

**Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)****Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting****Conference Call, January 29, 2021**

	Name	Sector
Attendees	Rick Keillor	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Chair
	Jim Webb	Lower Watershed First Nation
	Bob Cameron	Conservation/Environmental
	Vern Lymburner	Small Urban Municipalities
	Sandra Miller	Oil & Gas
	Jill Henry	Agriculture
	Dan Pott	Forestry
	Dylan Bressey	Large Urban Municipality
	Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal - Transboundary
	Dave Walty	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Vice Chair
	Beatrice Amar	Research/Education
	Brian Lieverse	Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
	Krista Park	Provincial Government
	Eric Jorgensen	Agriculture, Alternate
	Michelle Gairdner	Large Urban Municipalities, Alternate
	Tammy Kehl	Oil & Gas, Alternate
	Johanna Downing	Small Urban Municipality, Alternate
Regrets	Alden Armstrong	MSGC
	Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship
Observer	Kate Winterford	County of GP Agriculture Department
Staff	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Executive Director
	Adam Norris	Watershed Coordinator

**ACTION LOG:**

<u>Chairman</u>	Mr. R. Keillor
<u>Executive Director (5)</u>	Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier
<u>Finance Committee (5)</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. V. Lymburner, Ms. S. Miller, Mr. D. Walty, Executive Director
<u>Education &amp; Stewardship Committee</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Ms. J. Henry, Ms. B. Amar, Mr. E. Jorgensen, E/O Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Technical Committee</u>	Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. B. Cameron, Ms. E. Garrow, Mr. D. Walty, Mr. E. Jorgensen, Ms. B. Amar, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (IWMP SC) (7)</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Ms. E. Garrow, Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. D. Walty, Mr. A. Siad-Omar, (Missing Industry Rep), Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Nomination Committee (3)</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. V. Lymburner, Exec Director

**Chair**

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Chair (with nomination committee)	Action 1.7	As opportunities arise, investigate reps for the remaining vacant Board seats.	In progress.

**Executive Director**

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 4.8	After Board meeting, Rhonda provides info. Releases that can be shared with each sector. Communication inquiries will go to Rhonda.	Ongoing
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 6.4	Craft official correspondence requesting funding/support for Board members can distribute and request funding.	As requested
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 7/30/2015-2	MPWA to develop protocols and procedures for dealing with challenges that will be present during the planning processes including grievance process, appeals, etc.). Staff to research and prepare.	In process
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 7/30/2015-5	Send letter campaign to partners and potential partners regarding funding, and letters of support for MPWA work.	As required

**Finance Committee**

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Finance Committee	Action 2.4	The Finance Committee will move forward and solicit dollars.	In progress

**Education and Stewardship Committee**

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status

**Technical Committee**

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Mr. A. Norris	Action 3/28/2019-1	Explore opportunities for funding this project and employing Ms. Wendy Monk's approach.	In process
Mr. A. Norris	Action 1/29/2021-1	ACTION 1/29/2021-1 Mr. A. Norris to share webinar opportunities with the Board	To do

## Directors

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
All Directors and Alternates	Action 7/30/2015-6	Supply the office with contact names and addresses of potential funders and supporters in their sector.	Continue To Do
All Directors and Alternates	Action 1/30/2020-1	Directors search for potential candidates and forward them to the nomination committee.	To do

### 1. Administration

#### 1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:11 AM by Mr. D. Walty, Vice-Chair.
- Quorum was present

#### 1.2. Introductions and Director Roundtable (include Sector Info important to MPWA)

- Abdi Siad-Omar - Negotiations between Alberta and British Columbia for the Transboundary Agreement are progressing
- Dave Walty – noted upcoming fisheries webinars. Concerns around the erosion on the Heart River and flood management of Pat's Creek by the Town of Peace River. Is there an opportunity to bring Northern Sunrise County and the Town of Peace River together to address this through a watershed approach?
- Rick Keillor – asked if anyone is aware of an open cut pipeline crossing occurring on the Beaverlodge
- Brian Lieverse - wants to know what the status of fish stocking in the Beaverlodge is.
- Vern Lymburner – Little Smoky Water Users Group is still meeting but there is not much water use currently.
- Johanna Downing – to be accepted today as alternate for Small Urban; addressed concerns about Pat's Creek and also mention the draft flood survey that is open.
- Jill Henry – Kate Winterford, assistant for Jill, participating today as an Observer; she is now the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman rep for Environmental Farm Plan
- Eric Jorgensen – BC Hydro acknowledged the scouring effect of the dam and the implications downstream; this is a concern the lower Peace.
- Dan Pott – Groundrules for Forestry are changing and will include a more stringent wetland component
- Dylan Bressey – the City of Grande Prairie is exploring different stormwater utility models. Currently stormwater accounts for 7% of taxes and on option is for a base rate dependent upon the amount of permeable surface
- Michelle Gairdner –
- Sandra Miller – currently doing a lot of crossings and inspections. Department of Fisheries & Oceans is taking a long time to process applications
- Tammy Kehl – attending her first meeting as alternate and is getting to know how MPWA functions.

#### 1.3. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda January 29, 2021 was reviewed.

**Motion to approve January 29, 2021 Agenda made by Mr. B. Cameron.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

#### **1.4. Approval of Minutes**

- Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2020 were reviewed.

**Motion to approve meeting minutes from November 12, 2021, with the named corrections, was made by Mr. R. Keillor.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

Note: If grammatical/spelling errors are noted, then it is acceptable to provide edits to Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier.

#### **1.5. Nominations to the Board of Directors and Naming of Alternates**

- Requests were received from Ms. C. Newhook, Mr. V. Lymburner, and Mr. A. Siad-Omar to name alternates for their respective seats:

**Motion to accept Becky Devaleriola (Heart River Watershed Committee, Northern Sunrise County) as alternate for the Watershed Stewardship Seat was made by Mr. B. Cameron.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

**Motion to accept Johanna Downing (Town of Peace River Council) as alternate for the Small Urban Municipalities Seat was made by Mr. B. Lieverse.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

**Motion to accept Long Fu (Air & Watershed Resource Manager, Peace Region, Resource Stewardship Division, AEP) as alternate for the Federal-Transboundary Seat was made by Mr. R. Keillor.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

#### **A reminder of the Attributes and Expectations: Director/Alternate Attributes:**

- Be knowledgeable about water, watershed function and sector use of water.
- Be able to represent the interests of their sector while working creatively and constructively with others towards a common goal.
- Be able to effectively communicate the work of the Alliance to others in their sector.
- Have the time required to complete the work of the Alliance.
- Respect the opinions and experience of others on the Alliance.
- Demonstrate ethical and professional conduct.
- Remain supportive of the positions and decisions made by the MPWA.

#### **Alternate Directors are expected to:**

- Assume the roles and responsibilities of the Director in the Director's absence.
- Work with and communicate regularly with his or her Director to represent the views of their sector, and to keep each other informed about Alliance business.
- Take an active role in the work of the Alliance by participating on teams, championing Alliance activities and otherwise promoting awareness of the Alliance and its priorities as opportunities arise.
- Support and engage in principled negotiation and consensus decision-making.

## 2. Reports and Updates

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### 2.1. Chairman Report – Mr. R. Keillor

- Asked about how the coal policy affects the Peace Watershed – Zone 2 covers the southern end of the Smoky Watershed and is subsequently affected by the changes; concerned about ag and ag research partners losing funding

### 2.2. Office Report – Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier

- The report was posted before the meeting for information, so was quickly reviewed at the meeting highlighting a few of the unusual activities – winter Lake monitoring with ALMS, successful Streambank Stabilization video mid Dec, Wrap up work regarding engagement and plan for Wapiti SWPP, etc. **Appendix attached**

### 2.3. Financial Update – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- MPWA will have enough money to get to end of March and bit of a carryover into the new fiscal year (typically new funding is not received until late June).
- The account is doing ok as there has been one less staff, reduced travel, and reduced educational opportunities. Multiple zoom type meetings have replaced the face to face component, there is something lost in the ability to discuss freely regarding a variety of topics.
- Have not heard of any changes to the AEP Grant process. Expect \$230,000 in First quarter after the submission of the yearend summary by April 15.

### 2.4 Projects Update – Mr. A. Norris

- Centre for Boreal Research applied to NSERC to address peatland restoration and MPWA is a supporting partner
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
  - Working on gravel pit by-law alignment
  - Education and outreach has been paused during COVID
  - Working on a water budget for the aquifer
- Improved Livestock Crossing
  - A new site (final one) has been identified
  - Grant is set to expire March 31, 2021
- LakeKeepers – we work with Alberta Lake Management Society on this
  - Winter monitoring is underway
  - Wadlin Lake is being monitored (most northerly lake for Alberta Lake Management Society to monitor)
  - Snipe Lake has been selected for an extended set of parameters including chlorophyll
  - If people would like to do a sample when they head to a lake, then let me know
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Plan
  - Monitoring continues and reports will be released when final
  - Alberta Environment and Parks Fisheries Branch wants to see demonstration of suitable winter and summer habitat before they consider fish stocking
  - MPWA is discussing with Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment and Parks Fisheries Branch about the monitoring that needs to be done to establish the quality of fish habitat available in the Beaverlodge River
- Streambank Stabilization
  - This project is complete except for the reporting
  - The video release wrap-up celebration went well and 77 people attended and since then 602 people have watched the video
- Smoky Headwater Initiative

- Focus is to support cold water fish habitat in the headwaters of the Smoky Watershed by looking at sedimentation and riparian shading
  - Grant applications have been submitted
- Surface Water Management Strategy
  - Intent to address the costs to municipalities and agricultural producers of unorganized drainage
  - Grant applications have been submitted
- Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan
  - Plan is being finalized
  - Implementation will begin
- Mr. A. Siad-Omar asked about when the State of the Watershed renewal might happen – this is probably still several years away

**ACTION 1/29/2021-1 Mr. A. Norris to share webinar opportunities with the Board.**

- Board members are also encouraged to share webinar opportunities with the group

**Guest Speaker: Alberta Water Council and the Water for Life Review process by Andre Asselin, Executive Director**

**2.6. AWC Source Water Protection Project Team – AB WPAC REP – Mr. A. Norris**

- Mr. A. Norris was asked to sit on this committee on behalf of the WPACs as the MPWA has experience with Source Water Protection Planning. Exploring the barriers to help communities to complete a SWPP.

### **3. Other**

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**3.1. Water North Coalition Update**

- NADC will no longer be able to provide admin and organizational support to this program as it has for the last 5 years. The Municipalities that are members need to decide if and how they will proceed with this work regarding water and wastewater operators. A team to look at transition options will present information at a Mar 4 meeting. May need to look at membership fee, hiring an exec director, municipal admin, etc. MPWA is a non-voting member that has been providing support in training and education committee.

**3.2. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Podcast**

- Staff were interviewed by PCBFA regarding livestock crossings and work of MPWA. Podcast was released December and is posted on our website.

**3.3. Land Stewardship Grant 2021**

- The committee has had an update meeting. AEP Grant has been approved and should be received shortly. Hoping to release the on-line application that will be available for watershed stewardship groups to apply for money to do on the ground projects in the 2021 year. We will let you know when the applications are available.

**3.4. NSWA leads AB WPAC Film Project**

- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance applied for funding on behalf of the joint Alberta WPACs from Plains Midstream Canada (Community Investment Program). They received \$75,000 to sponsor a 3-year project to develop 5 short videos that help improve water(shed) literacy in Alberta. All WPACs will work together to finalize topics and outlines.

**3.5. MPWA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stories?**

- We discussed this idea before, does anyone have ideas for perhaps the top 10 events of our first 10 years? Ideas - IWMP, SOW, Summit, Restoration Work, SWPPs,

### **3.6 Annual Meeting – June 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- We will wait a bit to see what restrictions will be in place due to Covid-19

### **3.7 Director Bios and Pictures for Website**

- Please submit asap – it is important that this multi sector organization be upfront about the people who make up the board of directors and the expertise/experience/voice that they bring to the table.

## **4. Upcoming Event Dates**

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- Next Board Meeting will be Late March or early April
- Staff will share any upcoming webinars that the Board may be interested in.

## **5. Adjourn Meeting**

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Meeting adjourned at 12: 55 pm by Rick Keillor and expressed thanks to Mr. D. Walty for chairing the meeting today.

### Office Report November 12, 2020 to January 29, 2021:

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic and many restrictions put in place in mid March, changes have been made to the way we do work and projects.

- Nov 13 – Call with First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group about projects in the Peace and Slave Watersheds
- Nov 16 – Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan meeting and prep
- Nov 16 – Land Stewardship Center Grant Committee Meeting
- Nov 17 – Call with AEP staff and contractor about possible funding
- Nov 18 – Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Plan project team meeting
- Nov 19 – Meeting with Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization landowner
- Nov 23 – Canadian Conservation and Land Management platform review
- Nov 23 – AB WPAC Managers Meeting
- Nov 27 – Nature Fund meeting to assess possible alignment with Smoky Headwaters Initiative
- Nov 30 – Start of engagement period for Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan (ended Jan 15, 2021)
- Dec 9-11 – Webinar series regarding Farmland and Wetland Drainage/Retention (Sask)
- Dec 9 – Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Plan project team meeting
- Dec 10 – Webinar with Dr D. Locky (UofA) – Wetland and Wetland policy
- Dec 11 – Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan meeting
- Dec 11 – Call with NAIT Centre for Boreal Research and Grande Prairie Regional College
- Dec 14 – Improved Livestock Crossing site layout
- Dec 15 – Streambank Stabilization and Extension video release
- Dec 16 – Erosion consultation with landowner in the Birch Hills County
- Dec 17 – Winter LakeKeepers start up meeting
- Jan 5 – Send out Doodle to establish meeting date for Board Meeting. Meeting Prep.
- Jan 13 – Wadlin Lake sampling and volunteer training
- Jan 14 – AB WPAC Education/Outreach meeting
- Jan 21 – Grant Writing Webinar
- Jan 22 – Improved Livestock Crossing site visit
- Jan 25 – Technical Committee meeting – priority to review SWPP for Wapiti
- Jan 27 – Water North Coalition meeting – Review options for continued operations
- Jan 28 – WRRP meeting
- Follow up from Nov 12 Board meeting and prep for Jan 29 Board meeting
- Fielded water related inquiries from the public (including questions regarding gun range development and effect on water courses and water well testing result interpretation)
- Continued exploration for partners and funding for prioritized projects
- Joined NAIT Centre for Boreal Research grant application to College and Community Social Innovation Fund along with Grande Prairie Regional College, Ducks Unlimited and Evergreen Learning and Innovation Society
- Input for Alberta Water Council reviews
- Education/Outreach
  - Focussed on social media posts
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Planning
  - Finalized gravel pit by-law alignment
  - Scoped aquifer water budget
- Improved Livestock Crossing
  - One Landowner backed out
  - New landowner identified
  - Site visit completed
  - Working on details



- LakeKeepers
  - Distributed sampling kits and reviewed sampling protocol
  - Completed sampling at Wadlin Lake
  - Volunteers sampled Snipe Lake and MPWA completed chlorophyll filtration
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
  - Ongoing monitoring and reporting
  - Discussions with Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Conservation Association about fish habitat in the Redwillow Watershed
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative
  - Grant applications for funding, confirming partners
- Streambank Stabilization
  - Video release event preparation and hosting the release event
- Surface Water Management Strategy
  - Data collection
  - Calls with partners and consultants
  - Grant proposal for funding
- Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization
  - Hydraulic model
  - Water Act approval work
- Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan
  - Engagement on draft plan

**Submitted By:** Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P.Ag, - Executive Director  
Adam Norris, M.Sc, P.Biol, - Watershed Coordinator