



Flow of the Peace



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

October, 2011

Issue #1

Current Eddies



The Peace River is 1,923 kms long. It originates in the mountains and foothills of British Columbia, flows east through the boreal forest of northern Alberta to the Peace-Athabasca Delta where it joins the Slave River, a tributary of the Mackenzie River which is the world's 12th longest river.

Look at us Flow!

Alberta Environment Organized a two day workshop, October 28 & 29, 2010 in Peace River to initiate the formation a new Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC). On November 29, the first meeting of the Initiators group was held. Over the course of the next 3 months, The Initiators Group developed the bylaws and process

guide, successfully applied for society status, applied to become a WPAC, and hosted the first AGM in March of 2011. The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Board met for the first time in April, 2011. In five months the Board has four projects initiated, launched a webpage, and newsletter.

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.

What Flows

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Upstream

Launching soon the new MPWA

Logo

Move into new offices

November Board Meeting

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance





Meet the MPWA Board!

Bob Cameron, Chairman



Bob Cameron has been a resident of the Debolt area since 1976. Born in Edmonton in 1948, Bob grew up in Montreal, Toronto, and Moncton, NB, but returned to Alberta every summer by train to visit family. By 1973, Bob had completed his Renewable Resources Technology at Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon. In 1976, Bob began the forestry stage of his career with one summer timber cruising and three subsequent summers as Tower man at Economy Creek Lookout for the Alberta Forest Service. For the last 25 years, Bob has owned and operated a one-man Mobile Dimension Sawmill. He represents the Environmental Sector.

Brian Gilliland



Brian Gilliland has worked in the forest industry for 30 years specializing in environmental field for the last 15 years. His current position is Environmental Affairs Manager - International with Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

"I am a member on several Federal & Provincial forestry association environmental committees as well as a Board member of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA).

I was born and lived in the Peace River Country for all but the last 7 years. I now reside in Edmonton. When not working I enjoy gardening, reading, traveling and spending time with my two sons." Brian is representing the Forestry Sector.

Dr. Jean-Marie Sobze



After completing a B.Sc. in forestry and wildlife, Jean-Marie worked as a forest planner in his home country of Cameroon. He completed his Ph.D. in forestry at the University of Göttingen, Germany, specializing in community-based forest management. Before coming to Nova Nait Boreal Research Institute (nBRI), Jean-Marie's work focused on uncertainties in data input for wood supply estimation and involved industrial timber supply analysis and applied research in Ontario. Dr. Jean-Marie is representing the Research and Education Sector.

Dan Wong



Dan Wong is the owner of Duologic Technology Computer Services and works as a Computer IT Specialist. He is an Instructor at the Grande Prairie Regional College and has been an alderman for the City of Grande Prairie since 2007. Dan has lived in Grande Prairie since 1972 and is the fourth generation of his family to live in Grande Prairie. Dan is representing the large urban sector on the Board.

Plan for and preserve the Peace River Watershed

Join the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance



Shelleen Gerbig, P. Ag.



Shelleen moved to Falher in 1990. She has a BSA from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1993, she began working for the MD of Smoky River. Where she remained working for 14 years as The Director of Agricultural Services. After taking a year to work on the farm, she went back to work with SARDA. Her position deals with the environmental programs and extension.

She has four children ages 9 to 15 and helps operate a 5000 acres grain farm in addition to full time work. Shelleen was a member of the initiators group and is representing the Agriculture Sector.

Don W Thomas



Don brings a wealth of experience to the table. He has a degree in Agriculture from the Olds School of Agriculture and has farmed "forever". He has worked in construction as a heavy equipment operator. He is also a Millwright, welder, loader operator and saw filer. Currently he owns a backhoe and does local work mainly installing from water & sewage systems. He has been a councilor, a member of the hospital board and is still active on several local boards. He is married to Bernice, has six children, thirteen grandchildren, six great grandchildren and counting. Don belongs to the Clear Hills Watershed Initiative and is representing all local Watershed Groups.

Lucy Ramirez



Lucy is an Alternate for Dan Wong, a participant in the Communications committee and kindly records the minutes of the Board meetings. Lucy was born and raised in Calgary; she attended the University of Calgary and has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Alberta Municipal Affairs *Internship Program for Administrators* brought her to Grande Prairie in 2008. Lucy works for the City of Grande Prairie's Environmental Sustainability department; the department promotes awareness of environmental initiatives and issues and facilitates the efforts of groups within the organization and the community. Initiatives include City Scrub, idle reduction, and coordinating beautification grant submissions. Lucy is a runner and has participated in the Press Run, Emperor's Challenge and Unchaga: Run in Peace.

Ashley Parker



Ashley Parker is originally from Saskatchewan, where she was born and raised, but relocated to Grande Prairie, Alberta after she graduated from University. She attended the University of Regina, and received a Bachelors of Science Degree in Petroleum Systems Engineering. Ashley works for Aquatera Utilities as the Environmental Coordinator, where she develops, implements and maintains various programs. These programs involve public education, conducting environmental projects and studies, as well as monitoring and reporting relevant to provincial requirements



Visit our Website!
www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org





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From the Desk of the Executive Director!

The MPWA is such a new organization that you can almost smell the new paint! The group of individuals on the board are filled with passion and concern for the Peace River Watershed. The board represents various sectors from throughout the Alberta Peace Watershed (Industry, Aboriginal Communities, Government, and Non-government agencies). I began working with the board in July and am truly just getting my feet wet! While my degree is in Agriculture, I have held various positions that have dealt with Environmental concerns, board governance, education/outreach, and business – all experiences that will assist the board move forward in their work.

The MPWA is currently in the stage of gathering information and resources that will be used to put together a ‘State of The Watershed Report’. The “State of the Watershed Report” will guide future work of the MPWA. It will also provide a good foundation of shared knowledge so that we can work towards a watershed management plan. If you, or others you know, have information that you feel may be relevant to building the picture of the Peace Watershed, please contact us as soon as possible.

You can assist us as we strive to reach our goals by becoming a member of the MPWA, passing on relevant information, and/or supporting our efforts through financial and in-kind sponsorship or donations. We have a great deal of work to do on the behalf of all residents of the watershed and your support is truly appreciated.

I look forward to the work ahead, knowing that **Water Is Life** and we all need to be a part of protecting our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. That also means caring for the area where the water flows from – the watershed.

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 -Louis Pawlowich
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 -Vacant	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Richard Keillor	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Vacant	Lower Watershed First Nation -Conroy Sewepagaham