

WUQWATR Board Meeting
Minutes – May 27, 2009
Wascana Place, Regina

Present: Fred Clipsham, Jim Elliott, Geoff Merifield, Jim Supynuk, Tim Davies, Ernie Oblander, David Sloan, Claudette Halladay and Kelly Butz.

Guest: Penny Erickson and Robin Tod

Staff: Duane Haave.

Regrets: Rod Halyk, Gilbert Wagner, John Watkins .

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Halladay/Supynuk) (M/S/C) to adopt the amended agenda

2. In Camera Session

It was agreed to have the minutes out within 10 days after the meeting and that the agenda is to come out prior to the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 30, 2009

Minutes of April 30th meeting was reviewed. The SAW report should read June 9th

Motion (Halladay/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that the April 30, 2009 minutes be approved as amended.

4. Business Arising (none)

5. Correspondence (none)

6. Reports

a. Chair report

Fred mentioned that the City of Regina was given the Environmental Excellence Award (Municipal Awards) for the McKell Conservation Area, the same that got the Watershed Award last year. The McKell family and Ducks Unlimited were recognized in the acceptance of the award. The work on the property will be done in 2011.

b. General Manager Report

- Much of the last month's work has been spent on proposals, applications and administrative reports.
- The AEGP proposals have taken a lot more time to set up.

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- We have not received the government's response to our source water protection plan. It was to have been here 1 month ago.
- Plans are to meet with Heather Davies on the State of the Watershed Report. They will be identifying issues that they do not have data and would like to collect data on.
- Meeting on the Albert Street Weir on June 10th.
- Meeting on the Upper Qu'Appelle Conveyance on July 21th in Moose Jaw. Upper Qu'Appelle and Wascana Sub-watersheds will be notified of the date and location of the meeting.
- Meetings around how the recent budget changes will impact the various divisions of SWA are planned.
- EcoAction has been approved for funding for the full amount. It is being scaled back to \$24,000 over 2 years. Concerns were that over \$25,000 causes an audit to be done and this could cost us \$4000. Also with the delay in notification, we have lost entire spring for action.
- City of Regina has notified us that they are preparing a motion to approve our membership fee and to make it an annual recurring fee. Board members may be asked to attend. [Secretary's note – next Public Works Committee meeting is July 14th]
- Membership letters are to go to Upper Qu'Appelle soon and the other sub watersheds will be done next.
- Meeting for the Last Mountain Lake sub watershed meeting has not been set as it is hard to get all the people together.
- Contracts for the AEGP proposals have finally been done. It was seen by government as a natural fit that watershed associations take over the management of these contracts.

Motion (Sloan/Oblander) (M/S/C) Subject to the approval of the executive, we approve the signing of the AEGP contracts with the Minister of Agriculture.

- There was some thought to have administrative staff to help in the office.

a. Chair Report revisited

Two items needed to be put on the table at this time – new climate change legislation and the environmental regulatory review for the province.

The objective is to change the environmental regulatory model from a prescribed measures or directive regulatory model to a results based model. There seemed to be little identification of municipalities as a major player in the new model. It may take the land use planning option from the hands of the municipalities and put it in the hands of the developer (complying with the environmental code) and the province (setting the environmental code). Absent also is any discussion of what watershed associations are doing towards environmental management within our watersheds. There is no mention of source water protection frameworks for inter-jurisdictional land use. The province of Alberta has just created seven regional planning districts and imposed that on municipalities. They are supposedly watershed based. The other option for this is the Manitoba option where it is not

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imposed but money is provided to do the regional planning. This might be a place for SAW to influence the new model under review. SUMA is going to be making a representation to the minister.

The final CO₂ emitters are expected to meet caps on levels and if they don't they have to pay a penalty based on \$15/tonne. The funds generated goes into a fund. The funds are to be spent on action and research. Anything left after 5 years, it spills into a foundation that is to be supporting education and research. What weren't mentioned are adaptation efforts. The watersheds need to be part of the discussions on this climate change plan.

Motion (Sloan/Davies) (M/S/C) that the General Manager's report be accepted.

b. Executive- No Report

c. Financial Report- written statements circulated

Motion (Davies/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that we accept the following travel reimbursement policy as of April 1, 2009:

1. Mileage at the rate of 36.23 cents per kilometer.
2. Meals not otherwise provided directly by WUQWATR.
Breakfast - \$8.00
Lunch - \$14.00
Supper - \$19.00
All inclusive of any taxes or gratuity.
3. Accommodations not paid for directly by WUQWATR, upon application including actual and reasonable receipts for charges paid by the Board or Staff member.

Motion (Elliott/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that a new number 2 be that the travel reimbursement policy be reviewed as part of the annual budget development process.

d. Presentation of Bob Carles

Bob Carles has another meeting set up next Monday with staff in charge of finances at SWA to see if there is need to advance any money. In respect to the Order in Council, it is likely three weeks before this comes through for the \$124,000. It would still have to get to the minister's office. We still have the same minister. That should expedite the process a bit. This would put it until mid June. There needs to be an Order in Council for expenditures over \$100,000. To meet payroll, we generally need about \$7000 per month. The board presented him strongly with the concerns around payroll and assurances that we were not to be left in the lurch. We were told that this should not be the same next year as we will be looking at 80,000 for the next year. It was further put that we need to additional monies to cover project staff costs. Loans on the grant of \$124,000 without the Order in Council.

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c. Financial Report revisited

Motion (Davies/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that the expense statement for February to May 2009 be accepted as circulated.

There should be a list of cheques presented to the board on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

A draft combined budget with all of the sources was circulated. Some of the amounts are estimates of expenditures rather than actual. The revenue is firmer than the expenditure side. The project expenses are firmer than other expenses as we will work to the project budget submitted. Some of this could be used to leverage other grant funds.

There was some attempt to develop a reserve or contingency fund so that we can develop some independence on our funding or if our core funding was eliminated. It was suggested to have one year's funding in the reserve fund.

Motion (Davies/Elliott) (M/S/C) that the budget be approved as circulated.

e. Program and Communications

It was mentioned that WUQWATR or SAW might wish to be a partner or participant in finding volunteers for the Saskatchewan Envirothon (see www.envirothon.sk.ca)

f. Membership Committee

There will be a need to go and visit some of the municipalities to introduce ourselves to them. We have two associate memberships and the City of Regina.

Motion (Oblander/Davies) (M/S/C) that reports a, c, d, e and f be approved.

Robin Tod had offered to give us a dinner spot on the SWA table for the Nature Saskatchewan 60th Anniversary Dinner. The dinner is tonight at 5:30 pm.

Recess for Lunch with Sharon Rodenbush.

Meeting was reconvened at 1:30 pm.

g. Updates from WACS

- i) Wascana - Nothing has changed from last meeting other than a Wascana Creek watershed meeting will be planned for June. A brief description of the Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival was given. It was on May 7-9 with 1000+ attendance including 200 children. The Friends donated \$5,000 to the McKell Conservation Area for trails and interpretive programming. Program and plans can be seen at

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www.wascanamarsh.ca. Nominations are needed for the Stewardship Award with the City of Regina.

- ii) Lanigan Manitou – Meeting is planned for June 9th.
- iii) Upper Qu'Appelle – Meeting is planned for July 21st. Elections are needed as well.
- iv) Last Mountain Lake – Meeting is planned for June.

h. SAW Report:

Minutes were circulated by email. SAW fees will be discussed on June 9th. There was discussion about whether watershed staff should be on the board or not. The provincial workshop location for 2011 was suggested to be in Humboldt. It may be in Swift Current or Moose Jaw in 2010. The Last Mountain Stewards might be a possible demonstration program item.

Motion (Davies/Sloan) (M/S/C) that we offer to SAW to have the provincial workshop in Humboldt in 2011.

Motion (Davies/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that we instruct our members of SAW to have John Eaton of SAW to talk with Minister's office by phone with a backup letter expressing WUQWATR's concerns about delays in core funding and the basic needs that are not being met with the timing in funding.

Any other issues that SAW should be working on should be passed on to David Sloan and Jim Supynuk.

Motion (Davies/Sloan) (M/S/C) that reports g and h be approved.

7. Board Elections

This is tabled until the next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

Date will be Monday, June 22nd at 10:00 at Wascana Place.

Motion (Oblander/Sloan) (M/S/C) that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.