



Athabasca Watershed Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
May 29, 2010
Royal Canadian Legion
9317 Huggard Street, Fort McMurray, AB
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Objectives of the Meeting:

- Election of two vacant positions on the Board of Directors
- To select auditors for 2010-11
- To provide information for all members about the Athabasca Watershed Council, work completed to date, and work plan for 2010-11.
- Invite new members to join the AWC-WPAC

Recorder of the Minutes: Richard Chabaylo

9:30 – 10:00 am **Registration for the Annual General Meeting, receipt of nominations and Board nominations.**

10:05 am **1. Call to Order of the Annual General Meeting**

Connie Simmons, Executive Director of the Athabasca Watershed Council called the meeting to order. Connie introduced herself and her history of living and working on watershed stewardship in the Athabasca Watershed, and her hopes and expectations of helping the Athabasca Watershed Council do the important work outlined in its vision, mission and goals.

2. Introduction and Welcome: Connie extended a welcome to all in attendance, provided introductory comments.

3. Opening Prayer from First Nations Elder.

Introduction of Doug Badger, Vice-Chair of the AWC-WPAC. Doug Badger introduced Marie Adam, Elder of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, to provide an Opening Prayer for the AWC-WPAC AGM.

Marie Adam - Prayer for the Athabasca River, the people who are trying to help it, and all living things that depend upon it.

4. Request for review of the Agenda and a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. (Connie)

Motion: Tom Weber moved to accept the Agenda as presented.

Marsha Hayward seconded.

Motion carried.

5. Request a motion to adopt the minutes of the Initial General Meeting (IGM) of the Athabasca Watershed Council, held in Athabasca, AB on November 28th, 2009. (Connie)

Motion: Marsha Hayward moved to adopt the minutes of the IGM, Nov. 28th, 2009.

Wayne Brehaut seconded.

Motion carried.

10:15 am

6. President's Report

Introduction of Lavone Olson, President of the Athabasca Watershed Council. (Connie) Lavone Olson provided the **President's Report and Presentation** on the progress of the AWC-WPAC and tasks ahead in the coming year.

Key points of the Presentation:

- Overview of Alberta's Water For Life Strategy and the role of WPACS
- The AWC-WPAC vision and mission
- The Athabasca Watershed region of responsibility in Alberta
- The values and goals of the AWC-WPAC
- Progress to date and next steps

10:20 am

7. Treasurer's Report

Introduction of Paula Evans as Treasurer. (Connie) Paula provided the Treasurer's report. Key points of the report are:

- Operational funding (grant from Alberta Environment) for the amount of \$250,000 for each of the next two years has been awarded to the AWC-WPAC.
- Project funding to work on State of the Watershed Report – Phase 1 for the amount of \$100,000 in 2010-11 has been approved by AENV.
- Paula called for volunteer auditors for 2010-11 year-end financial reports.

Donna Mendelsohn (Fort Assiniboine) and Juan Grande (Town of Whitecourt) both volunteered to be volunteer auditors for the 2010-11 Athabasca Watershed Council Financial Report.

Motion: Doug Badger moved to accept Donna Mendelsohn and Juan Grande as volunteer auditors for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Janice Linehan seconded.

Motion passed.

11:00 am

8. Introduction of Paula and Doug as the Nominations Committee (Connie).

Paula and Doug described the sector seat in the "Aboriginal" sector, and the sector seat in the "Other" sector.

Paula called for Nominations for two members of the Board of Directors and introduced the candidates. Candidate names and brief bios were read. Paula

asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Nomination for the Aboriginal Sector: Darlene Carifelle (Métis Settlements of Alberta) was the only nomination in this sector.

Nominations for the sector of “Other”:

Nomination received for David Lozinski – Councillor, Lac La Biche County

Nomination received for Charlie Ashbey – Councillor/farmer, Athabasca County

Charlie Ashbey introduced himself and provided a short address to the members.

Motion: Jack Dowhaluk moved to close nominations.

David Locky seconded.

Motion carried.

Ballots were collected and counted, and the new AWC Board member in “Other” sector is Charlie Ashbey. Darlene Carifelle is accepted by acclamation in the Aboriginal sector.

Motion: Wayne Brehaut moved to have all election ballots destroyed

David Locky seconded.

Motion Carried.

9. Presentation from the AWC-WPAC Technical Committee – Dr. David Locky

Key points of the presentation:

- Following presentation there was an interesting number of questions/concerns, including concern about groundwater-surface water interactions in the oil sands in-situ area.
- Petra Rowell seized the opportunity to facilitate a discussion and recording (using flip chart) of topics, issues and top priorities for State of the Watershed reporting in the Athabasca River basin.

Flipchart notes of members’ top priorities for State of the Watershed Reporting:

- Need a management plan in place that ensures the watershed is sustainable (maintains ecological integrity) before further land use and water allocations are made.
- Maintain ecological integrity
- Education is needed re: water scarcity
- Address contamination of traditional foods
- Data management and accessibility is needed for the watershed
- Concern about over allocation of water – not sustainable
- Better communication is needed between the Government of Alberta and the basin

- Ground water quality
- water withdrawals
- tributary water quality
- non-point source pollution
- ground water/surface water interactions/mapping
- ground water contamination
- forest hydrology and health
- landuse impacts on water
- cumulative effects
- riparian setbacks
- wetlands
- trans-boundary water discussions
- baseline information
- interbasin transfers
- unique, rare, sensitive elements and areas
- effluents
- air pollution
- flow/hydrology/withdrawal
- inflow needs
- drought climate

12:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 pm 10. Reconvene. Introduction of Key Note Speaker - Mr. Randall Cripps, Environment Canada, Mackenzie River Basin Board. (Connie)

Key points of the presentation:

- Introduction to the Mackenzie River Basin Board – includes 6 sub-basins and crosses 6 jurisdictions, including the Federal Government - need for cooperative work.
- MRBB – three purposes:
 - Establish common principles for the cooperative management of the aquatic ecosystem of the Mackenzie River Basin
 - Establish an administrative mechanism to facilitate application of the principles.
 - Make provisions for Bilateral Water Management Agreements
- State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report coming out in late 2010, and will include i Traditional knowledge and science. The report focuses on:
 - Climate Change
 - Oil Sands
 - Hydro-power
- Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is a key activity
- The MRBB State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report looks at the entire system. The AWC-WPAC State of the Watershed Report will take a more indepth look at one watershed. Both documents will have bearing on each other, and will use information from both.
- Areas of common interest between the MRBB and the AWC-WPAC:
 - AB/NWT & AB/SK Bilateral agreements
 - AWC input via AENV
 - Sharing Hydrologic Model results

- Collaborate on TK activities
- Sharing of educational tools
- Advocate and raise awareness

Discussion followed regarding the MRBB and the AWC-WPAC areas of common endeavour. The membership was reminded that Richard Chabaylo (member on the AWC-WPAC Board) is also Alberta Environment's Northern Region representative on the negotiating team developing Bilateral Water Management Agreements between Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan – all required as part of the Mackenzie River Basin Board Transboundary Waters Master Agreement.

Connie thanked Mr. Cripps for his presentation and provided a gift as a token of the appreciation of the Athabasca Watershed Council.

11. Thank you to Petra Rowell – Interim Administrator for the AWC-WPAC. Connie presented a gift to Petra on behalf of the Athabasca Watershed Council for her hard work and expert guidance in the role as Administrative Coordinator.

13. Motion to Adjourn the Annual General Meeting.

Connie called for a motion to Adjourn the Annual General Meeting.

Motion: Doug Badger moved to adjourn the Annual General Meeting

Tom Weber seconded.

Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.