

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

Radbourne Pavilion, Grande Prairie, AB

August 17, 2022

	Name	Sector
Attendees	Rick Keillor	Public Member-at-Large
	Dave Walty	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Vice Chair
	Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship
	Sandra Miller	Oil & Gas
	Audrey DeWit	Public Member-at-Large (Alternate)
	Justin Hetu	Forestry
	Chris Thiessen	Large Urban Municipality, MPWA Chair
	Michelle Gairdner	Large Urban Municipality (Alternate)
	Vern Lymburner	Small Urban Municipalities
	Ashley Rowney	Utilities
	Jim Webb	Lower Peace First Nation
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
	Jill Henry	Agriculture
Regrets	Brian Lieverse	Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries
	Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal -Transboundary Relations
Observer	Bob Cameron (10:45 AM)	
Staff	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Executive Director
	Adam Norris	Watershed Coordinator

ACTION LOG:

<u>Chairman</u>	C. Thiessen
<u>Executive Director (5)</u>	R. Clarke-Gauthier
<u>Finance Committee (5)</u>	A. Rowney, C. Thiessen, R. Keillor, V. Lymburner, S. Miller, D. Walty, Executive Director
<u>Education & Stewardship Committee</u>	J. Henry, E/O Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Technical Committee</u>	R. Keillor, J. Hetu, E. Garrow, D. Walty, C. Thiessen, J. Webb, J. Henry, A. Rowney, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (IWMP SC) (7)</u>	A. Rowney, E. Garrow, R. Keillor, J. Webb, D. Walty, A. Siad Omar, J. Hetu, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Nomination Committee (3)</u>	C. Thiessen, V. Lymburner, S. Miller, Exec Director

1. Administration**1.1. Call Meeting to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair C. Thiessen.
- Quorum was present.

1.2. Introductions of Directors

- Round table introductions.

1.3. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda August 17, 2022 was reviewed.

Motion to approve August 17, 2022 Agenda moved by D. Walty, seconded by A. Rowney.

Accepted by Consensus

1.4. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2022 and Re-organization meeting June 17, 2022 were reviewed.

Motion to approve March 24, 2022 and June 17, 2022 Minutes moved by A. Rowney, seconded by S. Miller.

Accepted by Consensus

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

1.5 Accept Alternates for Board Directors

- Reminder made that Daniel Roy, Dan Pot, and Michelle Gairdner are previously accepted alternates.
- Greg Pippus (Aquatera) as Utilities alternate; Darryel Sowan (Little Red River Cree Nation) as Lower Peace First Nation alternate; and Audrey DeWit, Member-at-Large alternate.

Motion to approve alternates as presented moved by S. Miller, seconded by J. Hetu.

Accepted by Consensus

1.6 Election of MPWA Secretary

- Resignation made by S. Miller to step down as Secretariat.

Motion to accept resignation with regret and thank S. Miller for her work over the past years, moved by C. Newhook, seconded by E. Garrow.

Accepted by Consensus

- A. Rowney noted interest in Secretariat duties.

Motion to nominate A. Rowney as Secretariat moved by C. Newhook, seconded by S. Miller. No further nominations were received. Ashley Rowney is the new MPWA Secretary.

Accepted by Consensus

1.7 Committee Membership:

Need one NGO rep for IWMP

- The IWMP started as steering committee, then progressed to the implementation/evaluation committee for the IWMP. This Committee has specific requirements to ensure that a balance of sectors is represented at the table. Chair of MPWA, or their designate Vice-chair or past-chair, is automatically on the committee - then one (1) rep from each of the four (4) sectors (Gov, NGO, Industry, Indigenous Communities) and 2 other Directors.
- Membership of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee must be approved by the board and shall consist of the following classifications: • Chairman of the board of MPWA, or their designate Vice-chair or past-chair (ex officio) • A non-government organization representative • A government representative • An Indigenous Communities representative • An industry representative • 2 member-at-large representatives
- The current committee as of August 16, 2022 • Chairman of the board (ex officio) (Chris Thiessen, taking the place of previous Chair Rick Keillor) • A non-government organization representative (vacant – was held by Bob Cameron prior to his board resignation) • A government representative (Abdi Siad-Omar) • An Indigenous Communities representative (Jim Webb) • An industry representative (Justin Hetu) • 2 Board of Director member-at-large representatives (Elaine Garrow and Dave Walty)
- NGO representative could be filled by R. Keillor, D. Walty, C. Newhook or B. Lieverse. Floor opened for names to be put forward. After discussion it was decided that D. Walty could change representations and sit as NGO and therefore another Board Director at large could fill open seat.

Motion for D. Walty to change to NGO Representative on IWMP Committee moved by E. Garrow, seconded by S. Miller.

Accepted by Consensus

- Call for nominations for open IWMP Committee seat:

Motion to nominate C. Newhook moved by V. Lymburner.

- C. Newhook declined nomination.

Motion to nominate A. Rowney made by C. Newhook.

- A. Rowney accepted nomination.
- After three call, there were no further nominations.

Motion for nominations to cease moved by E. Garrow.

A. Rowney will be the second Board Director at large representative on the IWMP Committee

Accepted by Consensus

Technical Committee (TC)

- Some volunteers stepped forward
- Committee Membership now consists of D. Walty, A. Rowney, E. Garrow, R. Keillor, C. Thiessen, J. Henry, J. Hetu, and J. Webb.

Education/Stewardship Committee (E/S)

- Education/Stewardship Committee has struggled since losing previous coordinator. This committee currently consists of J. Henry. This committee will function as status-quo until the MPWA can refocus on how the committee will function/look. Staff will continue to include a variety of Education opportunities into the other programs and projects.

2. Reports and Updates

2.1. Chairman Report – C. Thiessen

- Has been orientated, spent time discussing priorities – goals to get more first nations involvement with the board, wants to discuss funding with government. Alberta Municipalities coming up – excited to do the work.

2.2. Office Report – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- See office report for update (attached below).

Guest Speaker: Dr. Barry White, fRi Research, Program Lead of the newly created Water & Fish Program; TOPIC: An Introduction to fRi Research's Water and Fish Program.

- Spent 20 years in Government with the last 6 years as a Director. Noting, he's not in Government anymore and is now Program lead for new initiative, Water and Fish Program.
- fRi program is comprised of roughly 55 partners (NGO, Forestry, Oil and Gas, etc.)
- Mission is to develop understandable scientific knowledge and useful land management tools based on strong peer-reviewed science. Activities are focused on issues faced by partner organizations and seek to make an impact.

BREAK

2.3. Financial Update – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- See financial update report (posted on Director's area of the website).
- January 1st to now – received ~ \$25,000 in stakeholder contributions.
- We are in decent position for this time of year.

- Carried \$58,000 over from last year's core grant (as of April 1/22).
- Core Grant funding for the year was received - \$ 230K
- \$288k to get us through to March 31, 2023
- Expenses trending as expected.
- Received special grant from AEP to do Beaverlodge River Monitoring Project – these expenses and income are now added to the spreadsheet.
- Of the core grant we have ~\$206k towards the next 10 months.

**Motion: to approve Office report and Financial update, moved by R. Keillor seconded by A. Rowney.
Accepted by Consensus**

2.4. IWMP Annual Reporting Document

- Report looks at implementation and how we are progressing or not.
- IWMP is bringing the report to the board to receive as information.

**Motion: to receive Report for information made by V. Lymburner, seconded by D. Walty.
Accepted by Consensus**

- MPWA Directors have asked for time to further review the report and will look to have it brought forward for receiving at next meeting.

3. Other

3.1. MRD and Grant Application for April 2023 for 4 years

- R. Clarke-Gauthier has reviewed document several times – currently in its 4th version – while not ideal, much better than what we started with – starts with purpose, works thru Water for life strategy, etc.
- Section 4.1 gets to specifics about roles/expectations of the WPAC vs. those of AEP.
- MRD would be signed by Executive Directors of WPACS as they are identified as operational leaders with the MRD.
- Section 5.0 details Governance.
- All of the main subject areas are things that we are already doing and already part of. We are unique basins and WPACs and therefore not everything listed will apply to all. That should/needs to be addressed.
- AEP wanted MRD signed by September 1st with grant applications to be submitted around the same time.
- If Board is in approval of the process of having the Executive Team, work through the MRD, then that will be the next steps.

Motion to move ahead with the process of the MRD and Grant Application with the Executive having an opportunity of final review moved by R. Keillor, seconded by J. Webb.

Accepted by Consensus

3.2 AEP Forum in Edmonton, October 6-7

- Looking for a few designates from the board – S. Miller, J. Webb and C. Thiessen have expressed interest in attend. Once agenda is provided, attendance will be finalized. There is still room for others to attend.

3.3 Technical Committee Update – Adam Norris

- Continued work with Ducks Unlimited Canada at the Evergreen Wetland Centre to share wetland BMPs, monitor groundwater, public awareness and baseline info collection
- Floating Treatment Wetlands is with City of Grande Prairie and Northwestern Polytechnic to better understand stormwater treatment. Successful pilot so far and looking to scale up in the future
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan recommendation implementation continues

including BMP promotion and continued advising on by-law recommendations around land use that have been adopted by the municipalities

- A summer student helped identify and measure aquifer discharge, a key step in developing a water budget for the aquifer
- LakeKeepers (Alberta Lake Management Society) continues to be a program that we support to further baseline monitoring, invasive species monitoring and stewardship development – this summer Cadotte, Graham, Haig, Lac Cardinal, Peerless, Swan, Victor and Wadlin Lakes are being monitored
- Part of Redwillow Watershed Restoration Plan implementation is ongoing monitoring to evaluate success in restoring fish habitat
- A new grant through AEP for \$10,000 is allowing us to do summer water quality (chemical parameters) monitoring
- Potential project sites in the Redwillow have been assessed by AWES, ACA, County of GP, Cows and Fish and MPWA; now funding is being sought by the other partners
- Improved Livestock Crossing's last crossing has seen successful use by livestock
- Ongoing monitoring at the Streambank Stabilization and Extension site is improving our understanding of the techniques used there
- Reduction of invasive species (weeds) in the Peace-Athabasca Delta has received \$25,500 in ECCC funding and we are working with our partner, Little Red River First Nation to adapt our workplan to the new timeline.
- Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction has received \$98,250 in ECCC funding and we are working with our partner, Mackenzie County, to adapt our workplan to the new timeline
- Unfortunately, our Surface Water Management Workshop with the MD of Greenview was cancelled and we are checking with the MD to find out why
- Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization is in its last field season with bioengineering and revegetation works planned for this autumn

- Smoky Headwaters Initiative is working to implement the workplans created based on the modelling and field verification. In June we hosted a successful outing with the Junior Forest Wardens
- We continue to seek additional staff to work on projects and Education and Outreach

4. Upcoming Event Dates

ALMS Conference (September 28-29), Evergreen Wetland Open House Oct 5, AEP Forum – Oct 6-7

5. Adjourn Meeting – at the conclusion of the tour.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm by C. Thiessen, seconded by D. Walty

Tour sites included the 1) Floating Treatment Wetland at a stormwater pond in Grande Prairie a project led by MPWA with the City of Grande Prairie and Northwestern Polytechnic as partners; and, 2) the fish passage structure at the Beaverlodge weir, where MPWA led the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Plan and continues to convene partners to implement and monitor including AgroForestry Woodlot Extension Society, Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, the County of Grande Prairie, Cows and Fish, Town of Beaverlodge, West County Watershed Society and members of the community.

Office Report March 25 to August 17, 2022:

- Follow-up from March 24th Board meeting (minutes, etc.)
- Mar 25 – Call with Madison (limnologist and AEP team to discuss possible Beaverlodge River Monitoring and MPWA assistance
- Mar 25 – Meeting with WPAC Leg & Policy Committee to review framework
- Admin work for year end – new staff agreements, prep contract for summer staff, year-end accounting, prep books for accountant, begin interim AEP grant reporting.
- Apr 1 – WPAC Committee meeting with Scott Miller from AWC to discuss the Water For Life Review and what info is important for WPACs to consider and include.
- Ongoing work and discussions with WPAC managers regarding Mission, Vision, W4L review/Action Plan, WPAC process guidelines.
- Planning for AGM – location, speaker, resources, requests for nomination letters and calls.
- Apr 7 – presented at West County Watershed Society AGM
- Apr 8 – MPWA Technical Committee (TC) meeting
- Apr 11 – Walk Through The Forest meeting
- Apr 13 – Forest Foothills Forest Products Public Advisory Group meeting
- Apr 18 – Submitted AEP interim report.
- Apr 19 – Call with concerned producer regarding surface water management and possible ideas for planning/correction
- Apr 19-20 – WPAC Managers Meeting – Work on Collective Vision/Mission/Goals/Values. Manager discussions with new AEP contact, updates of WPAC joint projects, and updates from individual WPACs.
- Apr 21– Roadway Crossing webinar
- Apr 26 – Call with AEP about Wapiti River Water Management Plan implementation
- Apr 26 – Call with Cam Lane (AEP), Brian Free, Abdi Siad-Omar about WPACs and AEP – intro and update call at request of Cam Lane to each WPAC.
- Apr 28 – Eastern Slopes Collaborative meeting
- Outline Annual Report information required and start collecting reports.
- May 2 – Call with Jennifer Janzen (Alberta Tomorrow) to discuss AGM presentation and Workshop
- May 1-8 – We re-worked the Wapiti Implementation
- May 2-6 – Summer Student first week - reviewed protocols, Bear Aware Course, set guidelines and establish work expectations. Grimshaw Gravels Water Budget project.
- May 9 - 11 – Walk Through The Forest – Thank you to Volunteers – Bob, Sandra, Jill and Kate
- May 10 & 11 – Water and Fish Program meeting (fRI Research Committee that Adam has been asked to join)
- May 19 – Alberta Water Council Water Tool webinar
- May 20 – Floating Treatment Wetland harvesting and raft construction, water quality monitoring
- May 24 – Books to Accountant for year end review.
- May 25 – IWMP SC meeting
- May 27 – Water North Coalition meeting
- May 27 – Floating Treatment Wetland water quality monitoring
- May 31 – Meeting with County of Grande Prairie Planning department about our plans
- Jun 3 – Floating Treatment Wetland harvesting, raft construction and water quality monitoring
- Jun 10 - Finish Annual report and send for printing
- Jun 5 – 9 – CWRA -Canadian Water Resources Association conference - Adam
- Jun 16 – MPWA AGM in Fairview
- Jun 16 – Alberta Tomorrow Cumulative Effects workshop
- Jun 20 – Conference Call with AB WaterSMART, Athabasca Watershed Council to discuss possible joint work project for northern rivers
- Jun 23 – Meeting with New Chair Chris to discuss MPWA
- Jun 23 – LSWC AGM in Kinuso
- Jun 25 – Smoky Headwaters excursion with Junior Forest Wardens
- Jun 28 – Eastern Slopes Water Temperature Monitoring provincial meeting

- Jul 6 – Meeting with AB WaterSMART and potential partners to further discuss options for project.
- Jul 8 – Meeting with Doug Thrussel (AEP) , AEP Eds who deal with WPACs, and the AB Managers to be introduced to AEP’s New MRD and the grant process for the upcoming year.
- Jul 11 – worked with Saddle Hills County to receive stakeholder contribution to cover 2020, 2021, 2022 of \$15,0000
- Jul 13 – Discuss with Lubicon Band Member regarding MPWA
- Jul 14 – Follow-up call with Doug T and Managers to further discuss MRD and make suggestions to document. Managers will now make edits and send to Doug asap for his consideration.
- Jul 18 –
- WPAC Leg and Policy Committee meeting to review draft framework.
- Begin working on grant application for MPWA – setting out work plans, projects, requirements, etc
- Jul 25 – 27 – Field visits of WRRP sites and new project opportunities
- Jul 26—Prep for Surface water workshop at MD of Greenview and public event in Debolt.
- Jul 28 – Surface Water Management Workshop event hosted in partnership. MD of Greenview cancelled this event on the afternoon of the 27th, so Adam needed to cancel speakers and ensure social media notices were updated.
- Aug 4 – Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Field Day
- ECOAciton Grants which had been applied for on Jan 20 were finally accepted Aug 5. As these were meant to start last spring, we needed to check with partners about possibilities of continued projects:
 - Aug 8 – call with Mackenzie County about grant for Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction project
 - Aug 9 – call with Little Red River Cree Nation about grant for Reducing invasives in the Peace-Athabasca Delta
- Prep for board meeting – office report, minutes, agenda, MRD, financial, tour, speaker.
- Aug 16 – TC meeting

Project Summary of events/activities/progress

- Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Project Team meetings – April 29,
 - Reviewing proposals and selection
 - Funding considerations and next steps forward
- Education/Outreach
 - Social media posts
 - Exploration of different delivery formats
 - Advertizing for E/O Coordinator
 - Collaboration with municipal partners for program delivery
 - Walk through the Forest
 - Peace County Beef and Forage Association Field Day
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
 - Summer student to help with water budget – meetings April 4, May 3 (start-up day)
 - Input on development permits and by-law amendments
 - Engagement with PCBFA for partnered outreach – meetings March 25, April 5
 - Meetings – June 2
- LakeKeepers
 - Prepped for summer sampling season
 - We sampled Victor Lake with Mountain Metis Nation – Jun 27
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
 - Summer sampling program finalization
 - Beaverlodge Monitoring grant – meetings March 25, April 5, May 4, June 30
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative
 - E/O social media campaign
 - Field excursion with Grande Cache Youth Connections to talk about freshwater ecology and species at risk
 - Follow-up with fRI – April 19
 - Kakwa watercourse crossing call – May 12, May 26, June 13
 - Prep (June 23) and field excursion (June 25) with Junior Forest Wardens

- Call with Cows and Fish about outreach event – Jul 29
- Source Water map
 - Working with Bonnie Nicolai and Dave Walty to create source water watersheds for every community in the Peace and Slave Watersheds
- WRRP
 - Field season prep – meetings April 7, Apr 22 (call with AWES about summer work)
 - Site assessment – May 12 & 13, July 25 - 27
 - Water modelling meeting – May 13

Upcoming events

- September 28 & 29 – Alberta Lake Management Society conference – Stony Plain [ALMS 2022 St. Albert Conference - ALMS](#)
- **October 5 – Evergreen Wetland Centre open house**
- October 6 & 7 – Alberta Environment and Parks WPAC Forum - Edmonton

Submitted By: Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P.Ag, -
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