

## **Board Meeting**

September 12, 2019; 11:30- 3:00pm

Rm 41, 419 – 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE. Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 0G9

Teleconference option:

Phone in: 1-855-392-2520

Access Code: 8126260#

Present: Tina Regehr (Secretary), Garry Lentz (Chair), Greb Heebner, Greg Paxman, Ron Linowski (orientation only), Stuart Murray, Ryan Davison, Mike Zmurchyk, Karen Saffran, Alf Belyea, Diane Harty, Audrey Goodwin, Olivia Sederberg, Brooklyn Neubeker (recording).

Lunch was served at 11:30 am

1. Board Orientation at 12:00pm: Audrey Goodwin and Ron Linowski presented about Water for Life, SEAWA, WPACs, and the role of the board.

### **Minutes:**

2. Call to order by Chair: 1:00pm
3. Members of the board introduced themselves.
4. Approval of the agenda; with no additions or deletions.  
Moved by Stuart Murray to approve the agenda; seconded by Audrey Goodwin.  
CARRIED.
5. Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes, June 13, 2019.  
Adoption of minutes with the following change: "Board meetings are the second Thursday of the month."  
Moved by Diane Harty, seconded by Mike Zmurchyk.  
CARRIED.  
Motion to include Ryan Davison as a signing authority for all bank transactions.  
Moved by Audrey Goodwin, seconded by Mike Zmurchyk  
CARRIED.

### **New Business**

6. Planning for SEAWA's uncertain future
  - a) If SEAWA does not receive AEP funding this year:
    - Provincial budget has yet to be released; no official response can be given by AEP.

- AEP employees working to get permission to communicate whether funding will be available or not so that organizations can plan.
  - **Suggestion 1:** Exit strategy should be identified to cover bases in worst-case scenario.
  - Larger WPACs such as BRBC or OWC can survive without provincial funding, so the province may not give funding for a year to close down.
  - **Suggestion 2:** SEAWA should look for funding from other private sector companies to show less reliance on the provincial funding. Examples given included Plains Midstream, other industries, Canadian Fertilizer, Methanex, Aurora.
  - **Suggestion 3:** In the case of low funding, SEAWA should focus on community communication and the newsletter, not on the ground projects.
  - **Suggestion 4:** WPACS should work together to share resources such as accountants, education coordinators, etc to reduce costs for each WPAC. WPACS may take turns taking on large projects; others step back so one can go forward with a project one year. This could help with funding requests.
  - **Suggestion 5:** Updates from quarterly WPAC managers meetings need to be communicated to the Board so they can be kept aware of discussions ongoing between WPACS.
- b) Policy or bylaw amendment in case SEAWA is dissolved:
- **Action Item 1:** Ron Linowski and Audrey Goodwin will research options for dissolution clauses, and will present options at the next Board meeting.
  - **Action Item 2:** Marilou to communicate with other WPAC managers at WPAC managers meeting and discuss possibility of amalgamation or SEAWA becoming a sub-group in the worst-case scenario. Also, discuss cooperation and sharing of resources rather than amalgamation, and which group would be willing to archive information from other groups.
  - **Suggestion 6:** SEAWA should develop a full policy for what should be done in the case of dissolution. This cannot be completed without information and agreement from other WPACs on issues like amalgamation and resource sharing. Other groups may not be willing to take on the SEAWA watershed and the responsibilities that come with that.
- c) What to do with restoration sites:
- Dependent on future news.
  - **Action Item 3:** Keep restoration sites on the Agenda for the November meeting, to be discussed after release of provincial budget.
  - **Suggestion 7:**
    - Watershed Stewardship groups usually do the maintenance and on-the-ground work. Maintenance should be transferred to another group to free up staff time.
- d) Meeting of Executive Committee with elected MLAs.
- Letter was well received. If no news is received in the next month an in-person meeting could be a good next step.

- **Action Item 4:** Audrey Goodwin will follow up and check if another letter will be going out from other executive directors.
7. Meeting with City of Medicine Hat, Planning and Development department; update on the MDP development.
    - Nothing more to discuss until a response is heard from the City.
  8. Community Spirit Award – Environment to SEAWA, by City of Medicine Hat.
    - Garry Lentz will attend ceremony on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and accept the award on behalf of SEAWA.
  9. Communications Committee:
    - Brooklyn Neubeker gave brief summary of discussions from last Communications Committee meeting. Suggestions for venue location were given.
  10. Technical Committee:
    - Source water protection plan.
  11. Executive Directors report was received for information.
  12. Around the table – Motion to have an *In-Camera* Session by Audrey Goodwin.
    - *In camera* session completed.
  13. **Action item 5:** Marilou to contact Audrey Goodwin for help with strategic plan.
  14. Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.  
Moved by Ryan Davison, seconded by Olivia Sederberg.

CARRIED.