



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

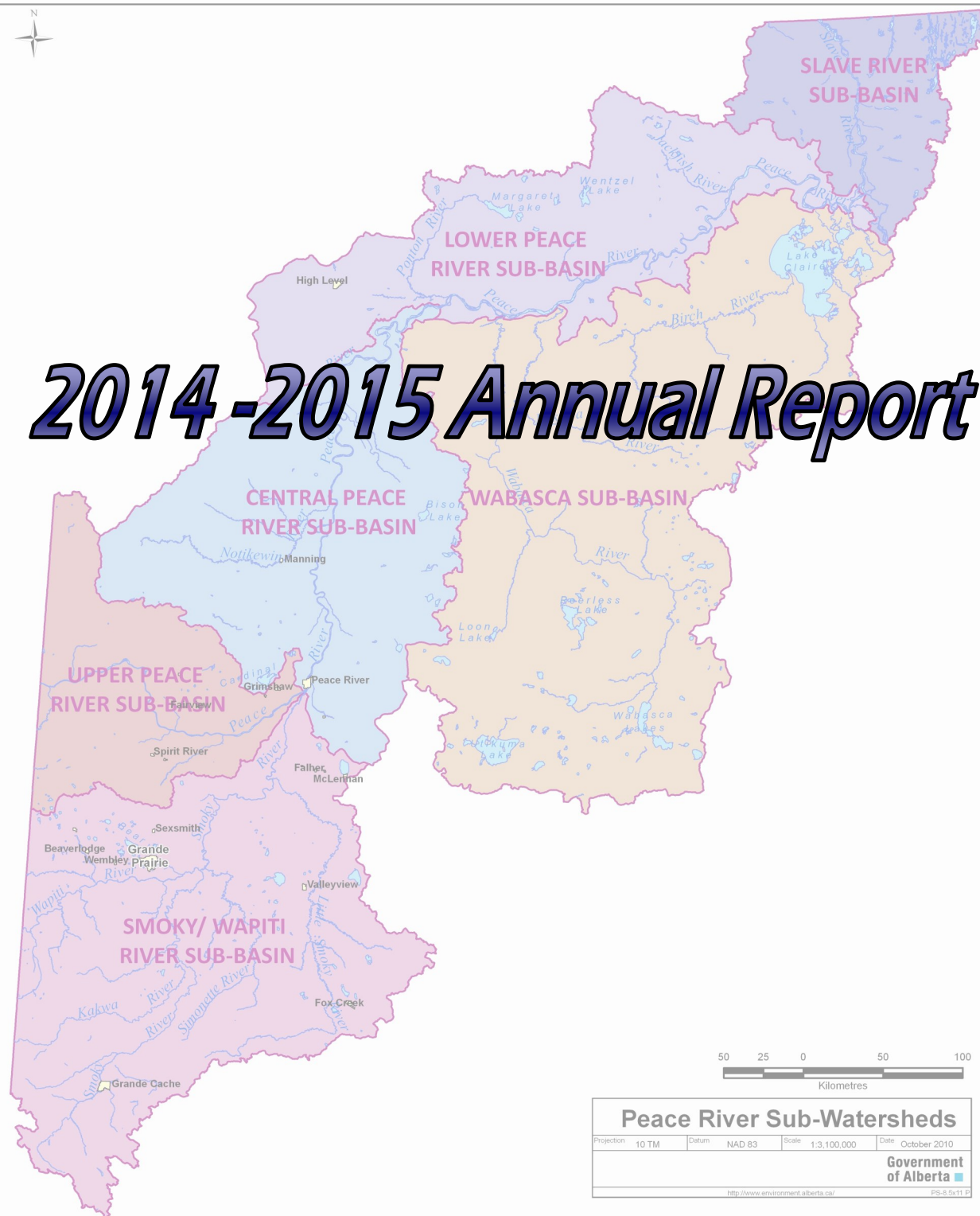


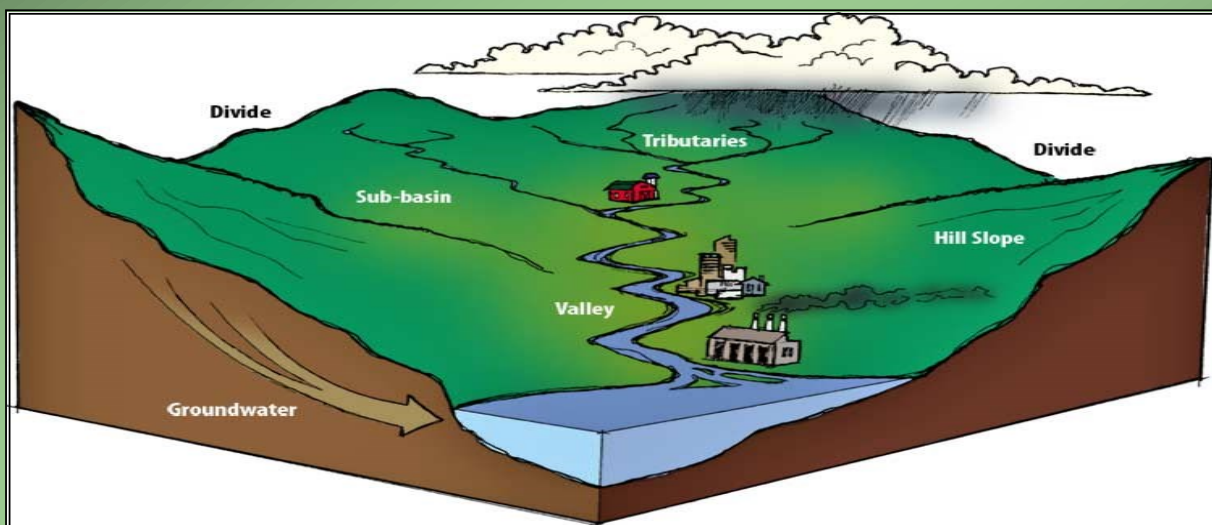
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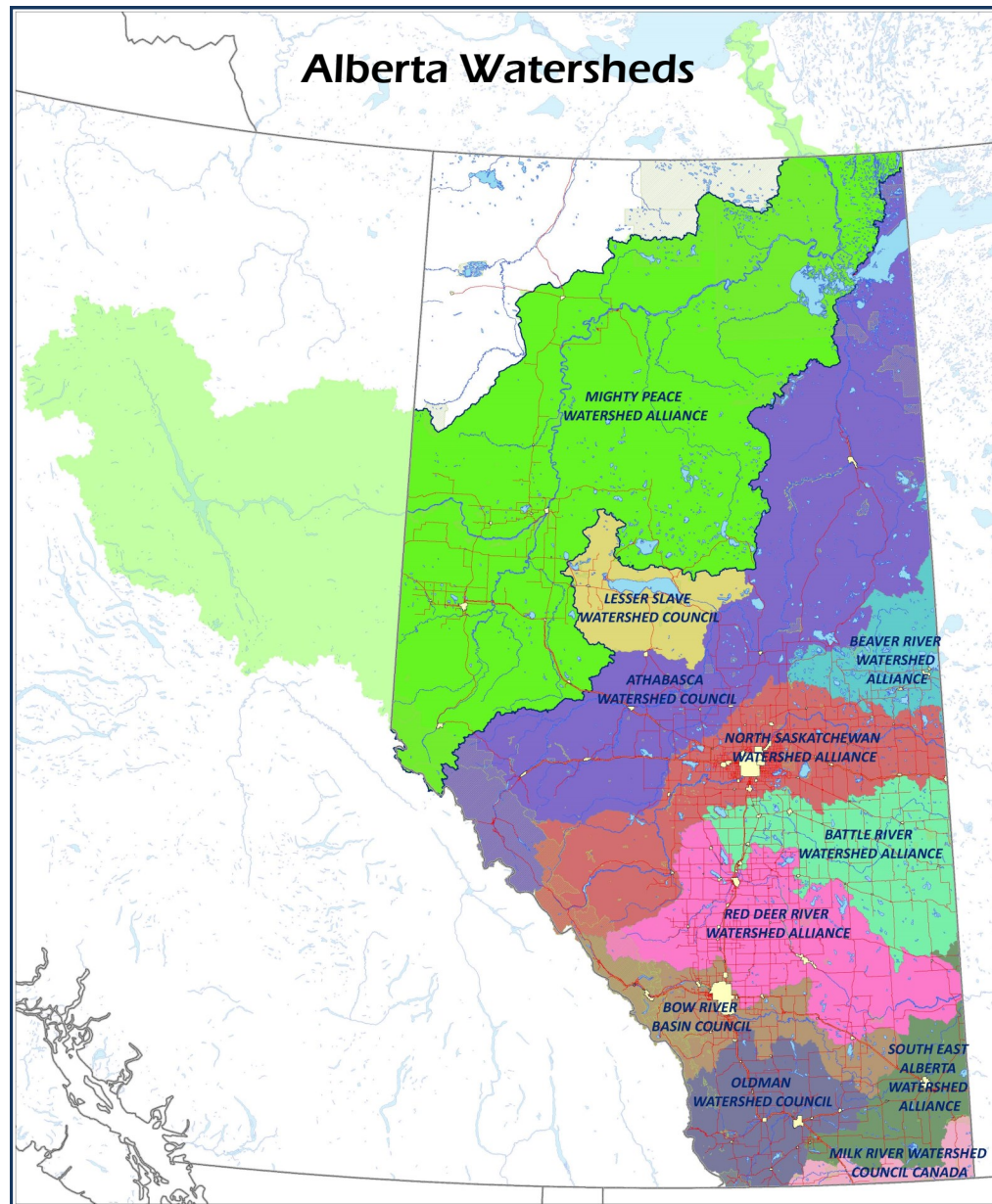
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WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

The term watershed refers to the geographic boundaries of a particular water body, its ecosystem and the land that drains to it. A watershed includes groundwater aquifers that discharge to and receive discharge from streams, wetlands, ponds, and lakes.

Everyone lives in a watershed. You influence what happens in your watershed, good or bad, by how you treat the natural resources, the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. What happens in your small watershed also affects the larger watershed downstream.





Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA): Formed in 2011, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance has been designated by the Government of Alberta (GOA) as the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Peace and Slave River Basins under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy. The MPWA was created to address the key outcomes of the Strategy:

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

This multi-sector, not-for-profit society is committed to planning for an ecologically healthy watershed while ensuring environmental, economic and social sustainability.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a group of active stakeholders and communities that use consensus decision-making, adaptive management, and innovation to understand and promote living within the watershed. The Board will report on the state of the watershed, lead watershed planning activities, promote best management practices and develop educational programs.

About the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

The MPWA is guided by its vision, mission, goals and shared values:

VISION

The Peace is a healthy, sustainable watershed that supports our social, environmental and economic objectives.

MISSION

To promote watershed excellence, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will monitor cumulative effects from land use practices, industry and other activities in the watershed and work to address issues through science, education, communication, policy and by supporting watershed stewardship.

Diverse, Responsible & Connected!

****Diverse*** group of people representing diverse interests.

****Responsible*** for bringing those interests together.

****Connected*** to all stakeholders across the watershed area.



Adam Norris
Sturgeon Lake
September 2011



SHARED VALUES

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will:

Respect a diversity of peoples and values:

By demonstrating individual and collective respect for the air, land and water and by appreciating the diversity of values and opinions found in the Peace watershed.

Be an ambassador for the Peace watershed:

By promoting our vision and mission, demonstrating integrity, accountability and practicality, and practicing effective communication, knowledge-building and consensus decision-making.

Be a trustworthy and credible source of information:

By being well-informed and providing sound advice through an adaptive watershed approach that integrates traditional, local and scientific knowledge in information-gathering and problem-solving.

Be fair and transparent to all:

By seeking balanced representation and listening to all stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

Be inclusive and collaborative:

By facilitating inclusive and collaborative processes and partnerships, promoting membership and interaction, and providing opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved.

Be innovative and action-oriented:

By being motivated, resourceful and action-oriented in finding new, innovative ideas and win-win solutions.

Foster Stewardship:

By encouraging and enabling individuals and organizations to be good stewards of the watershed.

Message from the Chairman

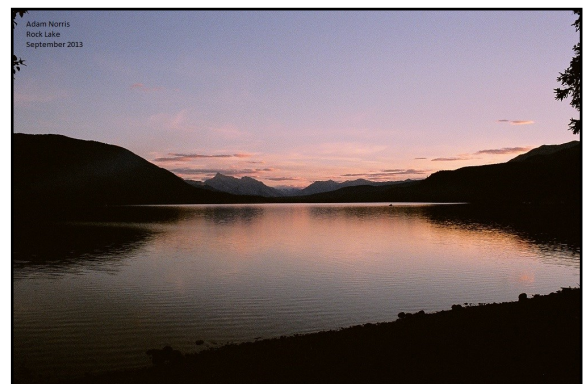
While much of what the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance does is to put words on paper, there is a lot of effort from Board members and staff that goes into listening to the experience of Peace watershed residents. When we summarize public concerns on paper as part of the process of watershed planning, we have committed ourselves to go out again and ask if we got it right. This year Board members and staff visited 10 communities within the basin with the final draft of our just published State of the Watershed report and the Draft Terms of Reference for our Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

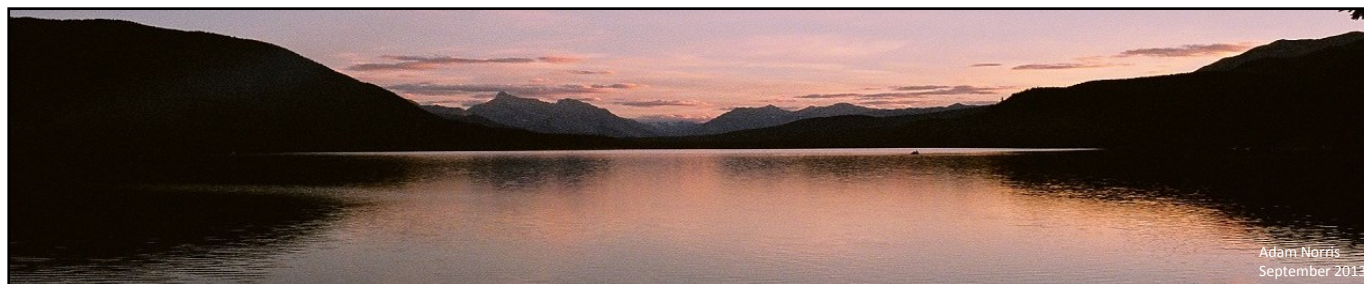
A steering committee for the Integrated Watershed Management Plan has now been formed and is proceeding with substantial direction from the Board of Directors in what we anticipate to be a two year effort to develop the plan. The Steering Committee will be looking for working group members from all sectors with particular expertise to develop and/or evaluate options to address the first three issues we've

chosen from the very ambitious list of five presented in the Draft Terms of Reference. Those who will be asked to implement the options proposed are obviously key to the process. So once again we are looking for volunteers and in-kind support from each sector.

The Board members spent a day and a half in a facilitated workshop formulating a strategic plan for the coming three years. Staffing has become a challenge and we are amongst a group of other northern Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils seeking staff. Stay tuned to our website for full or part time employment opportunities

Robert A. Cameron
Chairman of the Board





Message from the Executive Director

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) has worked diligently since April 2011 to gather relevant information and research necessary to complete the *State of the Watershed (SOW)* report. The end of March 2014 saw a draft SOW document and then the organization lead a public engagement process of community forums and webinars to gather feedback. The feedback was reviewed and incorporated so that the final SOW products were available the end of March 2015. This has been a major piece of work and the MPWA is pleased to provide the information for all residents and stakeholders. These documents provide the foundation for the Integrated Watershed Management Planning that will continue in 2015.

This watershed is vast and varied and in many respects it is taken for granted that it will always be available for our enjoyment and use. I would encourage all people of the watershed to think about how they live, work, and play in their day to day lives and see if there are ways that we can make improvements that will benefit our watershed.

The 2015-2016 year will be the time when the MPWA moves forward with the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. Initial planning for this process has begun as the MPWA has put together a IWMP Terms of Reference (TOR) and established a Board lead Steering Committee. The MPWA has started to plan how best to address the main areas of concern as identified in the State of the Watershed Report. The process will be very busy and the MPWA will be inviting stakeholders from across the watershed to participate.

The staff of the MPWA has had another very full year. I appreciate their continued support of this not-for-profit multi-stakeholder organization. The main focus in the past couple years has been the finalization of the SOW. However, there is so much more going on within the office and organization: 1. Environment Canada's Environmental Damages funds projects (Redwillow and Heart River restoration Plans), 2. Wapiti River Water Management Plan. 3. Continued engagement with councils, stakeholders groups, and residents through meetings, presentations, and forums. 4. Participating in the larger system through AMEERA, Joint Oilsands Monitoring, Land Use, Alberta WPACs, etc. 5. General Organization and board functioning.

I am pleased with the tremendous work of the board of directors and the support from many of the stakeholders. The directors have given above and beyond to provide due diligence to the planning process. As the members of the largest Watershed planning and Advisory Council in Alberta, the experience, insights and knowledge they bring to the table is invaluable.

Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier
Executive Director



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Financial Highlights 2014/2015

Base core funding to meet the operational requirements of the MPWA is provided on a year to year basis by our primary partner, the Government of Alberta. Project funding is applied for separately, but follows the same approval process. Funding approval, and receipt of funds, can take three months. During this time, the MPWA cannot move forward, or make any commitments to project work, and so loses much valuable time waiting. Although expected to use all grant funds in the fiscal year, or return unutilized funds at the end of the year, in reality MPWA must plan on a surplus, and then request a carryover to "keep the lights on" and pay staff during the three month period of uncertainty while awaiting approval, or not, of the next grant cycle request. The MPWA remains ever hopeful that the grant funding process will be improved and more amenable to its needs. In the meantime, MPWA is very appreciative of the support and funding received from AESRD.

AESRD funding requested for the 2014/2015 year was 366,500 for core operations, plus 120,000 project funding to complete and finalize the SOW Report, for a total of 486,500. MPWA received 336,509 for both core funding and project work. (The 85,000 of carryover dollars from the previous year was deducted from the total grant request.) Needs for the 2015/2016 year: With the SOW project completed, MPWA is planning to move forward with the mandated Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP), a process expected to take three years to complete. Given the geographically large area of the Peace watershed, funding for a third staff position for outreach and communication has been budgeted for. Thus, the core operation request for 2015/2016 is 386,000, while IWMP project funding has been budgeted at 197,000 for this year.

MPWA continues to work with AESRD, municipal, and industry partners to advance mutual interests in the Peace River Watershed. We have had a successful year, and wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors and stakeholders who have stepped forward to support the very important work of MPWA. We look forward to continued partnerships as we move forward.

Richard Keillor
Treasurer

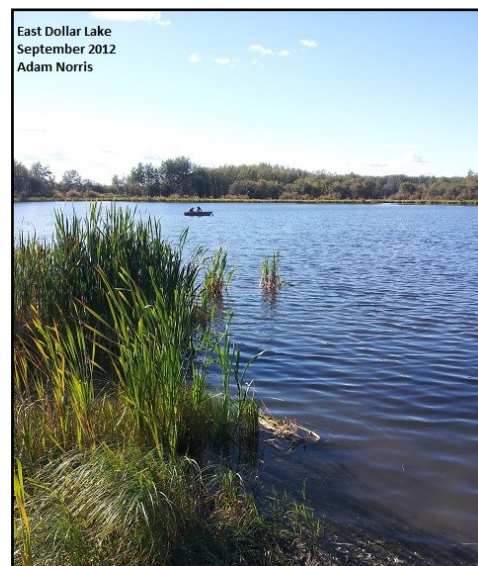
Financial Snapshot April 1/14-Mar 31/15 ***INCOME***

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sponsorship | 3,000.00 |
| Operating Grant (ESRD) | 308,625.29 |
| Project Funding (ESRD) | 112,113.71 |
| Environmental Damage Funds | 137,222.00 |
| HCSB Hiring Credit | 511.44 |
| Bank Interest | 177.79 |
| Total | 561,650.23 |

EXPENSES

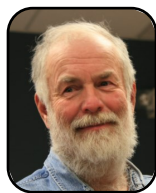
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| Subcontracts – Projects | 116,423.77 |
| Salaries, Honoraria & Benefits | 194,203.02 |
| Advertising & Promotions | 23,389.55 |
| Office & Administration | 33,331.76 |
| Travel | 48,042.16 |
| Board/Staff Development | 1,466.05 |
| GST Expense | 4,396.38 |
| Total | 421,252.69 |

*Gifts in Kind (Incl Office space)
168,019.90**



The 2014-2015 Board of Directors

| Member | Sector | Affiliation |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Non-Government Organizations | | |
| Bob Cameron (Chair) | Conservation- Environmental | Peace River Environmental Society |
| Jean-Marie Sobze | Research- Education | NAIT Boreal Research Institute- novaNAIT Center for Applied Research |
| Cathy Newhook | Watershed Stewardship | West County Watershed Society |
| Dave Hay | Recreation- Tourism- Fisheries | |
| Jamie Rich | Public-At-Large | |
| Richard Keillor (Treasurer) | Public-At-Large | |
| Industry | | |
| Ashley Parker (Secretary) | Utilities | AQUATERA® Utilities Inc. |
| Ian Daisley | Forestry | Alberta Forest Products Association |
| Lindsay Stephens | Oil and Gas | EnCana Corporation |
| Shelleen Gerbig (Vice Chair) | Agriculture | Smoky Applied Research & Demonstration Association (SARDA) |
| VACANT | Mining | |
| Aboriginal | | |
| Alden Armstrong | Métis Settlement General Council | Métis Settlement General Council |
| VACANT | Upper Watershed First Nation | |
| VACANT | Middle Watershed First Nation | |
| Jim Webb | Lower Watershed First Nation | North Peace Tribal Council |
| Willard Roe | Métis Nations of Alberta | Métis Nation of Alberta |
| Government | | |
| Abdi Siad-Omar | Federal Transboundary Relations | Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development |
| Chris Thiessen | Large Urban | City of Grande Prairie |
| Elaine Manzer | Small Urban | Town of Peace River |
| John Zylstra | Provincial Government | Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development |
| Elaine Garrow | Rural Municipalities | AAMDC- Northern Zone- MD of Spirit River |



Bob Cameron



Willard Roe



Rick Keillor



John Zylstra



Alden Armstrong



Ashley Parker



Abdi Siad-Omar



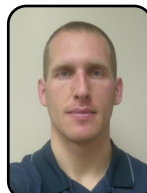
Jean-Marie
Sobze



Shelleen Gerbig



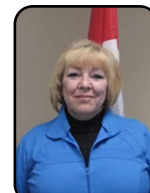
Jamie Rich



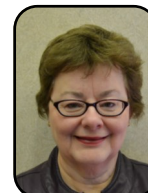
Ian Daisley



Cathy Newhook



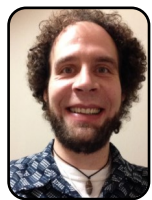
Elaine Garrow



Elaine Manzer



Jim Webb



Chris Thiessen



Lindsay Stephens



Dave Hay

Thank you to the Board member. We are very thankful and appreciative for your contributions.

Technical Committee Report

Scope of the Technical Committee (TC)

The technical committee was appointed by the Board of Directors of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance as a standing committee. Their role is to assist and advise the board of directors on technical and scientific matters of proposed projects and oversight of technical reports. The technical committee reports directly to the board of directors on a regular basis.

Members of the Committee for 2014/15:

John Zylstra, Ashley Parker, Richard Keillor, Willard Roe, Bob Cameron, Lindsay Stephens, Elaine Garrow, Abdi Said-Omar, Jean-Marie Sobze, Ian Daisley

The technical committee was actively supported by Adam Norris, Watershed Coordinator and Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, Executive Director of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.

Tasks Completed Year 2014/2015

The Technical Committee continued to oversee the Restoration of the Redwillow Watershed Project and the Restoration of Fish Habitat in the Heart River Watershed Project. Both of these projects are funded through the Environmental Damages Fund and are partner projects where many different organizations contribute a great deal of support. Now both of these projects have Watershed Restoration Plans, essentially a road map to direct the watershed management efforts, and working to begin implementing them. Activities that are being pursued include wetland restoration and maintenance, riparian restoration, farm water management, fish passage at weirs, nutrient management and livestock management. Slowing down the movement of water across the landscape is critical to achieving the goal of restoring fish habitat because it is the quality and quantity of runoff that determines fish habitat.

The other project that the Technical Committee oversees is the Wapiti River Water Management Plan, which is an Alberta and Sustainable Resource Development led project. Work this past year has focussed on assessing the conditions in the Wapiti River to evaluate the impact that increased withdrawals might have on that ecosystem. Now the focus is shifting to creating scenarios that will try to provide a sense of what might happen to the Wapiti River in 25 or 30 years' time given a certain withdrawal regime.

Potential Projects for 2015/16:

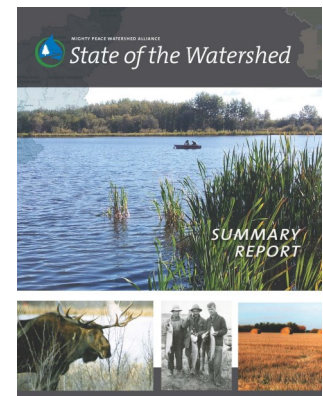
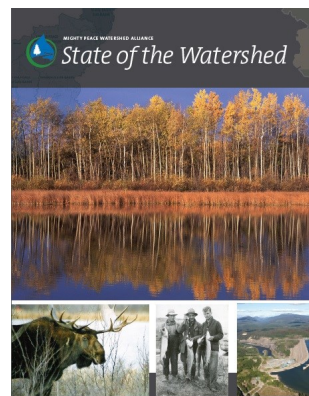
The main project for the coming year is to start work on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP).

State of the Watershed

State of the Watershed (SOW) products are now available

- SOW 8 page brochure
- SOW 80 page complete report
- USB with the brochure and complete report

If you would like a copy of any of the SOW products, please contact the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance office at (780)- 324-3355 or email mpwa.admin@telus.net



Adam Norris
Watershed Coordinator



Highlights of 2014-2015

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance worked on the 6 Goals that have been established for the organization:

Goal #1 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a strong, vibrant, and sustainable organization.

- Attended environmental Project Management Course in Edmonton
- Participated in Land Use 2014 Conference, Peace Oilsands conference, ALMS (Alberta Lake Management Society) Conference in Slave Lake, AEMERA/JOSM (Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency/ Joint Oil Sands Monitoring)Planning and Update Sessions, AB WPAC Summit, AEMERA Oilsands symposium,
- Participated in 2 AAMDC (Alberta Association Municipal Districts & Councils) Northern Zone Meeting-update of MPWA and SOW documents, possible sites for forums, and variety of ways individuals and sectors can provide feedback
- Held 8 Board meetings across the watershed in various location; McLennan, Rycroft, Grande Prairie, Valleyview and Conference calls
- Continued conversations and planning with Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) managers and AESRD re: funding & solutions, structure, plans

Goal #2 - The Board and Members of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance are well educated about air, water and land issues in the basin and are open to innovative ideas and practices.

- Participated in ESRD/WPAC Forums
- Presentations at 10 community forums across the watershed and held 5 Webinars
- Planning and preparing for the release the State of the Watershed Report (SOW) and the IWMP TOR
- Worked with Dave Cook Consulting to establish new Three Year Strategic Plan
- Involved in conversation with Y2Y (Yellowknife to Yukon), to discuss each other's work and possible alignment

Goal #3 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is well-known and accessible to residents in the basin.

- Produced 2 newsletters, articles for SARDA's

Back 40, interviews with Radio, maintained website, attended tradeshow (Smoky River & Grande Prairie Home & Garden)

- Beaverlodge High School tour west county
- Wetlands presentation with three Grade 5 classes in Falher, AB
- Attended novaNAIT Boreal Institute open house and tour of facilities

Goal #4 - Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.

- Continue to do work and meet with the Wapiti River Watershed Management Project (WRWMP)
- Attended an initial meeting with The Water North Coalition (WNC)
- Continue work with the partners in the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project (RWRP) and the Heart River Watershed Restoration Project (HWRP), both Restorations plans are now complete and working on implementation

Goal #5 - Water quantity in the Peace watershed is understood and advice on its uses are made to the appropriate bodies.

- Ongoing SOW and WRWMP work
- Ongoing conversation with AMISK, Parks Canada, Municipalities, and Murphy Oil
- Reviewed AB Community Resilience Program with various municipalities
- Disusing with AER re Fox Creek pay Based regulations

Goal #6 - Watershed Stewardship is widely supported by residents throughout the basin.

- Conversations and support for Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN)
- Encouraged municipalities and others to consider work under AB Community Resilience Program & Watershed Resiliency and Restoration program
- Engaging partners on restoration planning projects
- Encouraging residents to participate in forums regarding watershed health

Communications Committee Report

The Communications committee continues to search for ways and means to engage People in the work of the Board and the MPWA. The Board & staff have participated in a number of opportunities such as trade shows, stakeholder gatherings, meetings, etc. to meet with people and discuss water issues or concerns about activities that are happening across the watershed and their affects on water quality and quantity throughout the watershed.

There has been a continued effort to produce a quarterly newsletter and to keep the website up to date. Please go to www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org to find out the latest events, information and reports. In 2015 we posted the draft document of the State of The Watershed Report, made public feedback easy and designed an online version. As an added attempt to engage the public, an eight page brochure was designed to highlight the State of the Watershed report information. Hard copies of the brochure and report will be prepared and distributed in 2015. In addition, we will have data sticks with the information as well. If you would like to have a copy, please contact us.

We strive to engage the youth as the future of our watershed, by providing them with our educational, entertaining activity book and encouraging them to submit their “water drop picture” to the MPWA in exchange for kid friendly promotional items. If you know of youth who would be interested in submitting a “water drop” picture that describes the activity they most like to do in the watershed, then please have them visit the website to see how that can be done.



In 2015, the MPWA will be concentrating on distributing the State of the Watershed report and collecting public feedback. The Board will be requesting public participation on a number of committees and subcommittees to develop the Mighty Peace Watershed Management Plan. These groups have an enormous task ahead of them and the communication committee will be involved in all levels, aiding in the communication between groups, the Board and with the public.

Early in the establishment of the MPWA, the communication committee identified a need for an outreach coordinator and if our entire grant request is approved, we will begin the task of hiring for this position. This person will assist the committee to fulfill its “branding” goals and communication tasks.

Please watch our website for the latest information. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office or any of the Board members to find out how you can contribute.

Shelleen Gerbig
Agriculture



Financial and In-Kind Supporters



If we have forgotten anyone, we offer our sincere apologies and request you please contact us so that we can remedy it.



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