

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting****Conference Call, April 7, 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
	Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship
	Becky Devaleriola	Watershed Stewardship, Alternate
	Eric Jorgensen	Agriculture, Alternate
	Michelle Gairdner	Large Urban Municipalities, Alternate
	Darryel Sowan	Lower Peace First Nation, Alternate
	Johanna Downing	Small Urban Municipality, Alternate
	Long Fu	Federal-Transboundary (AEP), Alternate
Regrets	Alden Armstrong	MSGC
	Krista Park	Provincial Government
	Liam Cross	Utilities
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
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 & 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, Dan Pott, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director

<u>Nomination Committee (3)</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. V. Lymburner, Exec Director
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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
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 4/07/2021-3	Staff to send invite to Transboundary Section to address the MPWA and include a listing of topics and questions to start the conversation.	To do

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

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
Mr. V. Lymburner	Action 4/07/2021-1	Ask Fox Creek Operator's Group about updates or any information hat they can share on their activities.	To Do
Mr. A. Siad-Omar	Action 4/07/2021-2	Arrange a presentation from AEP on the Wapiti River Water Management Plan implementation process and ongoing monitoring.	To do

1. Administration

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM by Mr. D. Walty, Vice-Chair.
- Quorum was present

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

- Jill Henry – mentioned the fish kill at Bear Lake and the work being done by AEP, the County and City of GP to communicate about this
 - Eric Jorgensen – appreciates the flood studies and Mackenzie County is beginning meetings regarding flooding and management with residents
- Dan Pott - No update
- Sandra Miller – Seven Generations Energy has merged with Arc Resources; DFO has an engagement survey regarding permitting that is open
- Bob Cameron – concerned about the channelization being used to address flooding issues
- Beatrice Amar – No update
- Brian Lieverse – No update
- Cathy Newhook – West County Watershed Society is planning their AGM and invitations will be sent out
 - Becky Devaleriola – No update
- Rick Keillor – No update
- Dave Walty – working to bring Northern Sunrise County and Town of Peace River together to deal with Pat's Creek and flooding issues; Peace River ice broke up over the weekend; working on Beaverlodge water quality reports
- Jim Webb – Little Red River Cree Nation is working on the UNESCO process for the Peace-Athabasca Delta; engaging Suncor on their base plant expansion and carbon offsets
 - Darryel Sowan – No update
- Abdi Siad-Omar - Alberta Environment and Parks is doing engagement on Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans; Upper Smoky sub-regional plan engagement should begin in June
 - Long Fu - looking at improving monitoring and looking for public engagement; Resource Management is in the same group as monitoring and science, Regulatory Approvals are in a different group

- Vern Lymburner – province is coming out with new guidance on disaster regulations and this will affect flood compensation
 - Johanna Downing – watching for flooding, Pat's Creek watch should end today; participated in flood reports
- Dylan Bressey – City of GP is working on flow control through the city; starting to work with the the MLA on erosion issues and would like engage Sexsmith and Clarimont in this
 - Michelle Gairdner – No update

1.3. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda April 7, 2021 was reviewed.

Motion to approve April 7, 2021 Agenda made by Mr. B. Lieverse.

Accepted by Consensus

1.4. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 29, 2021 was made by Mr. D. Bressey

Accepted by Consensus

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

2. Reports and Updates

2.1. Chairman Report – Mr. R. Keillor

- No report

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

- Reviewed the report that was posted before the meeting – items included Manager's meeting, Discussed the items presented to the RMA meeting, monitoring events and volunteers with sampling, Webinars and Conference staff participated in, WNC Transition meeting update, etc.

Appendix attached

Motion to accept office report made by Ms. S. Miller.

Accepted by Consensus

2.3. Financial Update – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- MPWA will have enough carryover to pay bills until mid-July, so if the new funding is late we should be ok.
- Reviewed the expenses for Core funding and projects.
- 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.
- At Mar 2 Manager's Meeting, the AEP rep Mr. Brain Free indicated that everything is on target to distribute the expect contract amounts within the first quarter after the submission of the yearend summary by April 15. MPWA amount should be \$230,000.
- Municipal funding in 2020-2021 has included: City of GP 10,000 in 2020 and 9,000 in 2021, County of GP 10,000, MD of Peace 1,000, MD of Fairview 1000, Aquatera 1,000, Peace River Environmental 1,000, Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management society 1,000.
- Question from Board – Was Saddle Hills County not an annual contributor? No, they gave \$5,000 in 2019 and letter indicated annual giving but have received no funding since and no response to inquiries as of yet.

Motion to approve Financial update made by Mr. R. Keillor.**Accepted by Consensus****2.4 Projects Update – Mr. A. Norris****a. Project Update and Possible New Initiatives:**

- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Protection Plan
 - Working on by-law alignment, water budget and Working Well Workshop in conjunction with MD of Greenview
- Outreach in the last couple of months has been accomplished through a range of remote forums, workshops and video release – 2021 Native Trout Workshop, Cows and Fish Winter Speaker Series, Connecting Land & Water and the Grande Prairie Environmental Network
- Redwillow Watershed winter water quality monitoring was reviewed – water quality was good but habitat connectivity may be an issue on the Beaverlodge portion
- A couple of volunteers helped with both Redwillow and lake monitoring
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative – receive funds from one grant, still waiting on the larger grant. Intent is to model road segments that deliver the most sediment to rivers and then work on mitigation plans as well as foster a stewardship ethic for the area
- A site for the final livestock crossing has been identified and an extension has been granted – this will wrap up this field season
- Final reporting is complete for the Streambank Stabilization and Extension project
- Workplans for the Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization project are being developed – some earthworks and lot of livestaking, planting and management actions
- The Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan has been finalized and work on implementation is beginning

b. Discussion about other work or projects that have not already been updated in the report:

- Mr. A. Siad-Omar suggested a Water Management Plan for the Little Smoky River
- Mr. V. Lymburner spoke about the Little Smoky Water Users Group and their coordinated efforts regarding water needs and possible withdrawals
 - Users double check flow rates on Little Smoky before withdrawing
 - Mr. V. Lymburner would like a flow rate study completed on the Little Smoky
 - A Gauge has been installed at the Encana withdrawal site as the one at the bridge did not work over winters.
 - In responding to a question about timing of withdrawal, he indicated that the Town of Valleyview has storage for 3 months so timing restrictions have not been a problem
 - Mr. B. Cameron indicated that there is a Water Conservation Objective for the Little Smoky.
- Discussion about whether Catapult is still active in Fox Creek
- Discussion about Fox Creek Operator's Group and how they engage with Indigenous communities

Action 4/07/2021-1 Mr. V. Lymburner to ask Fox Creek Operator's Group about updates or any information hat they can share on their activities.

- The Board is interested in and would appreciate information on the implementation process and update by Regulators regarding the Wapiti River Water Management Plan (i.e./ report card type presentation/information) and the implications for new water uses, such as Nauticol

Action 4/07/2021-2 Mr. A. Siad-Omar to arrange a presentation from AEP on the Wapiti River Water Management Plan implementation process and ongoing monitoring.

- Question: Any updates from Mr. J. Webb regarding the Wabasca Wetlands and Dr. David Natcher work?
 - As Mr. J. Webb was unavailable for a moment on the call, Mr. D. Sowan indicated that they are currently scheduling meetings to update and plan further work.

3. Other

3.1. Board of Director Elections 2021 and Nominations Committee

- Updated chart of seats that will be up for election – all positions need a organizational letter of support and completed nomination form.
- Mr. D. Sowan asked if we had contacts for Metis and FN seats, Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier to discuss options for connection.

MPWA Board of Directors – Elections 2021			
Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
<i>Federal-Transboundary Relations *</i> (2021-2023)	Agriculture (2020-2022)	Conservation/Environment (2020-2022)	<i>Métis Nation of Alberta **</i> (2020-2022)
Provincial (2020-2022)	<i>Forestry*</i> (2021-2023)	<i>Watershed Stewardship *</i> (2021-2023)	<i>Métis Settlement General Council *</i> (2021-2023)
<i>Large Urban*</i> (2021-2023)	Oil & Gas (2020-2022)	Research/Education (2020-2022)	<i>Upper Watershed First Nation *</i> (2021-2023)
Small Urban (2020-2022)	Utilities (2020-2022)	<i>Member-at-Large * (2)</i> (2021-2023)	<i>Middle Watershed First Nation *</i> (2021-2023)
Rural Municipality (2020-2022)	<i>Mining*</i> (2021-2023)	<i>Tourism/Fisheries/Recreation*</i> (2021-2023)	Lower Watershed First Nation (2020-2022)
Elections to be held June 3, 2021: 1. <i>The positions in red and denoted with an *, are up for election for a 2 year term.</i> 2. <i>The positions in blue and denoted with an **, are up for election to fulfill the second year of a 2 year term.</i> 3. <i>The positions in black are not up for election this year.</i>			

3.2. Working Well Management for Well owners Session – April 27th

- This is an on-line event that is being held in response to the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer SWPP and in conjunction with the MD of Greenview, but open to anyone. Need 20 participants to hold.

3.3. Discussion Questions regarding an Upcoming Transboundary Presentation

- We asked if we could have a presentation regarding Transboundary work, agreements, progress, monitoring, etc. Mr. A. Siad-Omar has spoken with the Transboundary Team and they would be willing to make a presentation to the MPWA in possibly June.
- Possible questions:
 - How does the priority system work and how is it implemented? Example is Wapiti River which provides water to supply the largest urban centre in the watershed – what category does Wapiti Fit under? Questions regarding other rivers such as Peace Main stem or Narraway River?
 - How does the 5 year monitoring plan fit in?

- Land use on tributaries – are there management plans on BC side that affects AB water?
- Are there ways to keep AB organizations such as the MPWA in the loop with Transboundary discussions? We have been told we cannot talk directly with BC, however our work is reliant on the outcomes of these discussions and we have information that can help feed their processes.
- MPWA would like to communicate with local stakeholders, groups and BC Gov – is there a way to achieve this instead of the WPAC just being considered the Public?
- Is AB looking for a special flow delivery objective in the transboundary agreement?
- Tim Toth and Brian Yee retired, now Andrew Wilson is the Manager and Carmen de la Chevrotière is the Transboundary Section Lead
- Lower Peace FN and Metis of PAD action process have been less than satisfied with the efforts to protect AB/BC ecological community of Peace and park (west, northeast and inside). Are there ways to aid in the progress of this action process?
- Site C impacts identified to fisheries and water on the AB side. Who is providing the monitoring? Is BC Hydro minuting the validity of their predictions around temp, flow, sedimentation, hydro peaking, etc? Is AB happy with the monitoring?
- What do we know about effects on spawning grounds, scrubbing of the river?
- Has there been monitoring and information gathering regarding channel changes – depth, flooding, sedimentation, etc?
- Are these numbers correct, Peace River is a 60% regulated River and with addition of Site C will increase to 65%? What are the expected effects? Who monitors? Safeguards needed? Actions required?
- As a general comment, one board member lives on the BC side of the Peace and expresses concern that BC Hydro is making it up as they go along with the development of Site C Dam. Issues around shale vs bedrock, diversion tunnels, etc have become real as many predicted but seemed to fall on deaf ears previously. This raises concerns regarding potential problems and downstream impacts that were not considered at the beginning of this build.

Action 4/07/2021-3 Staff to send invite to Transboundary Section to address the MPWA and include a listing of topics and questions to start the conversation.

3.4. Discover the Wetland Centre – April 13 & 15th

- This is an information webinar series to learn more about wetlands and the Centre at Evergreen Park, GP

3.5. Land Stewardship Grant 2021

- The funds from AEP have finally been received and application forms were sent out. Deadline for applications is April 30 with decisions about funding by June. Link to information was email to the Board members earlier.

3.6. Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice 1st Gathering – April 21 (1-3 online).

- To celebrate and showcase citizen science initiatives in AB. AB Environment and Parks with Miistakis Institute and the AB Biodiversity Monitoring Institute are hosting this gathering to bring together committed individuals who wish to work together to advance citizen science.

3.7. MPWA 10th Anniversary Stories

- Hired a writer to put together 10 stories to talk about the highlights of our first 10 years, want them to be engaging to the general public.
- Will be ready to present at the AGM
- Be sure to include the time and effort spent in creating a network – The What have we heard as we moved around the Peace is key. Sort of a Spiderweb – strands of connections across the peace.

3.8. Annual Meeting – June 10th, 2021

- We will wait a bit to see what restrictions will be in place due to Covid-19
- Possible Speakers: Concerns around Peace Main Stem were brought up with speakers addressing River Monitoring Program, BC Hydro development and monitoring, Transboundary updates
 - Stefan Emmer and Peter Onyshko were suggested as speakers, but they presented at last year's AGM
 - Sub regional planning (linking planning initiatives and work of MPWA), the Board will make further suggestions over next few weeks.

3.9. 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.

3.10. Emails about upcoming webinars

- Staff have been sending out webinar suggestions. Has this been useful?
- Board has requested that the Staff continue with providing this information.

3.11. Other

- At the November meeting the IWMP Review Committee was left with a vacancy for the Industry Sector seat. Mr. D. Pott has agreed to fill this vacancy

Motion to add Mr. Dan Pott as the Industry Sector Member on the IWMP Review Committee made by Mr. B. Cameron

Accepted by Consensus

4. Upcoming Event Dates

- Discover the Wetland Centre – April 13 & 15
- Working Well Management for Well Owners Session – April 27
- Currently MPWA AGM is set for June 10th, 2021 (depending on Covid-19 Restrictions)

5. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12: 24 pm by Eric Jorgenson.

Office Report January 30 to April 6, 2021:

- Follow-up from Jan 29th Board meeting (minutes, etc.)
- Feb 2 – Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan meeting – plan finalization
- Feb 8 – discussions with S. Fox of MD of Fairview – prepared watershed maps for them.
- Feb 10 – Interview with Fort MacMurray Today regarding possible FN Water Council and our work on the Peace/Slave and Peace-Athabasca Delta. Follow-up Conversations over next few weeks with J. Webb and P. Rowell (AWC) re possibilities.
- Feb 12 – RMA meeting held online. MPWA presentation regarding 2 lakes being sampled with ALMS, Summary of project goals.
- Preparation of T4's.
- Feb 16-18 – Growing the North online Conference – sessions on economic planning and results for industry, “Indeginomics” session (Business out of Vancouver), discussions with Jeff Johnston (Fairview), Amber Bean (Clearhills, Wayne Drysdale (Aquaterra).
- Feb 24 – Presentation to Big Lakes County regarding MPWA and our work within their boundary.
- Feb 24 & 25 – Winter Speaker Series: Riparian Restoration and Bank Stabilization: reviewing the regulations pertinent to riparian and bank restoration in Alberta
- Mar 1- Met with writer who will prepare 10th anniversary stories to be ready for release by AGM
- Mar 1 – Connecting Land and Water: Stories from the Eastern slopes: a video project looking at how land and water are intertwined along the eastern slopes
- Mar 2 – AB Managers meeting – included update from AEP, AWC Alternate, Data Stream (Gordon Foundation), 2021 Summit – Online webinar series in October hosted by Athabasca.
- Mar – Let's Go Outdoors interview – general questions around MPWA's activities and happenings in the Peace Watershed
- Mar 3 – Meeting with City of GP Grant Committee to discuss new form for 2022 funding, requirements and deadline.
- Mar 3 & 4 – Winter Speaker Series: Livestock Crossing of Waterways: a discussion of the regulatory environment around crossing structures
- Mar 4 – WNC Transition meeting – have decided to move forward with new structure. Team to yet decide if fee for membership. Planning for an actual work meeting this spring to update members of work accomplished by organization and initiative status.
- Mar 8 – Discussion with City of GP regarding SWPP for Wapiti Watershed and implementation of recommendations by the City.
- Preparation of presentation for MSGC Executive – has been re-scheduled twice but now set for April 13
- Review of information for the Streambank WRRP project grant – reviewed financials to find discrepancy and fix reporting
- Work with Dion Computers to determine needs for office computer upgrade (10-year-old desktop has had multiple issues over last few months and has become unreliable.)
- Mar 17 – Presented at Cows and Fish Native Trout forum – a series looking at native trout, their habitat requirements and restoration efforts
- Mar 24 – PNWER (Pacific North West Economic Region Conference Event – Ensuring Regional Reliability and Resource Adequacy in Achieving Climate Goals in the Pacific Northwest. Sessions on Grid Modernization, Decarbonization, Energy Storage, Green energy options, What policy makers need to learn and discuss – great opportunities.
- Conversations with Directors and Abdi (AEP) regarding transboundary work, monitoring and progress – looking for updates and presentation by Transboundary Team.
- Mar 25 – Agrologists Webinar – 2020 & Beyond- the new Era of Agriculture and the Environment.
- Mar 25 – STREAM (Sequencing the Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring) webinar: eDNA
- Working on AEP yearend summary for 2020/21 grant due mid April and City of GP Grant process application for 2022 due April 30.
- Preparation for April 7 Board meeting

- Mar 26 – Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association meeting – aligning by-laws, water budget work
- Feb 26-Mar 7 – Advanced Hydrology Course through UofA Extension – Adam
- Apr 6 – Technical Committee meeting
- Volunteers assisted with sampling at Beaverlodge and Lac Cardinal – 2 students volunteered to sample these sites with Adam.
- Continued exploration for partners and funding for prioritized projects
- Education/Outreach
 - Focussed on social media posts
 - Preparations and Advertising for upcoming Working Well session
 - Preparing for Walk through the Forest
 - Putting together 10th Anniversary information to create a story series.
- LakeKeepers
 - Volunteers sampled Snipe, Lac Cardinal, Wadlin Lakes.
 - MPWA completed chlorophyll filtration
 - Preparation for summer sampling program
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
 - Ongoing monitoring and reporting (Feb 1, 12, 22, Mar 4, 15)
 - Winter Sampling protocols
- WRRP
 - Final reporting for Streambank Stabilization and Extension
 - Granted extension for Improved Livestock Crossing
 - Field planning for Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization is ongoing

Upcoming events

- April 14 – Developing rehabilitation plans for riparian corridors with environmental, social, and economic limitations (Society for Ecological Restoration) [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://gotowebinar.com)
- April 21 – The Keys to a Blue Economy – Water Canada (<https://watercanada.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1019f1ca8d3e566a9d1fd208b&id=b5dceb9648&e=6e9f1a6452>)
- April 27 @ 6:30 pm- Working Well (virtual and co-hosted by MPWA & MD of Greenview) - <https://bit.ly/3e1LTrD>
- April 8 & 29 STREAM webinar series – [STREAM Webinar Series - Living Lakes Canada](#)
- May 4 – Snow depth drivers in a Rocky Mountain watershed (AEP) <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/319869333>

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