



Lakeland Industry and Community Association

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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020 – 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

LICA Boardroom/Teleconference

Present:	Annette Hobart (via teleconference) Megan Tilley (via teleconference) Shawn Elgert (via teleconference) Fin MacDermid (arrived at 1:30 pm, via teleconference) Patrick Traudt (via teleconference) Alex Demmons (via teleconference)
Observers and Guests:	Anthony Traverse (via teleconference)
Staff and Contractors:	Kristina Martel, LICA Executive Director Michael Bisaga, Manager, Environmental Monitoring Programs Lily Lin, Data & Reporting Specialist Tricia Fleming, Environmental Coordinator Tina Martin, LICA Administrative Professional
Regrets:	Randy Parenteau Warren Hobart Andrea Woods Nathan Ballard

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Annette Hobart, the Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1.1 Introductions

1.2 Vision, Mission and Values and Attendance

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#1 Moved by Annette Hobart AND CARRIED that the September 14th, 2020 Agenda be approved as presented.

1.4 Approval of Minutes

1.4.1 May 7th, 2020

#2 Moved by Patrick Traudt AND CARRIED that the May 7th, 2020 TWG Minutes be approved as presented.

2.0 ONGOING BUSINESS

2.1 Watershed Update

2.1.1 WRRP 2019-2022 Grant

The Jessie Lake tree planting has been completed.

The Environmental Coordinator attended a Cows and Fish workshop on riparian plant identification and health assessment. This knowledge was then used to complete a riparian health assessment at the Kunec property. These assessments will help LICA determine the impact of our projects over time.

The off-site watering system for the Kunec property has been ordered and fencing is set to occur in areas where the fencing company is able. High water levels have restricted access in some areas and some areas the property owner believes the Crown land section of the project will be inaccessible.

For the large-scale riparian assessment, the Environmental Coordinator will be compiling a list of water bodies LICA wishes to include in the Fiera contract.

To determine impact of projects over time, other WPAC managers and Cows and Fish have recommended that Cows and Fish conduct an on-the-ground, in-depth riparian health assessment within the first year of project completion and every 5-years afterwards.

The Environmental Coordinator sent out letters to all Indigenous Communities, local governments, and watershed groups to solicit interest in collaborating on the beaver management program.

2.1.2 WRRP 2020-2022 Grant

LICA was able to acquire 3 signs from an in-kind donation from the Government of Alberta's Keep Wheels Out of Water campaign that will be used for the Iron Horse Trail signage.

The Environmental Coordinator is waiting on a response from the Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership on the siting criteria required to proceed in the rain garden planning.

2.1.3 Alberta Lake Management Society

The LISC approved the sampling of 5 priority lakes this season through drawdown of LICA's accumulated cash reserves. The lakes sampled under the 2020 ALM's LakeWatch program were Muriel, Skeleton, Moose, Jessie, and Crane. Sampling will be completed over the upcoming months.

2.1.4 Integrated Watershed Management Plan

The IWMP committee met on July 8, 2020. The contract with Palliser Environmental Services Ltd. to complete community engagement training of LICA staff and create the IWMP report has now been signed. The IWMP committee will be submitting a proposal to the Board requesting the addition of two seats on the IWMP Committee: a youth and military representative.

2.1.5 Beaver River Surface Water Quality Monitoring

No further update as to when the OSM program will begin.

2.2 Monitoring Operations Update

2.2.1 Active Air Monitoring Program

There were no major air quality events over the summer.

The PAMS is still located in Bonnyville due to flooding in the Lac La Biche region. Preparations for the site in Lac La Biche are still in progress as LICA awaits approval on our development permit to erect a fence around the future PAMS location.

The Maskwa station is no longer moving locations but is remaining at its existing site. The addition of the ozone analyzer should be completed next week, making the Maskwa station AQHI-capable. Consultation with local Indigenous groups is underway regarding the required tree removal to bring the Maskwa station into compliance. The consultation should be completed this fall and, if approved, tree removal will occur over winter 2020.

Work is still in progress to make the Cold Lake site AEP compliant. Once the station is moved and the brackets are fabricated, the new meteorological tower will be installed. LICA's first PurpleAir device has been deployed at this station.

2.2.2 Deposition Monitoring Program

The PAC sampling program has been put on permanent hold due to shut down of federal labs by the pandemic.

LICA has regained access to the Foster Creek passive monitoring site. The technician now has CLAWR clearance and will also have clearance from CNRL to access the Burnt Lake passive monitoring site once he has completed the safety orientation.

With OSM workplan approval received in August, LICA will be proceeding with the third sampling of the Tucker Lake plot over Thanksgiving weekend. Cross-training of LICA staff will occur during this field work as the current soil scientists are retiring. The soil scientists have additionally been asked for further analysis, once this year's sampling is complete, to see what the data tells us so far.

A Cenovus request for an increased sulphur limit at their Foster Creek facility has resulted in an Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act amendment for additional monitoring of acid deposition in the area. Cenovus is to bear the cost of developing a multi-media (air, soil, & surface water) monitoring program to be implemented by 2022.

LICA is well positioned to coordinate and lead the development of a plan to address the new compliance-based deposition and acidification information needs of Cenovus. Building on LICA's experience and existing methodologies, the new monitoring can be tailored to complement LICA's ongoing monitoring efforts and those of the greater OSM program. Developing this site-specific deposition monitoring plan will help identify a process for improving LICA's broader regional deposition monitoring efforts and future enhancements. This project also presents a good opportunity to integrate monitoring efforts across different media: air, water, soil, and potentially biodiversity. The following link leads to the LICA commissioned report for an exploratory study which took a multi-media approach to understanding potential acidification impacts in the region; this study led to the development of LICA's Soil Acidification Monitoring Program: https://lica.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LICA-Exploratory-Study_AMEC-2007.pdf

#3 Moved by Fin MacDermid AND CARRIED that

1) an ad-hoc committee be formed to develop a plan to monitor and report on acid deposition and acidification effects; addressing the compliance-based data and information needs of Cenovus while enhancing and being complimentary to LICA's existing regional acidification monitoring program. The plan must be developed by June 2021 and costs will be covered by Cenovus.

2) A Terms of Reference for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Program Expansion ad-hoc committee be developed.

2.2.3 Beaver River Valley Monitoring Project

Preliminary review of the data from the array of stations in LICA's Beaver River Valley Monitoring Project reveals that there is weak evidence of a valley drainage effect but there is strong evidence of the valley influencing air movement within it. These initial observations suggest that there is a micrometeorology within the valley.

Despite a site visit and contacting technical support, one of the stations remains non-communicative. Remedially, the Manager of Environmental Monitoring Programs will be installing additional physical memory at each of the monitoring stations to prevent future data loss.

3.0 ACTION LIST

3.1 Follow-up on Action List

3.1.1 May 7, 2020 TWG Meeting

The TWG Committee reviewed the action list for the May 7, 2020, TWG Committee Meeting. Of note, the OHV stream crossing signs task has now been completed. Progress on the active monitoring network has been slow going and the expected timeline has been revised to Fall 2020.

4.0 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

4.1 Board Meeting – September 24, 2020

4.2 Next TWG Meeting – TBD

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

#4 Moved by Patrick Traudt AND CARRIED that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved on: _____
Date

Signature



2.1 Watershed Update Environmental Coordinator

September 2020 Technical Working Group Meeting

2.1.1 Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program (WRRP) – 2019-2022

Jessie Lake tree planting

- Tree planting was completed the week of June 1st
- 5,000 red osier dogwoods were planted between 55th street and 42nd street along the Jessie Lake walking trail
 - Heavy rains followed the planting and several planted areas are underwater
- 7,500 willows were planted between 55th and 58th street along the rodeo grounds

Fencing and off-site watering

- A riparian health assessment was conducted on the Kunec private land on Aug. 10th and 13th.
 - I attended a Cows and Fish workshop on riparian plant identification and health assessments on Aug 5th.
- Nick Kunec indicated that
 - There will be areas on the private land section that cannot be fenced until water levels drop
 - He does not believe fencing will occur on the Crown land section because of access issues
 - He has a fencing company that will complete the fencing on the private land
 - He has ordered an off-site watering system

Large-scale riparian assessment

- I have not made any further progress.
- My plan
 - Develop a prioritized wish list of waterbodies we want sampled
 - Areas that have been highlighted as high impact, concern, or high potential for development
 - Reach out to watershed groups and municipalities for input
 - Gain an understanding of previous riparian health assessments in the watershed and determine if they are still valuable compared to the new method, or whether they would need to be re-done
 - Use the wish list to help develop a contract with Fiera

Plan for monitoring project impact over time

- WPAC managers and Cows and Fish recommend that ideally, we would:
 - Contract Cows and Fish to conduct an in-depth riparian health assessment within the 1st year of project completion and repeat every 5 years
 - It is currently difficult to have the 5 plus year re-assessment accepted in grants

2.1.2 Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program (WRRP) – 2020-2022

Iron Horse Trail signs

- We have acquired 3 signs from the Government of Alberta from their Keep Wheels Out of Water campaign. Although these signs do not have all the information Erin planned for in the grant, they are part of an established provincial program and were donated in-kind.
- I am waiting to hear from the Iron Horse Trail association as to when they will be in our region to help install the signs

Rain garden

- I have contacted the Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership for information on criteria they use to determine suitable sites for rain gardens, and am waiting for a reply

2.1.3 Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)

- LISC approved LICA's request to draw \$10,000 from our accumulated cash reserve to fund 5 priority lakes under ALMS' LakeWatch 2020 program
 - List of Lakes and rationale
 - Specific water quality issues
 - Muriel
 - Skeleton
 - Current management and/or research efforts
 - Moose
 - Jessie
 - Valuable long-term trends
 - Crane

2.1.4 Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

- The following include the outcomes from the July IWMP committee meeting:
 - An approval to hire Palliser Environmental Services Ltd. to complete the IWMP report and assist with engagement training and implementation.
 - An engagement strategy brainstorming document to help guide development of the draft engagement strategy

- An approved definition of watershed health
 - Ideas on how to increase the impact of the IWMP
- Kristina and I have been working to establish a contract with Palliser Environmental Services Ltd. to complete the IWMP report and assist with engagement training and implementation.
 - A revised proposal, work plan and budget have been developed
 - We are waiting to receive the final draft of the contract from Sandi with Palliser
 - Divisions of tasks and working relationship expectations have been established
- We are seeking a youth representative for the IWMP committee.
 - I am asking interested youth to submit an essay (max. 500 words) or video (max. 3 minutes) describing why they are the best person to represent youth on the IWMP committee
 - I have reached out to local colleges and senior schools in the watershed to request information regarding the opportunity is forwarded to appropriate individuals, and we will post the opportunity on our website
- I am recommending at the next Board meeting that positions for youth and an environmental representative from 4 Wing Cold Lake be added to the IWMP committee

2.1.5 Beaver River Surface Waater Quality Monitoring

- No further update as to when the OSM program will begin

Opportunity Statement

September 14th 2020, Technical Working Group Meeting

Acid Deposition Monitoring: Cenovus EPEA Requirements

- Issue:** A recent Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) approval amendment issued to Cenovus requires the development of a plan to monitor acid deposition and acid deposition effects. The approval was issued in response to a sulphur limit increase for the Foster Creek facility.
- Response:** Addressing these data needs using a regional approach is in alignment with the objectives of the Oil Sands Monitoring Program (OSM). Moreover, the AER would like to see the deposition monitoring and deposition effects monitoring addressed using the Airshed model, while still meeting site specific EPEA monitoring requirements.
- Opportunity:** In place of a facility-specific monitoring program to address Cenovus' new Approval conditions, supplementing the existing LICA airshed monitoring network would be a novel approach.
- Scope:** The monitoring program requires a multi-media approach including air, soil, and surface water. The monitoring plan will be developed by June 2021 with implementation of monitoring activities in 2022. The cost of developing the plan will be covered by Cenovus; any future monitoring program enhancements will be included in LICA's Deposition Monitoring Workplan for funding under the OSM program.
- Action:** LICA staff have been working with Cenovus to identify the scope of work, costs, and deliverables to help inform LICA's decision to lead the development of the monitoring plan. The Technical Working Group (TWG) will provide an initial screening of the proposed approach; this feedback will be used to prepare a recommendation for the LICA Board of Directors regarding the development of a focused ad hoc group to direct the development of the plan.

At the time of circulating the TWG meeting material, LICA staff were still in a *discovery phase* with Cenovus regarding the potential project; the broad program needs have not yet been fully realized. A more complete package of information including further details on the issue, response, scope, and action will be presented at the September 14, 2020 meeting for the TWG to consider.