



January 2018

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #14



# Happy New Year From MPWA!

*Save the Date Jan 11, 2018*

 **Mighty Peace  
Watershed Alliance**  
Diverse, Responsible, Connected & Grimshaw Gravels  
Aquifer Management  
Advisory Association

## Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Groundwater Forum

January 11, 2018  
Grimshaw Legion  
7PM - 9:30PM

Topics to be Covered:

- Groundwater Monitoring in the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer
- Water Licencing within the Aquifer
- Subsurface architecture and groundwater age dating

Forum Goal 1: To provide decision makers & the public with information & understanding about the aquifer.  
Forum Goal 2: To prepare for conversations around aquifer management actions & options.

For more information please contact Adam Norris at [mpwa.coordinator@telus.net](mailto:mpwa.coordinator@telus.net)

Guest Speakers from the Alberta Geological Survey and Alberta Environment & Parks



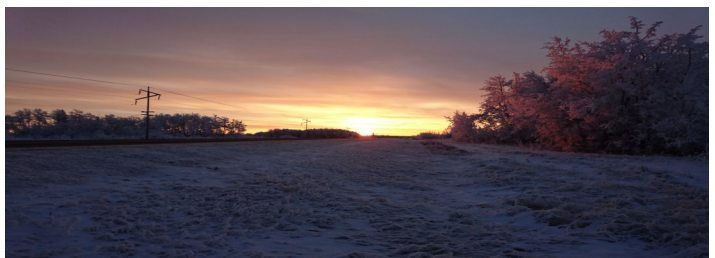
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Check out our **DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan!** For copies please email Megan Graham at [mpwa.admin@telus.net](mailto:mpwa.admin@telus.net)

Integrated Watershed Management Plan  
PEACE AND SLAVE WATERSHEDS  
May 2017

MIGHTY PEACE WATERSHED ALLIANCE  
Integrated Watershed Management Plan  
SUMMARY

**Education Opportunities:** If you are wanting a school visit from the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance about our organization, wetlands or stewardship please contact Megan at [mpwa.admin@telus.net](mailto:mpwa.admin@telus.net)



*From the Executive Director 's Desk By Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we enter into 2018, it is a good time to reflect on the planning activities of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.



In 2011 the MPWA was designated by Alberta Environment as the **Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC)** for the Alberta portions of the Peace River and Slave River basins under *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*. The MPWA has made good progress under this mandate. By preparing and producing a State of the Watershed Report (March 2015) and in 2017 released a DRAFT *Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)* for the Peace & Slave basins. This major undertaking provides advice and direction to protect the long-term supply and quality of water resources for future generations. Our goal is to release the IWMP this spring as a consensus accepted plan. As some of the direction and planning initiatives within the IWMP have been long anticipated work, the MPWA has begun some IWMP implementation through strategic watershed partnerships with municipalities and stewardship groups. Through these partnerships the MPWA works towards achieving the Water for Life goals by providing opportunity for stakeholder planning initiatives, public engagement, education and water literacy, and collaborative work. Some current projects that address issues identified in the SOW and IWMP include: Source Water Protection Planning for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer, Improved Livestock Crossings, Riparian Restoration Planning, Water Management Planning, participation on the AER Area Based Regulatory committee, Wetlands identification and Wetlands Policy Education. Through much of our work we strive to educate and increase the public's understanding of watershed protection and its importance by developing and providing programs on the protection and improvement of water quality, water quantity, and the health of the Peace Watershed.

The MPWA has developed significant watershed planning knowledge, and is positioned to support collaboration on local watershed planning. As we identify and prioritize subwatersheds in the Peace River basin for future planning initiatives, we would be pleased to work with municipalities and groups to help shape those priorities.

MPWA would be pleased to discuss watershed issues of concern and help find appropriate options for successful outcomes. If you have thoughts or suggestions for upcoming forums or earning events, please connect with us.

For further information about the organization, our projects, or reports; please visit our website at [www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org)

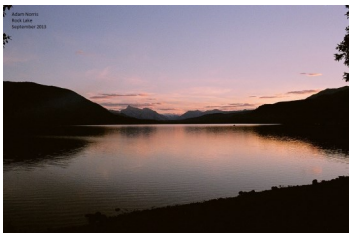


**VISION**

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.



# Watershed Coordinator Adam Norris

The Peace Country is a unique part of Alberta and the issues here in the Peace and Slave Watersheds, although generally common to elsewhere, have a specific context. A need has been identified to improve the way farmers are able to move livestock across waterbodies for two reasons. First, the effort required by farmers to move livestock around a water body instead of across or through it can be substantial and going through the water body poses problems of its own. Second, there is a negative impact on the riparian zone and water body when livestock go through it instead of around or over it. In order to improve the function of water bodies and allow them to provide services such as water filtration, flood mitigation and drought mitigation.



So here is our first crack at a made in the Peace Watershed livestock crossing solution. It involved the following: Brain power – our valued partners Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society, Alberta Conservation Association, County of Grande Prairie, Cows and Fish, West County Watershed Society and plucky landowners. Materials – that which is lying around the farm, lying around the neighbour’s farm, lying about the oil patch. Braun – landowners. Benefactors –

farmers, livestock and those downstream. Money: thanks to the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program for funding this project.

This is an experiment stay tuned to find out how it works and what we will do going forward. Collaboration is helping us find innovative ways to deal with complex issues.



## MPWA Staff



**Rhonda Clarke—Gauthier, P.Ag.—Executive Director**



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

Focuses on planning & technical project work



**Megan Graham— Education & Outreach Coordinator**

Focuses on various educational programs, resources & opportunities

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## *Watershed Stewardship Grant Update*

The Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) Program provides funding to support collaborative, community-based stewardship efforts consistent with the principles, goals and outcomes of Alberta's Water for Life strategy. Grants are generally issued once per year to eligible groups on a per-project basis.

The Land Stewardship Centre hopes to announce the next call for applications for this important stewardship grant program in January 2018.

For further information or updates on the 2018 WSG program please visit their website at:

<http://www.landstewardship.org/apply-grant/>

## *Woodland Caribou Range Planning Engagement*

Alberta is taking leadership when it comes to recovering caribou herds, while also protecting Indigenous rights and respecting the livelihood of the many individuals and communities reliant upon resource industries within caribou ranges. We want to ensure caribou remain a part of our landscapes, and that we maintain strong, vibrant communities well into the future.

Government of Alberta staff will be coming to communities that have an interest in caribou range planning in early 2018. Discussion will be focused on the Draft Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan with feedback helping to inform developing the range specific details. Sessions are being arranged in the following communities:

- **Whitecourt:** February 20, 2018
- **Edmonton:** February 22, 2018
- **Cold Lake:** February 27, 2018
- **Fort McMurray:** March 1, 2018
- **High Level:** March 6, 2018

For Further information please visit their website at: <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/caribou-range-planning>

## *2018 Alberta Wetland Course*

The Alberta Wetland Assessment and Impact Report Directive and Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive were updated in 2017. In addition to these changes, the Alberta Wetland Assessment & Impact Form was created for projects with low risk & temporary impacts to the aquatic environment. If you don't know the difference between a WAIF and WAIR, it may be time to update your knowledge of the Alberta Wetland Policy in 2018.

Whether you are new to understanding wetlands in Alberta or a practicing professional, Aquality Environmental Ltd offers a classroom based wetland course to inspire and prepare you for the upcoming season.

### **The next Aquality Wetlands: From Classification to Policy Course will be offered:**

**Edmonton** - February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, Venue: Beaumont Community Center

**Calgary** - February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, Venue: Glamorgan Community Center

For Further information please visit their website at: <http://www.wetlandpolicy.ca/wetland-courses-with-aquality/>

## *Riparian Management Course*

On October 27 & 28 the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance co-hosted a 2 day Riparian Management Course in Beaverlodge. The course was in partnership with the Alberta Conservation Association, Agroforest Woodlot Extension Society, County of Grande Prairie, and Cows & Fish.

The workshop had in class components as well as two field visits to Riparian sites within the area. Throughout the two days land owners learned how to maximize their riparian areas to provide benefits to their own area as well as the surrounding watershed, benefits to riparian restoration, conducting site assessments for determining the health of a riparian area. At the end of the workshop everyone had the opportunity to start creating a plan for a management plan for their own riparian area.



For further information on the workshop please contact Megan Graham at [mpwa.admin@telus.net](mailto:mpwa.admin@telus.net)