

Communications Committee Meeting

February 5th, 2019; 10:00am – 12:00pm

SEAWA Office, Rm 41 – 419 3rd Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 0G9

Attending: Cathy Linowski (Teleconference), Martha Munz-Gue (Chair), Jass Baidwan, Tina Regher, Greg Heebner, Marilou Montemayor, Natasha Rogers, Brooklyn Neubeker (Recording).

Regrets: Diane Harty, Angela Walsh.

Minutes

1. Call to order: 10:10 by Martha Munz-Gue
2. Approval of agenda: Moved by Greg Heebner, Seconded by Jass Baidwan
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes:
Moved by Jass Baidwan, Seconded by Cathy Linowski.

Action Items

4. a) Debrief on winter communications events:
 - Operation Minerva: Three girls from grade nine visited the SEAWA to experience the everyday office and fieldwork of SEAWA staff. Recommendation should be made to Praxis to hold event during warmer months.
 - WPAC E&O check-in: Education and Outreach employees from the WPACs across Alberta held a virtual meeting, led by Janine Higgins, sharing outreach plans and events, and discussed sharing of resources and materials to facilitate everyone's work.
 - World Wetlands Day: SEAWA using social media to celebrate national/worldwide events, made two posts about World Wetlands Day leading up to February 2nd.

- b) Winter Activities and Upcoming Events:
 - World Water Day: Jass Baidwan will invite the Riverside Elementary Grade 4 class to bring their reusable beeswax food wraps to the library to sell for World Water Day. Press release

should be sent to the MH Newspaper. Art gallery idea for Water Week - not enough response from groups around the city; Keep as a plan for Alberta Culture Days. Movie Anthropocene will be shown on the 22nd.

- Committee members will volunteer for Water Week if SEAWA staff are busy with fieldwork.
- Water Week promotion was discussed.
- SEAWA to request Council of Canadians send us materials that can be displayed for them during Water Week.
- Jass Baidwan will write short articles for the newspaper leading up to Water Week, which will have information related to water and invite people to the library.

- Working Well Workshop on March 7th, 2019, in Warner, AB. Invited committee members to share posts regarding Working Well Workshop and other events on social media to help promote them.

- Earth Day, April 20th, Parks and Recreation will organize a citywide cleanup; SEAWA will be a leader for the College Drive Pond area. Natasha Rogers will contact MHC students.

5. SEAWA Newsletter:

- Topic will be responsible recreation in water. Paddling club can write about clean drain dry, and the Dunmore boat station. Topics include responsible recreation around boat launches, information for sport fishing, information on sturgeon, keeping shorelines clean of garbage and fishing line, responsible disposal of live bait, AEP fisheries.
- Suggestion was made that the titles of the newsletters should be the upcoming month, not the past month.

6. April Forum:

- Debrief on current speakers and topics, 7 currently. SEAWA to arrange speakers from the wastewater treatment and water treatment plants.
- After the forum, there will be a walk around the College Pond, as well as a tour of the Community Renewable Energy Microgrid Demonstration Project (CREMDP).

- Suggestions for forum invitations: Ag. Fieldmen of the different counties, Paddling Club, SMRID, members from the City, members from AEP. Posters advertising the forum should be made and put in locations across the city. Contact Keith Walker to circulate within the shortgrass library system. Jass Baidwan can circulate through the city portal. The event can be posted on the Medicine Hat Events Facebook page.

7. Engaging the public:

- Volunteer signup page, member sign up, and newsletter sign up will continue to be present at all SEAWA events. Can generate Facebook traffic by getting people to like and share, potentially through small giveaways.

8. A) Discussion of outreach for invasive Russian Olive:

- Contact nurseries and give them info sheets, encourage them to stop selling or label as locally invasive. Talk to the MH horticultural society about distributing the Russian olive info sheets.
- Counties can declare species “not desirable locally” without a provincial designation as invasive.
- SEAWA to display information about invasive riparian plants, including Russian olive, at the Grasslands Invasive Species Workshop on May 4th.
- A citizen science project could be started through EpiCollect 5. Members of the public could label the positions of Russian olive trees within Medicine Hat and give information about their height, diameter of stems, etc. Cathy Linowski will assign her students this task if this citizen science project is created.

B) Discussion of climate change education grant opportunities:

- Could arrange a partnership with Grasslands Naturalists for this grant. SEAWA should continue application for charitable status, opens up more funding opportunities.

C) Discussion of riparian restoration project video

- A meeting was held with video producers Gaslamp Village Media. They will create a proposal and then Marilou Montemayor will present to the board.

9) Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm by consensus.