



June 2017

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #12

Flow of the Peace

AGM Update—May 26, 2017

MPWA hosted our 7th Annual General Meeting in May. The meeting was located in Peace River at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre.

The day consisted of nomination of board members, a presentation from Michael Church as well as the release of MPWA DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan. Michael Church is a professor emeritus in the Department of Geography at the British Columbia, where he taught hydrology, geomorphology and natural resource management for 38 years. Michaels research focused on sediment transport and morphodynamic changes in rivers. Michaels presentation focused on the Regulations on the Peace: Changing a Mighty River.

During the afternoon Executive Director Rhonda Clarke–Gauthier and Project Coordinator Adam Norris released the DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan. For more details on the release of the DRAFT IWMP please read “Message from the Watershed Coordinator” on page 3 of the newsletter.

For more information from the AGM please contact our office at (780) 324-3355 or email mpwa.admin@telus.net

What Flows

AGM Update	Page 1
FinS Release	Page 1
Message from the Chair	Page 2
Message from the Executive Director	Page 3
From the Watershed Coordinator	Page 3
Message from the Past Chair	Page 4
New to the Board	Page 4
Members of the Board	Page 4

FinS Release

On June 8th, MPWA had the opportunity to participate in the FINs release with the grade 5 class from Hines Creek Composite school. FinS stands for “Fish in Schools” and it is an annual fisheries education initiative coordinated by the Bow Habitat Station and Alberta Environment & Parks. The program provides students and teachers the opportunity to raise fish in the classroom. Over the 4-5 month period, students and teachers maintain and monitor the development of trout in their aquariums from to fry before releasing the fish into a provincially approved water body. The Hines Creek grade 5 class released approximately 45 fish into Stoney Lake Provincial Park this year.



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
Thank you to St. Mary’s in Sexsmith as well as St. Joe’s in Grande Prairie for having MPWA come and present to there classes

Check out our DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan! For copies please email Megan Graham at mpwa.admin@telus.net

Message from the Chair Richard Keillor



As the new chair of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, I’m a bit humbled by the magnitude of the work we need to do to help steward this watershed. The Peace River is the largest River in the province, but the watershed is much more than this one large river. It is all the rivers, creeks and even smaller streams and ephemeral spring runoff channels. It is lakes, wetlands, and seasonal water ponds. And let us not forget the groundwater and aquifers out of sight under our feet.

The watershed is more than water. It is all the land over, through and under which the water flows. It is all the life that exists on this land, and which needs this water to exist, let alone thrive. And then there is us -the people who live here. Water is essential to everything we do, our day-to-day living, our work, and even to how we play. A healthy watershed is fundamental to our existence, and it is essential that we all look after it, now and into the future. There is a role for everyone in this ongoing effort.

As the new chair, I hope to aid the MPWA in their effort to lead this process, listening to your input and being proactive in our initiatives. Together, we can make a difference.

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



The MPWA has entered into its seventh year of operations as the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the Peace and Slave River Basins. The past years have seen the work leading up to the production of a State of the Watershed Report and most recently the completion of the Draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan. These have been exciting times as we have moved throughout the watershed collecting data, information from individuals, and engaging with residents and stakeholders. However, our work is not done. The next several months will focus on encouraging all stakeholders, residents, and decision makers to review the DRAFT IWMP, provide us with feedback, and engage with MPWA as to how others can contribute to the work identified in the plan. The condition of this watershed is in the care and responsibility of all who live, work and play within its boundaries. We encourage everyone to review the plan and consider what actions (large or small) that you can do to contribute to the well-being of the watershed and the water resources within. There is something each person, industry, government, community, and organization can do to improve watershed health and work towards safe secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable water supplies for economic sustainability. Please feel free to share your thoughts and potential actions with us.

The MPWA website has also grown over the years. A visit to the website will provide information on the many projects of the MPWA, the Board of Directors, State of the Watershed, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and a section of activities for kids. Check out www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org.

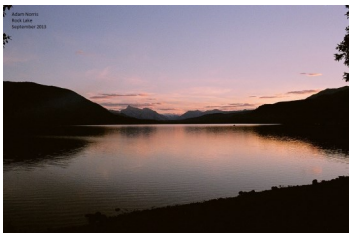
A big thank you goes out to those who previously have sat at the board table – your dedication, experience and knowledge has moved this organization forward. Also, welcome to the new Board of Directors—we look forward to an active and productive year.

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

At the Annual General Meeting, May 26 in Peace River, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance released its Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). This plan addresses the geographic area of the Peace and Slave watersheds in Alberta about identified 'Issues of Concern': Water Quality, Availability away from the Mainstem and Consumptive Use; Wetlands and Wetlands Loss, Peace River Flow Regime and Non-Saline Groundwater. These Issues were identified through various means including open houses, public input, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Board of Directors' prioritization and other projects. These are the focus areas for this initial iteration of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, however because the IWMP is a living document/plan, subsequent reviews may identify other issues or priorities to focus on.

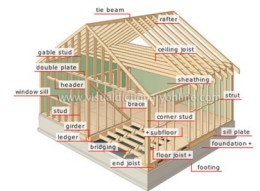


At this point the IWMP is very much a framework in that it is a means of identifying, collecting and hopefully aligning and streamlining ongoing initiatives that address the 'Issues of Concern'. Much detail and substance will be added to the plan as projects or initiatives are completed and the MPWA Board of Directors comes to consensus on these things. For instance, currently there is work occurring on a Water Management Plan for the Wapiti River and when this is completed, the Board of Directors will review it and may plug it into the Plan to address the 'Issue of Concern', Availability away from the Mainstem, in this part of the watershed.

Peace and Slave Watersheds



A comparison could be made to a house where the IWMP is the framing and provides a skeleton or structure on which to arrange and organize other work. Initiatives that address certain 'Issues of Concern' will be added to the framing and provide the siding and roofing.



Instead of braces, rafters or tie-beams, our framing will be things such as a safe, secure drinking water; available water supplies away from the Peace River mainstem; and source water protection plans. The framing is critical and determines how the building will function and what it will look like, however it is very much incomplete until the other components are added.

The MPWA will be out looking for your thoughts on the DRAFT IMWP in the coming months and hopes to hear from you. Please visit our website mightypeacewatershedalliance.org and go to our Integrated Watershed Management Plan page to learn more and see the plan, brochure, narrated slideshow and more.

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Farewell from the Past Chair Alden Armstrong



To begin with I would like to thank the Board of Directors and staff for the opportunity to work with them over the past year, it was an honour and a privilege to serve with such a diverse and committed group of people. I am happy to report that the two priority areas identified at the last year’s annual meeting have seen significant progress: core funding and the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. (IWMP).

We addressed the issue of funding through engagement with the department as well as correspondence to the Minister and a follow up meeting with her. The Minister subsequently announced that a three-year funding program would be implemented.

The DRAFT IWMP has been approved by the board and we are now in the process of heading back out to the stakeholders for consultation and input on it. Thanks to the committee for their hard work developing the plan.

In closing I would ask again: Please look after my river.

***Excerpt from 2016–2017 Annual Report*

New to the Board

Tony Saunders (Watershed Stewardship) -

Tony is Semi-Retired and a 21 year resident of Northern Sunrise County where he raises Scottish Highland Cattle just east of Nampa.

He has been a director on the Heart River Watershed Advisory Committee since 2006 and is also a Director on the Rural Crime

Watch committee. Tony was a former director on the Harmon Valley Feeder Association for 12 years and was the Alternate member for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Watershed Stewardship seat before being elected Director in 2017.



Robert Thompson (Oil & Gas) - Robert is a Senior Environmental Coordinator at Encana Corporation and is representing the Oil and Gas Industry on the MPWA. Robert has degrees in Engineering and Biology and is a Professional Engineer in Alberta. Having grown up in Ontario Robert moved to Alberta in 1995 and worked as an environmental consultant for 15 years, specializing in assessment and

remediation of soil and groundwater at contaminated sites. Starting with Encana in 2010 Robert was hired to work on a portfolio of abandoned sites for remediation and reclamation. Since then Robert’s role has expanded to include evaluating environmental liability associated with Encana’s acquisition and divestiture activities and Waste mitigation programs. Currently Robert is working with Encana’s Government Relations team on the Environmental Policy file, which includes all Water-related Issues.

Board Members 2017-2018

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Sylvia Johnson
Provincial -Dan Benson	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Tony Saunders	Metis Settlement General Council -Vacant
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen	Oil & Gas -Robert Thompson	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Small Urban -Elaine Manzer	Utilities -Ashley Rowney	Public Member-at- Large (2) -Richard Keillor -David Walty	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Elaine Garrow	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Dave Hay	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb

* For complete Bio’s of each director, please visit our website: www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org