

Turtle Lake Watershed Partnership Minutes

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008
Turtle Lake Mission

Board Attendees: M. Swanson, B. Gourlay, , J. Cameron, C. Bodnar, J. Range, T. Kotyk, G. Rozdilsky, G. Polinsky

Guests: Nancy Range, Guidance Counselor, Turtleford Community School

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M.

Merv Swanson opened the meeting and welcomed the members and visitors. After introductions Merv reviewed the agenda and asked for any additional items.

Bob Gourlay read the minutes from the June 28, 2008 Board meeting and asked for errors or omissions. It was noted that G. Rozdilsky and T. Kotyk were in attendance at the June 28 meeting. Bob amended the minutes and moved the minutes be adopted as amended, seconded by Jim Range. Carried by a show of hands.

Financial Report

Bob Gourlay reported that the TLWI bank account as of July 31, 2008 was \$9,961.58. Bob asked if there were any questions and moved the financial report be adopted as read. Terry Kotyk seconded, motion carried by a show of hands.

Business Arising from minutes

Research on the Fuel Spillage Prevention Program

Don Taylor and Scott McRobbie were not in attendance to provide a report on the fuel spillage prevention programs. This report will be tabled for the April 18, 2009 meeting.

Impact of acid rain from tars sands projects.

Merv will be contacting someone from Sask. Environment to talk to the board on the impact of acid rain generated from the tars sands projects. This presentation will be planned for one of the 2009 board meetings.

New Business

Opportunities for Turtleford students

Nancy Range, Guidance Counselor for the Turtleford Community School informed the board that many Turtleford students apply for post-secondary scholarships and are often required to provide examples of where they have provided volunteer service, or leadership in the community. To assist the students, Nancy was seeking opportunities within TLWI projects that would suit the needs of the students and provide assistance to the TLWI. The discussion identified number of potential opportunities and included: shoreline cleanup projects, shoreline restoration projects, research project e.g. Ice fishers surveys etc.

Motion 08-004: Merv Swanson thanked Nancy for her initiative and moved that the TLWI board partner with the Turtleford Community School to identify projects of mutual benefit. Seconded by G. Polinsky, carried.

Shoreline signage to discourage activities harmful to the lake

Merv Swanson led a discussion outlining a number of activities taking place in the lake and along the shoreline that represent a threat to the quality of the water and fisheries. The increasing practice of quads and vehicle owners washing their vehicles at boat ramps, or by directly entering the water is of concern to the board. The use of soaps and shampoos directly in the lake is also a concern.

Motion 08-005: Bob Gourlay moved that signs be developed and deployed at beaches, or boat launch locations around the lake to discourage lake use practices harmful to the lake and fisheries. Seconded Charles Bodnar. Motion carried. Merv Swanson volunteered to prepare a proposal outlining the wording, design, location and costs of the signs. Merv will send his proposal out to the board in early 2009, so that the signs could be ready for installation prior to the 2009 summer season. This project if approved would be included in a 2009 DFO Stewardship Grant application.

Educational pamphlet for property owners

Bob Gourlay led a discussion on the importance of the continued awareness and education of property owners within the drainage basin. The four year water quality report was distributed to cabin owners in 2008, primarily at hamlet & village AGM's. The report highlighted the good quality of the water at Turtle Lake and established a positive baseline into which more positive land use activities and practices can be communicated.

Motion 08-006: Bob Gourlay: That a proposal for an educational pamphlet be developed that would be distributed to all property owners within the Turtle Lake drainage basin. The pamphlet's purpose would be to educate property owners on land use practices and activities that negatively impact the lake while providing them with alternatives. Seconded Jim Range. Motion carried. Bob Gourlay volunteered to develop a proposal for board approval. The proposal will outline the content of the pamphlet, method of distribution and all related costs. Bob would have this proposal in time to be included as a 2009 DFO Stewardship Grant application.

TLWI Bulletin Boards

Merv Swanson tabled the idea of erecting TLWI bulletin boards at strategic locations around the lake. The purpose of the bulletin boards would be to increase awareness of TLWI initiatives and to serve as an educational medium to communicate both historic and timely information related to protection of lake and shoreline. A discussion followed on concerns related to the location and upkeep of such bulletin boards.

Motion 08-007: Bob Gourlay moved that a proposal for a proto-type bulletin board be developed for board approval. The proposal would describe the design, location and upkeep of the bulletin board along with all related costs. Terry Kotyk volunteered to develop this proposal in time to be included as a 2009 DFO Stewardship Grant project.

Survey of Property Owners

Bob Gourlay tabled the idea of conducting opinion research to better understand lake and aquatic ecosystem issues of greatest importance to drainage basin property owners. This research would assist the TLWI board in developing and executing future initiatives. A discussion followed as to how the survey would be conducted and the nature of the questions.

Motion 08-008: Bob Gourlay moved that a proposal be developed to conduct opinion research to better understand lake and aquatic ecosystem issues of greatest importance to drainage basin property owners. Seconded by Terry Kotyk, motion carried. Bob Gourlay volunteered to develop the proposal in time to be included as a 2009 DFO Stewardship Grant application.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Next Board Meeting

Saturday, April 18, 2009
10:00 A.M. – Noon
Turtle Lake Mission