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**Present:**

**Board members:**

Ray Frey, Board Chair	#81A, Upper Central Little Saskatchewan River
Kaye Wolstenholme	#72A, Upper Oak River, Chair
Gordon Paddock	#72B, Lower Oak River, Vice-Chair
John Spaller	#82A, Upper Little Saskatchewan River, Chair
Dennis Pedersen	#82B, Lower Little Saskatchewan River, Chair
Don Huisman	#81A, Upper Central Little Saskatchewan River, Chair at 9:38 a.m.
Larry Cardy	#81B, Lower Central Little Saskatchewan River, Chair at 9:35 a.m.
Cindy Murray	Provincial Appointee

Colleen Cuvelier	District Manager
Anne Davidson	Financial Administrator
Curt Westwood	Technician

Absent: Dave Falkevitch #72B, Lower Oak River, Chair

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The special meeting was called to review projects and programs for the 2017/2018 year. Chair Ray Frey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**#27/17: K. Wolstenholme – C. Murray**

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Carried.**

**BUSINESS**

**1. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS & PRIORITIZATION**

The Board reviewed the following projects for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

**A. Arrow-Oak River Watershed Surface Water Management Plan**

- To prepare a Surface Water Management Plan in co-operation with Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District.

**DISCUSSION:** This would involve minimal cash cost, however, lots of staff time.

**B. Sandy Lake Hydrology**

- Conduct an investigation of the flow of water within the Sandy Lake watershed.

**DISCUSSION:** There is no data present where water comes into Sandy Lake, area to investigate is less developed and would be hard to access. Possibly a project for a Master's thesis. Possible dollars with municipality or Biosphere. This will be a planning year.

**C. Proven Marsh-Otter Lake Water Retention**

- Store additional water in Proven Marsh and Otter Lake.

**DISCUSSION:** What are the next steps as funding dollars are not available? Market the project, make Brandon aware of the benefits of holding back some water, perhaps attend Council as a delegation.

**D. Smith Retention**

- Construct 2 plugs in 2 waterways.

**DISCUSSION:** finalize design, complete construction. Assiniboine Water Quality funding and landowner dollars for this project. Estimated costs are \$5,000.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATION (cont'd):****E. Crawford Lake**

- Work with municipality and landowners to stabilize water level.

**DISCUSSION:** municipality to host a meeting with landowners/cottagers and the CD take a role in the meeting.

**F. Gully Stabilization – S ½ 30-11-22W**

- Natural runs have been blocked creating gully in grain field. Goal is to restore natural runs which start on the field where the gully is located, cross an undeveloped road allowance and then continue across a field owned by a different landowner.

**DISCUSSION:** Set-up meeting with landowners. Construction would be next year. Could possibly be an ALUS project.

**G. Greg Gerrard Water Retention**

- Prepare /upgrade existing dam to store additional water.

**DISCUSSION:** Discussion with landowner and look at next year.

**H. Dowsett Small Dam**

- Construct small dam to temporarily store water to reduce peak flows and damage to municipal infrastructure.

**DISCUSSION:** Surveying is complete, design is needed, construction will take place this year, RM of Minto-Odanah equipment to be considered, landowner to provide fill. Funding with RM of Minto-Odanah and Assiniboine Water Quality funding. No landowner dollars.

**I. Cool Spring Colony Small Dam**

- Construct small dam to temporarily store water to reduce peak flows and damage to municipal infrastructure.

**DISCUSSION:** Surveying is complete, design is needed, construction will take place this year, colony will provide dirt. Funding with RM of Minto-Odanah and funding has been applied for from the Assiniboine Water Quality fund. No landowner dollars.

**J. Tanner's Crossing**

- To stabilize Little Saskatchewan riverbank at Tanner's Crossing School (Minnedosa Elementary) by constructing three current deflectors, filling in scour hole, and reducing elevation of bed deposit.

**DISCUSSION:** Partners should be contacted and get their financial funding commitment – 1/3, 1/3, 1/3. Estimate of costs to be confirmed. Survey and design only for 2017/2018 if partners willing to proceed.

**K. Wes Usick Grassed Runway**

- Reduce the velocity of water within a waterway that comes down a large ravine and across a pasture where it enters the Little Saskatchewan River. Amour ditch to prevent further erosion.

**DISCUSSION:** Surveying of this project is complete. Complete design and be ready for construction in 2018/2019.

**L. Broughton's Creek Riffle Construction**

- Construct riffle(s) in Broughton's Creek to create fish habitat and reduce velocity of water entering Lake Wahtopanah.

**DISCUSSION:** Nice view project, not top of list, could be help from Game & Fish.

**M. Lake Wahtopanah Buffers**

- Restore vegetated buffer around lake.

**DISCUSSION:** Game & Fish have helped with some fencing around the lake, doesn't seem to be any erosion around lake. Will not proceed with this program.

**N. Kerr Lake**

- Investigate causes of nutrient loading and their impact on water quality in the lake. Includes literature review, possible lake water sample collection and analysis. Prepare information package for those living around the lake.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATION: N. Kerr Lake (cont'd):**

**DISCUSSION:** Water sampling to be carried out from May to September – 6 sites, 5 inflow and 1 outflow. One sample per week, maximum of 96 samples, Lab costs up to \$5,500.00. Plus 3 historic sites to be tested, May to September, 20 samples total costs of approximate \$7,000.00. Sampling to be completed this year. Written reports of costs of approximate \$15,000. Possible funding to investigate are municipalities, RMNP, Cottage Assoc.

**O. Lake Water Quality**

- Collect water samples from lakes sampled in the 1980s within the former South Riding Mountain Planning District. Each lake will have 3 sites. Samples will be collected from a boat and collected every 2 weeks over the summer. Samples will be analyzed at a lab. Lakes previously chosen are Otter, Ditch, Kerr. Wolf/Little Jackfish Lake would be used as a control.

**DISCUSSION:** Testing is cost prohibitive so only Kerr Lake will be tested this year.

**P. Storm Water Assessment**

**DISCUSSION:** Discussed under 2. Municipal Projects, Surface Water Mapping between PTH and Leda Lake.

**Q. Community Based Water Quality Monitoring**

- Work with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation to implement a community-based water quality monitoring network to collect phosphorus data at the 5 flow gauging stations within the District.

**DISCUSSION:** District to coordinate a meeting for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation to meet with interested people to take samples.

**R. Algae Control in Lakes**

- Partner with Riverdale Supply to treat algae in a lake using ultrasound technology.

**DISCUSSION:** Share the details of this treatment with the Municipality of Harrison Park for Sandy Lake.

**2. MUNICIPAL PROJECTS**

- **Surveying Equipment rates** – The Board agreed to raise the rates for surveying. For CD member municipal partners - \$450/day plus mileage; Minimum charge is \$450, no hourly rate.; for non-member CD partners - \$650/day plus mileage; Minimum charge is \$650, no hourly rate.
- **Surface water mapping between PTH 10 and Leda Lake** – Municipality of Clanwilliam-Erickson are looking to the Conservation District for an approximate cost to a solution of drainage from PTH #10 to the flow into town and out of town. Technician with the public works employee could collect data of size of culvert and lay of land in the Town of Erickson.
- **Clanwilliam culvert Inventory** – Municipality of Clanwilliam-Erickson is seeking a quote for completing a culvert inventory outside the Town of Erickson.
- **Recreational Study for Leda Lake** – the Municipality of Clanwilliam-Erickson requested a cost estimate to conduct a study for establishing a recreational plan for Leda Lake. The board are not sure if this program could be undertaken by the District.
- **UARCD Culvert Inventory** – The UARCD are continuing with their culvert inventory program in the Rural Municipality of Yellowhead and inquired about renting the LSRCD survey equipment or have someone work with them to collect the data. The board agreed that the survey equipment could be used only if the Technician is working with them and agreed one week could be devoted to the culvert inventory on the east side of the municipality.

The board departed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

**PROGRAMS****ASSETS**

1. The purchase of a drone and a computer will be added to the Budget.

**GOVERNANCE & POLICY**

1. **Conference** – First come first attends. Registration, meals and either hotel or mileage is paid. No remuneration is paid.
2. **AGM, Elections**–The AGM and Elections will be held on the third Wednesday of November 2017 at Basswood. Municipal partners, Watershed Planning & Programs and MCDA will be invited to attend. Same format as previous years.
3. **Professional Development** – Staff are to bring forward any professional development that they need during the year.

**WATERSHED EXTENSION**

1. **District & Sub-District Tours** – Sub-Districts #82A and #81A are interested in having sub-district tours. District wide tours will not take place until 2018/2019.

2. **Demonstrations/Workshops**

- **Shoreline Clean-up** – Shoreline clean-up at Rivers Lake.

**DISCUSSION:** The board discussed the time organizing volunteers or an organization and agreed if a local organization organized a shoreline clean-up, the District would support and be involved with it.

- **Polycropping** – A polycrop is a cocktail of plants are grown to replenish nutrient levels in the soil and provide nutrients for subsequent crops.

**DISCUSSION:** A location should be established and prepared this year with planting in the spring of 2018.

- **Household Composting** – Host a composting course.

**DISCUSSION:** The board agreed to host a one day workshop but would like the Biosphere to organize it.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species** – Work with municipal partners to promote the importance of Aquatic Invasive species.

**DISCUSSION:** Have the municipalities pressure the Province to help establish more permanent signage, suggest that aquatic invasive species be part of the watercraft operators training.

- **Rain Gardens** – construct a demonstration rain garden at a site.

**DISCUSSION:** Establish contact with Library in Erickson for consideration of establishing a rain garden at the Library.

- **Rainbarrels** – The District will not offer rainbarrels this year.
- **Urban Storm Water Management workshop** – The District will offer to pay registration and up to \$100. For expenses to any urban representatives that would like to attend an urban storm water management workshop.
- **Municipal CAO/Staff** – organize a workshop for municipal CAO's and LSRCD staff to advise the municipal CAO's what the CD can do, demonstrate the survey equipment, the offsite watering system, etc., provide lunch for a whole day workshop.

3. **Tours**

- The MCDA annually hosts a District Tour with a Conservation District but this year invites everyone to attend the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative and the Manitoba Forage and Grass Association tour and workshop in Russell from June 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

4. **Program Flyers** - The flyer will be the same format as other years with a map of the District with Sub-District members' names and a description of the programs.

**WATERSHED EXTENSION (cont'd):**

5. **CD Award** – The board agreed there was value in continuing with this program. The winners become Ambassadors for the District.
6. **Signs** – The board would like project signs, 2' x 3', purchased and erected with landowners' consent.

**PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The purpose of the scoring sheets for the programs was discussed. They can determine the cost share with the landowner and reflect the benefit of proceeding with a project.

**GROUND WATER PROTECTION**

1. **Abandoned Well Sealing** –Landowner costs will be 25% of construction costs. Minimum charge of \$75. for a well. If a landowner used their own equipment, the District will accept an invoice for their costs.
2. **Water Quality Well Testing** – Well Water Testing day will be held in August with the District paying the shipping costs. The District will work with the Lab that is awarded the Provincial Subsidy.
3. **Well Inventory** – LSRCD staff meet with landowners to complete an inventory of wells on their property. Data collected is forwarded to Provincial staff to update the ground water drill logs. A well water sample is taken and analyzed. No cost to the landowner for testing. During the site visits, CD staff provide information on the abandoned well program and caring for the well to protect human health.

**DISCUSSION:** If the Province announces a program, the District will submit an application to collect samples and record information from the Town of Rapid City.

**SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT**

1. **Beaver Management** - Levellers cost will be \$325.00. Deceivers will be at the cost shared 75/25 with the District for construction and labour time to install. District to install.
2. **Project Warranty** – Projects under warranty is the English dam, Tavernor Gully Stabilization (Year 2), Ken Tiller Grassed Runway (Year 2). There are no issues with each project at this time.
3. **Surface Water Management** – Projects will be evaluated and prioritized with coverage up to maximum of 75%. Three-year warranty on projects is First year at 100% LSRCD costs, second year is 75%, and Third year is 30%. Projects are cost-shared with the landowner on total costs of project at 75/25 or as low as 50/50 depending of scoring. A hold-back guarantee will be implemented and then if the project is finished within a month (weather permitting) then the hold-back will not be implemented.
4. **Shelterbelts** – For 2017/2018 landowners' costs are 100% for trees, planting is \$250/mile with a minimum charge of \$250, mulch is \$100/roll. Trees that have been ordered but not planted by the District are to be paid for at time of pick-up. If the land is not properly worked, the District has the right to refuse to plant. The District will not do hand planting.. It should be stated that delays in planting can result in survival risk. The District does not provide warranty. Orders should be picked up by May 26<sup>th</sup>. Rental for the tree planter and mulcher is \$100.00/day with a staff member and is only available if the staff are not using it.
  - Life Immortal Program – a program that supports re-forestation for caskets. The Board will not use this program.
5. **Growing Forward 2** – Two projects have been applied for – Natural Areas Enhancement and Riparian Area Enhancement.
6. **Seed Drill** - Rental price for drill is \$8.00/acre, with a minimum charge of \$100.00. Remaining criteria for the drill remains as is.

**SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT (cont'd):**

7. **Saline Seed** - Landowners will be reimbursed \$25/acre to a maximum of 24 acres. Landowners will purchase their own seed after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline for applications is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
8. **ALUS** – there are ongoing negotiations between and Province and ALUS Canada for a province wide program. KAP is pressuring the Government for CDs to deliver the program.

**WATER QUALITY**

1. **Nutrient Management** –this is an incentive program, maximum payment of \$2500, project scored 75/25, 65/35, or 50/50. Application deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> and project completion by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Pasture Pipe & Plow** - Remains the same at \$100/day for plow rental and fittings at cost. 1 ½” hi-density pipe is available at a cost of .60/ft. (subject to change). Landowner to provide tractor & operator.
3. **Offsite Watering System rental** - Program will be on a first come first served basis. Cost will be \$150/for 3 weeks or each additional week will cost \$50/week.
4. **Long Term Sampling** – This is quarterly sampling at 3 sites, one on the Little Saskatchewan, one on the Assiniboine River and one on the Oak River. The District receives the results of the samples.
5. **Eco-Van** – First come first served basis for school to book the Eco-Van. The District pays one-half of the costs for this program.
6. **Youth Programs** –
  - Park West School Division, Grade 6 Water World Outdoor Education in partnership with UARCD, LPCD and TRWCD.
  - Enviro Expo which is a mini water festival that AHCD and the City of Brandon will be holding on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - AHCD will be holding a Water Festival at the Brandon Shopper’s Mall on April 8<sup>th</sup> and are looking for volunteers.
  - Rivers Wetland Centre of Excellence – the signs have not been finished so our funds have not been forwarded yet. We will continue to work with them.
  - River Watch – will continue with the program.

**OTHER**

After reviewing the programs for this year, the board discussed a seasonal term position in addition to the summer student. Staff were instructed to bring dollar amounts to the April board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**#28/17: D. Pedersen**

That the meeting now be adjourned to meet again on **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** or at the call of the Chair. **SD #82B and municipal council of the Rural Municipality of Oakview** invited to attend.

**TIME: 3:09 p.m.**

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Ray Frey, Chair

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Anne Davidson, Financial Administrator