

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

Grande Prairie Museum, Grande Prairie, AB

March 24th, 2022

	Name	Sector
Attendees	Rick Keillor	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Chair
	Dave Walty	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Vice Chair
	Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship
	Bob Cameron	Conservation/Environmental
	Sandra Miller	Oil & Gas
	Long Fu	Federal-Transboundary Relations (AEP) (Alternate)
	Justin Hetu	Forestry
	Chris Thiessen	Large Urban Municipality
	Michelle Gairdner	Large Urban Municipality (Alternate)
	Vern Lymburner	Small Urban Municipalities
	Ashley Rowney	Utilities
	Jim Webb	Lower Peace First Nation
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
Regrets		
	Brian Lieveise	Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries
	Krista Park	Provincial Government
	Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal -Transboundary Relations
	Beatrice Amar	Research/Education
	Jill Henry	Agriculture
	Brad Carr	Small Urban Municipalities (Alternate)
Staff	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Executive Director
	Adam Norris	Watershed Coordinator

**ACTION LOG:**

<u>Chairman</u>	R. Keillor
<u>Executive Director (5)</u>	R. Clarke-Gauthier
<u>Finance Committee (5)</u>	B. Cameron, R. Keillor, V. Lymburner, S. Miller, D. Walty, Executive Director
<u>Education &amp; Stewardship Committee</u>	B. Cameron, J. Henry, B. Amar, E. Jorgensen, E/O Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Technical Committee</u>	R. Keillor, B. Cameron, E. Garrow, D. Walty, E. Jorgensen, B. Amar, A. Rowney, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (IWMP SC) (7)</u>	B. Cameron, E. Garrow, R. Keillor, J. Webb, D. Walty, A. Siad-Omar, Justin Hetu, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Nomination Committee (3)</u>	B. Cameron, V. Lymburner, S. Miller 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
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
R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 6.4	Craft official correspondence requesting funding/support for Board members can distribute and request funding.	As requested
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
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

**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
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.	complete

A. Siad-Omar	Action 11/15/21—1	Work with C. de la Chevrotière to find further answers and clarification to the questions during presentation.	To do
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## 1. Administration

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### 1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM by R. Keillor, Chair.
- Quorum was present

### 1.2. Introductions of Personnel

- Round table introductions

### 1.3. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda March 24, 2022 was reviewed.

**Motion to approve March 24, 2022 Agenda made by C. Thiessen, seconded by A. Rowney.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

### 1.4. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2022 were reviewed.

**Motion to approve February 2, 2022 Minutes made by D. Walty, seconded by J. Hetu.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

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

### 1.5 Election of Seats

- Submit your nominations or other nominees into Rhonda for the AGM for the following positions: Provincial, Small Urban, Rural Municipality, Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Utilities, Conservation/Environment, Research/Education, Metis Nation of Alberta, Lower Watershed First Nation

## 2. Reports and Updates

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### 2.1. Chairman Report – R. Keillor

- Grimshaw gravels aquifer source water protection plan update
- Surface Water workshop on February 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Impact of flooding from human activity on insurance, lawsuits can happen, and the flooding effects on taxpayers
  - As farming gets more effective, it ruins water and snow shelters. Snow belts are disappearing from fields.
- Carbon capture
  - Nature capital exchange – only in USA
    - You can register your land down to 1 hectare and its ground-truthed
    - Simple for use

- WPACs group
  - Completed visioning process for group
  - All done online Mar 8th
  - Cam Lane from AEP had meeting with WPACs and during the next budget cycle, they maybe looking for alignments with WPACs

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

- See office report for update

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

- See financial update report (posted on Director's area of the website)
- MPWA has used all of the \$230,000 that would have been allotted for the year as well as about half of the carryover from previous year. If there had only been the 230,000 from the AEP grant, we would have overspent, however with the previous carryover and the generous support of some stakeholders we will end the year in good shape. Keep in mind that the only way we could have extra staff is through support from stakeholders. The search still continues to find staff and there are steps in place for short term positions.

**Motion: to approve Office report and Financial update, moved by V. Lymburner, seconded by C. Thiessen.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

In-Camera session, the following motions were presented:

**Motion: to excuse the staff and move in-camera, moved by V. Lymburner, seconded by A. Rowney.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

**Motion: to go out of in-camera session, moved by C. Thiessen, seconded by A. Rowney.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

**Motion: to approve retroactive pay per month of \$2,000 from November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 to A Norris and R Clarke-Gauthier for fulfilling their tasks as well as completing Education and Outreach job tasks, moved E. Garrow, seconded by A. Rowney.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

**Motion to approve retroactive salary increase of 10% from January 1, 2022 to A Norris and R Clarke-Gauthier, moved by V. Lymburner seconded by C. Newhook.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

## **Break**

**Guest Speaker: Emerice Hallock, MMNA Aquatics Coordinator, Mountain Metis Aquatics Stewardship Program-building local capacity**

- Sits on PAZA (Peace Airshed Zone Association)
- Shadowed on the Mines in Grande Cache
- Growing group through education and SMEs
- Working with MPWA and ALMS to do Victor Lake Monitoring.

- Establishing stewardship program – focusing on watershed health, monitoring and aquatic restoration
- Establishing Elder programs and working on Elder Story Collection
- Hire biologist to direct and guide MMNA aquatics coordinator
- Mountain Metis applied for phase 2 aquatic habitat restoration fund through DFO
- Board Q&A:
  - Source Water protection Plan for Grand Cache? Yes, they know about plan but not about work being done.
  - Keep an eye on the AEP Upper Smoky Water Management plan. Long says began in 2016 and he will check on status for Emmerice.
  - Jim asked about selenium in fish and its effects on eating the native fish.
    - Emerice said its been brought up by community members and she is following up with the mines
    - Adam said the area is high in Selenium before the coal mine came in

#### **LUNCH (provided by City of Grande Prairie)**

- **Viewed 2 videos:**
  - 4-H Alberta Youth Water Council – 14 Senior members from Central Alberta worked together with concerned citizens and AER to learn more about Temporary Division licenses and produced a video.
  - The Trailer of the Surface Water management Workshop recording was viewed. The full version will be online shortly. This highlights the presentations and discussions from the Feb 2022 workshop hosted in Rycroft.
- **Tour for the Board** – walked to the Bear Creek Reservoir and met with City of Grande Prairie staff to discuss operations and concerns around weir, Bear Creek, fish kills, monitoring, etc.

#### **2.4. Technical Committee Update - Project Update and Possible New Initiatives – A. Norris**

- Ongoing monitoring efforts are focussed on filling data gaps identified in the SOW and IWMP processes
  - Swan, Victor and Wadlin Lakes were monitored this winter
  - Redwillow watershed winter water quality monitoring continues
    - Presented at Native Trout Workshop about return of Bull Trout to Beaverlodge River
    - Very high summer temperatures were recorded and potentially the greater threat to fish than winter dissolved oxygen levels
    - Interesting eDNA work by Dr. Heather Vielleux shows at least historic Arctic Grayling presence in the Beaverlodge
- Floating Treatment Wetland project is starting up with City of Grande Prairie and Northwestern Polytechnic
  - Biofilm (bacteria, algae and fungi) on the roots of plants and the plants improve water quality through nutrient uptake, volatilization, accumulation and stabilization of contaminants
  - One control stormwater pond and one treatment pond will be part of the project
- Submitted a grant application to EcoAction with Little Red River Cree Nation for Reducing invasive in the Peace-Athabasca Delta and with Mackenzie County for Lower Peace Reduction of Freshwater Contaminants

- Joined the fRI Research Fish and Water Activity Team
- Continue advising capacity for Foothills Forest Products, Mercer International, Municipalities, Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association
- As a member of Alberta Water Council's Source Water Protection Plan Project Team, working to engage a consultant to develop a webtool to assist communities in source water protection planning
- Planning in many capacities continues
  - Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan implementation is focussed on promoting Ag BMPs and finalizing the aquifer water budget
  - Smoky Headwaters Initiative – we are planning restoration/enhancement work based on the workplans developed with ACA, AWA, AEP, TU, and Weyerhaeuser
  - Source water maps are being created by Bonnie Nicolai and will be used to engage decision-makers in source water protection
  - Implementation for the Wapiti SWPP has been slower as we discuss with AEP about a joint implementation (with the Wapiti River Water Management Plan) approach
    - We will be submitting a proposal to AEP

**Motion to cautiously approve moving forward with Wapiti Implementation plans as long as the required resources and support from AEP and Stakeholders are provided in a timely manner to A Norris and R Clarke-Gauthier, moved by S. Miller seconded by A. Rowney.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

## **2.5 Education and Outreach Update**

- Looking for volunteers for a couple of events – Walk through the Forest at Evergreen Park (3 days) and Earth Day in GP. If you can contribute time please let staff know.
- Petroleum Show May 18/19 2022
- Volunteer recognition

### **Rationale and Discussion re Volunteer Recognition**

Volunteers are essential to the work of the MPWA. Their commitment and willingness to provide their skills and efforts to achieve the work is truly appreciated.

All retiring Directors receive a small token of appreciation for their services once they have completed at least one year of active service on the board of Directors. (Value approximately \$35-45 and this has typically been an engraved desk clock).

All retiring active Alternate Directors receive a thank you letter for their work.

All Directors, Alternate Directors and Committee members, are eligible to receive a Honoria and minimal expenses to attend meetings and do their work (as outlined in the expense form). It is the expectation that supporting sector organizations will typically cover their costs.

Guest Speakers at AGM, Forum or Workshop will receive a MPWA goodie bag with a variety of items which may include mugs, pen, notepads, magnet clips, booklet of MPWA or Peace Watershed, etc. These speakers may also receive the half day/ full day Honoria if they have not submitted a contracted invoice.

For other Volunteers who provide essential and significant volunteer effort a small gift or gift certificate of up to \$100.00. The name of these volunteers must come before the Board through the Chairperson for final determination.

Examples of these types of service include but not limited to:

1. Volunteers who have provided citizen science monitoring for multiple seasons as asked by the MPWA.
2. Volunteers who contribute over 40 hours of time to produce resource material.

**Motion to approve maximum of \$100 gift (card or gift) to Volunteers for Volunteer recognition, who provide essential and significant volunteer effort as per example identified above, by S. Miller seconded by B. Cameron**

**Accepted by Consensus**

Note: The Marshall's who have been doing lake monitoring for several years (both summer and winter) will be sent a \$100 Visa Gift Card for their volunteer efforts.

### 3. Other

**3.1. Water for Life Action Plan – Discussion regarding Action Plan update. Please consider these questions and send any thoughts to Rhonda in preparation for the upcoming work the Managers will be doing towards the Updated Action Plan the AWC is spear-heading for AEP.**

- As an organization what have you done to advance these goals?
- What are we working on now?
- And what are our goals in the future and how do they tie into this plan?
- We need to look at in a different way then we have been.
- how to get stakeholders to the table?
- What are your thoughts on the Water for Life strategies?

### **3.2 Budget/Operational Plan 2022-2023**

- Needs adjustment due to changes that will occur from today's motions
- Additions or increases
  - Rent
  - Mileage
  - Travel expenses
- Board suggested perhaps more Rural Municipalities could contribute, ie MD of Greenview is benefitting from the MPWA work and may consider contribution

### **3.3 Director Roundtable**

L. Fu – nothing to update

A. Rowney – Projects: 2021 implemented changes to Wembley Lagoon. Landfill will be constructed a storm water pond, not to discharge to environment. Effluent ponds deferred to future timeline.

J. Hetu – Watercourse and spring database

S. Miller – Stakeholder engagement with AEP on watercourse crossing. Priority list identified by AEP based on Fish (Axel Andersen)

B. Cameron –Debolt creek bank slide, senior and low income housing had a slide behind them.

Were asked to leave residence. Library, curling rink and community center to fix would cost 12.2

million. Transportation has an active slide off of Highway 43. The MD of Greenview is on the hook to fix the buildings.

C. Newhook – West county watershed has their AGM on April 7 at 7pm. CKUA Radio station had an hour program on the WPACs with AB WPACs and Watershed type songs hosted by Bob Chelmack.

R. Keillor – Nothing to update

D. Walty – Checking with his connects to see about resources from AEP towards Wapiti Work.

V. Lymburner – Nothing to update

C. Thiessen – Happy to be back on Board. Set up monitoring system on Bear Lake.

M. Gairdner – Grant from MEPS to finish O'Brien Lake channel naturalization, finish through bio engineering. WRRP grant for 102,000

#### **4. Upcoming Event Dates**

March 29 – NatureTalks: Wetlands 101 [NatureTalks: Wetlands 101 Registration, Tue, Mar 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

April 13 – ABMI: Amphibians [Episode 8: Amphibians Tickets, Wed, 13 Apr 2022 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

AGM 2022 – Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> . This meeting will be in-person.

**Motion to hold the June 16<sup>th</sup> AGM in an in-person format and not virtually, moved V. Lymburner, seconded by D. Walty.**

**Accepted by Consensus**

#### **5. Adjourn Meeting**

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Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm by B. Cameron, seconded by D. Walty

Office Report February 3 to March 24, 2022:

- Follow-up from February 2nd Board meeting (minutes, etc.)
- Feb 3 – Discussion with Keyes about options for their property (Green Acreages follow-up)
- Feb 9 – Native Trout Workshop
- Feb 11 – Rural Municipalities Association Zone 4 Mtg – Peace River – Updates, Projects, Nominations
- Feb 14 – Call Abdi about Wapiti Integrated Implementation
- Feb 16 – AB Manager's Meeting
- Feb 17 – Surface Water Workshop Rycroft
- Feb 22 – Evergreen Wetland Centre call
- Mar 1 – Interview for summer student for potential floating wetland project with City of GP.
- Mar 1 – Northern Sunrise County Watershed Advisory Committee meeting
- Mar 2 – Wapiti Integrated Implementation call with Aquatera
- Mar 2 – Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice meeting
- Mar 3 – Technical Committee meeting – Discuss Wapiti Implementation request, Update of current projects, Matrix reports for Redwillow work.
- Mar 4 – Some WPAC Manager's discussed concerns about direction of current collaborative work and how do AB WPACs best prepare for the 4 upcoming Executive Director resignations.
- Mar 7 – Floating Treatment Wetland initial meeting – City of GP, Students from GPRC
- Mar 8 – Meeting with new AEP Peace Region limnologist Madison, Alina and MPWA Staff to discuss possible Citizen Science/Volunteer monitoring project for the Beaverlodge – AEP has some \$ and resource to do work throughout the Spring-Fall season.
- Mar 8 – AB WPAC visioning event -online (Rick, Rhonda, Adam)
- Mar 9 – Interview with Student to do GGA work and other watershed science and E/O work.
- Mar 14 – Meeting with AEP staff (Abdi, Okey, Lauren, Long) and MPWA (Rhonda, Adam, Dave Walty) about Wapiti Integrated Implementation
- Mar 15 – Presented at Native Trout Workshop
- Mar 18- Worked with Land Stewardship Committee to select grant recipients for 2022.
- Prep for March 24 board Meeting
- Review documents from AB WPAC – Collaboration, Visioning, Minutes.
- Mar 22 – World Water Day WPAC Forum online
  
- Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Project Team meetings – Feb 8
  - Developing website content for SWPP landing page, Communications sub-committee set-up and RfP for online SWPP tool
- Education/Outreach
  - Social media posts
  - Exploration of different delivery formats
  - Advertizing for E/O Coordinator
  - Collaboration with municipal partners for program delivery
  - Working with Trout Unlimited to have municipalities instal fish habitat signs
  - Walk through the Forest prep
  - Prepare for (speakers, adv, social media, videographer) and present at the Surface Water Workshop Feb 17th
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
  - Work on Aquifer Steward job description and funding; engaging U of A grad student to assist with this
  - Input on development permits and by-law amendments
  - Engagement with PCBFA for partnered outreach
  - Meetings – Feb 3, Feb 7, Mar 4
- LakeKeepers

- Volunteers completed winter sampling Graham, Haig, Peerless, Swan and Wadlin Lakes; travel and time to coordinate kits and sample collection and shipment
  - We sampled Victor Lake with Mountain Metis Nation – Feb 9, Mar 17
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
  - Winter WQ sampling – Feb 10, Feb 24, Mar 10, Mar 23
  - Final AEP monitoring report, calls with Matrix – Feb 11, Feb 24,
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative
  - E/O social media campaign
  - Community Conservation Education Grant (Alberta Conservation Association) final reporting
  - Workplan meeting with Alberta Wilderness Association, Alberta Conservation Association, Cows and Fish, Trout Unlimited, Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.
  - Discussion with AEP fisheries and TU about watershed design and similar decisions
  - Work with MD of Greenview and TU to get signs
  - Mar 17 - Outreach at Susa Creek School
- 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
  - Water Act approval for additional work at Powell
  - Field work planning for summer

#### Upcoming events

- April 14 – Interim Reporting to AEP for 2020-2021 Grant Due
- April 19 – AB WPAC Review of W4L
- April 20 – AB WPAC Manager Meeting
- Preparations for AGM and Nomination process

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