

Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board Meeting

November 2, 2017

10:00-4:00

McIntosh Building, Prince Albert, SK

In attendance

Ron Hlasny

Ian Kitch

Ron Campbell

Marilynn Kullman

Marcy Bast

Diane Ballantyne

1. Opening Prayer-Diane Ballantyne
2. Introductions
3. Reviewed and accepted the minutes from last meeting
4. Reviewed the agenda
 - a. Added COSEWIC status summary
5. Presentations or Updates
 - a. Manitoba Sustainable Development Invasive Species update: Laureen Janusz provided an update on zebra mussels (and spiny waterflea) via phone (see attached summary)
 - b. Saskatchewan Environment Invasive Species update (Ron Hlasny)
 - 62 water bodies were sampled for presence of zebra mussel veligers, 35 were sampled for eDNA, and substrate samplers were also used at a subset of waterbodies
 - four additional decontamination units were purchased, and will try to set up two permanent stations next year (one at the border and one on Hwy 1)
 - flowering rush is coming into Saskatchewan from Alberta; it is moving down the South Saskatchewan River, close to Diefenbaker but not quite there yet
 - c. SRSMB Juvenile Study
 - for study details see attached summary
 - the intention for the future is to have the communities lead the juvenile program, which may be possible for OCN as soon as next year; in Cumberland House there were challenges with participation and it may take longer
 - Ron C. suggested to continue the adult sampling program (instead of the juvenile program) since juveniles are captured in that program anyway
 - Marcy reminded the group that the problem with the adult sampling program is that the sampling protocols are not consistent between the provinces
 - Marilynn noted that focusing on juveniles gives us a different type of information as well
 - Ron H. suggested that it would be great to agree on a common protocol for sampling

-Ron C. noted that they weren't able to complete the MOU study this year

d. Future community initiatives (Diane)

-Diane shared some ideas for community initiatives that she would like to pursue:

-she would like to have plush juvenile sturgeon so that she can show youth what sturgeon look like

-ACTION: Marilyn to look into ordering stuffed sturgeon for Diane Ballantyne; also look into inserting floy tags and developing related activities

-she would like OCN to have their own SRSMB display

-ACTION: Diane will pick up the SRSMB display from Ron and keep it at her office

-she would like to have an informational table before the angling fishing season comes in to get the information to the membership; possibly a poster and a very simple handout

-she would like to have signs at different locations where anglers frequently capture sturgeon; she noted that some people catch 20 sturgeon at a time; some people keep it to themselves, some people sell it

-ACTION: Diane will look into getting permission to put posters up at three sites where anglers go fishing

-ACTION: Marilyn and Diane will work together to develop and produce posters (Marcy suggested that Diane consider putting the Natural Resource Council logo on it)

-she would like to get input from resource users on the work we are doing

6. Other issues

-Diane emphasized that it's very important to get more youth involved now; do work with the outdoor education program, would be good to get more information on sturgeon into the education program

-Marilynn noted that the Nelson River Sturgeon Board pays an educator to visit schools and talk about sturgeon, and that this might be possible for the SRSMB

-ACTION: Diane will look into whether this might work for OCN

-Marilynn noted that COSEWIC has finalized their status summary, and briefly described that the reason the Saskatchewan-Nelson River designated unit was recommended for listing as endangered was due to the decline over the past three generations

7. Next meeting: 5 April 2018