

Board Meeting

February 9, 2022, 1:00-4:30 pm on Zoom

Minutes

Attending:, Amber Zary, Greg Paxman, Jean Beriault, Karen Saffran, Ron Linowski, Mike Zmurchyk, Robin Kurpjuweit, Ryan Davison, Tina Regehr (recording), Martha Munz Gue (Communications Committee), Audrey Goodwin (Policy Committee), Marilou Montemayor (ED)

Guest presenters: Shannon Frank & Susanna Bruneau from Oldman Watershed Council joined us for their presentation only.

1. Call to order by the Chair, Ryan Davison; 1 pm.
2. Presentation by Shannon Frank, ED, and Susanna Bruneau from Oldman Watershed Council on WPACs Policy and Legislation Project:

Project Summary (**Doc1**) - Collaboration between WPAC's - to build community and strengthen partnerships, relevancy and visibility, funding alignment, confidence working together, policy understanding, working together on large grant applications (eg. 2 Billion Trees project).

Purpose with government: making sure we are more consistent and more often giving feedback, commenting/advising on public engagement processes more efficiently, making sure all WPAC's have opportunity to participate (eg. surveys w/WPAC's).

"A common voice is a stronger voice."

3. Adoption of the agenda; any deletion/addition to the agenda (**Doc2**)

Addition to the agenda: #9 Whether we should have in person AGM this year? and #10. Difficulty in achieving quorum, what can we do?

Tentative date for AGM - July 13, 2022.

Karen Saffran moved to adopt agenda with additions, seconded by Amber Zary CARRIED

4. Review and approval of the Board meeting draft minutes of December 8, 2021 (**Doc3**) - The minutes of Oct. 14, 2021 weren't officially approved because there wasn't quorum at the Dec 8, 2021 meeting. Reference Dec 8, 2021 meeting as information/notes only because there wasn't quorum. (Quorum is 8 board members, total voting amount is 14)

- a. Motion #1: Moved by Karen Saffran to approve Dec 8, 2021 minutes, seconded by Mike Zmurchyk CARRIED
- b. Motion #2: Moved by Amber Zary to approve the Oct 14, 2021 minutes, seconded by Greg Paxman CARRIED

- 4.1 Review of Action Items - ED reviewed Dec 8, 2021 meeting's action items.

Being a charity opens up a lot of funding opportunities that require applicants to have charitable status. SEAWA can partner with organizations that have charitable status but that is also a process in itself.

Obtaining a charitable status is extremely lengthy and difficult and we need to solve some issues like quorum first.

New Business

5. Draft Annual Operating Plan, Performance Evaluation Plan, and Budget 2022-2023 (budget portion may change). Draft (**Doc4**) – ED went over it.

6. Approval of the Communication Strategy 2022-2024 (**Doc6**) – Martha Munz Gue

7. Amendment to SEAWA COVID Hazard Assessment, original document (**Doc7**), amendment (**Doc8**) - SEAWA health hazard assessment is on the website (it's already approved document), we just need to do an amendment before interviewing students (Feb 15 & 17).

Amendment: mask requirement outdoor and indoor programs - "We follow the current guidelines, as mandated by AHS & Government of Alberta."

Moved by Ron Linowski, seconded by Jean Beriault

CARRIED

8. Review and Approval of WPACs MoU (**Doc9**)

Board to review and comment on Doc. 4, 6, & 9 (MoU), via email.

9. Should we plan for an in-person AGM? - Plan for it to be in person, easy to change to online if necessary.

10. Discuss absences and difficulty in achieving quorum at board meetings - figure out why people aren't attending. There is a bylaw provision about absences without prior notification. We need to have something in place to replace inactive seats ASAP.

Robin Kurpjuweit joins the Policy Committee.

Information

11. Update, Technical Committee – Karen Saffran - Karen said to look at action item in Dec. 8 minutes.

12. Update, Communications Committee - Martha Munz Gue - Update on Adopt-a-Pond initiative; she's sent an email to past participants, will launch on Sat March 19 @ Connaught Pond, invited board members to attend and invite one other person from your sector. TREX - travelling exhibition space downtown - SEAWA water-themed art show - group is planning that, show will run mid-April to mid-June: "Ponds, Coulees, & Creeks". March 22 deadline for art submissions. SEAWA newsletter & Facebook - how do we increase readership of newsletter articles & Facebook visits? Instagram - can cross-post Facebook and Instagram posts, and put our Facebook page and Twitter account links in newspaper articles – e.g. Cypress County newspaper The Commentator. Ryan will give Martha a contact for The Commentator.

We have World Water Day (March 19), Earth Day (April 23), & Environment Week (June 4) events planned @ Connaught Pond.

13. ED Updates: Finances, Grants applications, donations, summer staff recruitment, Feb 2022 newsletter, etc. - Cash balance \$232,398.37. Advanced AREF amount \$18,750 out of \$25,000. \$5000 donation for CF Industries.

Summer staff recruitment - expect we can hire 2 summer students, interviewing 8 candidates Feb 15 & 17. Newsletter articles are being written by staff with contributions from other organizations.

ED got dataset GPS points from Marty Drut, two weeks before his retirement in December 2021 - SSR riparian assessment, and Sydney and ED mapped & colour-coded them and put on SEAWA website. After Marty retired, all data from the assessment has been passed onto Brent Smith, Medicine Hat College.

14. Information documents: WPACs Compendium 2020-2021, Water for Life Implementation Review Tracking, ED Input to Steve Meadows' AWC update, Albertan's Coal Policy, Alberta Pulse Growers Annual Report 2021 - ED talked about them.

Alberta Water Council publications: www.awchome.ca/publications

15. Next board meeting date: moved from March 9, 2022 to April 13, 2021 (key agenda item – Interim Progress Report for the AEP Grant 2021-2022).

16. Adjournment 4:40 pm - moved by Mike Zymurchyk

Board Meeting

December 8, 2021, 1:00-4:30 pm

Zoom meeting

Present: Ryan Davison (Chair), Karen Saffran, Jean Beriault, Tina Regehr, Amber Zary, Mike Zmurchyk, Greg Paxman, Allison Campbell, Audrey Goodwin (Policy Committee Chair), Martha Munz Gue (Communications Committee Chair), Marilou Montemayor (ED)

Regrets: Stuart Murray, Ron Linowski, Selene David, Brent Smith, Laurie Oulette, Garry Lentz,

Notes

1. Call to order by the Chair, Ryan Davison at 1:12 pm

Participants waited to achieve a quorum. Action items of the previous meeting, October 14, 2021 were reviewed. Some Information Items were covered.

- AREF grant application for \$25,000 was approved for the project, Characterization of Drinking Water Source Area for the Medicine Hat and Redcliff.
- Change of bank. Look for a time considering ED's heavy workload.
- Continue to get information from city Municipal Works as to what is their plan about the ongoing erosion of the draw at Saamis Archeological Site. How can SEAWA help? SEAWA may write a backgrounder that would be helpful for a meeting.
 - Mention the fencing and water quality tests of the Seven Persons Creek done at this site in 2018. The report is on the SEAWA website and it recommends water quality re-testing 4-5 years after the installation of riparian restoration fencing, a partnership project between SEAWA and the city Parks and Recreation department.

2. Adoption of the agenda; any deletion/addition to the agenda (**Doc1**)

3. Review and approval of the Board meeting draft minutes of October 14, 2021 (**Doc2**)

New Business

4. Election of a new Vice-Chair – Ryan Davison

Karen nominated Stuart Murray for Vice-Chair

Seconded by Mike Zymurchyk

CARRIED.

5. Appointment of Daryl Swenson, Special Areas Board and Robyn Kurjuweit to the board seats, Municipal Government – Rural – Ryan Davison

Moved by Greg Paxman to appoint Daryl Swenson to the Municipal Government – Rural seat

Seconded by Amber Zary

CARRIED.

Moved by Amber Zary to appoint Robyn Kurjuweit to the Municipal Government – Rural seat

Seconded by Jean Beriault

CARRIED.

6. Policy Committee ToR - review and approval (**Doc3**) – Audrey Goodwin

Moved by Greg Paxman to approve the updated Policy Committee ToR

Seconded by Allison Campbell

CARRIED.

7. WPACs Brochure (produced by the WPACs Education & Outreach staff) – review and approval for posting on the SEAWA website and social media and distribution at events (**Doc4**) – Martha Munz Gue

Moved by Amber Zary to approved the WPAC brochure, its posting on the SEAWA website, and its distribution

Seconded by Mike Zymurchyk

CARRIED.

8. Draft budget 2022-2023 (**Doc5**) – ED

Quick review of the previous year's documents:

8.1. Three-Year Strategic Plan 2020-2023 (**Doc6**)

8.2. Annual Interim Progress Report 2020-2021 (**Doc7**)

8.3. Annual Operating Plan & Budget 2021-2022 (**Doc8**)

Moved by Mike Zymurchyk to approve the draft budget 2022-2023

Seconded by Allison Campbell

CARRIED.

9. Letter or presentation to the city of Medicine Hat – discussion/suggestions

9.1. Previous SEAWA written recommendations to the city: 1) Master Environmental Plan (myMH, 2018); 2) Creation of an Environmental Advisory Board separate from Sports and Recreation Board (Letter to the Mayor, 2019); and 3) Feedback on the draft Municipal Development Plan (2020)

Table to the Executive Committee - will write a letter to the new city Mayor and Council.

10. WPACs Matters

10.1. Online WPACs Summit October 2021 (four Fridays) hosted by Athabasca Watershed Council – Karen Saffran

Karen attended three or the four online WPAC Summit sessions hosted by the Athabasca Watershed Council on four Fridays of October 2021. The summit had good topics; the most interesting traditional knowledge. A virtual compared to in-person summit enables participation of people from far places in the province; saves time, resources and GHG emissions.

10.2. Compendium 2020-2021 – Feedback on draft document (**Doc9**) – delegate to Communications Committee for feedback? – Martha Munz Gue

Table to the Communications Committee and ED

10.3. ToR - WPACs representative to the Alberta Water Council (AWC) Board, and representative to AWC projects (**Doc10**) – delegate to Policy Committee for feedback? – ED

ED may provide feedback.

10.4. WPAC Managers meeting, Camrose, November 30, 2021 Agenda (**Doc11**) - ED

10.4.1. WPACs MoU (**Doc12**) - delegate to Policy Committee for feedback?

ED may provide feedback.

10.4.2. Draft Policy & Legislation Project Summary (**Doc13**) – delegate to Policy Committee for feedback?

Put on hold.

11. Is SEAWA interested to prepare an Integrated Watershed Management Plan in the near future? Is the SSRP (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460139417>) providing sufficient guidance? Project funding? - Delegate to the Technical Committee? – Karen Saffran

11.1. Old (2012) documents: IWMP Communication Plan, Risk Analysis, IWMP Terms of Reference (**Doc14**)

Table to the Technical Committee

12. Irrigation infrastructure expansion concerns (email received) – directions? Martha Munz Gue may have additional information. Request Shannon Frank, WPACs Policy & Legislation Team?

Table to the Executive Committee

13. Short-term investments of SEAWA money – delegate to Executive Committee?

Put on hold.

Information

14. GN's plan to host a climate change symposium – Martha Munz Gue

15. ED report Q2 (**Doc15**) – ED

As meeting time was running out, the board was requested to read on their own time the report and the November 2021 newsletter for SEAWA updates. Please review the website and suggest improvements.

16. SEAWA website: [Welcome to SEAWA | South East Alberta Watershed Alliance](#)

17. November 2021 newsletter, [Newsletters | South East Alberta Watershed Alliance \(seawa.ca\)](#), [SEAWA Fall Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#) - ED

18. Social media - ED

19. Moved to adjourn the meeting by Karen Saffran. Adjourned at 4:55 pm

Next board meeting will be held on February 9, 2022 (key agenda item – Annual Operating Plan and Budget 2022-2023). Technical Committee will hold a meeting in January 2022.