

**ALLIANCE OF PIGEON LAKE MUNICIPALITIES MEETING MINUTES**

**June 10, 2015, 7:00 pm**

**Room 241**

**Leduc County Administration Office**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Glenn Belozer, Leduc County  
Ernie Elko, Argentia Beach  
Doris Bell, Crystal Springs  
Rex Nielsen, Itaska Beach  
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  
June Boyda, CAO Itaska Beach & Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:**

Robert Gibbs, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association  
Ralph Johnston, In-Lake Technical Committee  
Al Olson, In-Lake Technical Committee

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Brian Waterhouse called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Item #5e to be moved up to item #4a  
#5d to move up to item #4d.

Moved by Frank Dyck to approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Moved by Ernie Elko to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 APLM meeting as amended.

CARRIED

**DELEGATIONS:**

***Grandview: Research Project for Pigeon Lake***

Don Davidson presented a research project for consideration proposing that the in-lake technical grant funding be changed to be used for this new project. The cost would be \$50,000 per year for 3 years. For the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year the University would apply for further funding.

Brian Waterhouse suggested that all information flow through the in-lake technical committee first. Don Davidson has been invited to the committee to make presentations.

Frank Dyck asked if minutes or a progress report from the in-lake technical committee could be shared with the APLM group. During each APLM meeting, a verbal update has been given to the group. The in-lake technical committee will prepare a summary report on the progress to date.

Ralph Johnston, a member of the in-lake technical committee, commented that the purpose of the in-lake technical committee was to get proven facts. Ernie Elko stated that they have completed winter testing, and will be completing summer testing this year. Test results will be released once the summer testing and report is complete.

Al Olson, a member of the in-lake technical committee, provided that they are working based on a scientific process to work on the betterment of the lake. They will endeavour to increase the level of reporting as the information becomes available. They are open to considering different investigations, such as the one proposed by Dr. Vinebrook.

Moved by Frank Dyck to forward Don Davidson's recommendation to the In-Lake Technical Committee for their consideration.

*CARRIED*

### **In-Lake Technical Committee – Update**

Hutchinson Environmental Sciences have been contracted to do the sediment testing.

Met with Dr. Vinebrook from the University of Alberta, and approved the Biomanipulation (Trophic Cascade) project presented by Don Davidson to the Inlake Technical Committee.

The financial expenditures were shared with the group.

Al Olson, a member of the In-Lake Technical Committee gave a history of the meetings held with AHS regarding algae advisories, starting in August, 2014. Historically, algae advisories were made based on observation and some testing of the cell counts. Both are isolated to where there is a visible bloom. Need the testing to know whether the cells exceed the acceptable guidelines, and for which specific areas of the lake. The group proposed to complete a much wider coverage of testing, and a significant impression was made on the May 5, 2015 meeting. Would likely show that most of the lake was safe from blue-green algae, and show which areas had toxicity. Would be able to lift warnings quickly once it was safe. Could improve the public image of the lake.

Need financial support to do the testing. It does not fall within the current grant structure. Preliminary arrangements have been done with Hutchinson Environmental to complete the testing with volunteers and the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association to coordinate volunteers.

The program is expected to cost \$50,000, with \$40,000 to be recommended coming from the Summer Villages. It is a crucial short-term issue that could be addressed to improve the safety, image and use of Pigeon Lake to undertake the testing program, which will dissuade Alberta Health Services from their rigid view of lake condemnation and algae advisories. Al Olson will send out a briefing request for each municipality asking for financial support of the testing project.

Don Davidson also reported on the meeting of May 5th with AHS and the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Talbot. It was first clarified that Don was given the mandate to represent the municipalities of the APLM to "further the process of revising the process of the issuance of Algae Advisories by Alberta Health Services." per the September 16, 2014 APLM meeting. The Chief Medical Officer had confirmed that health advisories were issued for two reasons: firstly because of toxins which may affect human health and secondly because of high cell counts which may cause severe skin rashes. Even if cyanobacteria did not produce toxins, health advisories would be issued because of the risk of skin problems. Advisories were issued when one of three conditions existed; the presence of a visible bloom, cell counts higher than 100,000 cells/ml or toxin concentration greater than 20 micrograms per litre. At Pigeon Lake, the advisories have always been issued because of a visible bloom but have later been verified by laboratory results to always have high cell counts. At the meeting, there were concerns regarding the naming of the beaches in the advisories where the bloom was first observed because it would increase the number of advisories issued and it could marginalize some areas of the lake. Agreement was obtained from the members of the APLM that beaches should not be named, as long as it is clear that it is not a condemnation of the entire lake. Don reported that the change in the advisory wording not only stated that areas with a bloom should be avoided but also that those areas without a bloom could be safely used. This represents a major victory for all Alberta lakes as it acknowledges that the lake may be safely used if the bloom is not visible. He stated, in his opinion, that additional testing would not change the issuing of advisories and as such, he recommended additional testing not be done.

### **Bioremediation Subcommittee – Update**

Dr. Vinebrook has everything arranged and will be doing his testing and preliminary information on the minnows.

### **Pigeon Lake Watershed Association**

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

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan is currently focusing on storm water drainage. Experts could be available to speak on this topic at a workshop after the Annual General Meeting on August 22, 2015. Councillors are encouraged to consider attending, and if available to contact the PLWA to advise that they would attend.

Have a potential Federal grant application that may be approved; the letters of support from municipalities have been helpful. If approved, the grant would require matching funds. Would be a great opportunity to create an image of a community that is taking action and creating resources for other lakes and watershed communities to follow suit.

The Program Coordinator Brett Campbell is working out well, and can be met at the Lakedell Farmer's Market on Fridays. Love the Lake Family Day will be August 8, 2015.

Have a dedicated Living by Water Homesite consultant, which can be scheduled through the website: [www.plwa.ca](http://www.plwa.ca).

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association will provide contributions in municipal newsletters upon request.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **APLM Guiding Principles**

An updated version of the Guiding Principles of the APLM were provided to members, as the section on Organizational Meetings was updated, as per the November 19, 2014 meeting.

#### **Residential Address Signs**

The Summer Village of Itaska Beach completed a municipal residential signage project, with a number of other municipalities in the planning stages for a similar project. The signs are in consistent place near the edge of each lot but still on municipal property, with the house number and Summer Village identified. They are placed high enough so that during winter snow clearing, the signs will still be visible. It is very important for emergency responders to quickly find addresses.

For Itaska Beach, the website provider Econolution Inc. completed the graphical design for the sign. Alberta Traffic Supply created the signs, completed First Call and installed the signs at a cost of \$131 per sign.

**Sylvan Lake Tourism Study**

Tabled to the next Regular Meeting.

**Update on Alberta Health Services Issuance of Algae Advisories**

Discussed previously during the In-Lake Technical Committee update.

**Boat Mooring and Docks**

The Provincial Government has laws in place for occupying crown land after 14 days, which applies to docks. They are setting up a program, and are in the consultation process.

**2016 Project(s)**

Are there projects other than the lake, that the APLM should be considering for the upcoming year, such as safety - policing, recreation – list of community halls, project supporting the Aquatic Invasive Species program, or others?

Members to bring back suggestions for the next meeting.

**FINANCIALS:**

**Financial Report**

There is no call for funding at this time.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

September 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Rex Nielsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm.

CARRIED

THESE MINUTES ADOPTED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015

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CHAIR

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RECORDING SECRETARY