

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting****November 24, 2022****Grande Cache Tourism and Interpretive Centre, Grande Cache, AB**

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

<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, 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 (2 Other Directors), C. Thiessen (MPWA Chair), J. Webb (Indigenous Communities), D. Walty (NGO), A. Siad Omar (Governments), J. Hetu (Industry), 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 & Quorum Statement & Introductions**

- Meeting called to order at 10:06 AM by Chair C. Thiessen.
- Quorum was present.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda November 24, 2022 was reviewed.

Motion to approve November 24, 2022 Agenda moved by B. Lieverse, seconded by D. Walty.**Accepted by Consensus**

1.3. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2022 was reviewed.

Motion to approve August 17, 2022 Minutes moved by B. Lieveise, 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.

2. Reports and Updates

2.1. Chairman Report – C. Thiessen

- Went to Forum in Edmonton Oct 6&7 with EPA (formerly AEP) and other WPACs (MPWA was represented by 3 Directors and 2 Staff)
- Conversations at forum were good – happy with conversations had with WPACs and EPA
- Consensus around being underfunded and the need for support especially when looking at sizing of areas covered by certain WPACs.
- Still some uncertainty due to being on the cusp of an election.
- Discussion was around EPA work, WPAC work and then collaborative work.
- A. Siad-Omar shared presentations with the Staff and will be posted on Director's area of Website.

2.2. Office Report – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- See office report for update (attached below).

2.3. Financial Update – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- MRD was signed by DM Bev Yee before she left office end of October.
- No word on the Grant agreements or terms for beyond April 1 2023
- Changes to accounts this year: Increase in Insurance, mileage, and Review engagement. These are not out of range but reflects the ability to move around the watershed and the world of business these days. Staff amounts are lower.
- For staff opportunities; maybe look into contracts i.e. hire someone to do a E/O strategy

Motion: to approve Chair Update, Office report, and Financial update, moved by R. Keillor seconded by J. Hetu.

Accepted by Consensus

2.4. IWMP Annual Reporting Document – Received for information on August 17, 2022 during Board meeting and to be brought forward to address any further questions.

- Report looks at implementation and how we are progressing or not (process report).
- IWMP was previously brought to the board to receive as information.
- Report is located on Directors Area of MPWA Website.

2.5. Technical Committee Updates

- Project Update
 - Alberta Water Council – Source Water Protection Project Team – trying to develop a tool that will facilitate source water protection planning for small communities that don't have the resources. Point and click based database. EPA (Abdi) to see if some EPA staff can tie in some of the work they have done. Funding is required. MPWA could use this when going out to communities and visually show available information

for specific watersheds.

- Evergreen Wetland Centre – Located in Grande Prairie – MPWA helped with Open House October 5th – the site had 2309 visitors this year. Evergreen Wetland Centre has various wetland Best Management resources there. MPWA also involved with Groundwater Monitoring being conducted there with work that Ducks Unlimited is leading. Over the summer of 2022 there were 672 recorded measurements as part of the monitoring program.
- Forestry Public Advisory Group – Currently participating in two groups, Foothills Forest Products and Mercer International - looking at values, objectives, indicators and targets. A. Norris made suggestion that Foothills Forest Products look into tracking change in wetland extend through their management areas.
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer – Griffin Creek on Duncan First Nations – A. Norris conducted a Drone Survey that is able to provide great visual perspectives; Currently developing maps for the Grimshaw Aquifer to try and help individuals identify if they are on the Aquifer or not, this is an Education Piece; Continue to provide referral advice on new developments.
- LakeKeepers – most work in Alberta conducted in the Peace River Watershed; MPWA continues to assist where and when required.
- Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction – One of our newer projects being done with Mackenzie County that is funded through ECCC and looks at erosion type projects with a few sites that have been identified.
- Reducing Invasive Species in the Peace-Athabasca Delta – MPWA is working with Little Red Cree Nation - Started with hosting workshop and training on identifying invasive species. Funded by ECCC.
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project – 4th year of monitoring for DFO has been completed and there is one (1) year of monitoring left. There is a potential for the Redwillow Watershed Monitoring project to be extended that would provide for two (2) more years (~17,500\$ plus analytical cost coverage).
- Wapiti Watershed SWPP – Looking at coordinated water monitoring (Aquatera, EPA and IP).
- Beaverlodge Watershed – in 2021 a summary of surface water quality data (1994-2018) was generated and provided considerations for future analytic surveys conducted as part of Arctic grayling habitat restoration projects. EPA is asking MPWA to release the report so that it can get out the public
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative – had discussions with Oil & Gas companies to work on their water crossings; Planted 12,000 trees that can live in wet environments to provide shade for cold water fish to provide refuge.
- Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization – Putting in vegetation (wattle fences); Spent \$56,211.78 – these projects will be wrapping up and monitoring will take place after.
- WPAC Technical Committee – Share experiences, resources, and common projects; SOW objective and alignment; State of Opportunity (SOO); WPAC managers still need to review and approve TOR and SOO.
- Source Water Maps
 - Every community intake in the Peace Watershed; Starting point for discussions; initial risk assessment; supports state of watershed updates. Hope to take out to municipalities when talking to them.

Motion to approve Technical Committee Updates, D. Walty and seconded by S. Miller.

Approved by Consensus

LUNCH – 11:40 to 12:10

TOUR & SPEAKER: MD of Greenview – Sean Healey (Chief Utility Operator) – Grande Cache Pump Station, Water Treatment Station and Wetland construction along Hwy 40 to help protect runoff into Water Supply of Victor Lake.

3. Other

3.1. AEP Forum in Edmonton (Oct 6-7) – 3 Directors and 2 Staff

- C. Theissen lead this discussion during Chair Update.

3.2 WPAC Governance Document

- R. Clarke-Gauthier provided summary of the AB WPAC Governance Document;
- Asked if MPWA Directors are okay with Staff working with other WPACs – As WPACs work together, if there is an issue, project or letter campaign that we wish to be included in we can and if not our name and logo will not be included.
- Board expressed caution about what WPACs as a whole speak out about (ie advocacy). Also, further understanding of roles of WPACs are in the MRD and the WPAC MOU.

Motion to accept the AB WPAC Governance Document and Executive Director to sign, made by B. Lieveise and seconded by V. Lymburner.

Approved by Consensus

GUEST SPEAKER: Aseniwuche Winewak Nation (AWN) – Nate Medinski (Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator)

- Nate provides technical training, build community monitoring capacity and develop/manage aquatic projects that address the communities' concerns about impacts to fish and aquatic habitat within their Traditional Land Use (TLU) are, through funding providing by DFO.
- AWN Community Survey resulted in majority of responses noting concern for contaminants in fish and water;
- Project 2 consisted of a Muskeg River Watershed Assessment
- Conducted a Muskeg River 2021 Temperature Assessment
- Conducted a 2022 Muskeg Watershed Fisheries Assessment
 - Collected surface water, aquatic bugs, and fish from 12 sample locations across the TLU area, including streams identified as high importance to the AWN community in the 2021 engagement sessions
 - Currently waiting on analytics from various labs across Alberta from fish monitoring (5-target fish: bull trout, rainbow trout, arctic grayling, brook trout and mountain whitefish) conducted in 2022 – once results are in, they will begin to review results and then apply for additional funding and any further projects that may be required depending on the analytical results
 - They hope to better understand fish movement across the TLU area, to determine potential exposure to contaminants across the landscape and sensitive areas (spawning, rearing, overwintering) to inform recovery efforts for fish species at risk.
 - Assess competition among fishes and options for restoring fish passage at hanging culvers in Muskeg River watershed.

3.3 Northern WPAC Water Event – Feb 15-16 in Grande Prairie hosted by Lesser Slave Watershed Council, Athabasca Watershed Council and MPWA – Focus Watershed Management in the Northern Boreal

- These 3 WPACs wish to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to network regarding watershed Management and collaborative opportunities. Speakers will be from organizations that have worked in the watersheds and collaboration has been key.
- If looking for other topics, maybe Public Education/Communications Session

Motion to move forward with planning the Water Management in AB Boreal with LSWC and Athabasca WC, with some consideration of funding \$3500.00-5000.00, made by S. Miller and seconded by D. Walty.

Approved by Consensus

3.4 Ethical Space for Indigenous Knowledge & Western Science Sharing – This item was brought before the Board as further conversation around a previous topic. The staff have been researching the possibility of a forum where Western Science and TEK can be presented together to further advance watershed work in the Peace Watershed. Looking towards common themes and collaborative efforts. The Board discussed ways to be more open to Indigenous perspectives and voices as well as how to encourage all sectors to fill the seats available on the Board. Conversation was good with many ideas but little advancement in the idea of providing an ethical Space for knowledge sharing. This idea (concept) needs to be re-visited.

General ideas around inclusive work/projects: use small groups on issues i.e. Band or Tribal Council; use watershed maps to open conversations; Come to the table with some of the projects MPWA has worked on and see if those issues are concerns in their areas as well; Chris suggested Coordinator at City of GP for IR; Sturgeon Lake may be ideal place for work/projects as MD Greenview, Sturgeon and MPWA could work together; Need a champion or persons of passion to help and maybe Elder interviews.

3.5 Round Table – All Directors provide updates and information from their sector regarding issues/concerns/ideas around watershed management.

- D. Walty – has been working on Watershed Maps, they are now complete and will be used for a number of projects and perhaps SOW upgrade.
- V. Lymburner – Talking with MD of Greenview to get them to attend WPAC meetings. Water North Coalition – can do Internship of Water Treatment Employees
- A. Siad-Omar – BC Hydro Site C will be filling next year (may split for 2023 and 2024), will affect minimum levels.
- J. Henry – 2 Conferences being hosted by Peace Country – Ag Fieldmen Training and Ag Service Board provincial Conference. She is also on the Board for Environmental Farm Plan.
- C. Thiessen – On Water North Coalition after 2 years off. The Reservoir Spillway in GP still needs work (we had toured this site previously).
- R. Clarke-Gauthier – Gave a reminder of the importance of submitting in-kind contributions

4. Upcoming Event Dates

- Feb 1-2 – Board Retreat Update (SOW, IWMP, Other Major Planning Initiatives)
- MPWA AGM June 22, 2023

5. Adjourn Meeting

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

Office Report August 17 to November 24, 2022:

- Follow-up from August 17th Board meeting (minutes, etc.)
- 2023-2027 AEP Grant application work and MRD review – needs to be submitted by mid-late Sept.
- Aug 18 – Tour of project sites with Barry White of fRI
- Aug 22 – ENGO UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission meeting
- Aug 25 – ENGO UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission Session – Presented on behalf of MPWA
- Aug 29 – Eastern Slopes Collaborative meeting
- Ongoing work and discussions with WPAC managers regarding Mission, Vision, W4L review/Action Plan, WPAC process guidelines.
- Sept 1 – Agro-Forestry Woodlot Extension Society AGM
- Sept 8 – Meeting with Doug Thrussell (AEP) to review grant process and MRD acceptance
- Sept 9 – Project update meeting with ACA, AWES, County of GP, Cows and Fish
- Sept 18 – Submit AEP Grant & signed MRD
- Sept 14 – Evergreen Wetland Center monitoring and Advisory Committee meeting
- Sept 21 – Participated in Foothills Forest Products Public Advisory Group meeting
- Sept 27 – Floating Treatment Wetlands final WQ and raft retrieval and harvest
- Sept 28 & 29 – Attended the Alberta Lake Management Society Conference
- Oct 3 – Prep meeting with Ducks Unlimited for Evergreen Wetland Centre open house
- Oct 5 – Participated and presented at Evergreen Wetland Centre open house
- Oct 5 – All day WPAC Managers Meeting(online)
- Oct 6 & 7 – AEP/WPAC Forum in Edmonton. MPWA attendees – C. Thiessen, S. Miller, D. Walty, A. Norris, R. Clarke-Gauthier
- Oct 13 – Attended Water North Coalition Meeting and Grovedale New Water Treatment Plant Tour
- Oct 18 – Meeting with WaterSmart and Athabasca Watershed Council- Continued conversations regarding possible project with AWC-WPAC, MPWA and WaterSmart
- Oct 19 – Evergreen Wetland Centre monitoring
- Gathered information and numbers to put in a document from AB WPACs to new minister.
- Oct 24 – Presentation to Canfor Public Advisory Group
- Oct 25 – WPAC technical committee meeting, Camrose – establishing an adhoc committee to look at ways to update SOWs
- Oct 31- Nov 1 – Alberta Institute of Agrologist Conference (virtual)
- Nov 2 – WPAC E&O committee meeting
- Nov 3 – Septic Sense workshop MD of Greenview
- Nov 9 – First meeting with LSWC and AWC to discuss possible Northern WPAC Forum (set date, agenda, etc.)
- Nov 9 - Mercer Public Advisory Group
- Nov 15 – Mtg with Madison (AEP) re possible extension of monitoring or further work on the Beaverlodge River

- Nov 16 – Investigate possible opportunity to provide an event for Ethical space for Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science
- Nov 21 – Technical Committee meeting
- Nov 21 – Northern WPAC Forum meeting #2
- Nov 23 – Meeting with MMNA aquatic habitat coordinator
- Nov 23 – Foothills Forest Products Public Advisory Group meeting

Project Summary of events/activities/progress

- Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Project Team (A. Norris, AB WPAC Representative)
 - Awaiting AWC's decision on funding the webtool
- Education/Outreach
 - Social media posts
 - Exploration of different delivery formats
 - Advertising for E/O Coordinator
 - Collaboration with municipal partners for program delivery
 - Website updates
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
 - Aquifer measurements and water chemistry – Aug 23, Oct 31
 - Input on development permits and by-law amendments
 - Work on engagement and decision- making tools (maps, factsheets)
 - Meetings – September 8
 - Presentation to MD of Peace and Gravel pit operator on gravel pit by-laws – Sep 13
- LakeKeepers
 - Coordinating lake sampling
 - Delivery of gifts from ALMS to volunteers
- Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction
 - Finalize grant agreement
 - Meetings – Sep 8,
 - Search for partners/landowners to work with
 - Media campaign; Interview with River Country – Sep 30
 - Site visits – Oct 12 & 13
- Reducing Invasive Species in the Peace-Athabasca Delta
 - Finalize grant agreement
 - Meetings – Sep 12, Oct 4, Oct 26
 - Social media campaign
 - Invasive species workshop planning
 - Hosted workshop – Oct 17
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
 - Summer volunteer sampling program and fish passage monitoring coordination
 - Conducting sampling Nov 1
 - Beaverlodge Monitoring meetings – Oct 3, Nov 15
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative
 - E/O social media campaign
 - Recreational stewardship ride calls – August 19, Sep 9, Sep 29
 - Planting and livestaking prep
 - Call with Tourmaline about crossings – Aug 29
 - Supervising planting and livestaking at Seymour Creek – Sep 19 – 22
 - Recreational Stewardship Ride – Oct 16
- Source Water map
 - Working with Bonnie Nicolai and Dave Walty to create source water watersheds for

- every community in the Peace and Slave Watersheds
- Meeting Oct 21
- WRRP
 - Plug planting at Patrick's – Sep 17 & 18
 - Livestaking at Hill's – Oct 12 & 13
 - Livestaking at Patrick's – Oct 13 – 19
 - Site inspection at Patrick's – Oct 19

Upcoming events

- TENTATIVE - Northern WPAC Forum – Feb 22-23 in Grande Prairie
- Mackenzie County Spring Runoff workshop – Nov 25
- GGAMAA meeting – Dec 1

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