

In attendance: Adam Norris, Ed Skrilik, Gray Braithwaite, Kerri O'Shaughnessy, Monica Benoit, Sebastien Dutrisac

1. Administration - call to order **9:25 am**
  - 1.1. Welcome
  - 1.2. Review minutes
    - accepted
  - 1.3. Review agenda
    - Questions for council added as 8.1 at Ed's request
  
2. Action Item List Review
  - reviewed action items completed since the last meeting which included KayeDon finding all the waters licenses for the Heart, Kerri provided some public lands projects, Gary gathered material/photos for the placemat and provided some previous projects undertaken in the watershed, Sebastien provided the latest riparian aerial videography completed by Aquality (92 km of habitat mapping done along the river), Adam relayed the Golf Course's water needs and the RfP was updated.

**ACTION ITEM: Adam to check with KayeDon about AESRD projects in the watershed**

- discussion around how or if we can provide the minimum habitat requirements for fish, where in the watershed will that habitat be (mainstem, tributaries, both?)
- Monica mentioned cover cropping techniques employed by Dave Brown and David Brandt to improved water infiltration
- Discussion around restoring a system or engineering components or certain functions within that system
- Documents or info related to Action Items is posted on the Action Item List in Smartsheet.
- everyone encourage to update Action List or inform Adam as Action Items are completed

### 3. Finalize RfP

- RfP wordsmithing done by group
- dates reviewed and adjusted
- list of consultants to receive the RfP was reviewed
- RfP accepted by group

#### **ACTION ITEM: Adam to release RfP**

### 4. Review of Restoration Efforts

#### 4.1. List for consultant

- Discussion around what projects are important for the consultant to know about and whether other groups like Alberta Conservation Association might have projects that we need to review
- Sebastien updated group about the progress NSC is making in finding the list of projects undertaken by HRWAC and NSC

### 5. Outreach, Awareness & Education

#### 5.1. Video testimonials

- Kerri provided a brief run through of the Life and Times of the Vermilion Watershed to demonstrate to the group
- Ed indicated the need for local input to the consultant
- Gary highlighted the need to find win-win project/activities to highlight
- In discussion around agricultural practices Monica noted that on their farm a key question in their mind is always, "Can my kids or grandkids farm this same land and what do I need to do so that they can?"
- Gary noted that effective BMPs can be tailored to large-scale farming
- Group was generally very approving of this tool and discussed hiring Cows'n'Fish to produce a video testimonial
- The project should have funds for this but wants to wait and see what the consultant to write the plan will cost

#### 5.2. Placemats

- review design of SARDA placemat
- discussion about placing the placemats in Falher, Peace River and Nampa

- key concepts on the placemat should be a map of the watershed (in background) and definition of watershed (watershed 101 idea)
- could add photos of tributary confluences
- other concepts for the placemats include: the impact of no fish in the Heart River, the role of the tributaries, testimonial from someone in the watershed
- need to include contact info and partner logos

### 5.3. Survey review

#### 5.3.1 Discussion around purpose included a survey intended to:

- assess the level of awareness of watershed issues
- gauge how those in the watershed value it or what they deem to be of value in the watershed
- assess willingness to change (maybe this should be a follow-up survey)
- assess how locals view the condition of habitat/watershed

#### 5.3.2 Review of previous surveys

- La Nonne Watershed surveys, MPWA survey and the draft survey put together by Gary were reviewed
- General agreement that we should start with a values/awareness survey to help us frame the restoration activities we want to tackle
- follow-up with a specific producer-specific survey that could lead into project work (like Gary's draft survey)

#### 5.3.3 Survey design and distribution

- should be a short survey with a graphic or two
- use a mix of questions types (multiple choice, short answer, etc)
- survey distribution can be done through NSC
  - next newsletter submission dates are May 2, 2014 and August 2, 2014

**ACTION ITEM: Adam to submit an article to Sebastien by May 2 about HWRP**

### 5.4. Dates of upcoming opportunities

- PCBFA has a newsletter coming in June

- Nampa has monthly newsletter - submit to Diane
- SARDA annual report

5.5. Social media

- discussed using websites, facebook and twitter
- can all organizations link to one page?

**ACTION ITEM: Adam and Monica to figure out how to coordinate social media posting**

6. Aerial Videography review

- 6.1. The group reviewed part of this. It is well done and improved from previous assessments

**ACTION ITEM: Adam to post link to videos on Smartsheet**

7. Heart River Watershed Advisory Council update (15 minutes)

- Sebastien reported that HRWAC is looking at broadening the TOR to address wetlands and green zone as well
- discussion around how to get Oil and Gas involved
- NSC has completed a drainage study - we need to make sure that the consultant receives this

8. Next steps (15 minutes)

8.1. Consultant selection and timelines

- May 20th chosen as day to select consultant after having reviewed proposals
- May 30th tentative date for the start-up meeting with the consultant

8.2. Questions for council

- the group would like an official Statement of Use from the Village of Nampa about their uses, needs and plans for the weir

9. Adjournment **12:40 pm**