



Lakeland Industry and Community Association
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Integrated Watershed Management Plan Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. LICA Boardroom and via Microsoft Teams

Present: Delano Tolley
Louise White
Robert Machatis (via Microsoft Teams)
Clem Parenteau
Maureen Delorme-Ouellette (left at 3:03 pm)
Amanda Avery-Bibo
Roxane Bretzlauff (via Microsoft Teams)
Kristen Berezanski (via Microsoft Teams)
Abdi Siad-Omar (via Microsoft Teams)
Bill Parker
Madison Rehm (via Microsoft Teams)
Randi Dupras (arrived at 1:12 pm, via Microsoft Teams)
Kellie Nichiporik (via Microsoft Teams)
Mitch Sylvestre (via Microsoft Teams)
Richard Bourgeois
Shana Langley (arrived at 1:38 pm, via Microsoft Teams)

Observers and Guests: Sandi Riemersma, Palliser Environmental (via Microsoft Teams)
Fin MacDermid (arrived at 2 :00 pm, via Microsoft Teams)

Staff: Kristina Morris, LICA Executive Director
Kayla Hellum, Environmental Coordinator
Tina Johnson, LICA Administrative Professional

Regrets: Richard Pearce
Shelby Kennedy
Katherine Currie
Annette Hobart
Al Bertschi
Madison Arsenault

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Avery-Bibo, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1.1 **Territorial Acknowledgement**

1.2 **Introductions**

1.3 **Vision, Mission and Values**

1.4 **Approval of Agenda**

1.4.1 **December 1, 2021**

#1 Moved by Delano Tolley AND CARRIED that the December 1, 2021, Agenda be approved as presented.

1.5 **Approval of Minutes**

1.5.1 **September 9, 2021, IWMP Minutes - Draft**

#2 Moved by Richard Bourgeois AND CARRIED that the September 9, 2021, Minutes be approved as presented.

2.0 **POLICY REVIEW**

2.1 **Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee reviewed the IWMP Terms of Reference document. No changes were recommended at this time.

#3 Moved by Delano Tolley AND CARRIED that the IWMP Committee Terms of Reference be accepted as presented.

2.2 **Policy Review**

2.2.1 **Policy 1.5 Decision-Making Process**

The IWMP Committee reviewed Policy 1.5 *Decision-Making Process*.

2.2.2 **Policy 1.13 Volunteer Hours**

The IWMP Committee reviewed Policy 1.13 *Volunteer Hours*.

2.2.3 **Policy 1.14 Confidentiality**

The IWMP Committee reviewed Policy 1.14 *Confidentiality*, and each member was requested to sign a copy for retention by LICA, if they had not already done so.

2.2.4 **Policy 2.8 Board and Committee Expenses & Remuneration**

The IWMP Committee reviewed Policy 2.8 *Board and Committee Expenses & Remuneration*.

2.2.4.1 Expense Claim Form

The IWMP Committee reviewed the LICA Expense Claim Form.

2.2.4.2 Direct Deposit Option

The IWMP Committee members eligible for stipends, were given the option to complete the Direct Deposit form noting that a VOID cheque will be required to accompany the form.

2.2.5 Committee Member Sign-on

The IWMP Committee members were requested to complete the Board and Committee Sign-on sheet for retention by the Accounting Assistant. Members who have already completed this form, were requested to complete the form should their contact information have changed.

3.0 ONGOING BUSINESS

3.1 Draft #1 IWMP: Targets, Thresholds, and Recommendations

The purpose of today's discussion was to focus on Section 9: Targets, Thresholds, and Preliminary Recommendations of the Beaver River IWMP Draft #1. Palliser Environmental reminded the committee members that this is a living document that will be updated as we move through the engagement process. The document was also being revised during Committee discussion, which included:

Table 6.1 Indicators for the Beaver River Watershed was reviewed in preparation for discussions. Palliser and the Executive Director spoke with an AEP hydrologist to figure out to what extent the Water Quality Objectives are currently being applied. A Committee member mentioned that the Beaver River is a tributary fed by Saskatchewan, where flow data is monitored closely.

In Section 9.1: Water Quality, Table 9.2: Established Targets for the Beaver and Sand Rivers and Table 9.3: Objectives and Targets Set for Selected Lakes were reviewed with the committee. Despite no current concerns over mitigation of low or high flow conditions, a few committee members did want to look at minimizing flooding in a high flow situation due to the potential impact on bridge structures along the rivers. The committee also felt that further investigation was required around the natural variation in lake levels, as these have not been traditionally monitored. Concern was expressed over the lack of guidelines around the volume of municipal withdrawals from Cold Lake as it feeds the City of Cold Lake, Cold Lake First Nations, the Town of Bonnyville, and much of the surrounding areas between and around them. An Indigenous representative felt that a large focus of the existing draft was on municipalities, with little focus on settlements and reserves.

It was recommended that review of information, brought forward from existing plans, be reviewed to ensure no actionable items are omitted. A meeting participant felt that wetlands needed to be dealt with separately. Beaver issues were mentioned numerous times during discussion that implies management may need to be elevated within the plan.

The Executive Director suggested that the committee meets at the beginning of January 2022 to review the new draft IWMP, which will be presented during the upcoming engagement sessions, to ensure there is adequate time for amendments and Board approval.

Next, Table 9.5 Existing Guidelines and Objectives for Select Water Quality Indicators in Section 9.2: Water Quality was reviewed noting that this committee can establish boundaries and objectives based off existing data. A committee member suggested additional monitoring upstream of Hwy 881 so there is time to take management action before the water reaches the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. Another committee member pointed out that we want to target issues caused by human impact and are not naturally occurring. The plan should also look at the critical loads of the habitats for aquatic life that populate those rivers & tributaries.

Under 9.2.3 a. Preliminary Recommendations a committee member felt that consideration should be given to other indicators of water quality, such as small fish and invertebrates and managing for inputs or ongoing conditions as needed. They also felt that using flux data on loadings would assist in establishing a baseline for reaches.

In discussions on Section 9.3: Riparian Areas and Wetlands, the committee was directed to Appendix E where current setbacks for different industries is located. Palliser agreed that this information could perhaps be better incorporated into the plan itself.

Palliser then put forth a question to the committee under Section 9.4 Biodiversity, on whether all species at risk in the Beaver River Watershed should be focused on. A committee member suggested a focus on aquatic and semi-aquatic species as they are the most impacted by the state of the water. It was also suggested that data compared against impacts on Northern Pike and Walleye be replaced with comparison data for benthic invertebrates or small fish, as they show the impacts of water changes more quickly than the larger fish species. As existing watershed data is minimal, it was suggested that a recommendation be put in place to monitor this.

Further discussion was halted due to meeting time constraints. Committee Members were encouraged to share any additional thoughts with Sandi either by phone or via email to ensure all recommendations are captured within the revised draft document.

3.2 Survey 2: Targets, Thresholds, and Recommendations

Minimal discussion occurred on the second survey as it is largely based off the Beaver River IWMP draft. The previous survey was briefly reviewed as sections can be brought forward into the second survey. Palliser reviewed the format of the Survey, which is like the first published survey. Public concerns over the technical language used in the last survey were addressed and the Committee agreed that technical language is required as it directly relates to the IWMP document. There was discussion on allowing survey participants the option to “skip” questions to proceed with the survey. The concern that some of the survey’s questions were “leading” or “directed” was also addressed by Palliser, which notified the committee that these questions specifically asked whether specific concerns are present within the watershed and are in no way intended to lead answers. A committee member felt strongly that more demographic questions should be asked to assist with sorting the user groups responding to the survey.

3.3 Interactive Survey

Whether or not to proceed with an interactive map portion in the survey was discussed. It was felt that if a LICA staff member had sufficient knowledge of GIS, and the time to construct the interactive map, that it would be a valuable addition; however, if the project proved too time consuming, the Committee accepts proceeding without this portion of the survey.

#4 Moved by Amanda Avery-Bibo AND CARRIED that LICA proceed with developing the interactive map. Should this task become time prohibitive, then an alternative will be chosen by the Committee.

3.4 Engagement Session 2

3.4.1 Format

The plan for the second round of engagement is to:

- 1) Review Engagement Session 1 feedback,
- 2) Review the plan goals and objectives,
- 3) Confirm the contents of the draft IWMP, and
- 4) Review and discuss the preliminary recommendations.

It is expected that the meeting will take 3.5 hours to complete and is recommended that an in person and a virtual session be offered. A large wall map could be available for topographic data collection at the meeting. Participant evaluations should follow immediately afterwards.

3.4.2 Dates

Discussion was held that engagement session dates should be chosen while considering Spring Break occurs from February 16 to 21st, 2022, and Palliser is unavailable from February 22nd-25th, 2022. Dates suggested to hold the events were March 1st-4th or 28th, 2022. The committee felt that the second round of engagements should be:

- 1) In-person between March 1st-4th,
- 2) Virtual on March 7th, and
- 3) Offer to have private sessions arranged as requested.

This is expected to be a full day event beginning in the morning with lunch provided part way through.

3.4.3 Budget

The LICA Environmental Coordinator presented the budget pertaining to the second round of engagement sessions. Several committee members suggested that we advertise in the Respect Newspaper instead of the Cold Lake Sun. It was also reiterated that we ensure the event is listed in all advertisers' community calendars. Also recommended was the approach of having the newspaper write a piece on the IWMP itself as it may increase community awareness and involvement in the process going forward. The committee also felt that advertising and coverage through Lakeland Connect be sought.

#5 Moved by Richard Bourgeois, seconded by Clem Parenteau, AND CARRIED that the budget be approved as presented under the condition that we operate within the budget as a whole.

3.5 Process for Seeking Support

Palliser recommended that the Environmental Coordinator reach out to our municipal partners regarding the IWMP and notify them that LICA will be seeking their support of the Plan, once finalized. Further discussion was tabled until the next Committee meeting due to time constraints.

3.6 Review Work Schedule

This item was tabled until the next Committee meeting.

3.7 Beaver River Watershed Map Update

The updated LICA WPAC boundary map, recently revised in accordance with the Government of Alberta's Provincial Map and approved at the AGM, was shared with the committee. Palliser noted that it will be included in place of the existing map moving forward in the Terms of Reference and IWMP documents.

4.0 ACTION LIST

4.1 Follow-up on Action List

4.1.1 September 9, 2021

The IWMP Committee reviewed the action list from the September 9, 2021, IWMP Meeting.

5.0 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

5.1 LICA Board Meeting – December 16, 2021

A verbal invitation reminder of the Christmas luncheon to follow the Board meeting on December 16th was extended to the IWMP Committee members.

5.2 ADMPEC Meeting – December 2, 2021

5.3 Governance Committee Meeting – December 8, 2021

5.4 Next IWMP Committee Meeting – TBD

A Doodle Poll is expected to go out for a January meeting.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

#9 Moved by Louise White AND CARRIED that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved on: _____
Date

Signature