rodenbush/Langford) (M/S/C)** to acknowledge the verbal report.

e) Sub-watershed Reports

- Last Mountain Lake – water levels are low and there is currently ice fishing
- Upper Qu'Appelle – conveyance is hiring primary consultant and will have a new website by end of January; good response to requirement for soil sampling for inclusion in irrigation; potash mine at Eyebrow going ahead this spring; wondering about water availability to dump into Buffalo Pound Lake; low water levels in Upper Qu'Appelle River for irrigators in the valley
- Lanigan/Manitou – (see earlier report); question on water availability for irrigation from the Saskatoon South East Water Supply System
- Wascana Creek – Nature Regina has been doing Covid related outdoor and kids programming and have been getting interest from Shellbrook and Hepburn.

f) Committee Reports

No reports were given but will be meeting in the next few weeks. Garth Burns expressed interest in the Business Development Committee. Delbert Schmidt is to be removed from committees.

Garth Burns rejoined the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

- The following people volunteered to be on the following committees:

Communications – Sharon (C), John, Jim (Ali & Kirsten)

Governance & Policy – Jim (C), Rod, John, Sandra (Justine & Kirsten)

Executive – David (C), Sharon, Jim, Sandra (Justine & Kirsten)

Business Development – Sherwin (C), Rod, Barry, Garth, Sandra (Justine)

Development & Engagement – David (C), Rod, Sherwin (Ali & Justine)

- Staff in brackets are the natural links from staff to each of the committees. They may also be asked to join committee meetings or may have committees provide advice where needed.

- Committees will do Terms of Reference, Draft Work Plan, Review Strategic Plan, Relationship with Other Committees and a parking lot for prioritizations

## 11. New Business

### a) Upcoming Conferences and Seminars

- Conferences and seminars were listed:

- Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation – February 1-5
- ALUS virtual national conference – Thursdays in February, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Global Institute for Water Security conference – February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Eco Canada – January 28<sup>th</sup> (other webinars - <https://www.eco.ca/new/upcoming-events/>)
- National Freshwater Policy Forum – January 27-28<sup>th</sup>
- Prairie Freshwater Policy Forum – February 18<sup>th</sup>

### b) Next Meeting

**Motion (Burns/Langford)** that the next board and AGM meetings would be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, AGM to start at 2 p.m. Location to be determined. Next board meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup>.

A draft nomination process was presented.

**Motion (Langford/Elliott) (M/S/C)** that the draft process be used and that the Nominating Committee this time be the Executive Committee.

### c) Motion to approve board meeting expenses

There was no need to approve board meeting expenses as there were no expenses expected.

## 12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.