

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2009 MEETING
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN COUNCIL
held at PFRA OFFICE, North Battleford, SK.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
Murray Ball, chair.
Velma recording.

1. Introductions around the table: John Swystun, Jeremy Brown, John Kindrachuk, Brad Ashdown, Val Holowach, Don Dill, Donna Rae Paquette, Katherine Finn, and Murray Ball. Joining the meeting via Telephone: Murray Hidlebaugh and Dwayne Keir of Corman Park.

2. Review of the minutes of the December meeting. Moved adoption by Val Holowach. Approved.
Eric Tootosis arrived at 7:25 p.m.

3. Katherine presented a report on the financial status. (She will email this report to all Board members.)
The Chairman noted that the NSRBC still has no treasurer.
John Swystun reported that the P.A. City Council will cover his expenses.

4. Correspondence: The Chairman read a letter from Nancy Heppner, Minister of the Environment, Province of Saskatchewan, to the NSRBC, dated December 18, 2008, indicating a positive response to our Source Water Protection Plan.
Other responses to the Plan are collected by Brad's department of SWA. Indications are that they may take a while.

5. Logo Contest. Katherine held up all entries. Three preferences were indicated.
John S. moved, seconded by Jeremy, that a committee review these preferences, and try to check for possible image plagiarism and to suggest ways that the imagery might be made more suitable. Velma will coordinate, joined by Katherine, Val, and Eric. Images can be scanned to other members as needed.

6. Upcoming Miscellaneous Conferences:

1) Val and Katherine will attend the "We are All Upstream II - Making Connections" Conference sponsored by the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance in Leduc, Feb 10-12. (Agenda is on the web.)

Issues to bring forward - Heritage River status for NSR (Brad has contacts).
- connect with NSWA, Alberta.

John S. motion that an official letter be sent to NSWA, suggesting that the two groups get together. Approved. Also, offer that Val give a presentation at the NSWA meeting, to be held ahead of the PFSRB conference. Approved.

2) Murray B. suggested that at some point we also connect with the Battle River Watershed Association. Agreed.

3) SK Ecological Goods and Services Conference in March - John K. will be attending

anyway. If budget allows, Katherine should also attend.

4) Discussion took place re: need for us to have display material so that we can have a booth at such events as SK Sports and Leisure Show, SUMA and SARM conventions. John K. will discuss this with SAW and their possible involvement.

7. Brad, re: Canadian Transport Commission response to rail line abandonment issue: Agreed that Katherine will contact the individual concerned about this issue and inform same that NSRBC looked into this issue, reported the situation to DFO, and that at this point CN plans to leave the railbed in place. That's about all that we can do for now.

8. John Kindrachuk reported on SAW.

1) Until their next meeting, January 26, no decision will be known re: full \$150K funding per Watershed.

2) SAW Workshop in April: Plans are well underway. A list of speakers is still being decided.

Dwayne left teleconference at 8:45 p.m.

• *Five minute stretch break called by the Chairman*

• *Resumed meeting at 9 p.m.*

9. Environmental Assessment Conference.

Considerable discussion took place re: the logistics of the Conference. And can we do it by April?

Eric expressed a need for a different conference - a more local one. He reported on a First Nation's meeting (with MN/AB/SK representation) held Nov 14 at Gold Ridge. A member from Mikisew First Nations Reserve, downstream from the Tar Sands, reported on issues they had had to deal with there.

Discussion re: Duty to Consult and Environmental Assessment process - these are not necessarily connected?

After much discussion, a decision was made to have a sub-committee work with Katherine to organize a conference on EA for next fall (Sept at latest?). John S., Eric, Murray B. and John K. volunteered, and will decide on a date for the Conference. Some organizations to consider in the planning process are SUMA, SARM, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, ENERGY-RESOURCES.

10. \$25,000 FUNDING. Need to straighten out issue of Katherine's wage having gone to projects, resulting in need to pull some money from projects to make up K's salary. John K. will look into.

11. Katherine's Report - update of activities which include:

- Making an action plan for our implementation grant
- Assisting SAW Conference organizing and working on the speaker grant application
- FNAC's projects w. Donna Rae are on target.
- Ongoing work on our \$25k application.
- Environmental Assessment Conference.

12. AGM, Bylaw development, opening meetings:

We need to think of a time frame for our annual meeting. Murray H. thinks time line also needed re: Bylaw development. Also, how do we open the Board to potential Board members?

Decision that Murray H. will head a sub-committee to help decide how to move ahead with Incorporation Issues, Bylaws and Fiscal Year. Start with the rough draft in place, circulate, and work from it toward a new Draft to be prepared by the end of March. Also volunteering: John S, Brad, Don and John K.

Part of process to include a small breakout session at the EA Conference.

13. Operating budget and strategy. Shortfall of about \$20,000. This needs work. We need to give it full attention - membership fees etc.

(Item 13. cut short by the need to vacate the office by 11 p.m.)

14. Next meeting Feb 18, 7p.m.

15. Adjourned, 10:55 p.m.