

SUSTAINABILITY OF LESSER SLAVE LAKE INITIATIVE

Minutes of

Watershed Committee

October 9, 2003

Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, Alberta

1. CALL TO ORDER

George Keay, 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>)
Lorne Pratt	Agriculture (<i>alternate</i>)
Cindy Koop	First Nations
Craig Bissell	Municipal District of Big Lakes
Rod Burr	Alberta Environment
Tim Toth	Alberta Environment (<i>alternate</i>)
Murray Cronk	Oil/Gas Industry
Gordon Sanders	Forest & Related Industry
Larry Marquardt	Recreation/Tournaments

Absent:

Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
John Brodrick	Town of High Prairie
Doug Lowe	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Grant Gramiak	Tourism Operators/Groups
Ray Stern	Town of Slave Lake
Murray DeAlexandra	Commercial Fisherman Association/Related

Others in attendance:

George Keay	Chairperson
Peter Rippon	Slave Lake Pulp
Mike Poulter	Town of High Prairie
John Downey	Facilitator, Lesser Slave Lake Community Development Corporation

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Tim Toth asked to include an item #6.2 “Media/News Release.”

Moved by Denny Garratt, **seconded by** Lisa Brown, that the agenda be adopted as modified.

Motion Carried

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES, *June 19, 2003***

Moved by Craig Bissell, **seconded by** Rod Burr that the minutes of June 19, 2003, be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Moved by Gordon Sanders, **seconded by** Denny Garratt, that the financial report be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 **Basin Plan Update: Status of Technical Committee** – *(Rod Burr, Alberta Environment)*

Rod Burr gave an update on the work that is being done with regard to Alberta Environment’s putting together the 4 Technical Committees. All have started their work. Rod added that the Terms of Reference was approved by the Director and that a copy can be obtained by the public through the Internet.

Tim Toth noted that, although things may seem to be slow, there is a lot of work happening behind the scenes, especially with the collection of pertinent data. Tim is also anticipating that the Watershed Committee will become very active in supporting the technical committees’ work.

5.2 **Watershed Committee Representation on the 4 Technical Committees** – *(Rod Burr and Tim Toth, Alberta Environment)*

Rod Burr stated that there is a lot of work to be done in order to pull the necessary information together. Rod added that involvement from the Watershed Committee and residents of the communities would be very important. The technical committees may need to obtain information from people who are familiar, specifically, with the sediment issues, water flows, the weir, and the instream needs issues. Rod also stated that the public would need an understanding of the plan process to be comfortable with whatever decisions are made. The Watershed Committee will play a role in getting information to, and from, the public.

Rod Burr and Tim Toth explained what was involved, and what was expected of the stakeholder representatives, with each of the four Technical Advisory Committees listed in Appendix B of the “Approved Terms of Reference”:

- *Task 1: Future Water Needs*
- *Task 2: In-stream Needs for the Lesser Slave River*
- *Task 3: Sedimentation in the Lesser Slave Lake Outlet Channel*
- *Task 4: Weir Configuration Impacts*

Mr. Toth provided an example of the questions being asked by the Technical Committees to get Task 3 and Task 4 underway. After some discussion, the Chairperson asked for volunteers to participate in these committees. There were volunteers for all four of the Technical Committees:

Future Water Needs

Lisa Brown, *Town of Slave Lake*
Denny Garratt, *Municipal District of Lesser Slave River*
Craig Bissell, *Municipal District of Big Lakes*

In-stream Needs for the Lesser Slave River

Jerry Wallsten, *Municipal District of Big Lakes*
Vince Martell, Environmental Coordinator, Slave Lake Pulp

Sedimentation in the Lesser Slave Lake Outlet Channel

Cindy Koop, *First Nations*
Jerry Wallsten, *Municipal District of Lesser Slave River*

Weir Configuration Impacts

Karl Gongos, *Municipal District of Lesser Slave River*
Peter Rippon, *Slave Lake Pulp*
Larry Marquardt, *Recreation/Tournaments*

5.3 Committee Operating Guidelines (Rod Burr, Alberta Environment)

Rod Burr presented a copy of the Committee Operating Guidelines. He revised these Committee Operating Guidelines at the request of the Watershed Committee during the meeting of June 19, 2003. Mr. Burr stated that this revised copy provides a clear definition of what “consensus” means and how the Committee will proceed if consensus cannot be reached. This copy has a footnote defining “consensus”.

Moved by Larry Marquardt, **seconded by** Mike Poulter, that the Watershed Committee accept and use these Operating Guidelines.

Before a vote on this motion there was some discussion on what appropriate number would constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a meeting. It came to a consensus that **50% plus 1** member of the Watershed Committee would constitute a quorum, and this would also apply to the Technical Committees.

Motion Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Communication/Public Participation Strategy – (Tim Toth, Alberta Environment)

Tim Toth gave an overview of what the Communication/Public Participation strategy entails, noting that the Watershed Committee will play an important part in communicating with the public. He presented a sample copy of an information note that would be placed in the local newspapers to inform and update the public on the progress of the Lesser Slave Basins Water Management Plan. Tim explained that there would be a series of these “notes”, entitled, “*On Stream*”, headed by logos of the Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Committee and Alberta Environment. In bullet form, the notes will give a brief explanation of what is happening with the project and upcoming tasks to be accomplished.

Bill Vanderaegen, *Alberta Environment*, designed a draft logo to represent the Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Committee. Mr. Toth explained the logo depicts the Sunrise/Sunset, the Shoreline, the Lake/River, and Fishing/Boating.

Moved by Mike Poulter, **seconded** by Lisa Brown to accept this information as presented.

Motion Carried

6.2 Media/News Release

Action Step:

Tim Toth explained that he had spoken with the Communication Department regarding a News Release about the approved terms of reference. When it is ready for the newspaper Tim will send a copy to John Downey so he can distribute a copy to the Watershed Committee members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Mike Poulter to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Chairperson, Watershed Committee