



## Wapiti Regional Library

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Online via the Zoom meeting app

**Present:**

**City of Humboldt**

A. Klitch  
S. Weyland

Executive Committee

**City of Melfort**

A. Phillips  
K. Duncan

Executive Committee; Board Chair

**Town of Nipawin**

J. Boughen

Executive Committee; Board Vice-chair

**Town of Tisdale**

M. Wallington

Executive Committee

**Towns**

K. Nelson  
T. Medernach  
L. Magnusson  
B. Dobrinski  
L. Gudjonson  
K. Hoare  
H. Hind

Town of Birch Hills  
Town of Cudworth  
Town of Duck Lake  
Town of Hudson Bay  
Town of Porcupine Plain  
Town of Shellbrook  
Town of St. Brieux

**Villages**

D. Hunter  
D. Johnson  
C. Mason  
S. Fujimagari  
A. Weiers  
T. Boettcher

Resort Village of Candle Lake  
Village of Canwood  
Village of Christopher Lake  
Village of Paddockwood  
Village of Shell Lake  
Village of St. Louis

**Rural Municipalities**

C. MacMillan  
N. Stevenson  
B. Wyatt

District of Lakeland #521  
RM of Birch Hills #460  
RM of Canwood #494

B. Hildebrand	RM of Duck Lake #463
H. Diederichs	RM of Hoodoo #401
A. Dahlsjo	RM of Kinistino #459
L. Blacklock	RM of Paddockwood #520
C. Skaug	RM of Shellbrook #493
K. Willson	RM of Spiritwood #496 Executive Committee
A. Campbell	RM of Star City #428
D. Nosbush	RM of Three Lakes #400
D. LaRose	RM of Torch River #488
D. Wiebe	RM of Willow Creek #458

### **Guests**

J. Bushby RM of Pleasantdale

### **Staff:**

T. Murphy, Regional Director/CEO  
 B. Lawreniuk, Finance Manager  
 L. Baker, Community Services Librarian  
 K. Desormeau, Administrative Assistant & Recording Secretary

### **Attendance:**

Humboldt/Melfort/Nipawin/Tisdale Representatives	6
Towns Representatives	7
Village Representatives	6
Rural Municipality Representatives	13
Guests	1
 Total Attending	 33
Staff members	4

**Call to Order:** Board Chair A. Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**Announcements:** Board Chair A. Phillips welcomed Wapiti Regional Board members, reviewed Zoom meeting and voting guidelines, and then confirmed attendance.

A. Phillips announced that due to 2021 pandemic-related temporary library closures and restrictions that resulted in a lack of fairly comparable statistics, the Executive Committee made the decision not to designate special branches for awards in 2021. Appreciation was expressed for all branch libraries and local boards for their commitment to library service and resource sharing during a year of difficult circumstances.

Significant 2021 branch library anniversaries were announced: Leask, St. Louis, and Weldon Public libraries celebrated 70 years. Carrot River, Shell Lake, and Spiritwood Public Libraries marked 60 years while the Duck Lake Public Library observed its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

<b>Introductions:</b>	Board Chair A. Phillips introduced the Executive Committee members and Regional Office staff. Farewell and appreciation was expressed to E. Kazmiruk (Town of Big River) for service on the Executive Committee throughout 2021.
<b>Agenda:</b>	Board Chair A. Phillips presented the agenda.  <b>MSC that the agenda be accepted as presented.</b>
<b>Minutes:</b>	Board Chair A. Phillips presented the minutes of the November 20, 2021 Semi-annual Meeting.  <b>MSC that the November 20, 2021 Semi-annual Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.</b>
<b>Chairperson's Report:</b>	<p>Board Chair A. Phillips thanked the Executive Committee, Regional Director, Regional Office staff, local boards, and branch library staff for their commitment and hard work, excelling at providing great library service to patrons. Congratulations were offered to those branch libraries celebrating milestone anniversaries.</p> <p>With the recent provincial budget again announcing a 1% “no increase” to library funding, it is becoming more difficult for Wapiti to keep up its level of service each year. With a normal inflation rate of 2.5%, Wapiti continues to get further behind. So far, 2022 has seen an inflation rate of closer to 7.5%. Advocating for adequate funding for libraries will remain a top priority. This is crucial in order to sustain library services in our communities.</p> <p>Wapiti is in the process of creating a Strategic Plan that when complete, will assist the Executive Committee and staff with clear goals and direction for the next five years. A review and update of Wapiti policies, bylaws, and procedure manuals is also currently under way.</p>
<b>Annual Report:</b>	<p>Regional Director T. Murphy presented the 2021 Annual Report, pointing out that Wapiti Regional Library has now completed its 71<sup>st</sup> year of service. He shared Wapiti's Mission Statement and Values, explaining the vital role public libraries play in communities by providing life-long learning. He outlined how Wapiti is funded in that the Annual Provincial Government grant is the sole source of funding for Wapiti Regional Office operations, while Annual Municipal grants are used exclusively to support branch libraries (salaries and materials purchasing). Municipalities directly support branch libraries by providing facilities, utilities, and interior fixtures. This municipal support is at the heart of Wapiti's partnership to bring libraries to the Region's communities.</p> <p>Saskatchewan libraries received another 0% increase in the 2022 Saskatchewan Provincial budget. In comparison, schools received an increase of 1.3% (of 3.8 billion) after an increase of 11.6% in last year's budget. The Provincial Library and Literacy Office also received increases this year and last year.</p>

Throughout 2021 and into 2022, COVID-19 remains a driving force that impacts how Wapiti operationalizes services and serves our communities. Despite the rescinding of provincial health orders, Wapiti has strongly encouraged staff to continue to wear masks, socially distance, and employ barriers at front counters. These measures are in place to protect our staff.

In December 2021, after many years of fundraising, the Town of Birch Hills moved its branch library into the new Duane Lowe Community Centre for which the town has won a Saskatchewan Municipal Award. Another highlight of 2021 was the opening of the new Candle Lake Public Library.

The Saskatchewan Public Library Sector Plan continues as a work in progress since 2018, following the 2017 Provincial Funding Crisis and the 2017 - 2018 Public Library Engagement. So far, the Sector Plan does not address in any clear substantive fashion the fundamental issue of ever-diminishing provincial funding. Because the plan had to reflect both regional and municipal libraries, the result is a watered-down plan, addressing issues in very sweeping, general terms. The plan calls for a year or more of “research” before “actions” can be committed to.

The Saskatchewan Public Library Sector Plan does not reflect Wapiti’s concerns as contributed to the Public Library Engagement, including the need for the Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO) to have its own strategic plan separate from the Ministry of Education’s K-12 plans, or any explanation or analysis/assessment of the roles and responsibilities of PLLO and the Ministry of Education, even though as the primary funder, they control the future of public libraries through their funding.

Thanks were given to the Wapiti Regional Library Board, the Executive Committee, the Regional Office team, local library boards and branch staff, and municipal partners for working together for the shared goal of providing the best public library services possible during another challenging year.

**MSC to accept the Board Chair and 2021 Annual Reports as presented.**

**Audit Report:** Finance Manager B. Lawreniuk reported that auditor Grant Thornton LLP returned a clean audit report for 2021.

**MSC that, as recommended by the Executive Committee, the 2021 Audited Financial Statement be approved as presented.**

**2022 Budget:** Board Chair A. Phillips reported that since the 2022 Budget was reviewed and approved by motion at the November 20, 2021 Semi-annual Meeting, and that no changes have been made, the budget will stand as previously approved.

**Election 2021/2022** T. Murphy reviewed election procedures, and then conducted elections for the 2022/2023 Wapiti Regional Library Executive Committee.

**Nominations/Appointments:**

Humboldt	-	Amanda Klitch
Melfort	-	April Phillips
Nipawin	-	Jan Boughen
Tisdale	-	Marilyn Wallington
Towns	-	Kelly Hoare, Town of Shellbrook
Villages	-	Sheila Fujimagari, Village of Paddockwood
RM Category	-	Cliff Skaug, RM of Shellbrook #493

**MSC to accept the 2022/2023 Executive Committee be declared as elected by acclamation.**

**Chair & Vice-Chair  
Elections:**

**MSC that A. Phillips be declared elected as Wapiti Board Chair by acclamation.  
MSC that J. Boughen be declared elected as Wapiti Board Vice-Chair by acclamation.**

Board Chair A. Phillips welcomed the new Executive Committee.

**Other Business**

N. Stevenson (RM of Birch Hills) expressed how pleased the community is with the new facility into which the Birch Hills Public Library has relocated.

**Next Meeting**

Wapiti Regional Library Semi-annual Meeting will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, November 26, 2022, format and location to be determined.

**Adjournment**

Board Chair A. Phillips thanked all for attendance and participation.

**The agenda being complete, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.**