



August 2012

Issue #3

*Flow of the Peace
"Current Eddies"*

Look at us Flow

OPEN HOUSES & TRADE SHOWS

The public engagement project involves a series of open houses designed to gather information and build relationships across the watershed. There are 2 primary goals of this. The first is to introduce ourselves, who we are and what we do. The second is to listen. We need to find out what local knowledge exists around the watershed, what local issues are and what stakeholders would like to see in the future regarding water and water management. Hopefully, this process will lead to a relationship that encourages further participation and results in a consensus Integrated Water Management Plan.

—Adam Norris, B.Sc., B.i.T., Watershed Coordinator

PLANNED DATES:

(as of August 15th—confirmation is required)

- August 25th—Grande Prairie—Centre 2000 Tourist & Trade Center—3 pm to 7 pm—Open House
 - August 26th—Grande Prairie—Connections Event, 2nd Flr, Eastlink Centre—10 am to 3 pm—Trade Show
 - August 29th—Grande Cache—Tourist Information Centre—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - September 6th—Peace River—Library—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - September 10th—Red Earth—Community Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - September 12th—High Level—Get to Know You Night- 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm—Trade Show
 - September 14th—La Crete—Get to Know you Night—6:30 pm to 9:30 pm—Trade Show
 - September 20th—Fox Creek—Community Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - October 30th—Ft. Vermilion—Senior's Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - November 6th—Valleyview—Memorial Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - November 14—Eureka—Eureka Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - November 15th—Grimshaw—Elks Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - November 20th—Nampa—Curling Rink—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
 - November 22nd—Wabasca/Desmarais—Community Hall—4 pm to 8 pm—Open House
- We are currently processing dates for Beaverlodge, Manning, Spirit River, Falher and Fairview
Stay Tuned!

What Flows

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**CHAIRMAN BOB AT
SULPHUR LAKE**

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.



New Additions

Board Members

Alden Armstrong



Alden Armstrong has devoted his energies and skills to strengthening northern and rural communities, Aboriginal governments, and the environment. Awarded the *Alberta Centennial Medal* in 2005, Alden Armstrong has served Alberta and Albertans in many different capacities, including:

Director on the Mackenzie River Basin Board [2003 – 2011]; Director on the Rural Alberta Development Fund [2005 – 2010]; President of the Métis Settlements General Council [2005 – 2007]; Current Chair and past Council Member, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement; and Business Owner, General Construction and Gas Field Operations. As a responsible hunter/harvester, registered trapper and outfitter, Alden is passionate about enhancing Alberta's understanding and responsible usage of key systems and watersheds.

Kevin McNeil



Kevin McNeil is from McLennan, AB and has lived on Kimiwan Lake for 15 years. Kevin has operated a waterfowl outfitting business in McLennan for 11 years and has been hunting for 35 years. Kevin understands that in order for our natural resources to flourish we must ensure that we manage our most important resource, Water. Having seen Kimiwan Lake dry up completely in the last 5 years this

solidified his desire to understand the history of the Lake and work with the waterworks people to ensure it never runs dry again. Kevin is a college graduate who is passionate about nature and he brings a tremendous amount of knowledge on the waterfowl population and the big game that are supported by the watershed in the McLennan area.

Alternates

Alan Forsyth



Alan is serving his fourth term as a town Councillor, his first term for the town of High Level. He grew up in northern B.C. and has lived in High Level since January 2005. Alan served as a member in the Consensus based process that was tasked with developing a framework for public consultation on the Oil and Gas Moratorium in B.C. He has enjoyed boating on the Peace River and is a member of the Mackenzie Frontier Marketing Association, whose goal is to promote work, live and play in the north. Alan is a member of the Communications committee of the MPWA.

Wayne Kooy



Wayne was born and raised in rural northern Saskatchewan. He is a professional Agrologist with an Agriculture Degree (Soil Science) from the University of Saskatchewan, where he spent time as a soil research coordinator. The bulk of Mr. Kooy seven year career was spent with Matrix Solutions Inc. where he managed numerous regulatory applications submitted for approval to various government bodies. Wayne Kooy joined Penn West in December 2011 as the Environmental Planner for the Peace River Oil Partnership. Wayne resides in Calgary where he is an avid mountain biker, snowboarder and hiker.

STAFF

Adam Norris



Adam is very excited to be working with something as important and challenging as watershed management, in the role of Watershed Coordinator for MPWA. His career experience has been in forestry and his education has focused on Ecology, with some involvement in conservation. Adam enjoys canoeing, fishing, harvesting foods from the forest and hunting for frogs with his son. Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy, the framework under which we operate, has as its purpose: To ensure 1) Safe, secure drinking water supplies; 2) Healthy aquatic ecosystems; and 3) reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy. This is something that he is committed to and eager to work towards.

Shelley Rosario



Shelley was born and raised on Vancouver island, so it seems quite fitting to be once again surrounded by water. She moved to Falher with her family in 2011, supporting her husband's career as the Director of Protective Services for the MD Smoky River. Shelley spent some time delving into the Emergency Medical field but is happy to be returning to her career roots as she has spent many years as a bookkeeper and Office Administrator. She is thrilled to be learning of the Watershed and all its attributes.

La Crete, Ft. Vermilion & High Level Tour



On June 11, the MPWA held a board meeting in Manning. Nora Paulovich, from NPARA joined our group to advise us of the progress towards a local watershed group for the Notikewin River, a tributary of the Peace River. Following the meeting, those members of the Board that were able to, began our first MPWA Tour.

The purpose of the tour was to get a better understanding of the people and challenges faced in the northern area of the watershed and to introduce the MPWA to the public.

On our way Northward, we did a quick driving tour through Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. Then as we continued our journey, we were entertained by various board members who shared their knowledge of the area.

The original plan was to cross the ferry at Tomkins Landing and meet the La Crete Chamber of Commerce for supper. The ferry crossing was closed due to high water and debris in the river which necessitated us traveling through High Level and Fort Vermillion. This detour put us approximately 1 hour behind schedule; however the Chamber waited and had supper with us in La Crete. Conversation evolved around water sources and issues in the area. La Crete is growing very quickly and like other quickly growing communities has issues with water quantity. Water quality does not seem to be an issue at this time however because the water source is water wells in close proximity to the Peace River, it is recognized that protection of the Peace River is imperative. The chamber gave us a quick tour of the area, showing us the recreation spots, new subdivisions and old subdivisions.



We retired to the hotel at about 9:00 pm. In the morning, the MPWA had breakfast and travelled to Fort Vermilion There, we began our visit with a trip to the Mackenzie County Chambers. We met briefly with the councilors and introduced the MPWA. Issues were briefly discussed prior to meeting with the museum curator. At the museum, we were given a history lesson on the settlement of the Northern portion of our watershed and the historical importance of the Mighty Peace as a highway. This was important because it gave us an insight into the determination of the original fur traders and settlers. We were then treated to a bus tour of the area showcasing the Agricultural Farm and the sights of the original missions, both Anglican and Catholic. We also visited the 'Old Bay House', an historical building overlooking the Peace River, that was being restored to its former elegance.

Following our visit to Fort Vermilion, we met with representatives of the High Level Town Council for lunch. They regaled us with stories of the boom and bust eras of the area. We also viewed new subdivisions, large industrial sites and the miles of swamp that surrounds the area.

A huge thank you to all those that took the time to meet with the board and share their vast knowledge of the area!

- By Shelleen Gerbig



CURRENT PROJECTS

PROJECT UPDATE:

The MPWA has wrapped up 4 projects that were started in the 2011 year. The complete project reports can be found on our website for anyone who wishes to review them. The projects are: [Directory of Water Organizations and Agencies](#), [State of Drinking Water](#), [Current & Future Water Uses and Issues](#), and [Aquatic Ecosystem Health](#).

These reports form part of the initial stages of information gathering as the board works towards developing a better understanding of the Peace River Watershed and produce a State of the Watershed Report.

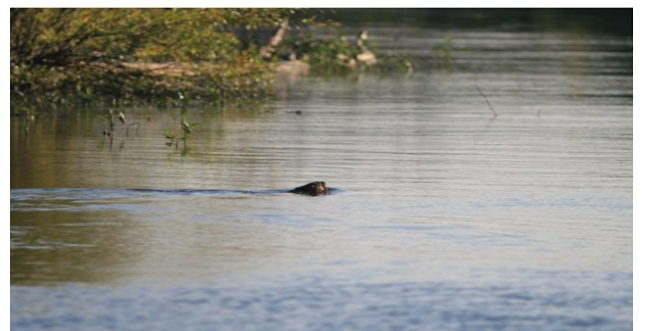
The projects for the 2012/2013 year are:

Issue scoping and Project Synthesis – this is a chance to review the 4 completed science projects and then determine information gaps, priorities, and recommendations. Part of the project will be to produce an online survey to assist in gathering further information from the residents and stakeholders of the watershed.

Public Engagement Forums – two-fold purpose to first introduce the MPWA (its goals, work, and scope) and second to listen to the residents and stakeholders to hear about the oral knowledge, issues, concerns, possibilities, and challenges around water and the watershed.

Wapiti River Water Management Plan – the MPWA will assist with the public consultation portion of the management plan preparation.

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's Nat."
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*



THE CHALLENGES OF FUNDING



The struggle to fund our organization in a timely and effective manner continues. This our second year of operations, began using funds carried over from our first year. These funds were available because we did not hire a second individual as originally projected in our first budget. Our core operating funds for this year were received early August, which is about a week later than last year. The fact that our budget year begins April 1st, this would have meant that without the carryover from last year we would have had to close our offices from April 1st until August 5th. This would have effectively made us an organization operating 8 months of the year.

We are actively pursuing other ways of funding this organization with dollars outside the ESRD budget cycle. We are pleased that several municipal governments and two industry partners have contributed financially and that we have many others who contribute to the work of the organization through in-kind support. Many organizations have contributed 100's of hours of in-kind support which includes paying for their employees time on the board and committees (communications, technical, finance, and executive), the employees travel to meetings, provision of meeting space, and lunches for board meetings.

The volunteer board of the MPWA has taken on this Water Act mandated work. It is necessary to have timely and effective funding to accomplish our goals. We would appreciate any assistance that you as individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and stakeholders could provide to help us find ways to meet our obligations and access appropriate funding in a timely and consistent manner.

Bob Cameron
MPWA Chairman



From the Executive Director's Desk!



There never seems to be a dull moment in the world of the watershed. When working for an organization that covers approximately 30% of the province, you just know that there will be a great deal of work to do and so little time to do it in. The MPWA has moved

through its first year of existence, and much of the focus was on establishing the organization. Now it is time for the MPWA to move out into the Watershed and engage the public – residents, stakeholders, industry, non-government agencies, all levels of government, and every person who has a vested interest in the Peace River Watershed and the Peace River. The information gathered during these open houses, along with scientific reports, will assist us in preparing the 'State of the Watershed' report and then an 'Integrated Watershed Management Plan'.

I am excited to welcome 2 new staff members to the MPWA – Shelley Rosario (Admin Support) and Adam Norris (Watershed Coordinator). We have many plans for this year and have a very busy couple months ahead of us.

Please join us wherever you can as we go throughout the watershed with our Open House series. We need your voice, ideas and thoughts. Please get involved!

Feel free to connect with us at the office or through the website to find out what is happening with the MPWA and your watershed.

- Rhonda

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Board Members

Newsletter produced with support from ESRD

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Willard Roe
Provincial -John Zylstra	Forestry -Brian Gilliland	Watershed Stewardship -Don Thomas	Métis Settlement General Council -Alden Armstrong
Large Urban -Dan Wong	Oil & Gas -Kimberley Watson	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Curtis Mitchell
Small Urban -Geoff Milligan	Utilities -Ashley Parker	Member-at- Large -William (Bill) Kostiw	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Richard Keillor	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/Recreation -Kevin McNeil	Lower Watershed First Nation -Harvey Sewepagaham