

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes

Via Teams

March 16, 2023 | 1:15 – 2:45 PM

Key Meeting Messages:

The Steering Committee members joined online to discuss various aspects of SRWA work including:

- Projects: Regional Lake Stewardship Project has a restoration application open. Municipal Bylaw Project underway. Water Quality report received, uploading data, and creating an infographic. Moving forward on water quantity.
- Grants: Road Salt Management workshop held in January. The Alberta Community Partnership grant ends this December. Riparian setback calculator work is underway.
- Communication updates.
- Roundtable updates from the region.

Present:

Name	Representing
Kristina Kowalski	Parkland County – SRWA Chair
Kelsie Norton	NSWA
Jillian Peterson	NSWA
Bernie Poulin	Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne County
Bridgitte Coninx	Town of Onoway
Eric Meyer	Town of Stony Plain
Daryl Weber	Village of Alberta Beach
Dave Oldham	City of Spruce Grove
Rebecca Balanko	Town of Morinville
Jay Millante	Town of Gibbons
Arin MacFarlane-Dyer	Alberta EPA
Matthew McLennan	Sturgeon County
Reid MacDonald	City of Spruce Grove
Dan Derouin	Sturgeon County
Mike Killick	City of St. Albert
Nick Gelych	Lac Ste. Anne County
Ray White	Town of Morinville
Shelley Biermanski	City of St. Albert

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Regrets:

Name	Representing
Amber Harris	Town of Gibbons
Aaron Paquette	City of Edmonton
Cheryl Savoie	Alexander First Nation
Megan Thompson	Lac Ste Anne Metis Community Association
Melissa Logan	City of St. Albert

Meeting called to order at 1:16 PM.

1.0 Administration

1.1 Welcome

Kristina and Kelsie welcomed attendees followed by introductions.

Kristina gave a Land Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approve Agenda and Action Items

Agenda approved by Eric Meyer. Unanimously approved – passed.

1.3 Review Past Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Key Meeting Messages

- Bridge on Range Road 255, North of St. Albert has failed and has been shut down. Over the channeled drainage over Carrot Creek that runs E to W.
- The Village of Alberta Beach and the two Summer Villages; Val Quentin and Sunset Point have put in a joint application to the ACP Grant to complete a water distribution feasibility assessment.
- Parkland County is in the process of a stormwater management plan.
- St. Albert's update to MDP, has referred to the SR WMP to incorporate perspective in planning documents. Municipally led Area Structure Plan for NE area.
- Intermunicipal Storm Water Master Plan for Carrot creek, emphasizing an agreement on releases.

Minutes approved by Bridgitte Coninx. Unanimously approved – passed.

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2.0 Project Updates

2.1 Regional Lake Stewardship Project

- **Lake Restoration Site**
 - [Application](#) for the shoreline demonstration site is open, deadline is April 30th.
 - Looking for a public area with good foot access
 - Kelsie notes that there will be a site assessment, planting plan and site preparation which includes erosion, invasive species etc.
- **Spring and Summer Site Visits**
 - Allows for assessment + prioritization.
 - [AWES \(Agro-forestry Woodlot Extension Society\)](#) has program funding through their 2 billion trees grant, possible allowing for another site to be planted or an opportunity to increase the area being planted.
- **Summer Planting + Workshop**
 - Once the site is selected the planting project will occur in August.
 - The vision is to have the community come together and learn about water quality, lake and riparian health.
- **Lake Stewardship Webinar**
 - **Save the date: Planned with Cows & Fish and AWES on May 9th (7:00 -8:30 PM)**
- [Supporting ALMS Community of Practice](#)
- **Parkland Regional Lakes Open House**
 - **Save the date: April 27 in Stony Plain**

2.2 Municipal Bylaw Project – Riparian Policy Alignment Project

- Riparian policy and discussion guide (Spring 2023)
- Workshops planned for July and August. Following feedback, a BMP guide will be developed.

2.3 Water Quantity

- Connected with Lauren – Provincial Environmental Flows Biologist – looking at naturalized flows in the Sturgeon River
- Using [Alberta Flow Estimation Tool for Ungauged Watersheds \(AFETUW\)](#) to delineate watershed boundaries. This can be done from any point and provides flow estimates and licenses for the delineated polygon.
- Showcases water licenses. This can be tricky to interpret, as some licenses are not currently in use.

2.4 Water Quality Report

- Tetra Tech final report was received with data from 2021-2022 and the data is being uploaded to DataStream.

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- Tetra Tech did not fulfill certain objectives due to a limited data set.
- Findings show the Sturgeon to be a normal prairie river, highly influenced by natural factors (indirectly related to lake level and climatic influences) and water management.
- Next steps will be to create an infographic with key findings, including freshwater guideline exceedances – to be uploaded to SRWA webpage.
- Alberta Capital Wastewater Commission tasked Spencer Environmental to complete a 6-month monitoring program at Big Lake. They have requested data; Kelsie will be meeting with them. They've been connected to Melissa Logan, water quality technician with the City of St Albert
- Collating water quality data – this will be completed via the State of the Watershed Report (Spring 2024). This will collate historical data, compared against freshwater guidelines, highlighting any exceedances. Other data includes CreekWatch – Neighbours of the Sturgeon, NAIT data, Waka Mne, WaterSHED data.

3.0 Grant Updates

3.1 Alberta Community Partnership

ACP Grant deliverables are being met (water quality report, wetland strategy, policy alignment). Grant closes Dec 2023:

- Road Salt Management Workshop –held January 18th. Alberta Transportation will speak to road salt management at NSWA's next [Watershed Wednesday webinar](#).
- Riparian Setback Calculator is about making room for water. NSWA continues to meet with subject matter experts and intends to meet with subject matter experts in April 2023 to confirm project plan forward.
- Some promised data layers (e.g., flood mapping) will not be possible in this project scope. The NSWA is currently scoping a path forward to derive other useful wet area maps.

4.0 Communications

- **Save the Date: NSWA AGM, June 28th 2023 @ Snow Valley Ski Club** – Meet staff, learn about projects and it's a great networking opportunity.
- [NSWA is hiring](#) two new Outreach Technicians for the Summer season. If there are any spring and summer events in your area, they are open to attend and bring educational information.
- Demonstration of Lake Health Technology: The Summer Village of Yellowstone is hosting E8 innovations, a technology that uses a process to increase oxygen via nano bubbles and decrease algae. E8 innovations are hosting a demonstration on July 22nd (10:00am – 2:00pm)
 - They have previously attended the RMA, ALMS and ASVA conferences & tradeshow.
 - This technology is typically used in small lakes and hasn't been used in creeks.

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- May need certain permits depending on how it's situated within the lake.
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5.0 Roundtable Updates

Dan Derouin:

- Attended Road Salt Management Workshop and was impressed with the policy aspect and hear from other municipalities (City of Leduc, City of St Albert).
- Sturgeon County has updated the gravel extraction bylaw.

Matthew McLennan:

- Completed public hearing on gravel extraction.
- Sturgeon County will continue groundwater monitoring program, lots of interest in groundwater.
- May utilize data on the connection between groundwater and surface water.

Bernie Poulin:

- Alberta EPA will be at Lake Isle again and will be spraying the flowering rush infestation.
- Three technicians hired through the ACP grant will be doing Flowering Rush work at Lake Isle.

Rebecca Balanko:

- Town of Morinville. Snow and ice removal policy is coming back to council for review.

Daryl Weber:

- New representative for Alberta Beach, taking over Angela Duncan's place.

Nick Gelych

- Complaints on blue-green algae, lake water quality around the Summer Villages.
- Considering inputting a wastewater line to reduce reliance on septic tanks/fields. Keep seepage out of the lake. People are requesting why this is needed, causing some frustration.

Kristina Kowlaski:

- Stormwater management plan has highlighted drainage areas, which can support Stony Plain and Spruce Grove.
- Trail strategy with engagement sessions.
- Gravel extraction project on the river is facing community pushback.

Shelly Biermanski:

- Replacing Range Rd 255 bridge later this year.

Kelsie Norton:

- SRWA TAC update: New member [Wakâ Mne Science & Culture Initiative](#).
- Considering having an in-person meeting to develop a new 3-year strategic plan and how we will fund initiatives going forward.

6.0 Next Meeting

May 18, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM by Ray White