

Minutes
WUQWATR Board of Directors December 16, 2016
Regina, 10:35 AM

Present: Fred Clipsham, Sandra Bathgate, Claudette Halladay, Jim Elliott, David Sloan, Rod Halyk, Garry Dixon, Barry Gunther, and Geoff Merifield.

Absent: Kelly Butz

Staff: Colleen Fennig

Guest: Garth Burns

Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 am. All board members introduced themselves to Garth Burns (Rural Representative, Lanigan/Manitou).

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Sloan/Bathgate) (M/S/C) that the agenda be approved with the addition of 2 b) Upper Qu'Appelle and 2 c) Acknowledgement of Resignations

2. October 14, 2016 Minutes

Motion (Dixon/Gunther) (M/S/C) that the minutes of October 14, 2016 be approved.

2. a) Business Arising

- under 7 a) a copy of the letter sent out to landowners has not arrived yet.

- Membership Fee Structure

1. Recommended changes to current proposal – Towns and villages combined to include the following fee structure using Census Canada population numbers:

- <100 - \$50
- 101-200 - \$75
- 201-400 - \$100
- 401-1000 - \$150
- 1000+ - \$200

2. Rural municipalities would all pay a flat \$250

This discussion was recessed until after lunch.

4. Presentation

• Peter Joyce from Saskatchewan Fish & Wildlife Branch made a presentation on “New directions in habitat mitigation: early experience and future opportunities” (PowerPoint presentation provided).

Question/Answer: Based on financial restraints of budgets, the monitoring and tracking the pathway to the prescribed results will be done by the proponent with the compliance checker and auditing done by government.

Question/Answer: Offsets have been generally directed within a watershed but more likely within the ecoregion.

Question/Answer: The Regina bypass project had conditions on it that it was to follow the federal wetland policy

<http://publications.gc.ca/site/archivée-archived.html?url=http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/CW66-116-1991E.pdf>

Question/Answer: The multiplier used for wetlands are area lost or gained, importance or conservation status, ecological health of the affected land, connectivity or fragmentation.

Question/Answer: This was based on a US wetland mitigation approach model and have adapted and modified. Wetland mitigation guide was developed in 2011 and are now field testing.

Question/Answer: The Planning and Development Act does not refer to these mitigation tools but the hope is that when these are readily available, the municipalities will begin to encourage proponents to use this tool when mitigating loss of wetlands by a development.

Question/Answer: The plan is build the tool then working to train qualified agents like consultants and service providers.

Question/Answer: The proponent rather than doing the offset would put funds into a compensation bank or fund and then the service provider or agency like WUQWATR would apply to these funds to do work. Or the proponent would need a certain amount of offset done and they would then ask the service providers to express what it would cost to produce that level of offset.

- Erin Robertson from K & S Potash Canada made a presentation on their “Collaborative Development of a Wetland and Grassland Compensation Plan for a Greenfield Potash Mine” (PowerPoint presentation provided).
- Paige Englot and Folly Baugh attended the presentations.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:45 pm.

6. In Camera

All staff were absent at 1:30 pm and the board went in camera.

At 1:56 pm, the board went out of camera.

Motion (Gunther/Halyk) (M/S/C) that Colleen Fennig has successfully completed her annual performance review.

2. a) Membership Fee Structure (cont'd)

Motion (Halyk/Bathgate) (M/S/C) that these recommended changes to our membership fee structure be referred back to Gary and will be brought to next meeting. There was some question of the need to bring it to our AGM or not and must be compliant to our bylaws.

2. b) Upper Qu'Appelle

Motion (Sloan/Halyk) (M/S/C) that action on the motion from October 14, 2016 be table and that the Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed Advisory Committee formulate options for boundary changes and present them to the board at the next board meeting (February 24th).

2. c) Acceptance of Resignations

Motion (Sloan/Dixon) (M/S/C) that the resignations of Don Bowman and Tim Davies be accepted.

3. Correspondence

a) Appointment Letter for Garth Burns

Motion (Sloan/Gunther) (M/S/C) that WUQWATR accept the appointment of Garth Burns for the position of rural representative for the Lanigan/Manitou subwatershed. His term will be determined prior to the WUQWATR AGM in the spring of 2017. [Lanigan/Manitou rural representative would have been elected in the spring of 2016 so Garth Burns renewal date would be 2019]

Lynne Morelli letter of November 20, 2016 was received and filed.

b) Letter from Janis Campbell

The water levels of Last Mountain Lake or other places along the watershed can be found at <https://www.wsask.ca/Lakes-and-Rivers/Stream-Flows-and-Lake-Levels/QuAppelle-River-Watershed/05JH004/>. From this graph, it appears that the levels of Last Mountain Lake are slightly higher than the upper range of management rather than “being deliberately lowered” and that the levels naturally will lower in the winter and rise in the summer. We don't believe the slumping of the banks has anything to do with the water levels of Last Mountain Lake. Colleen will draft a letter and Fred will sign the letter.

As to the Quill Lakes, some of the landowners who have drainage works has been asked to close them. The Lanigan Creek/Delwood Brook Watershed are in the early stages of a project to accept some of the spring runoff from Jansen Lake. This would divert some of the water coming into the Quill Lakes from Jansen Lake and put it into the Lanigan Creek and ultimately into Last Mountain Lake and beyond. The water flow proposed as far as can be determined is not saline.

As to any proposed plans for the Quill Lakes, there may not be reports on this until March 2017. Water levels are 0.75 metres or 29.5 inches below when it would naturally flow into our watershed. Are we in a position to agree in principle in the

proposed diversion of water from the Quill Lakes watershed into the Last Mountain Lake watershed? There also may be a proposal from WSA by 2019 to divert all the stormwater from the town of Watrous away from Little Manitou Lake. There also should be an assurance on all of these diversions that they can reverse the flow at a later date if needed. The implications of what happens downstream (flooding, cottage damage and bank erosion) and the timing of the flows need to be considered. It also needs to have an adequate maintenance and outflow strategy for Last Mountain Lake so as to not create more problems on Last Mountain Lake. There needs to be a water quality test program initiated so as to monitor the ongoing quality of Last Mountain Lake especially in the north end of the lake before and after the inflows.

In addition to our letter of January 14, 2016 (attached) and our associated concerns, WUQWATR has been approached with the beginnings of the Jansen Lake diversion proposal and would be willing to consider it if the Department of the Environment would ensure the water quality of Last Mountain Lake and especially the north end of the lake remains the same so as to not impact the fisheries in the lake. Further to that, there are lake level and downstream implications and the need to ensure there is no downstream impacts from additional or higher flows. We look forward to getting a quick response to this and ongoing water level problems in Little Manitou Lake and the Quill Lakes.

Motion (Sloan/Dixon) (M/S/C) that WUQWATR send a letter of concern about the water levels of the Quill Lakes and the recent proposals for diversions.

To Janis Campbell, we could also express our concerns about the water levels in the Quill Lakes and with the recent closure of some of the drainage works around the lake, it is our hope that this is being resolved.

7. Reports

- a) Chair & Executive Committee
- b) General Manager/AEGP/ALUS (Colleen Fennig) (attached)

Barry Gunther left at 3:00 pm.

Motion (Halyk/Burns) (M/S/C) that the board approve in principle WUQWATR participating in the Natural Edge program.

Motion (Burns/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the board set dates for the board meetings in 2017. The dates are February 24th, March 30th, June 23rd, August 18th, October 20th and December 15th.

Motion (Elliott/Sloan) (M/S/C) that a board committee look over the many draft policies on Duane's computer and ascertain which one of each is the final approved copy (if any). Jim Elliott volunteered to do the work.

Motion (Sloan/Halyk) (M/S/C) that the board give approval for the General Manager to start drafting a social media policy.

Motion (Merifield/Burns) (M/S/C) that the board give approval to transfer \$70,443.23 from the ALUS Project account to the ALUS Trust account for the new 2016 contracts in their entirety (all payments for the 5 year term of the contracts).

Motion (Sloan/Halladay) (M/S/C) that the board give approval to issue ALUS producer payment cheques for 2016 year totalling \$40,850.21. (There is still one outstanding project that will require payment approval in February 2017. It is not included in the sum).

Motion (Sloan/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the board give approval to transfer \$6,525.00 in allowable administration money from the ALUS project fund for 2017 ALUS operating funds.

Motion (Elliott/Halyk) (M/S/C) that the board approve a set of 5 registrations for the SAW conference (April 6-8, Esterhazy). These shall be Rod Halyk, Colleen Fennig, David Sloan, Fred Clipsham and Gary Dixon. The registrations will be prepaid and the hotel and mileage will be up to the registrant and reimbursed after the conference.

Motion (Halladay/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the board approve the following prizes for the 2017 Art/Poster contest: \$100 for 1st prize, \$75 for 2nd prize and \$50 for 3rd prize.

Motion (Halyk/Sloan) (M/S/C) that the board approve WUQWATR's participation in the promotion of Agrium's Caring for Our Watershed program again in 2017.

Motion (Halyk/Bathgate) (M/S/C) that the board approve WUQWATR's participation in program delivery as mentors and/or judges (if asked) for Agrium's Caring for Our Watershed program in 2017.

Motion (Halladay/Merifield) (M/S/C) that the board approve paying the 2017 office rent of \$3000 in one payment (rather than monthly).

c) SAW Report (David Sloan)

- letter to Premier and Environment Minister re AIS Task Force. Got letters of support from SARM, SUMA and PARCS.
- SAW conference, Making the Connection, is on April 5-7, 2017 in Esterhazy.
- drainage penalties will be the same as Environment Management Act penalties (up to \$1M per day)
- DU signs for EG&S restorations and a pilot project in Carrot River watershed
- application for a \$200K Eco-Action grant, decision in April

- SAW presentation at SUMA

Geoff Merifield left the meeting.

- SAW moving out of DU office
- SAW presentation to SARM board
- provincial workshops in Moosomin and Gravelbourg
- no MLA reception this fall but maybe next spring
- planning a meeting with Goodale
- memo to watersheds

Motion (Dixon/Bathgate) (M/S/C) that the SAW report be accepted.

d) Financial Report

Motion (Sloan/Halyk) (M/S/C) that the board approve the transactions report for October/November 2016.

Motion (Elliott/Dixon) (M/S/C) that the balance sheet as of November 30, 2016 and the income and expenses sheet for January 1-November 30, 2016 be approved.

Motion (Sloan/Halyk) (M/S/C) that the budget for 2017 be table to next meeting.

8. New business

9. Reports from Watersheds

- Lanigan/Manitou
- met with Mayor of Manitou
- completed \$4.9M work in December to upgrade the dyke (WSA gave 75%)
- will need more work on the dyke in 5-7 years unless the water goes down
- diversion from Watrous runoff to Freshwater Lake to Last Mountain Lake is proposed to be completed by WSA by 2019
- 50-70% of the increase in Little Manitou Lake is from ground water
- Little Manitou Lake is a closed basin
- Last Mountain Lake
- planning to have an event on the west side of the lake next year

- Upper Qu'Appelle
- discussion was focused on the Upper Qu'Appelle conveyance and meeting in Pense
- Wascana
 - from the UQ/W meeting in Pense there was some thought that we might consider amending our plan to take on monitoring the maintenance on the Upper Qu'Appelle channel.
 - Jim Elliott will be a judge at the Canadian Science Fair in Regina in mid May. They are looking for others.
 - Jim Elliott will be making a presentation on the Riverside Dyke Project in Regina at the Native Prairie Restoration and Rejuvenation Workshop in Regina in February.

11. Governance Training

- David Sloan will go to the Regina workshop
- Rod Halyk, Colleen Fennig and Folly Baugh will go to the Saskatoon workshop

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is February 24th, 2017.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.