

**MINUTES OF THE SMOKY RIVER REGIONAL WATER
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN THE
SMOKY RIVER REGIONAL FIREHALL
on January 27, 2025**

PRESENT: Alain Blanchette
Donna Buchinski
Maggie Gervais
Danielle Laflamme
Robert Lauze
Luc Levesque
Gilles Roy
Yvonne Sawchyn
Marcus Sheane
Joseph Zdeb Chairperson

Administration: Rick Gervais, Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Joseph Zdeb called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

AGENDA: Moved by Danielle Laflamme that the agenda be approved as presented. (copy attached)
CARRIED

REGULAR MINUTES: Moved by Donna Buchinski that the Regular Meeting minutes of December 12, 2024, be approved as presented.
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING: None

BANK RECONCILIATION: Moved by Maggie Gervais that Bank Reconciliation dated December 31, 2024, be accepted as circulated. (copy attached)
CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORTS: a) 2024; Moved by Donna Buchinski that Income Statement dated December 31, 2024, be accepted as information. (copy attached).
CARRIED

b) 2025; Moved by Yvonne Sawchyn that Income Statement dated January 21, 2025, be accepted as information. (copy attached)
CARRIED

BILLS FOR PAYMENT: Moved by Alain Blanchette that the accounts payable for cheques No. 4986 to 5007 and 8 online payments ending December 31, 2024, in the amount of \$207,236.89, and the

accounts payable for cheques No. 5008 to 5016 and 6 online payments ending January 21, 2025, in the amount of \$303,518.03 to be ratified by the Board. (copies attached)

CARRIED

MANAGER UPDATE:

Manager, Rick Gervais presented the clarifier project pictures, and explained to the Board how the clarifier works and how it is currently functioning.

Manager, Rick Gervais discussed the treatment challenges that are being experienced at the Water Plant, and what we are investigating to try and correct the situation.

Manager, Rick Gervais discussed the intent of the draft MOU from the MD of Smoky River that was presented at the December 12, 2024, meeting. The Board was informed that an updated MOU was to be expected.

Manager, Rick Gervais informed the Board that the Security Camera System was installed at the Water Plant and is working well.

Manager, Rick Gervais informed the Board of issues starting to arise with the Water Plant computer and program. It was discussed that we should replace it and have additional programming done, that would enable the second distribution pump to automatically engage when demand is required.

A discussion on the Fiber Optic Quote from Northern Lights Fiber took place. It was decided that we will not connect to Fiber Optics at this time, and we will stay with our current provider.

Moved by Danielle Laflamme to accept the Manager's Update as information. (copy attached)

CARRIED

POLICY REVIEW:

Moved by Maggie Gervais that Policy No. 006; Employee Evaluations, be approved as presented. (copy attached)

CARRIED

Moved by Yvonne Sawchyn that Policy No. 002; Safety & Working Conditions, be approved as presented. (copy attached)

CARRIED

Moved by Luc Levesque to accept newly created Policy No. 003-4 Emergency Communications, as amended.

In the first sentence, "*Commission Manager and/or Chair*" will replace "*Smoky River Regional Water Management Commission*".

In the last paragraph, "*prolonging changed to prolonged*" and "*at least weekly*" to replace "*as deemed necessary*". (copy attached)

CARRIED

CAPITAL BUDGET:

Moved by Donna Buchinski to accept 5-year Capital Budget as amended,

MCC/Generator \$300,000.00 moved from 2025 to 2026.

Water Plant Roof Maintenance \$5,000.00, moved to operating budget.

Guy Distribution pump \$7,000.00, and VFD \$4,000.00 moved from 2025 to 2026.

Aeration Upgrades to Falher raw water reservoir \$120,000.00, Awaiting ACC quote to determine if project is moved from 2025 to 2026.

It was discussed that a vessel style filter may be needed for water treatment issues.

CARRIED

Moved by Gilles Roy to fund the 2025 Capital projects totaling \$30,000.00 from Capital Reserves, "Capital Replacement". (copy attached)

CARRIED

2025 DEBENTURE
REPAYMENT
SCHEDULE:

Moved by Alain Blanchette that the 2025 Debenture Repayment Schedule be accepted as information. (copy attached)

CARRIED

ZOOPLANKTON
PREVALENCE
DRINKING WATER
TREATMENT
CONCERNS:

Manager, Rick Gervais discussed a few key takeaways from an external report on zooplankton prevalence.

Moved by Marcus Sheane to accept the Zooplankton Prevalence report as information. (copy attached)

CARRIED

COPEPOD STAGES: Moved by Danielle Laflamme to accept the diagram of the copepod life stages as information. (copy attached)
CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS: Water Management Conference: WPAC is hosting a conference in Grande Prairie, at the Pomeroy Conference Center on February 25 and 26, 2025. Presentation themes include, water quality and data, water use and efficiency, boreal ecosystems and biodiversity.

Moved by Maggie Gervais that Manager, Rick Gervais and Vice Chair, Donna Buchinski attend the Conference (copy attached)

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE: All corresponding letters are about establishing a Northern Facility, or some way of streamlining water testing more efficiently for Northern Communities.

Town of Falher Letter
Village of Girouxville Letter
SRRWMC Letter
Town of McLennan Letter
Minister of Health Letter

Moved by Robert Lauze to accept all correspondence as information. (copies attached)

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2025, at the Smoky River Regional Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Joseph Zdeb adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.



Chairperson



Recording Secretary