

WUQWATR Board Meeting
Minutes – October 8, 2010
Wascana Place, Regina

Present: Jim Elliott, Fred Clipsham, Ernie Oblander, Sandra Bathgate, Geoff Merifield, Jim Supynuk, Tim Davies and Kelly Butz.

Guests: None

Staff: Duane Haave.

Regrets: Claudette Halladay, Rod Halyk and David Sloan

The meeting was called to order at 10:41 am. by Fred Clipsham.

1. Agenda

Motion (Supynuk/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the meeting agenda as presented be approved with the addition of one item 6. Code Committee Process Report.

2. Minutes of June 17, 2010

Motion (Supynuk/Butz) (M/S/C) that the minutes of June 17, 2010 as circulated be approved.

3. Business Arising

A letter has been sent from Lanigan Manitou Watershed Advisory Committee to Sask Water Corporation requesting a consultation on the BHP Billiton water supply but no response has come yet. No additional discussion required.

4. Correspondence

Letter from Minister Duncan

- The Chair had met with Duncan in August as a representative on SUMA His constituency is within the Upper Souris and is going through the watershed planning process. He has met with their committee. He is also coming to the SUMA/SAW conference.

Motion (Davies/Oblander) (M/S/C) that the corresponded be received.

5. Reports

a) Chair

- The Chair attended the Waste Reduction Council meeting in Humboldt and got a tour of the REACT waste transfer station and landfill. They are having serious problems with flooding and have had to dyke their operations. It reinforces aggressive watershed planning especially around landfill siting.
- [Sandra Bathgate came in at this point. Introductions were made.]
- The Chair was also up in Saskatoon recently at the new BHP Billington offices. He basically introduced himself and WUQWATR to the Vice President who happens to be from Melville. He also brought him up to speed on the source water protection planning coming out of North Battleford.

b) General Manager (report provided with original agenda)

- The General Manager reviewed his report.
- The plastic grain bag collection sites in the Moose Jaw watershed have been identified at Moose Jaw and Milestone. REACT has signed up for Humboldt and Watrous. There will also be demonstrations of rolling and washing for the bags. Bags for collecting twine will need to be set up as well.
- A suggestion around the insert was to identify that we are your neighbours doing this work for the watershed. WUQWATR is a member run non-governmental organization, local people concerned about source water protection. There is some capacity to identify the community where a person that has logged into the website is coming from. We may consider putting on a "do you want to contacted

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again about events or other materials” question on the website to develop a direct mailing mechanism for future use.

Motion (Davies/Butz) (M/S/C) that a letter be sent to Minister Duncan encouraging the re-instatement of a household hazardous waste program.

Recommendations

Motion (Merifield/Davies) (M/S/C) that in recognition of Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group’s sponsorship of the Lewis Creek AEGP, WUQWATR provide them with an administrative fee of \$400 and a \$100 membership in WUQWATR.

Motion (Davies/Supynuk) (M/S/C) that the position of Administrative Coordinator be expanded to 20hours/week or a salary of \$1375 per month. (The current salary is \$1,100 per month)

Motion (Davies/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the General Manager be authorized to set up an additional chequing account under our current account with Affinity Credit Union to take deposits from the Environment Canada Eco-Action Program and to pay for only those expenses incurred for the Eco-Action program’s agreed upon contribution for the project.

Motion (Oblander/Merifield) (M/S/C) that WUQWATR begin work on defining a PRACC (Prairie Resiliency and Adaption to Climate Change (just a guess)) project in the Lanigan-Manitou Watershed area for 2011-12.

There was some discussion about the water supplies/demands for the new potash mine and it was suggested that a meeting this fall to discuss the pending demands of the mine and what is to be built and how this quantity will be supplied. This should also be a question that could be posed with Sask Water’s water availability/management study as a result of the forum this month.

c) Executive Committee (no report)

d) Finance and Risk Management Committee

- The financial report was presented.

Motion (Oblander/Butz) (M/S/C) that the financial reports be approved as presented.

e) Program and Communications Committee (no report)

f) Membership Committee (no report)

There was some discussion around the membership “hook and grab” or member’s profile on the website. There was some intent to do more with our newsletter.

g) Updates from WACs

- Upper Qu’Appelle River
 - Discussions of the major water flows and the excess rain still are flowing through culverts.
 - There are erosion problems at the Elbow Marina on Lake Diefenbaker. There was a report done by Sask Power to convey water down a canal from Buffalo Pound Lake to Coronach.
 - There was a presentation for Potash One (Bethune area) and said that there should be adequate water supply. The plans are still on hold.
 - There has been an application to fund some more research work on the conveyance. The study will happen next year. There is concern because all of these proposals are coming now and they aren’t doing any of the research prior to some discussion about water availability.
- Lanigan Manitou
 - There was a meeting at Manitou Beach to set up the terms of reference on the study on the Lake. The lake levels have been at or above the record levels. There are discussions with SWA and the town of Manitou Beach to reduce the inflows into the lake and maybe divert it away from the lake. Three choices include small plugs, earth-filled dams or trenching. No estimates on costs. All of the diversion would result in only 10% of the inflows into the lake.
 - There have been meetings with BHP Billington but there has been little general information coming out respecting the plans. Good discussion and other community resources are coming out in the meetings.

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- Last Mountain Lake
 - Working on LMLAC formation and will piggy back on Lake Stewardship Group for meetings. Things happening include the Lewis Creek AEGP, the Lanigan Creek fish ladder and well decommissioning. The attendance at the Lewis Creek Ecobuffer and grazing demos was good. There will be someone from WUQWATR at the Kanata Valley Water Plant opening.
- Wascana Creek
 - Had a tour of the Cottonwood Creek which will be the drainage basin for the Global Transportation Hub. We also viewed the erosion on the Wascana Creek.
 - Wascana Lake has been at full capacity over the entire summer and they are trying to draw down some of the water this fall.
- [Kelly Butz left the meeting]

h) SAW report

- Invited AEGPs to the SAW meeting on October 29th.
- Meeting with key ministries and groups to introduce SAW to them.
- Developed Water Forum for October 13th.

6. Code Content Committee Report

- The content committee report was presented with a little background information. The ministry is proposing a results-based environmental management model that will be more responsive to changing demands of the economy and enhance opportunities for sustainable development in the province. The model will allow the ministry to focus on establishing environmental outcomes, enhance auditing and inspection and ensure greater transparency and accountability. The private sector and other regulated communities are accountable to meet the established environmental outcomes.
- The plans for the results based management are on the government of Saskatchewan website, <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Regulations>. More details about the process so far is there.
- With this management plan, there will be an environmental code that is the result that you need to achieve if you plan to work with this activity or this chemical. It is based on similar codes like the Building Code. The recent activity has been to set up content committees for 25 code chapters. The first step will be to transfer the current limits or guidelines or regulations over to the language of an environmental code. These content committees, seven in total, will be given specific chapters. The one that I am on is the municipalities committee that will be dealing with the following: drinking water distribution systems servicing 5000+ persons, waste water collection systems servicing 5000+ persons, landfills and transfer stations and litter control.
- The committees will be working between now and February 2011 to develop the chapters. Hopefully all of them will be done by then and following this, there will be an opportunity for a 3 week public consultation on all of them, not just the municipal ones in early April. Some chapters when completed may go out before then to make it more manageable for both the staff but also those that would be dealing with more than one chapter.
- Each application through the new process will be to cover off some general requirements and either of two options, an acceptable solution or an alternative solution. Part of the work of the committee will be to identify the solutions. As well, we will be recommending what qualified persons will be for each of the solutions.

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- There will be another committee set to cover off linear developments. Examples include pipelines, transmission lines, roads and canals. This committee hasn't been set up yet but will in the next few weeks.
- There was a question of where watersheds or land-use control or planning fit into the code. Anything that typically doesn't need environmental approval will follow the current process and legislation. Also environmental assessment is not part of this process and will follow the act independent of the code.
- It appears that source water protection will be covered somewhat under water collection, wastewater releases, landfill siting and some of the restrictions on industrial or urban development as it currently does.
- The content committee on Lands will be dealing with hydrostatic testing. The content committee on Fish & Wildlife will look at Beaver Dam Removal, Replacement of Existing Culverts and Construction, maintenance or removal of public docks. The content committee on Industrial will look at Site Assessment, Corrective Action, Duty to Report, Notice of Site Condition, Transfer of Responsibility, Limitations on Use, Registry and Principles of Responsibility. The content committee on Air Management looks at Clean Air and Halocarbon Control. The content committee on Climate Change will look at Facility Greenhouse Gas Accounting, Compliance Mechanisms, Carbon Offset Guide and Performance Agreements. The content committee on Forestry will look at Regeneration Assessment, Annual Reporting and Operational Plans.

6. Saskatchewan Water Forum – October 13th

- The meeting will have a number of speakers, Bev Yee, Assistant Deputy Minister for Environmental Stewardship from Alberta and Rhonda McDougall, Director of Planning and Coordination of Manitoba Water Stewardship and Dr. Howard Wheeler, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan. The meeting will then discuss two questions in small groups with a reporting back to the entire group. What a Saskatchewan water management plan should address? What are the key approaches to implementation and operations?

7. Next Meeting

It will probably happen in mid November, perhaps November 12th.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.