

Working Together for a Healthy Watershed

August 31, 2003

The first meeting on Working Together for a Healthy Watershed was held on August 31, 2003, at 1:30 pm in the garage of Terry and Donna Kotyk at IPGS.

Opening / Welcome: Terry Kotyk Handouts on Agenda and on area representatives.

Attending & Introductions: [replace list below with list made at the meeting]

Terry Brett	Powm Beach
Bob Cameron	
Euna Favor	Horseshoe Bay
Bob Gourlay	TLL
Tom and Margo Halpenny	IPGS
Bernie Lukan	
Darryl Newton	IPGS
Terry Kotyk	IPGS
E. Merle Robinson	TLL
Merv Swanson	IPGS
Don Taylor	Southbay
Arnold Thiessen	IPGS
Gary Wacker	IPGS

Recording Secretary appointed: Arnold Thiessen

Presentation by Terry Kotyk on Program Outline and things done to date.

Question what benchmark on water quality of TL. M. Swanson has data for 2000. T. Kotyk has data from 2002 on some sites relating to cattle in prov. forest shoreland. Still have cattle on the shore between Sunset View and Evergreen Acres. Comment on number of dogs in resorts. Comment on significance of choice of name for a watershed association.

Margo Halpenny demonstrated the method of Secchi Dip water monitoring. Her findings are filed on a website. Marker visible this July to 3.5 meters, but subjectively she says this is much less than when she first came to the lake. Not that much algae this year, compared to other years. Merv presented 1964 figures indicating less depth visibility then, and readings back to 1940 of 4.1 m.

Terry explained the Water Watchdog program for kids.

Terry is putting aside \$6 from the sale of each Watershed book toward setting up a non-profit organization for TL.

Equipment for water monitoring already promised by SK Water.

SNOWS presentation by Terry Kotyk. Would like it functioning at TL by 2004.

Merv Swanson presentation on the role of provincial agencies regarding Watershed. Want a lake as good as it was in the beginning. We can make a difference. We can impact the human factor. But, we depend on global weather. North American Lake Management Society publishes activities and information. SK only recently organizing. SNOWS up and running 2 years – annual conference April 2002, June 2003 – next year in May for \$25 registration fee. Assembling a Community Watershed Toolkit based on Edmonton's. Jackfish-Murray got \$5,000 a year, also Good Spirit Lake. Others got much more funding – good studies, newsletters, but sustaining that high level of activity is difficult. Suggests TL do like Swiftcurrent Creek – hired a coordinator through federal funding. We need volunteers who speak as a unified body for the Lake. Need to keep our stakeholders

informed. Do water quality monitoring. Engage provincial monitoring agencies. Suggests moving toward a local non-profit organization.

Tom Halpenny explained partnership potential with SK Parks. Parks convention in Saskatoon October 3 – 4.

Question on what are our concerns at Turtle Lake; reply by Merv was general in nature. How to focus? Terry Kotyk suggests another established group visit to explain what they are doing. Margot Halpenny asked about potentially contentious issues like septic tanks, if an outside agency can be engaged to deal with these? Merv replied we can request provincial agency do it. RM office can be engaged. Discussion about varying decisions by different governments with local authority.

Question of what is our next step? Terry suggests further presentations by outsiders.

Darryl Newton moved we proceed to the the next step toward organizing a local entity. Bernie Luken [check this name] seconded the motion. All in favor. Unanimously carried.

Terry presented an outline of steps required to put an organization in place, including a handout headed 'Conclusion?'. Need to host a public meeting before we incorporate. Terry would like to aim for spring of 2004 for this public meeting. Who do we invite? Should invite the public, business people, farmers, RM councils. Public meeting to present information, by SNOWS.

Discussion of date for next Ambassador group organizing meeting, toward the public meeting. Email? Most attendees are permanent residents, so should be able to get together. It was agreed to meet on October 26, 1:30 pm, at South Bay, in Don Taylor's heated garage.

Should set up committees. Discussion of funding for the public meeting. Suggesting approaching local government entities for funds from tax moneys.

Closing by Terry with a slide on Watershed Marketing – 'Tell me I will forget.'

Discussion about selling the 'On The Living Edge' books to raise funds for the association.

Tom Halpenny presented a petition regarding the education portion of municipal taxes.

Meeting adjourned.

Coffee and cookies.