



Lake Isle and Lac Ste. Anne (LILSA) Water Quality Management Society

Executive Meeting

Monday September 18/23 – 7:00 PM - Zoom and in-person

In attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Bernie Poulin - Chair | Connie Stonehouse |
| Kelsie Norton | John Cassano |
| Megan Thompson | Debbie Durocher |
| Ray Hutscal | Sharon Beadle |

Regrets:

Michael Findlater
Kevin Lovich
Jenna Carter
Kier Packer
Garett Broadbent

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

1. Approval of the agenda

MOTION: Debbie moved the adoption of the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved – passed.

2. Approval of Minutes Aug 1/23

MOTION: Connie moved the adoption of the Aug 1/23 minutes. Unanimously approved – passed.

3. Election of Executive Positions

Chair: Sharon nominated Bernie Poulin for the position of Chair, and Bernie accepted. No other nominations were made. Unanimously elected.

Vice-Chair: Connie nominated Kelsie Norton for the position of Vice-Chair, and Kelsie accepted. No other nominations were made. Unanimously elected.

Treasurer: Ray nominated Connie Stonehouse for the position of Treasurer, and Connie accepted. No other nominations were made. Unanimously elected.

Secretary: Kelsie nominated Megan Thompson for the position of Secretary, and Megan accepted pending approval by LSAMCA. No other nominations were made. Unanimously elected.

4. Financials

August 31 2023 bank balance: \$20,873.56

Advertisement (promotional materials) was the only expense in August. Upcoming expenses for LILSA web page maintenance.

Summer villages have all contributed.

Sunset Shores has not submitted fees that were collected from its owners for LILSA for the past two years. They will look into this and may be able to contribute as a lump sum. Connie will need to provide an invoice.

MOTION: Debbie moved for LILSA to pay approximately \$287.52 for LILSA web page expenses. Unanimously approved – passed.

MOTION: Debbie moved to accept financials as presented. Unanimously approved – passed.

5. Living Lakes Canada letter of support

LLC were in contact with LILSA about a year ago. They are an NGO from BC focused on water management, research and monitoring programs. Last year they applied for a provincial grant to conduct a foreshore assessment and management program (FIMPP) at Lac Ste Anne, but that grant wasn't awarded. FIMPP includes assessment and then implementation of restoration in foreshore areas.

They will apply for the same grant again this year for Lac Ste Anne, and LILSA provided a letter of support (quick turnaround was required). They are interested in LSA because it is relatively data poor, and because of the existence of LILSA (established lake management organization). Bernie noted that LILSA may provide some financial support as well, if the grant is awarded.

MOTION: Bernie moved for to LILSA to approve this letter of support for Living Lakes Canada's grant application. Unanimously approved – passed.

6. Flowering Rush Update

Finished surveying both Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne (except at ANSN reserve) and found no flowering rush. However, there is flowering rush in the connecting river, as well as a large infestation in the Sturgeon River coming into Lake Isle.

Bernie has let Nicole at AEP know about this, and they may apply to spray these areas in the future. We are in year 2 of a 5-year program of chemical application. The ACP grant (which paid for the field crew) has expired, but Bernie may look for other funding to continue this work. Sharon mentioned that the sprayers did a good job, very thorough. Kelsie asked if there could be underwater growth, but Bernie believes that the growth is emerging from the water. Discussion about troubles with digging the rush because of the this year's high water.

MOTION: Ray moved for to approve the flowering rush update as information. Unanimously approved – passed.

7. Weir

Kelsie explained that Ray is interested in looking into the weir. Kelsie mentioned that there is a SRWA strategic plan and alignment meeting in October, so it may come up there. There has been a suggestion to do water quality monitoring and possibly education activities at the weir. Kelsie mentioned a former AEP employee who is now a consultant has indicated that doing a new water balance study that includes the weir could be useful.

AEP has been clear that they will not own any new water control structures at Lac Ste Anne. Kelse also attended the ALMS conference, and other lakes in Alberta that used to have water diverted to them, but are now seeing lower levels as well. Right now, the LSA water levels are average.

Ray will reach out to Garrett and a contact Stu (at Ross Haven) to discuss fish passage. For now, it would be good to collect information. Bernie has a contact that has some much older data/information about Lac Ste Anne, and will try to obtain copies and share them.

Connie S. still thinks the lake level is important and worth looking into. Ray mentioned that there is a beaver dam downstream of the weir that is currently holding back water. Ray believes that an adjustable weir would be quite useful, including to coordinate for lagoon release. Bernie recalled the history of LILSA stepping away from this issue in the past – maybe it would be good to look into it. Debbie discussed the task force that previously existed but was shut down. Kelsie noted that installation of a water control structure would also require consultation with Indigenous communities. Megan noted that it would also probably require approval by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Kelsie further noted that there are probably water license holders downstream that would need to have their allocations met. Probably good to start on this information gathering – there are more information sources, plus all of the regulatory requirements should be identified. John wonders about how water level affects water quality, is there a specific study? Bernie mentioned inspections of septic fields and tanks. Kelsie noted a study that used a drone to detect plumes from septic systems using infrared sensors.

MOTION: Kelsie moved to accept the weir discussion as information. Unanimously approved – passed.

9. Outreach/Website update

Ray is wondering about file sharing, to allow photo sharing. John mentioned using google drive. Kelsie asks everyone for any pictures of the lakes and area to share for the website/social media.

Kelsie has worked with Bernie and Connie to choose the logo for the promotional hats, which have been ordered along with lanyards and notebooks. Now waiting to hear when they will be ready.

11. Round table

- Ray: Ross Haven has connected to the sewage lagoon, which is good progress. There is a mayors meeting coming up that LILSA may want to suggest agenda items for. Kelsie would like to ask LSA county to see if their ALIS program may come back (that program works to get cattle watered offsite and fence water bodies). Ray would like to add that to the mayors meeting agenda. Bernie noted there is inconsistent management of cattle around water between Parkland and LSA counties.
- Debbie: Nothing to add. Good meeting tonight.
- Sharon: Evacuation was nerve-wracking, and then it poured rain all summer. Otherwise, nothing to add.
- Megan: LSAMCA would like to have a community member also attend LILSA meetings in the future – hope to get that going soon.
- John: Nothing for now, may contact a drone company to check on infrared capacity.
- Kelsie: NSWA applied for a large grant towards the WRP, including for a data platform for restoration projects done by different groups, with location and status. This will help with planning and outreach. Still collating Sturgeon River water quality data to look for “hotspots” and determine whether trends can be determined. Kelsie is still also interested in the lagoon connections, and the engineered wetlands.
- Bernie: Lake level is quite high, so getting questions about removing the weir again. Looks like there could be a long-term cycle (decade-long). Discussions about historical variation in water level.

Next Meeting: Monday October 23/23

Adjournment @ 8:11 pm