

Board Meeting

April 8, 2021, 1-4 pm

Zoom meeting

Guest speaker: Tim Romanow, Executive Director, Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Attended: Greg Paxman, Ryan Davison, Jean Beriault, Mike Zmurchyk, Alf Belyea, Karen Saffran, Tina Regehr, Martha Munz Gue, Tim Romanow (speaker), Marilou Montemayor, Ben White

Quorum not achieved; only seven directors of the board were present.

Minutes

1. Call to order by the Chair, Ryan Davison, 1:07 pm.
2. Adoption of the agenda; any deletion/addition to the agenda (**Doc1**) – added 8.2 Letter from SAGE (Cheryl Bradley et al) about the southern Alberta irrigation project.

Karen Saffran moved to adopt the agenda with the addition; seconded by Alf Belyea. CARRIED

3. Review and approval of the Board meeting draft minutes February 11, 2021 (**Doc2**).

Mike Zymurchyk moved to approve the minutes of Feb. 11, 2021; Greg Paxman seconded.

CARRIED

Business Arising

4. Seven Persons Creek Water Quality Report - final (**Doc3**) for Board approval – Karen Saffran

<https://seawa.ca/assets/media/documents/water-quality-of-seven-persons-creek-finalmar25-2021-1616771316.pdf>

As Chair of the Technical Committee, Karen Saffran reviewed the Seven Persons Creek water quality report and answered questions. She moved that the board formally approve the report for public release. Since we didn't have quorum at this meeting, Ryan Davison requested we hold a vote through email. Greg Paxman seconded. Karen Saffran will send out the email.

- 4.1. Seven Persons Creek Water Quality data uploaded on DataStream platform, Lake Winnipeg Basin; how to find information – Ben White <https://gordonfoundation.ca/initiatives/datastream/>

Ben White demonstrated the Gordon Foundation DataStream website: lakewinnipegdatastream.ca, a platform for viewing water quality data in the Lake Winnipeg basin (also the water quality report is posted on SEAWA website, link is provided above at item 4).

New Business

5. AEP grant interim report 2020-2021 – draft in progress (**Doc4**) – Marilou Montemayor. Refer to draft Document 4.

The report was in the process of writing. The section on Performance Evaluation for the year 2020-2021 was in a table format with three columns to fill: Input, Output, and Outcomes (with metrics). The report along with required documents were due April 15, 2021. These were requirements for the release of the first installment of the AEP operation grant for 2021-2022.

6. Board calendar – draft; confirm AGM date (**Doc5**). When do we want to hold the AGM?

Consensus: An online event on **July 8, 2021**. Marilou Montemayor will announce AGM meeting in next newsletter (May 2021).

Environment Week riparian field tour June 26.

Board needs ED reports for ED performance/pay review at Sep 2021 board meeting.

7. Multi-year drought toolkit and how we can help deliver workshops – Tim Romanow, ED from Milk River Water Council, presented “Building Resiliency to Multi-year Drought in Alberta.”

Only 2 out of 26 municipalities considered drought management in planning. Opportunity for WPAC’s to work with our municipalities, to help them prepare for drought resiliency, giving them relevant materials to their municipality at the workshop.

Train the trainer sessions – planning 3 Zoom sessions in June 2021. Then in fall/winter do some joint sessions with urban and rural municipalities (preferably in person).

Information

8. Communications Committee (**Doc6**) – Martha Munz Gue

14 Adopt-a-Pond locations adopted thus far. Only 3 requirements for volunteers to do:

1. Visit pond ~every week or so
2. Report invasive plant species to EDDs Map app
3. Invite someone to visit your pond with you.

Grasslands Naturalists Wednesday Wildflower/Nature Walks – visiting different ponds in Medicine Hat. Next Wed April 14, 1:30 pm, College Pond behind Cultural Centre, everyone is invited and Martha invited Ryan Davison to come and speak about how it gets water from SMIRD.

Earth Day celebration – remove Russian olive saplings (April 24, 9 am to noon) at pond behind Canadian Tire. Youth groups might be interested; Karen Saffran would ask 4H group if they would be interested.

February 2021 Newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/dca49a403be4/seawa-summer-news-5043558> - will not be read at the meeting. If you want to write something for the newsletter, it would be great to have stakeholders/board members point of view on a relevant subject they care about.

- 8.1. Irrigation concern letter from Cheryl Bradley et al (SAGE).

Alf Belyea talked about the Horsefly Regional Emergency Spillway, that Cypress County supports and it is moving ahead (in phase 3 now). It will open up more irrigated land and mitigate flooding. Mike Zymurchyk said SMIRD and AIDA are addressing the letter and AIDA will be the contact for further info (meeting today). Further discussion about how irrigators use their irrigated land with efficient water management practices and equipment, lower-water-demanding crops, monitor in-stream flows and put water back into streams. Marilou Montemayor will let Cheryl Bradley know that she can send the letter to Grasslands Naturalists through Martha. Mike Zymurchyk will keep us updated.

9. Update: finances, staff, project grant applications, reports to write – Marilou Montemayor.

All grant has been spent. Staff: Ben White's employment extended until end of August. New summer staff start May 3 – Ian Mahon and Alexi Nelson. Overview of 2021 grant applications & reports Marilou has to write/finish.

Cottonwood harvesting/propagating this winter: Marilou is experimenting in the office with four different species, which ones grow better and are more disease and pest tolerant, to know which ones to order from greenhouses to reduce mortality. (e.g. the species that grows along South Saskatchewan River in this region.) They will be planted in June, maybe for Environment Week (if ready for transplanting) we can plant them around Connaught pond.

10. ED Report Q4 January 1 – March 31, 2021 (**Doc7**) – will not be read at the meeting to save time.
 - 10.1. 2Billion Trees Program – WPAC managers agreed to submit a collaborative project application to start on 2022 season. ED notified municipalities and SMRID, City of Medicine Hat (Keziah Gosselin Lesko), Redcliff landfill, and counties. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-and-data/funding-partnerships/funding-opportunities/forest-sector-funding-programs/growing-canadas-forests-program/23308> **Deadline: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 5:00 pm EDT**
SMRID responded immediately that they have a site ready by Murray Lake.
11. Next meeting: May 13, 2021
12. Adjournment – Karen Saffran moved adjournment @ 4:23 pm.