

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting****W.C Kirkland Building, McLennan, AB - Tuesday, April 17th, 2018**

	Name	Sector
Attendees	Richard Keillor	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Chairman
	Elaine Manzer	Small Urban Municipalities
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
	Ian Daisley	Forestry
	Bob Cameron	Conservation/Environmental
	David Walty	Public Member-at-Large
	Jim Webb	Lower Watershed First Nation
	Chris Thiessen	Large Urban Municipality – Called In
	Tony Saunders	Watershed Stewardship
	Dan Benson	Provincial Government
	Dave Hay	Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries
	Sandra Miller	Oil & Gas (Alternate)
	Shelleen Gerbig	Agriculture
	Ashley Rowney	Utilities
	Troy Stuart	Middle Watershed First Nations
Regrets	Jean-Marie Sobze	Research – Education
	Robert Thompson	Oil & Gas
	Darren Calliou	Metis Settlement General Council
	Sylvia Johnson	Metis Nation of Alberta
	Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal – Transboundary Relations
Observer	Natalia Rossiter-Thornton	Seven Generations Energy
Guests	Bin Xu	NAIT Boreal Institute, Peatland Restoration
	Vashti Dunham	Operations Forester, Weyerhaeuser
Staff	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Executive Director
	Adam Norris	MPWA Project Coordinator
	Megan Graham	MPWA Education & Outreach Coordinator

ACTION LOG:

<u>Chairman</u>	Mr. R. Keillor
<u>Executive Director</u>	Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier
<u>Finance Committee</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. R. Keillor, Ms. S. Gerbig, Ms. A. Rowney, Executive Director
<u>Education & Stewardship Committee</u>	Ms. S. Gerbig, Ms. E. Manzer, Ms. A. Rowney, Exec Director, E/O Coordinator, Ms. M. Gairdner
<u>Technical Committee</u>	Ms. A. Rowney, Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. B. Cameron, Ms. E. Garrow, Mr. A. Said-Omar, Mr. J.-M. Sobze, Mr. I. Daisley, Mr. D. Walty, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (IWMP SC)</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Ms. E. Garrow, Mr. I. Daisley, Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. C. Thiessen, Mr. D. Walty, Watershed Coord., Exec Director
<u>Nomination Committee</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. D. Benson, Mr. C. Thiessen, Exec Director
<u>Summit 2018 Committee</u>	Mr. B. Cameron, Mr. R. Keillor, Mr. D. Walty, Mr. D. Benson, Ms. E. Manzer, Watershed Coordinator, E/O Coordinator, 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.
Chair and Executive Director	Action 6.1	Draft a letter to Treaty 8 Chief and Council, who have the authority to designate a person be involved with the MPWA on behalf of Treaty 8, emphasizes Board's advisory role.	In progress
Chair	Action 2/20/2015 -1	The Chair is to put in a formal request for funds to NADC.	To do

Executive Director

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 1.3	Investigate the requirements and the process for gaining charitable status.	In progress.
Mr. J. Sobze, Mr. A Siad-Omar and Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 4.2	Partnership with novaNAIT Boreal Research Institute to assemble an online searchable database of information sources on the Peace River Watershed	Have started to populate database with information
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.	Continuing
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 9.2	Look into applying for Casinos	
Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 07/30/2015-2	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 07/30/2015-5	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
Ms. M. Graham	Action 11/3/2017-2	To check into 'Walk through the forest' event as a learning opportunity for students.	Complete

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Ms. M. Graham	Action 01/12/2018-2	To coordinate dates and provide presentation material to Mr. C. Thiessen to present to schools if E/O Coordinator unable to attend.	To Do

Technical Committee

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Mr. A. Norris	Action 4/17/2018-1	Update response letter to BRAGRS with wording provided by Board	To Do

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.	To Do

1. Administration

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by Mr. R. Keillor
- Quorum is present.
- Introductions were made.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Ms. S. Gerbig and seconded by Ms. E. Manzer.

Accepted by Consensus

1.3 Approval of Minutes

- March 8th Meeting Minutes were reviewed and the action log was acknowledged.

Motion made by Ms. E. Manzer and seconded by Mr. D. Walty for the acceptance of meeting minutes.

Accepted by consensus

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

1.4 Director Round Tables – Stakeholders & Concerns

- Ms. E. Manzer – indicated that the Town of Peace Rivers bridge is currently under construction; with respect to small urbans, they are spending quite a bit of time, from now until legislation is passed on cannabis, they are waiting to see how things will move forward from an agriculture perspective;
- Mr. D. Walty – met with Northern Sunrise County’s Reeve and Councillors to promote the MPWA and discuss potential funding for the MPWA. The NSC has done a lot of local watershed work over the past several years and Mr. D. Walty thinks that they should share their work with other

councils (Note: Ms. S. Gerbig also added to the water quality monitoring that the NSC has done over the past thirteen years which is now showing an increased water quality trend); Mr. D. Walty also worked with AEP's GIS Department to prepare maps for the Grimshaw Aquifer, more specifically for up to date water well mapping and had the GIS department look at mapping of riparian areas to give a report card on where riparian areas are failing;

- Mr. D. Benson – Has been involved with the Canada Agriculture Partnership Program Committee;
- Ms. S. Gerbig – SARDA has been busy, especially with the relaunching of their new website at the end of December – it is now much faster and mobile friendly - She asks that the board take time to have a look at the new website and provide feedback; Environmental Farm Plans (EFO) are to be renewed every 10 years and therefore she currently has 13 or so that she has to review;
- Mr. T. Saunders – persuaded county to enhance shelter belt program by approving that they could be a part of the program. Article was in Ms. S. Gerbig's SARDA magazine.
- Mr. I. Daisley – His team, is currently developing an initiative regarding wetland classifications stemming from the Wetland Policy; currently use government base layer, but will use more accurate mapping to assist with preplanning of wetland areas;
- Mr. R. Keillor – Involved with summit meetings and planning meetings for the Grimshaw aquifers source water protection plan;
- Mr. J. Webb – Attended environmental flow and hydrology workshop looking at the WBNP Strategic Assessment Process on the 10th and 11th of April; Mr. J. Webb has the package from that workshop, which he will provide to Adam for circulation among the board; Mr. J. Webb will be attending another workshop on May 2/3 in Fort Smith and the intent of the workshop will be consultation/development of the Action Plan that will stem from the WBNP Strategic Assessment Report; In the Wabasca wetlands area (25 townships identified) there is another endangered species (wood bison) and an agency is undertaking a threat assessment with the means to protect the herd and its habitat – Environment Canada modeling has indicated that this specific area is that of a wetland and therefore through the assessment, they will be taking a historic approach (this is work that will proceed as the governments go into this discussion about responding to the regional strategic assessment of WB – they need to respond to the need for an assessment of hydrology and what changes to flow may be required to restore the flows within the WBNP);
- Mr. C. Thiessen – The City of GP's 4 year strategic plan has an three part environmental component – currently awaiting the final draft – should be approved in two to three weeks ;

Guest Speaker: Bin Xu, NAIT Boreal Research Institute, Peatland Restoration (Applied Peatland Research in the Peace River Oil Sands Region)

Mr. Bin Xu's presentation is on the Directors area of the website. The presentation covered:

- Peatland restoration overview – definition of peatlands, their distribution, challenges with restoration and then Mr. Bin Xu reviewed several case studies. In this review initiation, succession, functions and challenges were discussed.

2. Reports and Updates

2.1 Chairman Report

- Mr. R. Keillor – nothing to add at this time;

2.2 Office Update

- Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier highlighted work conducted from March 8th to April 17th of 2018 - report attached;

Motion to approve Office Report made by Mr. J. Webb and seconded by Ms. S. Miller.

Accepted by Consensus

2.3 Financial Report

a) Expenditure Update

- Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier reviewed the Expenditure Report up to March 31, 2018;
- Requested an update from AEP regarding when the MPWA can expect funds from the Grant Application that was submitted on February 20th; response was that the MPWA should hear back by the end of April and the funds shall be less than what was received last year (note: MPWA had requested \$394,250 to ensure organization and office function as well as providing leadership in partner collaboration, engagement, monitoring, implementation of management tools and educations as indicated in IWMP);
- Remaining funds will be running out shortly, once wages for April are processed;
- At this point there looks like approximately \$13,000 of carryover from the 2017/2018 year. This money will pay for year-end review and AGM.

Motion to approve Financial Report made by Mr. B. Cameron and seconded by Ms. E. Garrow.

Accepted by Consensus

2.4 Education & Stewardship Committee – Ms. M. Graham/Ms. S. Gerbig

- A number of projects on the go. Still have some challenges that the committee is undertaking. One being, the meeting with councils to promote the MPWA – Urban Councils are a bit more difficult and the committee is therefore seeking invitations to go to these councils to share on who and what the MPWA as well as seek funding;
- The Bingo Night is proving to be an issue and therefore the Committee is looking to seek other funding events that would be cost effective and rewarding and that aligns with what we do (i.e. is their potential through river boat races, rubber duck races; etc.);
- MPWA took part in Tradeshow booths at the Peace Country Classic in Grande Prairie (March 8-10), and the Clear Hills County in Hines Creek April 14, and the MPWA is registered for a booth at the Peace River Chamber April 20-21.
- Ms. E. Garrow thinks that the Canadian Road Builders Association should be contacted for potential funding sources and ask that they be involved in Watershed Management;
- Walk Through the Forest, Grande Prairie – May 7-9. Ms. M. Graham will be helping with the Wetland Education Booth;
- Riparian Spring Tour in Beaverlodge area – May 10;
- Children Activity Booklets have been printed;

Motion to approve E&S Committee Report made by Mr. J. Webb and seconded by Ms. E. Manzer.

Accepted by Consensus

2.5 Technical Committee Update – Mr. A. Norris

Project Update:

- **Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer SWPP** – going very well; first workshop happened end of Feb; now working on mitigative strategies and are on schedule to have a plan together by end of June and then conduct public engagement in autumn with finalization of plan to occur by December;

- **RWRP** – With the delays once again in this project, EDF and Alberta Transportation have given approval to carry over funds until the next fiscal year. Mr. A. Norris presented a talk on “When the barriers to fish passage are social” at the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists Conference on March 13th, which provided an interesting review of the RWRP journey (No personal or organizational details were shared). Still awaiting word on final appeals; Adam to add wording on letter that was submitted to the MPWA regarding a request for an additional sit-down meeting.

Action Item: 4/17/2018-1: Mr. A. Norris to update response letter to BRAGRS with wording provided by Board

Motion made by Mr. J. Webb and seconded by Mr. B. Cameron that a letter be sent to decline the meeting request.

Accepted by Consensus.

- **WRRP – The Improved Livestock Crossing Project** – First crossing is complete and are waiting spring for livestock to be moved across the structure. Another 2 – 3 sites will be done this year as well as a factsheet.
- **The Streambank Stabilization and Extension Project** – Planning for a stream restoration workshop (September 24th – 29th) is moving along well Project Team has engaged company out of Grande Prairie to put together video.
- **WMNP Strategic Assessment Report** – The Technical Committee responded on behalf of the Board and focussed on the need for action moving forward. Letter is on website in Director’s area.
- **Wabasca Wetlands** – EMSD took over the lead of this project, and they were to host of First Nations Knowledge Forum in March (hasn’t taken place yet). EMSD is also trying to secure funds for an Ethical Space for Wetland Monitoring Discussions but at a present no funds have been confirmed.
- **Peace River Hydraulic Modelling** – scoping for this project has been completed. Beyond Lower Peace residents, WBNP is interested in this project. We are trying to secure funds as everything else is in place.
- **Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan** – Initial meeting with project team partners planned occur in June; and then move forth from there. Starting with a smaller group and then will engage a much larger group at particular points in the process.

Motion to approve Technical Committee Update made by Mr. J. Webb and seconded by Mr. B. Cameron.

Accepted by Consensus

2.6 IWMP Update

Endorsements

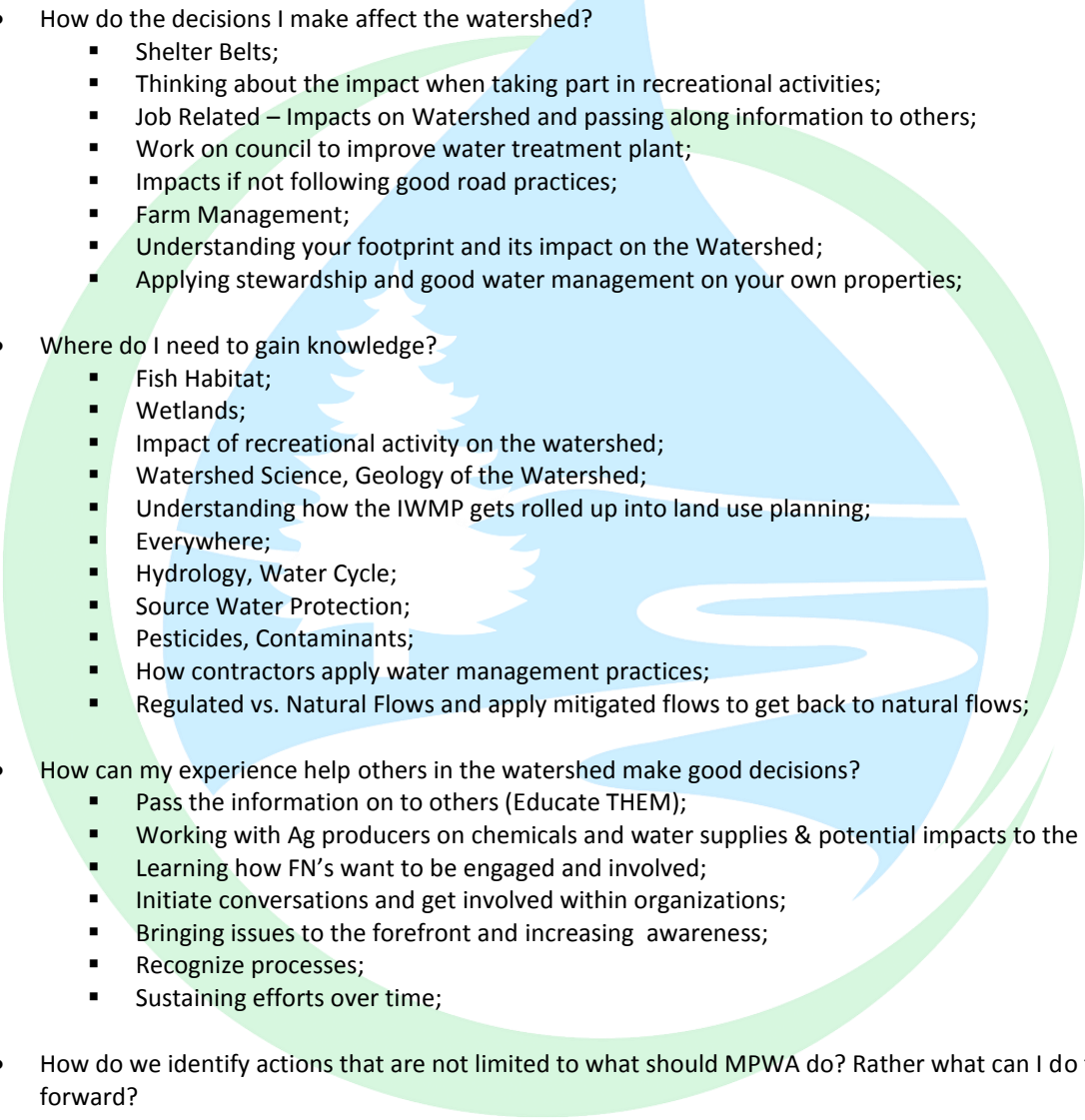
- Endorsement sheet has been signed off by most, acknowledging sector support of the IWMP.

Cross Ministries Committee Review

- Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier went to Cross-Ministries Committee meeting. They no longer do approvals of IWMPs. Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier had received email explaining process that the committee would use in reviewing the IWMP. Cross Ministry coordination may be required for implementation.

Motion to approve the IWMP Update made by Mr. D. Hay and seconded by Mr. D. Walty.**Accepted by Consensus****3. Board Development – 4 Questions from March 8th Mtg**

Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier passed around a 'Board Discussion Activity' to all those in attendance, that contained 4 questions that were initially brought up at the March 8th Meeting;

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- How do the decisions I make affect the watershed?
 - Shelter Belts;
 - Thinking about the impact when taking part in recreational activities;
 - Job Related – Impacts on Watershed and passing along information to others;
 - Work on council to improve water treatment plant;
 - Impacts if not following good road practices;
 - Farm Management;
 - Understanding your footprint and its impact on the Watershed;
 - Applying stewardship and good water management on your own properties;

 - Where do I need to gain knowledge?
 - Fish Habitat;
 - Wetlands;
 - Impact of recreational activity on the watershed;
 - Watershed Science, Geology of the Watershed;
 - Understanding how the IWMP gets rolled up into land use planning;
 - Everywhere;
 - Hydrology, Water Cycle;
 - Source Water Protection;
 - Pesticides, Contaminants;
 - How contractors apply water management practices;
 - Regulated vs. Natural Flows and apply mitigated flows to get back to natural flows;

 - How can my experience help others in the watershed make good decisions?
 - Pass the information on to others (Educate THEM);
 - Working with Ag producers on chemicals and water supplies & potential impacts to the Watershed;
 - Learning how FN's want to be engaged and involved;
 - Initiate conversations and get involved within organizations;
 - Bringing issues to the forefront and increasing awareness;
 - Recognize processes;
 - Sustaining efforts over time;

 - How do we identify actions that are not limited to what should MPWA do? Rather what can I do to move it forward?
 - Interactions with others;
 - Always bring up the topic when having conversations;
 - Have companies support wetland inventory;
 - Engage people in a positive way - Participate and Influence;
 - Getting people involved through day to day conversations;
 - Actively attempting to lobby;
 - Listening to others so that you know where they are and what their concerns may be;
 - Demonstrate and promote rather than telling others what they should;
 - Understand what is going on in your community;
 - If changes are coming, understand the drivers of the change.

4. Other

4.1 Strategic Plan and IWMP

- Group Activity – 6 Goals and the corresponding Strategic Actions were posted on the wall. The Board revisited the Strategic Plan through this activity.

4.2 AGM Update

- Ms. R. Clarke-Gauthier provided an update on the AGM. It will take place on May 25th at the Sawridge Inn in Peace River. The topic of discussion at the AGM will be ‘Source Water Protection Planning’.
- If your seat is up for nomination, a form must be filled out and supporting letter is to accompany nomination form;

4.3 Summit Update

- WPAC Summit – June 19-22, 2018 – at the Sawridge in Peace River
- Tentative schedule was distributed for review and has not yet been finalized;
- Directors and Alternates are asked to strongly encouraged to sign up for the event;

Guest Speaker: Vashti Dunham, Operations Forester, Weyerhaeuser – Forest Management Planning and BMPs for Water

Ms. Vashti Dunham’s presentation is on the Directors area of the website, and the presentation covered:

- Best Management Practices;
- Forest Management Planning Process; and
- Calculating Watershed Impacts.

5. EVENT Dates

- AGM – May 25, 2018 – At Sawridge in Peace River;
- WPAC Summit – June 19-22, 2018 – at the Sawridge in Peace River

6. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Mr. R. Keillor to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 PM.

CARRIED

Office Report March 8 to April 17, 2018

- March 7-10 – Peace Classic Agriculture Tradeshow, GP (Megan, Ray, Bob)
- Mar 13-14 – Adam attended P. Biol conference and presented
- Mar 19 – Land Stewardship Grant Application Review (Megan) – attended selection meeting in Edmonton
- Mar 19 – Interview for spotlight promo on Q99 Radio station (aired March 29th)
- Mar 22 – Meeting with Cross Ministries Review Committee – presented IWMP.
- April 3-5 – Rhonda attended P.Ag. Conference
- April 6 – Wapiti Watershed non-point source pollution call (Kayedon, Alina, Adam, Hutchison Environmental Ltd)
- Summit Committee meetings (March 16, April 10) and several Staff Mtgs to coordinate
- April 3 – Weyerhaeuser Public Advisory Group (Adam)
- April 6 – GGAMAA AGM and Adam met with group regarding Source Water Protection Plan.
- April 14 – Clear Hills County Tradeshow, Hines Creek
- Wetlands Education Committee (Megan):
 - March 6 –meeting in Peace River
 - Upcoming Meeting April 19 in Peace River
 - Connect with MMSA re Wetland Committee and Municipal Workshop
- RWRP:
 - Ongoing Environmental Appeals Board process, regulatory stick-handling, contractor selection, fund confirmation, year-end reporting and construction preparation for fish passage project
 - March 22nd – RWRP call with Matrix
 - March 23rd – met with Alberta Transportation
- IWMP :
 - March 12th & 23rd – Calls with WHA about IWMP edits
 - Worked with West Hawk Associates to incorporate Board approved edits into IWMP plan
 - Ordered 200 copies of Final IWMP
- WRRP Projects
 - April 5th – Call with Craig Sponholtz about Streambank stabilization
 - Ongoing restoration work planning for Streambank Stabilization
 - Outreach and extension strategy efforts
 - Crossing sites scoping
 - Factsheet planning and publication release layout
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
 - April 3rd – Call with Kisik about Grimshaw Gravels workshop
 - Prep for 2nd workshop
- Ongoing project and program management – technical and Education/Outreach - project scoping, partner confirmation, funding searches, etc.
- Follow-up from Jan and March meetings and planning for April meeting.
- Updating and printing resource material for handouts at tradeshows – fact sheet and youth activity booklets.
- Preparing for Annual report and AGM

A few Upcoming events

- April 20-21 – Peace River Chamber of Commerce Tradeshow
- May 7- 9 – Walk Through the Forest, Grande Prairie
- May 10 – Riparian Spring tour, Beaverlodge
- May 25 – AGM, Peace River
- May 31 – Walk Through the Forest, Peace River

Submitted By: Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P.Ag, - Executive Director; Adam Norris, M.Sc, B.i.T, - Watershed Coordinator; Megan Graham – Education/Outreach Coordinator