

# *SUSTAINABILITY OF LESSER SLAVE LAKE INITIATIVE*

## Minutes of

### *Watershed Committee*

June 19, 2003

Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, Alberta

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

George Keay, Chairperson, was unable to attend the meeting.

Denny Garratt, acting Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

#### *Watershed Committee members in attendance:*

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group Represented</u>
Denny Garratt	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
Jerry Wallsten	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River ( <i>alternate</i> )
Lisa Brown	Town of Slave Lake ( <i>alternate</i> )
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Cindy Koop	First Nations
Graig Bissell	Municipal District of Big Lakes
Rod Burr	Alberta Environment
Tim Toth	Alberta Environment ( <i>alternate</i> )
Larry Marquardt	Recreation/Tournaments

#### *Absent:*

George Keay	Chairperson
John Brodrick	Town of High Prairie
Doug Lowe	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Grant Gramiak	Tourism Operators/Groups
Ray Stern	Town of Slave Lake
Gordon Sanders	Forest & Related Industry
Murray Cronk	Oil/Gas Industry
Murray DeAlexandra	Commercial Fisherman Association/Related

#### *Others in attendance:*

Peter Rippon	Slave Lake Pulp
John Downey	Facilitator, Lesser Slave Lake Community Development Corporation
Ron Davis	Alberta Environment

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Moved by** Lisa Brown, **seconded by** Jerry Wallsten, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

## 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Denny Garratt declined the nomination for the position of Vice-Chairperson due to other commitments.

**Moved by** Lynn Sandquist, **seconded by** Jerry Wallsten, to nominate Larry Marquardt for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Denny Garratt called for nominations 3 times. There were no other nominations.

Larry Marquardt accepted the nomination for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

**Motion Carried**

## 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES, *April 24, 2003*

**Moved by** Lisa Brown, **seconded by** Larry Marquardt, that the minutes of April 24, 2003, be adopted as presented.

**Motion Carried**

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### 5.1 Watershed Committee Operating Principles

Rod Burr presented a revised copy of the organization's operating principles (*these are based on the Watershed Committee operating principles developed in May, 2000*). He explained the adjustments he made reflected key points from the South Saskatchewan River Basin Advisory Committee Operating Principles that were not addressed.

There was discussion with respect to the Watershed Committee's decision making process; majority vote of the Committee vs. consensus of the Committee.

**Action Step:**

Mr. Burr offered to further revise the operating principles to provide a clear definition of what “consensus” will mean and how the Committee will proceed if consensus cannot be reached. He will then send the proposed operating principles to Watershed Committee members for comments.

## **5.2 Water Management Plan - Terms of Reference Update (*Alberta Environment, Rod Burr*)**

Rod Burr gave an update regarding the Terms of Reference for the Water Management Plan. He stated that these are now in Edmonton being finalized by Alberta Environment and should be ready for endorsement by the Director by the end of June, 2003.

## **5.3 In-Stream Needs Study Update (*Alberta Environment, Rod Burr*)**

Rod Burr asked Tim Toth to give an update on the In-Stream Needs Study.

The purpose of an In-Stream Needs Study is to identify the quantity of water and water quality conditions needed to sustain the aquatic environment.

Mr. Toth explained the historical water availability matrix based on Tennant-Tessman minimum flow analysis. A copy of this matrix was presented for clarification. Mr. Toth further explained the importance of high and low water fluctuations to the aquatic habitat in the Lesser Slave Lake. He suggested that it would be important to compare the Tennant-Tessman water flow method with other water flow information that Alberta Environment has available.

Mr. Toth further stated that an In-Stream Needs Study consists of five separate components. The costs of such a study would be uncertain to predict until it's known what needs to be studied. Tim advised that there is already some information readily available, for example, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would have information that would not cost anything to access.

Mr. Burr informed Watershed Committee members of Alberta Environment's website on which they can monitor current water levels of Lesser Slave Lake.

### **Action Step:**

Alberta Environment representatives advised that they would scope out the In-stream Needs Study components and develop a cost estimate for each component.

### **Action Step:**

John Downey will send Alberta Environment's website link to all Watershed Committee members.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Letter to Municipal District of Lesser Slave River from Alberta Environment (Dated May 16, 2003)**

Rod Burr explained that a letter was sent to Municipal District of Lesser Slave River from Alberta Environment, May 16, 2003, regarding the municipality's request to capture some of the spring runoff in Lesser Slave Lake on an interim basis. Mr. Burr explained that Alberta Environment was not supportive of this proposal because of conflicting interests of other stakeholders, unknown long-term impact on the existing weir and unknown impact to aquatic environment. As a temporary measure in times of low water levels, Alberta Environment suggested that the most effective solution of meeting downstream water users needs seems to be the use of siphons until the Lesser Slave Lake Water Management planning process is completed in which longer term options can be addressed.

### **6.2 Watershed Committee Involvement In Project Committee Work**

Tim Toth explained that a number of tasks would have to be undertaken before completion of the Water Management Plan. He presented a list of "tentative work tasks" to be accomplished from 2003 to 2005. He added that some of the tasks would require the setting up of committees to deal with specific topic areas and provide technical support to the project. Specific committees required have yet to be determined.

Rod Burr stated that Watershed Committee representatives would benefit from serving on these special committees. They would then have a better understanding of the technical aspects of the project and would be able to inform the public and play a critical liaison role with the public.

Mr. Toth stated that costs associated with reaching the Water Management Plan objectives would have an impact on the time schedules outlined.

#### **Action Step:**

Acting Chairperson, Denny Garratt, asked Watershed Committee members to let Mr. Burr know as soon as possible if anyone would like to serve on the committees.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Date & Time of Next Watershed Committee Meeting:** September 4, 2003,  
7:30 pm, Kinuso Senior Center.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.**

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**Chairperson, Watershed Committee**