

Draft Minutes for Approval at January 24, 2019 Meeting

Minutes
Water North Coalition (WNC)
Thursday, November 15, 2018
St. Isidore, AB

Attendees

Bob Marshall – County of Grande Prairie
Tracey Anderson – Aquatera
Cherie Friesen – Northern Lakes College
Grant Dixon – Advanced Technology Applications
Randy Dupuis – Town of Peace River
Dana Langer – Town of Peace River
Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier – Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
Meghan Payne – Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council
Kaylyn Jackson – Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council
Murray Kerik – M.D. of Lesser Slave River
Ian Willier – Big Lakes County
Garry Leathem – Town of Fairview
Willis Fitzsimmons – Saddle Hills County
Michelle Huley – Constituency Assistant to Deputy Speaker, MLA for Peace River Debbie Jabbour
Sandra Eastman – M.D. of Peace
Janice Reyda – M.D. of Peace
Carolyn Kolebaba – Reeve of Northern Sunrise County
Corinna Williams – Northern Sunrise County
Brent Schapansky – Northern Sunrise County/New Water Ltd.
Jennifer Besinger – County of Grande Prairie
Vern Lymburner – Town of Valleyview
Johannes Zwart – Town of Grande Cache
Dale Smith – M.D. of Greenview
Tom Burton – Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Duane Lay – City of Cold Lake
Bob Buckle - City of Cold Lake

Administration

Kim Pinnock, NADC Manager
Sheila Sikora, NADC Research Officer
Megan Ciurysek, NADC Research Officer

Presenters

Advanced Trenchless – Dave Machado
Advanced Trenchless – Kelly Herman

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Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping:

Chair Bob Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:37am and introduced Carolyn Kolebaba, Reeve for Northern Sunrise County.

Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba delivered greetings from Northern Sunrise County at 9:40am.

Chair Bob Marshall introduced Michelle Huley, Constituency Assistant to Deputy Speaker, MLA for Peace River, Debbie Jabbour

Michelle Huley delivered greetings on behalf of Deputy Speaker, MLA for Peace River, Debbie Jabbour at 9:41am

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Corinna Williams of Northern Sunrise County to accept the agenda as presented at 9:42am
MOTION CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes of the Cold Lake, July 19, 2018 meeting

Moved by Janice Reyda of M.D. of Peace that the minutes be accepted at 9:43am

MOTION CARRIED

Roundtable Introductions

Bob Marshall asked members to introduce themselves and to give an update on anything new going on in their communities with respect to water and wastewater.

Jennifer Besinger, County of Grande Prairie – double checking versions of the mutual aid templates for water/wastewater operators.

Vern Lymburner – Town of Valleyview – work is occurring to use town facility as a training facility for Northern Lakes College.

Business arising from previous minutes

Review of Action List and Correspondence

Sheila Sikora of NADC reviewed the Action List from the Cold Lake meeting on July 19th and noted that there was a new format in that the items are now divided into Ongoing, New, and Operational items. Under Ongoing items:

- Funding for recruitment for municipal internship program and WNC membership fee survey.
- Recruiting an agriculture and industry representative for WNC as well as First Nation and Metis recruitment.
- Exploring funding opportunities for the Training part of the Recruitment, Training and Retention subcommittee.
- Connecting with an established Coalition to present to WNC on strategy.

Under New items, the following have been completed:

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- Reporting back to members about discussions around bacteriological testing in the north, including a teleconference with the Minister of Health.
- Inviting Tanya Hunter with Alberta Environment and Parks to present on the dashboard to WNC or at Water Week North.
- Sending Alberta Water Council survey to members and to follow up with a request for a presentation to WNC and a link to the WNC webpage.
- Sending members information on Google Docs. log-in.

Under New items, the following are ongoing:

- Members to consider stepping into role of WNC Vice-Chair.
- Members to consider joining the communications committee.
- Review of Strategic Plan, Terms of Reference, and Communications plan – to be discussed today.

Under Operational items, the following is complete:

- A list of events/conferences that WNC can exhibit at to increase presence in the north.

Under Operational items, the following are ongoing:

- Inviting local MLAs or other elected officials to attend or give remarks at WNC meetings. Sheila noted that this item has been moved to the WNC protocol document.
- Members to submit additional questions for presenting panel to Melonie who will have Q&A posted on WNC page.
- Suggestions for presentations for future meetings.
- Selecting a date and location for the next meeting – Lac La Biche is the next location in the new year.

Discussion on Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, Operational Plan, Terms of Reference

Chair Bob Marshall highlighted the changes that have been made to the strategic plan and the communications plan. Changes to the strategic plan include wording changes to 2.0 and 3.1, and moving action items from 2.4 to 3.1. Changes to the communications plan include a tense change throughout the document, additions regarding the external communications, and communications committee, moving points regarding presenters under Goal 2 to Goal 3, insertion of an updated action list, and an addition of a last revised date. Bob asked if there were any further amendments to the documents. There were none.

Bob emphasized that these documents are living documents and are subject to change when required.

Sandra Eastman of M.D. of Peace moved to accept the Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, and Terms of Reference as presented at 9:55am.

MOTION CARRIED

Update: Teleconference with Minister of Health

Chair Bob Marshall provided some background on the bacteriological testing issue, recounting to members the concerns over delays in receiving water testing results when trying to put in a line or reactivate a system. Bob also summarized some of the concerns regarding the failure of samples tested outside of the 24 hour time frame.

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Bob discussed the outcomes of the July teleconference with the Minister of Health, Sherri Wilson, ADM of Public Health and Compliance, Debra Mooney of Alberta Health Services, Keith Straub of High Level, Leslie Burke and Heather Dolhanty of Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and NADC staff. Concerns over the delays in testing were outlined during that teleconference. There was also discussion of a dashboard being available for operators, and if there is anything that WNC can do to help with getting the information from that dashboard.

Bob then informed the membership that Alberta Health Services had contacted him in August to discuss the process around operators needing results in a timely manner.

Bob recounted the outcomes from the latest teleconference in November with Shane Hussey of Alberta Health Services, Debra Mooney of Alberta Health, Heather Dolhanty of Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and NADC staff. Bob stated that the working solution for reporting both satisfactory and unsatisfactory results from construction/maintenance/power line disruptions entailed a faxing process: placing a note on the requisition requesting that the results, whether satisfactory or unsatisfactory, and faxing it to AHS Environmental Public Health and then the water testing results would be sent to the municipality as soon as possible. Bob also informed the membership that a best practices document aimed at minimizing false tests is under development. Work is also being undertaken on developing a dashboard. Bob requested that the membership bring forward information they may have on how other provinces share water testing results with water/wastewater operators. This information would then be shared with Shane Hussey from Alberta Health Services.

There were no questions from the membership on this issue.

Call for Position of Vice-Chair

Chair Bob Marshall stated that this meeting is the last one until the new year. Bob asked the membership to put forward their name at this time if interested in the position of Vice-Chair. He outlined the duties of this position: to chair the meeting if he cannot, responding to emails, participating in teleconferences, and that there is no travel commitment. Corinna Williams put her name forward for the position. Bob stated the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair will be decided in January. Northern Sunrise Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba questioned the delay until January to decide both positions, and why the positions have to be decided every year and all at once? NADC manager Kim Pinnock explained that because the organizational meeting is done in January, the intent was to have both positions filled at that time. Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba suggested that the Terms of Reference be changed so that Executive Positions are set for two years and that Vice Chair and Chair positions are elected in offset years. Bob stated that these issues can certainly be revisited.

New Business and Updates

Social Media for WNC

Sheila Sikora of NADC summarized the discussion at a recent communications committee meeting regarding the creation of social media accounts for WNC. She stated that the committee recommended that NADC create a WNC Twitter account, Facebook profile, and a Facebook page as opposed to a Facebook group at this time.

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Tracey Anderson from Aquatera suggested that a LinkedIn account also be created for WNC.

Corinna Williams of Northern Sunrise County questioned whether Facebook groups could be open or closed. Sheila responded that they could be either and there are pros and cons to each type of group. Corinna suggested that either type of group could be tried out for 6 months to see if the group is positive or negative. Sheila also mentioned that research was currently underway from the recruitment, training, and retention subcommittee regarding possible groups WNC could join once the accounts are created.

Chair Bob Marshall mentioned that the aim is to keep it as simple as possible, that the NADC secretariat would be administering the accounts for now, that a link to the NADC website would be included on the accounts, and that the accounts are to be created before the next meeting.

Corinna Williams of Northern Sunrise County moved at 10:10am that NADC create Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn accounts for WNC.

CARRIED

Presentation: Kelly Herman and Dave Machado – Advanced Trenchless Inc.

The presentation from Kelly Herman and Dave Machado of Advanced Trenchless Inc. illustrated the benefits of using Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) to repair pipes and inspect system before problems arise. The presenters specialize in project management, rating different lines, and fixing lines without having to dig up roads. Costs are dramatically lower (\$170.00/lineal foot for trenchless vs. \$760.00/lineal foot on trenching). When a pipe is fixed, the repair can last 50-100 years. CIPP can be used in non-traditional areas where there are large pieces of pipe missing, and lateral repairs are also doable. The technology consists of structural fiberglass and an impermeable membrane.

Q&A:

Question: Does the company have seasonal restrictions?

The company works year round but in certain temperatures (-20) equipment doesn't work.

Question: Repairs – are they done in sections?

For a really bad section, the liner can be made thicker, and for the rest of the section, the lining can be made thinner.

Question: Are such repairs cost-effective for small projects?

The cost can be close to replacement costs with septic tanks mentioned as an example. The septic tank may cost \$20,000 dollars to replace. The cost for Advanced Trenchless Inc. to fix the septic tank may be less but not a lot less because it would be a custom build. The presenters stated that water line repairs are driven by demand, and they are waiting on a technology license.

Question: What about drips and sags?

The liner mimics what it goes into.

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Question: Are there time restrictions?

The work can be done in two days. The company is trying to reach out to municipalities and put them on a five year program. The presenters stated that a main line can be repaired 200 metres at a time and that the diameter of the pipe can be 4 inches to 48 inches, with CIPP being 8 feet in diameter.

Question: What is the ability to withstand an auger?

It has the same ability to withstand as other regular auger uses.

Question: Does it have non VOC resins? Is it enviro friendly?

They have different resins that can be used.

Question: What about culvert cost?

It depends on size and that in terms of cost savings, it may be more cost-effective to replace it.

If anyone has follow-up questions regarding this presentation please email NADC secretariat for follow-up.

Subcommittee Updates

Education and Awareness

Meghan Payne displayed the subcommittee's quarterly bulletin summarizing activities since July. She requested feedback from the Coalition on this quarterly bulletin. Meghan stated that the subcommittee intends to create a poster with infographics outlining the true cost of water. The plan is to track the true cost of water using a fresh water source (river) in a small community of about 2000. Information from Northern Sunrise County will be used as the County has already completed work on this matter. The intent is to display the posters in public places and schools. The cost of water poster with visuals would be accompanied by a written document as well. ACTION: Meghan will investigate finding a student internship so that a graphic design student could design the posters. Meghan referred to the list of potential exhibits and mentioned a few trade shows coming up and that it is the hope to have WNC materials at these public events.

Advocacy

Sandra Eastman stated the grants brochure is done. Members asked that a statement be added to the brochure indicating that it was last updated as of XXX date before its put online and new copies are printed. Updates are to be included as needed. Sandra also informed members about the need for reliable, consistent funding for water and wastewater, referencing the strategic plan and water/wastewater surveys conducted over the years. She proposed that members take back four questions to their councils. These four questions can be used to develop a resolution, starting with local municipalities, zones, RMA, and perhaps FCM. The four questions are:

- What is your water/wastewater infrastructure deficit/liability amount in the next 10 years?
- What is the greatest challenge in meeting those needs/liability?
- What do municipalities require from WNC, what would you like us to advocate for?
- Do qualifying criteria restrict your ability to apply for grants?

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Sandra also mentioned banners for RMA/AUMA, and to partner with Aquatera for RMA. Sandra also stated that the subcommittee is working to get First Nations/Metis representation.

Recruitment, Training, and Retention

Jennifer Besinger stated that the subcommittee will be compiling a list of water and wastewater sites that exist and to put these on the Facebook account when it is created. Jennifer also mentioned a list of operators and a map of Alberta where facilities are located. Ideally, it would be useful to overlay these two pieces of information (operators/facilities) on a map. A list of available contractors has been started. With regard to training, the challenge is providing regional peer training. The subcommittee is putting together a business plan to present to Alberta Environment regarding CEUs for peer training. The subcommittee is identifying items for a training session, and skills achieved at the facility for sign off by a supervisor. The CEUs would be provided for training, and the trainers could also collect CEUs as well.

Chair Bob Marshall thanked the committees for their updates and added that it is important to select one thing and do it well.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Lac La Biche. The date has not been finalized. Elkan Engineering and Alberta Environment are on the list to be upcoming presenters. Bob encouraged the membership to forward suggestions for presenters to Melonie.

Sandra Eastman made a motion at 1:45pm to have NADC send out the four questions to all members before the next meeting. A friendly amendment was that once the questions are finalized to send them to Tom Burton so that he can send them out to his contacts.

CARRIED

Adjournment

Johannes Zwart of the Town of Grande Cache made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned.