

SUSTAINABILITY OF LESSER SLAVE LAKE INITIATIVE

Minutes of

Watershed Committee

February 19, 2004

Kinuso Senior Center, Kinuso, Alberta

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Larry Marquardt, acting Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

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
Jeff Bugar	Town of High Prairie
Lynn Sandquist	Agriculture
Peter Freeman	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council (<i>alternate</i>)
Craig Bissell	Municipal District of Big Lakes
Rod Burr	Alberta Environment
Tim Toth	Alberta Environment (<i>alternate</i>)
Doug Lowe	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Duncan Fisk	Oil/Gas Industry
Gordon Sanders	Forest & Related Industry
Larry Marquardt	Recreation/Tournaments

Absent:

George Keay	Chairperson
Cindy Koop	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council
Grant Gramiak	Tourism Operators/Groups
Murray DeAlexandra	Commercial Fisherman Association/Related

Others in attendance:

Peter Rippon	Slave Lake Pulp
John Downey	Facilitator, Lesser Slave Lake Community Development Corporation

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Lynn Sandquist asked to include an item #6.2 "Maintenance on Inlet – Horse Lake End."

Moved by Jerry Wallsten, **seconded by** Gordon Sanders, that the agenda be adopted as modified.

Motion Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES, *October 9, 2003*

Moved by Denny Garrett, **seconded by** Lisa Brown that the minutes of October 9, 2003, meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Acting Chairperson presented an Administration Income Statement to the Committee ending January 31, 2004.

The Acting Chairperson also presented the Watershed Committee Action Plan Contributions Statement, as of March 31, 2003. Gordon Sanders made a correction to these contributions stating that it was Slave Lake Pulp who has the contribution balance “owing” and not Tolko Industries. There was a discussion regarding the Government’s contributions toward these action plan contributions. This discussion resulted in a consensus by the Watershed Committee that the Government’s contributions be taken out of this list of Action Plan Contributions and a separate list be provided to reflect the Provincial and Federal Government’s contributions. It was agreed by the Committee that the Provincial Government has spent, and will be spending, a significant amount of money to develop the Watershed Management Plan and it would not be appropriate to indicate an outstanding debt.

Action Step: Tim Toth, Alberta Environment, will provide John Downey with a list of projects funded by the Provincial Government that have been completed for the current water management plan.

Moved by Jerry Wallsten, **seconded by** Gordon Sander, that the Action Plan Contributions reflect the contributions of stakeholders and that the money cover the costs of operations for the Watershed Committee and appropriate watershed projects.

Motion Carried

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Provincial Water Strategy Update – (*Rod Burr, Alberta Environment*)

Rod Burr gave a presentation to the Watershed Committee on Alberta’s Water Strategy, “Water For Life”. The complete strategy plan can be obtained from the Alberta Government’s Website: <http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca>

5.2 Water Management Plan Task Update – (Tim Toth, Alberta Environment)

Task 1

Lisa Brown gave an update of the first meeting of the “Future Water Needs” committee (Task 1). Tim Toth stated that he had met with Ron Davis, Alberta Environment, who is heading this Task 1 group. Ron Davis is gathering information on actual (vs. licensed) water use so that the group can make long-term water usage projections. The group is aware of the importance of having accurate data on water sustainability in the region. Ron is currently consulting with industries to find out how much water they use and what the water is used for. Emergency uses of water are also taken into consideration for future water needs and sustainability.

Task 2

Tim Toth gave an update on Task 2, “In-stream Needs Scoping for the Lesser Slave River”. He stated that the consultant presented an interim report to the committee February 11, 2004. The consultant identified that while there is a good amount of data in the various areas (fisheries, water quality, hydrology, etc.), there are still data gaps and they will recommend a couple of methods to fill those gaps – additional data collection or an expert workshop.

Tim Toth stated that he would bring back a report from the next In-stream Needs meeting.

Task 3

Rod Burr gave a report on Task 3, “Sedimentation in the Lesser Slave Lake Outlet Channel”. He stated that areas being addressed are silt impacts on infilling of the channel which would restrict outflow from the lake, *boat access, loss of fish habitat due to infilling of holes, and sedimentation at the Town of Slave Lake water intake*. Rod presented cross-sections of the Lesser Slave River taken at the Highway 88 Bridge. These cross sections demonstrated how the river bed’s elevation changed due to varying flows, for the years 1988 to 1998.

Task 4

Rod also presented information on Task 4, “Weir Configuration Impacts” that dealt with riparian flows for downstream users AENV identified 3 alternatives for providing riparian flow: modifying the weir, constructing a bypass in the existing plug in the old channel, and installing siphons over the weir. The existing weir would be very difficult to modify.. The Task 4 Committee will be looking at options for a controllable weir.

5.3 First Nations Consultation (Rod Burr, Alberta Environment)

Information Item: Rod Burr stated that Alberta Environment will be meeting with all the First Nations around the Lake to ensure they are informed with what is happening in respect to the Lesser Slave Basins water management plan. The meeting will soliciting input from each of the First Nations.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Communication (*Tim Toth, Alberta Environment*)

Tim Toth gave a visual presentation on what the Watershed Committee Website would look like. He explained how the different links would work, what information would be accessed by the links, and reminded the Committee of the importance of being able to get current information about the plan.

Tim stated that the Watershed Committee members would need to give permission to have their names and contact numbers listed on this Website due to the "*Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act*" (FOIPPA). Tim also stated that the Watershed Committee would need to give permission to have approved minutes of meetings posted as well.

Action Step: Tim Toth will send John Downey a copy of a consent form, via e-mail, that the Watershed Committee could use to give permission to have names and contact numbers posted on this proposed website. John will try to have the consent forms completed on or before the next meeting.

Tim Toth presented a copy of the "*On Stream*" *Information Note* that will be posted in the local newspapers.

6.2 Maintenance on Inlet – Horse Lake End.

Lynn Sandquist informed the Watershed Committee that the landowner has concerns with the problem of trees blocking up the river in the Horse Lake end. He would like for everyone to keep this in mind when the dredging of the river or other activities are planned to take place.

Rod Burr stated that Alberta Environment is aware of this issue and is looking at options for dealing with these concerns.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Date & Time of Next Watershed Committee Meeting: April 8, 2004, commencing at 7:30 pm, in the Kinuso Senior Center.

Moved by Lisa Brown to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Chairperson, Watershed Committee