



January 2016

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #9

*Flow of the Peace
"Current Eddies"*

Save the Date

May 27, 2016 Annual General Meeting

Peace River, AB

Will be having guest speakers & Directors Election

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
c/o Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier,
Executive Director
P.O. Box 217
McLennan, Alberta T0H 2L0
Phone: 780-324-3355 Fax: 780-324-3377
E-mail:
info@mightypeacewatershedalliance.org
www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org

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What Flows

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Check out our State of the Watershed Report! For copies please email Megan Graham at mpwa.admin@telus.net or check out our website for electronic copies

Upcoming Wetland Workshop

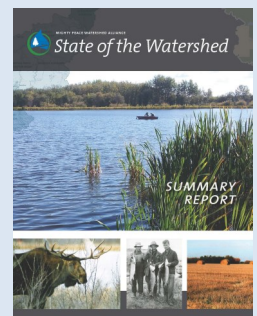
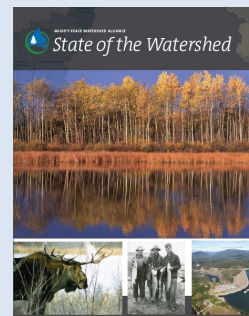
MPWA Invites you to a Wetlands Workshop on February 19th in Grande Prairie, AB.

The workshop will be presented by Jay White with AQUALITY; and will focus on basic wetland classification & function, policy, wetland loss and mitigation.

The workshop will be \$125. Lunch will not be provided; there will be a buffet provided by the hotel for \$12.50/person.

If you are wanting to register or want more information please contact:

Megan Graham by email: mpwa.admin@telus.net or by phone at 780-324-3355



**Come visit us at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show!
March 10-12, 2016 in Grande Prairie, AB**

Watershed Coordinator Adam Norris



As we enter 2016, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is busy with several projects. The main project that we are working on currently is the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the whole of the Peace and Slave (not Lesser Slave) watersheds in Alberta. This plan will provide a common approach to sharing our water resources to the diverse people of the watershed. Presently, there are two working groups operating on identified Issues of Concern, which the Board selected based upon scientific data, public engagement and sector input. The Integrated Watershed Management Plan is an iterative process (we keep doing it over and over again) and each time we will tackle a few new issues or aspects of issues.

A big thanks goes out to the members of the working groups who are committing time, expertise and their problem solving abilities to two different Issues of Concern. First, there is a Water Quality, Availability and Consumptive Use working group that is looking at very broad range of topics. These topics include water quality – how good is the water for drinking, industry, aquatic ecosystems, and recreation among other uses; water availability, which considers if enough water is accessible where people need and want to use it. A prime example is that many of our municipalities are located away from the Peace River mainstem and are restricted in the amount and/or quality of water that they are able to draw from the smaller tributaries. Consumptive Use is a term that we use to refer to processes and activities that once they remove water from a water body, do not return it again. The primary Consumptive Use in our watershed at the present time is hydraulic fracturing.

The second group that is working right now is the Wetlands and Wetlands Loss working group. As the name implies this group is focussed on wetlands in our Watershed and concern around loss of the wetlands and loss of the functions that wetlands provide.

Beyond the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, there are three other projects that we are involved in. The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance continues to be involved in the Alberta Environment and Parks led Wapiti River Water Management Plan. Communication and public input has been the recent focus of this project and recently successful forums were held in Grande Prairie.

Both the Heart River Watershed Restoration Project and the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project are partner projects led by the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance and funded through the Environmental Damages Fund. As both of these projects enter their last year, the focus is on undertaking the identified restoration activities identified and prioritized by the project teams. The focus is on watershed management where changes in land use or activities on the landscape improve fish habitat in the adjoining water bodies.



Wetlands & Wetlands Loss first Working Group Meeting in Grande Prairie, AB



Water Quality, Availability & Consumptive Use first Working Group Meeting in Grande Prairie, AB

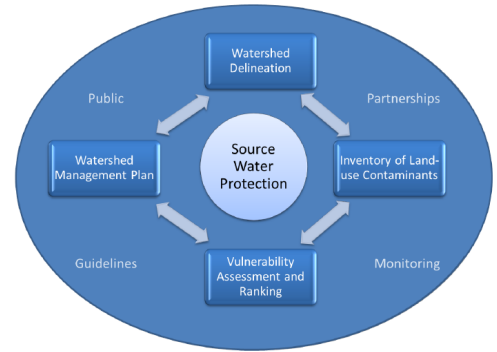
Previous MPWA Events

Source Water Protection Planning Workshop

On October 30th, MPWA hosted a half day Source Water Protection Planning workshop in Grande Prairie. The workshop was presented by Steph Neufeld who is a Watershed Specialist with EPCOR.

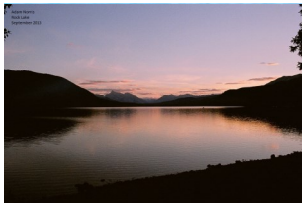
Source Water Protection Planning is a strategy for water utilities designed to minimize the impacts human activities and natural events have on drinking water sources.

The half day workshop focussed on how to complete an effective Source Water Protection with in Alberta. It also included a comprehensive session on land use mapping, water quality monitoring and assessment, risk assessment, and navigating water, land, and watershed management frameworks in Alberta from a municipal perspective.



It was also talked about that, in Alberta, effective source water protection planning relies on integration with existing watershed planning, initiatives including Watershed Planning and Advisory councils (WPACs), local water management frameworks, and regional plans under the land use frameworks as well as Drinking Water Safety Plans.

If anyone would like more information on Source Water Protection Planning please contact Megan Graham at mpwa.admin@telus.net or at 780-324-3355.



Diverse, Responsible & Connected!

*Diverse group of people representing diverse interests.
 *Responsible for bringing those interests together.
 *Connected to all stakeholders across the watershed area.



Board Members

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar (Alternate - Courtney Hughes)	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig (Alternate- Sebastien Dutrisac)	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Vacant
Provincial -John Zylstra (Alternate - Dan Benson)	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Cathy Newhook (Alternate - Tony Saunders)	Metis Settlement General Council -Alden Armstrong
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen (Alternate - Michelle Gairdner)	Oil & Gas -Lindsay Stephens (Alternate - Jean-Michel Wan)	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Small Urban -Elaine Manzer (Alternate - Colin Needham)	Utilities -Ashley Rowney	Public Member-at- Large (2) -Richard Keillor -Vacant	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Elaine Garrow (Alternate - Ray Skrepnek)	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Dave Hay	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb (Alternate - Lindee Dumas)