

Turtle Lake Watershed Partnership Minutes

Saturday, October 14, 2006
Sportsman Inn
South Bay, Turtle Lake

In attendance:

Terry Kotyk		Guests:
Bob Gourlay		Jeremy Brown - SWA
Keith McGuire		
George Rozdilsky		
EM Robinson		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M.

Terry Kotyk chaired the meeting and began with a review of the agenda.

Bob Gourlay read the minutes from the July 27 Board meeting and motioned they be adopted as read. Seconded by Terry Kotyk. Carried

Bob Gourlay read the minutes from the Sept. 2, 2006 Annual General Meeting and motioned they be adopted as read. Seconded by Keith McGuire. Carried

Business arising from the minutes

TLWI Logo

Terry Kotyk presented artwork for the TLWI logo.

Motion: Keith McGuire / George Rozdilsky: That the art work presented be adopted as the official logo for the Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. Motion carried unanimously

Signage to Remind Ice Fishers to remove litter

Bob Gourlay reported a recent conversation with Bernie Lukan. Bernie felt that the board should reconsider the concept of placing garbage containers on the ice for ice fisher to use to place their litter. He felt that the approach transferred the responsibility for keep litter off the ice on the TLWI, instead of keeping it on the ice fishers who are benefiting from the natural resource. He believed that signage either in the area where the ice fishing shacks assemble, or at the boat launch entrances would serve to remind ice fishers to clean up and take all litter back with them and dispose of it in a suitable fashion. After some discussion a consensus was reached to develop signage to be placed at boat launch areas to remind ice fishers and snowmobilers to keep litter of the ice. Bob Gourlay volunteered to develop and propose the signage wording at the next board meeting.

New Business

SWA Report on Livestock near Turtle Lake

- At the April 29, 2006 TLWI Board meeting, Jeremy Brown, range agronomist for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was requested to investigate five locations around the shoreline of Turtle Lake where livestock has been seen. (see April 29, 2006 Board minutes for specific land descriptions)
- The following report was compiled in regards to that request for information regarding the potential impacts of livestock to Turtle Lake.
- Four of the five areas were assessed, one land owner did not co-operate

- Five areas were identified as having cattle along the lake at some time during the year. These areas represent approximately 15% of the total shoreline. The land managers of each area were contacted to collect information on management strategies and riparian area health.
- Management information collected included: number of cattle, season of use, presence of alternative water sources, and grazing management techniques.
- In each case, cattle are only present during the growing season. Season of use varied from 20 – 150 days. In each case grazing in the riparian areas is deferred to at least early summer to allow for vegetative growth.
- Two of the pastures had other water sources available to the cattle at all times. (E.g. dugouts) Currently none of the managers pump water into off-site troughs. This practice was recommended in three cases and is being considered by the managers.
- Managers tend to practice techniques to minimize the time that cattle spend in the riparian areas, such as rotational grazing and placement of attractants (salt blocks) away from the riparian area.
- Riparian health assessments were performed on four to the pastures. The average score was 75% in a range from 54% to 95%. This indicates that the riparian area is generally able to perform its expected functions, but may have some disturbance impacts. In these places, the main change was an alteration in vegetation.
- One pasture is on public land, where impacts from livestock and recreational use (ATV's) are cumulative.
- This information is provided for general discussion only with the co-operation of the land managers/owners.
- Available opportunities to further improve the management of these areas have been discussed with the land owners.
- In summary, cattle that have access to Turtle Lake are generally being managed in a responsible manner. The result of responsible grazing management will be healthy functioning riparian areas and a low risk of impact on the lake itself.

TLWI Signage

Terry Kotyk presented a proto-type of the Turtle Lake Watershed road signage along with a sample of dibond material. Motion: Terry Kotyk / George Rozdilsky; to approve the expenditure of \$2,200 for the fabrication of 4, 4x8' signs with copy and graphics as per Terry's proto-type. Carried.

Terry agreed to approach Pelican signs to have the signs made over the course of the winter and have them ready for installation in the spring of 2007. Bob Gourlay and Keith McGuire volunteered to contact their respective RM's to determine the regulations for road signage.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:15 P.M.

Next Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Conference Call

Call 306-781-5999

Pass code: 7971008#