

SUSTAINABILITY OF LESSER SLAVE LAKE INITIATIVE

Minutes of

Watershed Committee

February 27, 2003

Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, Alberta

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, George Keay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Watershed Committee members in attendance:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group Represented</u>
John Brodrick	Town of High Prairie
Lisa Brown	Town of Slave Lake (<i>alternate</i>)
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Lorne Pratt	Agriculture (<i>alternate</i>)
Murray DeAlexandra	Commercial Fisherman Association/Related
Denny Garratt	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
Jerry Wallsten	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River (<i>alternate</i>)
Ken Killeen	Municipal District of Big Lakes (<i>alternate</i>)
Gordon Sanders	Forest & Related Industry
Larry Marquardt	Recreation/Tournaments
Rod Burr	Alberta Environment
Tim Toth	Alberta Environment (<i>alternate</i>)

Absent:

Doug Lowe	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Cindy Koop	First Nations
Marshall Sloan	Oil/Gas Industry
Grant Gramiak	Tourism Operators/Groups
Craig Bissell	Municipal District of Big Lakes

Others in attendance:

George Keay	Chairperson
John Downey	Facilitator, Lesser Slave Lake Community Development Corporation
Michael Seneka	Alberta Environment
Peter Rippon	Slave Lake Pulp

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jerry Wallsten asked to include an item #5.2 “SILTING CONCERNS AT THE MOUTH OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER.”

Moved by Denny Garratt, **seconded by** Jerry Wallsten, that the agenda be adopted as modified.

Motion Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – December 12, 2002

Moved by John Brodrick, **seconded by** Gordon Sanders, that the minutes of December 12, 2002, be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

4. Old Business

4.1 Alberta Environment. *(Michael Seneka & Rod Burr) Presentation on Hydrological Impact in the Lesser Slave Basin*

Michael Seneka, (M.Eng., P.Eng.), gave a Power Point presentation on the HYDROL Modeling Scenarios of Lesser Slave Lake. The presentation showed in detail:

- How The Modeling Works
- The Simulation Procedure
- 3 Different Simulation Examples
- Results Of The 3 Simulations
- Scenarios; With Current Weir Outlet; add 15 cm, add 30 cm, no change
- Scenarios; No Minimum Outflow
- Scenarios; 10 m³/s Minimum Outflow
- The Risks in these Scenarios, and its conclusions

Michael encouraged comments and questions from the Watershed Committee during and after the presentation.

Discussions primarily focused on temporary solutions to hold more water in the lake, and manage it as a reservoir. A Watershed Committee member suggested forming a sub-committee to explore what could possibly be done with the weir and see what options there were in respect to construction design.

Rod Burr stated that his department had not been able to identify any way to modify the weir at a minimal cost that would not affect the integrity of the weir. He added that his department would like to complete the water management plan and not implement any temporary modifications of the weir. Environment's position is that siphons are the preferred method of ensuring

riparian and industrial flow needs are met downstream of the weir until the study can be completed.

Tim Toth advised that whatever options the a Watershed sub-committee identifies will require full review by a “*river engineer*” He also added that Alberta Environment would need to be informed and should be a part of this working group. He added that Fisheries and Oceans Canada will have an interest in any potential solutions and the sub-committee should consider inviting them. He further stated that the final decision for any temporary modifications to the weir must be agreed to by the Director responsible for the Water Act.

Moved by Denny Garratt, **seconded by** John Brodrick, that the Watershed Committee form a sub-committee to explore a possible temporary solution that would involve increasing the water level to one (1) foot of water in the Lake (from the top of the current weir), and an alternate solution to any previous siphoning options discussed.

Motion Carried

Ken Killeen and Rod Burr requested to go on record that they were opposed to the motion.

4.2 Alberta Environment, (Rod Burr) Update On Recent Work Undertaken By Alberta Environment

Rod Burr presented a draft copy of operating principles developed for the Basin Advisory Committee involved in the South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB) planning. This document was originally drafted by the Government to guide the SSRB basin advisory committee in its water management planning. It identifies responsibilities of the participants, with the intent of helping them through planning in a fair and timely manner.

Rod Burr read through some of the principles and explained that it was important for the Watershed Committee to have a set of its own operating principles to follow. He asked that the Watershed Committee review this copy and give some feedback. At the next meeting the Watershed Committee can begin with the development of its own operating principles.

Rod Burr stated that the “Terms Of Reference” for the water management study will soon be completed and ready for public consultation. He advised it is necessary that the public have the opportunity for input into the “Terms Of Reference”. He informed the Committee that a copy would be made available on a website for public access. He will notify the Watershed Committee as soon as the “Terms Of Reference” are available on Internet.

Rod Burr will send out to the Watershed Committee a draft of the “Terms Of Reference” once Tim incorporates a few changes to the organizational structure.

Rod Burr suggested that the Watershed Committee agree on the process for public consultation.

Rod Burr presented a proposed process and timeline with a series of open house meetings to get feedback from the public. The task sheet included advertising schedules and action steps. Following public consultations feedback would be incorporated into the draft “Terms Of Reference”.

It was agreed by consensus to have open house meetings in three (3) places:

March 19, 2003	High Prairie	7:00 – 9:00 PM - Elk’s Lodge
March 20, 2003	Slave Lake	7:00 – 9:00 PM -
March 21, 2003	Faust	7:00 – 9:00 PM - Royal Purple Lodge

5. New Business

5.1 Letter From Municipal District Of Big Lakes To Alberta Environment (Concerns regarding water levels of Lesser Slave Lake)

A copy of this letter was provided in the agenda package.

Moved by John Brodrick, **seconded by** Lisa Brown, that the letter be received as information.

Motion Carried

5.2 Silting At The Mouth Of Lesser Slave River

Jerry Wallsten suggested that the proposed sub-committee explore the possible temporary solution concerning water levels, also take into consideration the silting at the mouth of the Lesser Slave River. He feels that in the sub-committee’s efforts it would also be important to look at how the river actually drains, and what impact it will have on the eastern end of Slave Lake.

Tim Toth advised that the impact on fish and fish habitat would have to be addressed by this sub-committee. He added that it is also very important that Fisheries and Oceans Canada be involved.

6. Adjournment

Moved by John Brodrick to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Motion Carried

Watershed Committee Chairperson