

ALLIANCE OF PIGEON LAKE MUNICIPALITIES MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2014, 7:00 pm

Room 241

Leduc County Administration Office

ATTENDANCE:

Glenn Belozer, Leduc County
Doris Bell, Crystal Springs
Karen Belmont, Golden Days
Don Davidson, Grandview
Pete Langelle, Ma-Me-O Beach
Frank Dyck, Norris Beach

Gary Carew, Poplar Bay
Barb Martinson – Silver Beach
Brian Waterhouse, Sundance Beach
Harold Wynne, CAO Sundance Beach & Silver Beach
June Boyda, CAO Itaska Beach & Recorder

REGRETS:

Ernie Elko, Argentia Beach
Rex Nielsen, Itaska Beach

GUESTS:

Michael Gaian, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
Grant Churchill, South Pigeon Lake Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Brian Waterhouse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions: 5j) Public Update on Water Quality
5k) ASVA – Quagga/Zebra Mussels – ASVA Resolution
5l) June Boyda – Compensation Review

Moved by Glenn Belozer to approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Frank Dyck to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2014 APLM meeting as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:**Pigeon Lake Watershed Association – Storm-Water Draining Alterations**

Michael Gaian provided an update on some of the activities that the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) has been involved in:

A priority is the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan, and are currently working on storm water management.

A meeting to be held with the APLM and PLWA to review the results of the Paleo-Sedimentary study, once Alberta Environment has had the opportunity to sign off on the report.

Micheal Gaian discussed how Alberta Health Services posts advisory warnings for algae, and that the information could be misleading. The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association has been in discussions with them, and that there should be more accurate information provided. What would be helpful would be municipal support in how Alberta Health services treats the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:**2014 Algal Bloom - Observations**

Members reported on what they observed regarding algal blooms for 2014. The water seemed to be a lot better this year than last year. Blooms were very localized; some areas had washed up on shore and could possibly be raked up. The blooms have been variable based on wind and weather.

Doris Bell requested the PLWA to gather the observations from residents that are reported to them.

In Lake Technical Committee Report – Health Advisories

Brian Waterhouse provided a sample of a health advisory for a lake from Ohio that had information on how to be safe with the blue-green algae, but did not give a dire impression of health concerns for using the lake.

Members would like the wording on the health advisory sign to be more accurate to current conditions, which would prevent the media from sensationalizing the issue. There also needs to be more information for people so they know if there could be health concerns if using the lake. These changes will be brought forward in the meeting the committee is having with Dr. Talbot September 24.

Ernie Elko sent an email update from the in-lake technical committee. They are searching for a lead engineering group. They have also been looking into

different products and solutions for the lake and are waiting on further information.

Moved by Don Davidson that:

- a) the APLM does not pursue any further investigation of water importation or dredging as these operations have been found to be ineffective and not suitable for Pigeon Lake;
- b) the project involving the injection of Calcium Chloride as a means of phosphate stabilization not be pursued to any further extent because of the high potential for environmental damage to Pigeon Lake and also to avoid objections to this operation;
- c) the PLWA be requested to withdraw their resolutions pertaining to the operations for lake flushing and dredging operations; and
- d) Letters be written to the Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association with a copy to the Minister of AESRD advising of these decisions.

Defeated

At this time, it was reiterated that the subcommittee reports would not be made public because by doing so would create confusion for the public when the In Lake Technical Committee report comes out.

Leduc County requested a report on how the In-Lake Regional Collaboration grant is being spent. This information to be added to the next agenda.

Summer Village of Grandview – Alberta Health Advisories Submission

Moved by Don Davidson that that the APLM members, represented by Don Davidson further the process of revising the process for the issuance of Algae Advisories by Alberta Health Services.

Carried

Letter from County of Wetaskiwin and Response of APLM Members

The County of Wetaskiwin has chosen to not join the APLM at this time. This letter to be accepted as information, and the County of Wetaskiwin would be welcome to join the APLM as a member in the future.

Moved by Don Davidson that the membership of the APLM extend an invitation to the County of Wetaskiwin to rejoin the APLM.

Defeated

Summer Village of Itaska Beach – APLM Initiatives Response

A number of Summer Villages had responded that they approve and support the APLM initiatives response. The remaining members that have not yet responded are asked to send an email confirming whether they support:

- The approval of the name change from the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities to the Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities.
- The approval of the suggestion that other municipalities surrounding Pigeon Lake pass bylaws prohibiting residential lawn fertilizers within the Pigeon Lake Watershed.

Review of APLM Guiding Principles

Guidance Document

Moved by Doris Bell to accept the Guiding Principles as amended.

Carried

APLM Goals

Brian Waterhouse asked the group if any members had goals they wanted to present for 2015. Members wanted to continue working on the current projects. Don Davidson suggested that noxious weeds, including the tansy weed should be addressed, whether it is done on a group or municipal level. Members can continue to submit their topics for each meeting.

2015 Meeting Schedule

The APLM will hold meetings on the following dates in Room 241, at the Leduc County Centre Administration Building:

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
March 11, 2015
June 10, 2015
September 16, 2015
November 18, 2015

Executive Selection

Brian Waterhouse stayed on as Chair, and Doris Bell as Vice-Chair of the APLM.

Logo and Website: www.aplm.org

Doris Bell created a logo for the APLM, which represents the region, the lake, and a circle with everyone working together. Members are to review the logo and present changes at the next meeting. For the interim this logo will be used. Thanks to Doris, the website has information posted on www.aplm.org.

Update on Watermere Development – Leduc County

Glen Belozer reported on the Watermere Development. On August 27, 2014 Leduc County sent a letter to Dansol. There were still unanswered questions, and some of the items yet to be addressed included things such as where they were going to get water from, how the peat moss would be handled, water, fire, migratory birds, spawning in Tide Creek, where to launch boat, etc. No response has yet been received.

Update on Southside Sewer Project

Don Davidson updated on the southside regional sewer project. The regional line will be finished by November, 2014.

Update on Water Rescue

Grant Churchill provided an update on investigating the viability of water rescue on Pigeon Lake. The County of Wetaskiwin passed a resolution to consider the cost and effect of allowing the Mulhurst Bay and South Pigeon Lake fire departments to provide these services.

Currently the RCMP are responsible for ice-water rescue. They are an hour away from having a boat in the lake if they have a trained member available. Require \$100,000 – \$110,000 to get set up. \$11,000 annual operating budget cost.

Air boat would go over both ice and water.

Intention would be to rescue in a life and death situation; not intended to help if someone runs out of gas, nor be recovery.

The project can only move forward with the Summer Villages, Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin all working together. The County of Wetaskiwin has applied for a 50/50 grant from the Provincial Government. \$16,000 in commitments from the Summer Villages, \$15,000 in Mejesky family fundraiser, with \$24,000 remaining to be raised. The grant application deadline is November 1, 2014.

The two fire departments require Summer Village help to continue this project. If the Summer Villages are not able to help it will be a clear message to the County of Wetaskiwin that it is not a priority to implement.

Moved by Don Davidson that the representatives on the APLM support in principle the County of Wetaskiwin's initiative of instituting a water rescue operation and to present a business plan to the members of the APLM.

Carried

MGA – Status of Environmental Reserves

Karen Belmont discussed the MGA potentially changing the status of Environmental Reserves from undevelopable land to areas that are environmentally sensitive or in need of protection.

ASVA – Quagga/Zebra Mussels – ASVA Resolution

Brian Waterhouse presented information from the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta that they will be having a resolution session at their Annual General Meeting on October 17 & 18, 2014 at the Executive Royal Hotel in West Edmonton. The Summer Village of Itaska Beach would like to sponsor a resolution on Quagga/Zebra Mussels, and asked other Summer Villages that would be in attendance, if they would be in support of the resolution.

June Boyda – Compensation Review

Moved Pete Langelle to change the compensation for June Boyda to provide secretarial services for the APLM from \$150 to \$200 per meeting, and to follow the federal rate for mileage which is currently at \$0.54 / km.

Carried

FINANCIALS:**Financial Report**

Treasurer Harold Wynne presented copies of the August 31, 2014 financial statements.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

November 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Glen to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 pm.

CARRIED

THESE MINUTES ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY