

Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. Board Minutes

Saturday, June 24, 2017 10:00 A.M., Turtle Lake Mission

Board Members Present: Dave Blackwell, Cameron Jack, Bob Leslie, Bernie Lukan, Don Taylor, Court Peddle, Darryl Geissler, Vince Voss, Louis Bossaer, George Rozdilsky, Jim Range, Nancy Range

Guests Present: Thomas Abe Project Manager for the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council and NSRBC summer student, Maddie Simpso.

Call to Order:

President Jim Range called the meeting to order, welcomed all and requested introductions . Jim passed out a copy of the meeting agenda and asked that it be reviewed for additions and deletions.

Nancy Range read the minutes from the May 13, 2017 meeting and asked if there were any errors or omissions. Nancy Range moved that the adoption of the minutes. Seconded by Dave Blackwell. Carried.

Financial Report:

Nancy Range handed out copies of the financial statement. The present balance of the TLWI account is \$10,789.64. Nancy moved the adoption of the financial report. Seconded by Bernie Lukan. Carried.

Old Business:

Regarding the condemned bridge at South Bay, Jim Range reported that he had contacted Ryan Domotor of the R.M. of Mervin regarding the precise replacement of a survey marker that is referenced and calibrated to the present weir. Bob Leslie asked why the bridge could not be replaced with a series of large culverts that could also serve as a control mechanism for lake levels. It was shared by another Board member that this option had been discussed but turned down by the RM due the prohibitive cost, estimated to exceed \$125, 000.

Don Taylor reported that at present, the water levels are 22" above the weir. Bob Leslie reported that at present the lake levels as measured at Indian Point are approximate 31 mm. below the all time high of the 2013 lake level. Bob Leslie requested that this information be posted to the website; Bob Gourlay agreed to bring the water level graph up to date on the web site .

Discussion followed detailing the negative consequences of the present high Turtle Lake levels. These include increased shoreline erosion, flooding, damage to docks and properties, and the potential additional threat should we experience an

unusually large rainfall. Moved by Bob Leslie, seconded by Dave Blackwell; that a letter be drafted to the RM detailing the damage presently being done by high water levels on Turtle Lake to lake shore and properties, requesting that the RM take whatever measures are required to lower the water level of Turtle Lake. Carried.

The Board directed Jim Range to contact the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency regarding the location of a permanent marker to monitor lake levels. If such a benchmark does not exist, it was proposed Jim request that one be installed and clearly marked.

Thomas Abe of the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council reported that the RM of Mervin refused to allow the "Love your Lake Program" be implemented on Turtle Lake during the summer of 2017. Thomas reported that the topic would be revisited at the next RM council meeting as there may have been a misunderstanding regarding the cost the RM would incur to implement the Love your Lake program.

Thomas Abe reported the results of the May 26, 2017 water test taken at the traditional site off of Indian Point. This test was jointly funded by NSRBC and TLWI. The TWLI share was \$296.31.

Discussion followed regarding the results of the water tests. It was suggested that TLWI attempt to get water testing results from the RM of Mervin from the 2016 Turtle Lake Study. Cameron Jack, representing Thunderchild First Nation, informed the group that Thunderchild does regular water testing of Turtle Lake for their band members using lake water. He will attempt to get these results to share with TLWI.

Discussion followed about the need for posting water testing results along with a report and interpretive statement to explain possible reasons for changes in the various parameters being measured.

Bernie Lukan made a motion to purchase the water testing equipment, the Van Doren water sampler plus the turbidity disc from Hoskins Scientific Supply in Burnaby. Seconded by Court Peddle. Carried.

Thomas Abe presented a Memorandum of Understanding where the TLWI would provide the equipment plus logistics support to test the water in Turtle Lake twice each summer. The NSRBC would provide the technical expertise to collect the samples, and to analyze and report the results to TLWI. Thomas will make suggested changes in the M of U and will present this to TLWI Board for their consideration.

Thomas Abe requested that TLWI provide the GPS coordinates for the Zebra Muscle detectors and the Water Security Signage along Turtle Lake.

New Business:

Colleen Reddekopp, Conservation Officer representing the Ministry of the Environment, reported that Turtle Lake has been scheduled for the fish survey in the summer of 2017. Colleen added her concern about increased amounts of the illegal disposal of waste and garbage that is being disposed of on Crown Land by users of Turtle Lake. Ms. Reddekopp went on to remind the group that the fertilizing of grass on any properties draining into the lake is in breach of the Environmental Protection Act.

AOB

The Annual Lake Cleanup was discussed. George Rozdilsky will make a presentation at the Annual Meeting on this topic. In the past, individual beaches and cabin owners clean up their properties. However, the beach line between the resorts is at present not being cared for. With the high water levels, there is increased material showing up in the lake and on shore.

Topics of interest for the July AGM were discussed. These included :

- the impact of high water levels Ben Wilson of the Water Security Agency
- RM of Mervin presentation: an overview of the recent survey of Turtle Lake
- Aquatic invasive species Chad Doherty Department of Fisheries

The Annual General Meeting date is Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Court Peddle moved adjournment. Carried. Time 12:00 pm.

The next general meeting of the Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. is 10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 26, 2017 at the Turtle Lake Mission.