

Report on Alberta's  
**WATERSHED PLANNING  
& ADVISORY COUNCILS**

**ALBERTA WPACs**



2020

2021

*Using collaboration, opportunity, and innovation to keep  
Alberta's Watersheds healthy!*

# A Letter to Our Partners

In 2003, the release of the *Water for Life* strategy marked a pivotal shift in the Government of Alberta's approach to water and watershed management. This approach emphasized the need for multi-sector and cross-scale partnerships to address complex water and watershed issues. Albertans should be proud of the vision and foresight of *Water for Life*, and of the partnerships formed since.

Over the past eighteen years, 11 Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) have become cornerstones of effective watershed management across Alberta. Working in partnership with multiple levels of government, industry, non-government organizations, and thousands of Albertans, our work extends to rural and urban areas across 94% of the province.

To borrow a metaphor, it is often said that people only see the top 10% of an iceberg. The same may be said for much of the work of Alberta's WPACs. Many of our closest partners and colleagues know one piece of our work, without seeing the whole. Additionally, few people are aware of all of the work carried out by all 11 WPACs. This report, while not exhaustive, provides a sample of some of the many WPAC activities carried out in 2020-21. In particular, these examples showcase a number of unique and innovative collaborations. The width and breadth of this work reinforces a simple message: WPACs are the go-to champions for watershed management in communities across Alberta.

As connectors and collaborators, WPACs work with their partners to develop and share knowledge, educate and inspire the public, and inform provincial and municipal plans and policies in rural and urban landscapes. WPACs are not-for-profit and/or charitable organizations that operate effectively on grants and the in-kind support of hundreds of volunteers. Today, we employ more than 40 full time staff annually and we connect with thousands of Albertans via programs, communications and social media. Collectively, we have leveraged millions of dollars in funding from various sectors, helping to protect Alberta's watersheds, while generating jobs and investments in local communities.

To every partner who has played a part in this journey so far: thank-you. Let's continue to build on what we've started through a renewed commitment to invest in the people and networks that increase the resilience of our communities, waterbodies and watersheds. Together, we can meet the goals of *Water for Life* and build on the progress we've made so far.

Sincerely,

Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

*Alberta's 11 WPACs are engaged in a number of unique and innovative collaborations. While not exhaustive, this report showcases a number of these partnerships undertaken by WPACs in 2020-21.*

# WPACs AT A GLANCE

## In 2020-21, Alberta's 11 WPACs:

- Employed **41.5** full-time staff
- Received in-kind support from more than **1,000** volunteers (on boards, committees, and project teams)
- Connected with **462** member organizations representing federal, provincial and municipal governments, industry/business, non-government organizations, conservation agencies and Indigenous communities
- Communicated regularly with **4,388** individual members through e-newsletters, blogs and websites
- Reached approximately **42,000** Albertans via social media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn and Tiktok
- Raised about **\$4M** in funds which in turn was injected into the provincial economy (to pay for staff, contractors, GIS expertise, educational materials, technical studies, etc.)
- Added to Alberta's **collective knowledge** about water and watershed management via the public release of numerous studies, reports, plans and other information



## INTRODUCTION: WATER IS LIFE!

Water is foundational to our way of life in Alberta. We sometimes forget how important it is. But events like drought, flood, boil water advisories, or blue-green algae blooms soon remind us.

The Government of Alberta (GOA), recognizing the importance of the resource, released the *Water for Life* (WFL) strategy in 2003. Providing a framework for water management throughout the province, the strategy strives to balance social, environmental and economic values through its three goals:

- Safe, Secure Drinking Water Supplies
- Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
- Reliable Quality Water Supplies for a Sustainable Economy

The strategy also recognized that water management is a shared responsibility. No one agency can manage this public resource, as well as the impacts on it. Hence the strategy called for the creation of several partnerships, in particular, 'Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils'.

## WHAT IS A WATERSHED PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL?

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) have been established for 11 watersheds across the province. During the development of *Water for Life*, Albertans expressed a strong interest in having a role in managing Alberta's water resource, including providing input to policy and legislation, collecting information and reporting on the condition of watersheds, developing plans to address issues, and influencing change within watersheds.

To accomplish this, WPACs were set up to involve stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and others concerned about watershed management. Mandated by the GOA, but also arm's length from government, WPACs take a multi-sector, consensus approach to decision-making. We are unique in that we work with local interests to identify local issues and determine local solutions.

WPACs foster collaboration with the GOA and others by creating opportunities for stakeholders and partners to come together, share resources, and explore both practical and innovative solutions to water management challenges. While each of the 11 WPACs across the province are independently managed, we also work together on some initiatives.

This report highlights a number of unique collaborations between WPACs and others, undertaken in the fiscal year 2020-21. It is provided as a sample of our work. For more details on each WPAC, we encourage you to visit the websites and annual reports of each organization (see final page).

*WPACs, with the support of the Government of Alberta, engage Albertans in partnerships for water and watershed management. These partnerships are unique, taking a local approach to local issues.*

# INTRODUCING ALBERTA'S 11 WPACs FROM NORTH TO SOUTH:

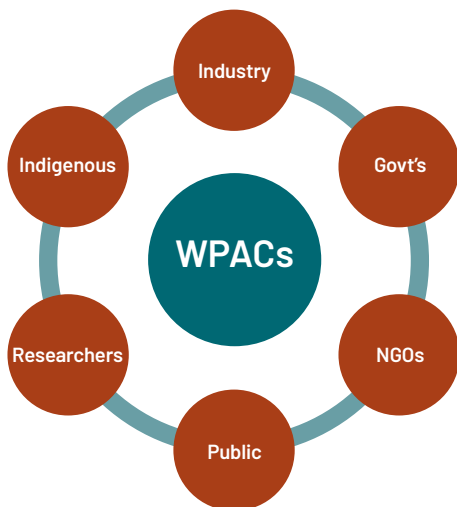
- **The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MWPA)** operates in Alberta's largest watershed, with a land base equivalent to about 1/3 of the province.
- **The Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC)** operates in Alberta's second largest watershed, equivalent to about 1/4 of the province.
- **The Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC)** works towards the health and sustainability of Lesser Slave Lake and its surrounding watershed. The LSWC is the only lake centered WPAC.
- **Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) - Environmental Stewards** is unique in Alberta in that it is a Synergy Group, an Airshed, and the WPAC for the Beaver River watershed. Its boundary overlaps into 9 Counties/Municipalities and resides within Treaty 6, 10, and 8 territory, as well as Métis Region Zones 1 and 2.
- **The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)** operates in Alberta's second most populous watershed, with the City of Edmonton and surrounding area in the heart of this basin.
- **The Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)** operates in Alberta's largest prairie-fed watershed.
- **The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA)** operates in a basin that is home to approximately 300,000 people, covering an area of 49,650 square kilometres, in central Alberta.
- **The Bow River Basin Council (BRBC)** operates in Alberta's most populous watershed, with the City of Calgary in this basin.
- **The Oldman Watershed Council (OWC)** covers southwestern Alberta which is part of Treaty 7, home to about 210,000 people including the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot People) and Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. The Old Man River is named after Naapi, the Blackfoot Creator.
- **The South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA)** works in both the South Saskatchewan River Basin and Pakowki Lake watersheds, in the agriculturally dominated Dry Mixed Grass natural sub-region of Alberta.
- **The Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC)** operates in Alberta's most southerly watershed. With waters flowing south to the Missouri River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico, transboundary relationships are critically important for both water and the expansive native rangelands, home to over 80% of Alberta's Species at Risk.

# WPAC ACTIVITIES IN 2020-21

WPACs do many things! And priorities often depend on issues unique to each watershed and the stakeholders in it. However, WPACs also have also been given a mandate by the GOA to support four program areas as follows:

## CONVENORS & COLLABORATORS

*Maintain forums and create opportunities for all to share perspectives, exchange information and stories about our shared watershed resources and responsibilities.*



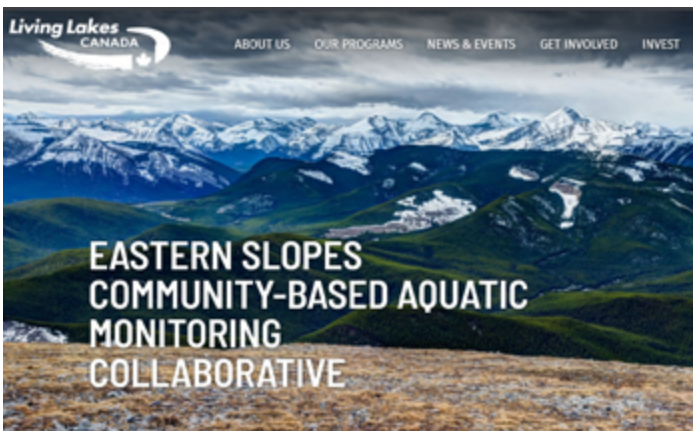
*WPACs collaborate with a wide range of sectors, communities and perspectives.*

WPACs excel at bringing people together. We convene meetings, forums, conferences, webinars, and we collaborate with others to listen to concerns, fill information gaps, deliver projects and programs, review policies and plans and more.

Gatherings and collaborations give everyone in the watershed the opportunity to share perspectives, exchange information and stories about our shared watershed resources and responsibilities. These events can provide a regional stakeholder perspective to the Government of Alberta, Alberta Water Council, stewardship groups, industry, Indigenous communities and others.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic made convening meetings more challenging in 2020-21, WPACs rose to the challenge through virtual meetings, workshops and presentation, in-person events with limited capacities and outdoor in-person events.

As part of regular business, WPACs organized more than 40 board meetings in 2020-21, engaging approximately 185 volunteer board members in discussions about strategic directions, good governance, and water issues unique to each region. Another 840 volunteers were engaged through the work of committees and project teams. For example, the AWC Technical Committee



*Several WPACs are partnering with Living Lakes Canada to monitor water based on local input.*

met virtually to approve the final draft of the Athabasca Integrated Watershed Management Plan. And finally, the 11 WPAC managers met quarterly, discussing operational issues common to all, as well as provincial policy and other water management topics. In addition to these regular activities, WPACs convened or collaborated in a number of unique programs, some of which are described below.

*In 2020-21, WPACs convened or collaborated in unique and innovative partnerships throughout Alberta.*

#### **EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATIONS IN 2020-21 INCLUDED:**

- ***Eastern Slopes Aquatic Monitoring Collaborative***

WPACs with headwaters in the Eastern Slopes, including the AWC, NSWA, BRBC and OWC are working with Living Lakes Canada to launch a three-year aquatic monitoring program across the Eastern Slopes. The program will assess local community needs and share expertise and resources in order to develop a community-based water monitoring program for the Eastern Slopes.

- ***Riparian Web Portal Project***

Led by NSWA and BRWA, a number of WPACs across the province participated in a broad scale satellite assessment of their riparian areas. Riparian intactness measures how “natural” a shoreline is using this imaging data. This information is now accessible to landowners, and land managers and informs future land management decisions and conservation efforts.

- ***Mapping Hydrologically Significant Areas***

The RDRWA partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada on a project to map hydrologically significant areas at a basin-scale, and to improve user access to information via an interactive mapping portal. This project expands previous work done in the Oldman River and Bow River watersheds.

#### ***SEAWA Riparian Restoration Project***

Through landowner partnerships, SEAWA has restored a total of 11 km of riparian areas since 2018 along with over 1000 native shrubs and trees. Funded by the WRRP and Canada Summer Jobs Program, these projects generate local watershed knowledge and are the basis of outreach, education, and stakeholder support.

- ***Swan River Watershed Initiative***

The Lesser Slave Watershed Council is connecting stakeholders in the Swan River sub watershed to restore stream connectivity and improve aquatic habitat for Arctic Grayling. Swan River First Nation is leading the way in engaging industry and partnering, to improve stream crossings and conduct habitat surveys. A State of the Swan River Watershed project in 2023 that will show positive improvements since the LSWC’s 2008 SOW report.

- ***Evergreen Wetland Centre***

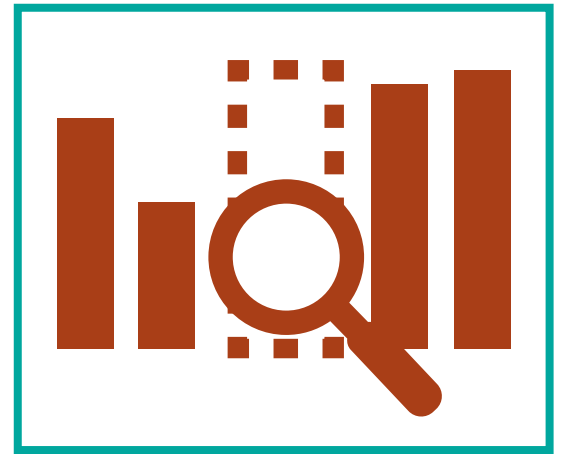
The MPWA is collaborating with the oil and forestry sectors, municipalities, post-secondary institutions and ENGOs to develop a wetland centre to trial, hone and promote Beneficial Management Practices for work around wetlands. Ducks Unlimited is leading and MPWA is contributing through monitoring, steering committee work, education and outreach and applied practice.

- ***Restoration Project Group***

For almost a decade, MPWA has lead a group in several watershed restoration initiatives funded through a range of municipal, provincial, federal and industry programs. AgroForestry Woodlot Extension Society, Alberta Conservation Association, County of Grande Prairie, Cows and Fish and the West County Watershed Society first worked on the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project in 2013 and continue working together today on projects like the Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization project.

# MONITORING & REPORTING

To fill knowledge gaps, WPACs undertake a variety of activities to collect data and information. This information is often utilized in state of the watershed reports, which in turn inform land and watershed management plans and support work by WPAC partners.



BRWA Staff Nathalie Olson and Sarah Skinner collect water samples at Battle Lake. Photo credit: BRWA.

IN 2020-21, WPACS UNDERTOOK A NUMBER OF MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- **LSWC Water Quality Monitoring Program**  
This five year study establishes data for the water quality of the rivers in the region to make better informed watershed and land management decisions. In the winter of 2021, water samples were also taken from Lesser Slave Lake.
- **North Saskatchewan WaterSHED Monitoring Program**  
19 stations across the watershed now monitor the water quality of the river, which is the source of drinking water for more than 65 communities (including Edmonton) in the capital region. The Program is a partnership between Alberta Environment & Parks, EPCOR, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the City of Edmonton.
- **BRBC partner for State of Basin for Elbow River**  
The BRBC is working with the Elbow River Watershed Partnership to complete a state of the basin study that has developed a report as well as an online GIS platform tool to convey key messages about the Elbow river. The existing template will be used to develop a state of the watershed report for the Bow basin.
- **BRWA's Climate Change and Health Project**  
Through the Adaptation Resilience Training program, the BRWA hired two project assistants to look into how climate change may affect the health of people, communities, and ecosystems locally. Using their watershed health indicator framework, they developed a report that outlines potential impacts as well as promising solutions to help build healthier and more climate-resilient communities.

Many WPACs are now engaged in their own or collaborative water quality or quantity monitoring initiatives, riparian and wetland assessment activities and other projects that fill information gaps about the state of Alberta's watersheds.





*This water quality monitoring station along Conjuring Creek is part of the WaterSHED program. Photo credit: Ryan Ozipko.*



*Staff and volunteers gather water quality samples from a creek in the Muriel Lake Basin. Photo credit: LICA.*

- ***AWC's Lower Pembina Watershed Riparian Area Assessment report***

This report focuses on riparian intactness, which measures riparian condition at a broad scale, using satellite data. The data can be used to compare the condition of water bodies or watersheds across a region, to prioritize restoration and conservation efforts and to guide voluntary stewardship efforts by municipalities, community groups, and landowners.

- ***Water quality of the Seven Persons Creek***

SEAWA undertook Water Quality sampling at Two Riparian Restoration Sites on Seven Persons Creek. They also undertook applied research on cultural control of invasive plants in riparian areas including leafy spurge, Russian olive, climbing nightshade, and reed canary grass.

- ***Community-based water quality monitoring within the LICA Region***

LICA partners with the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) every year to conduct water quality sampling as part of the ALMS Lakewatch Program. In 2020-21, a total of 5 lakes were sampled and the report is available on the LICA website.

- ***BRBC partners to monitor water quality***

The BRBC is working with 3 partner stewardship groups to do both CABIN and water quality monitoring in the Bow headwaters. This joint project hopes to build upon gaps in current monitoring and demonstrate citizen science in action.

- ***BRWA partnered with ALMS' Winter LakeKeepers Program***

BRWA staff visited the headwaters at Battle Lake to help with winter water quality sampling through the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) Winter LakeKeepers Program. The staff collected samples to test for nutrients, phytoplankton (algae), isotopes, chlorophyll, and dissolved oxygen.

- ***LakeKeepers in the Mighty Peace***

Through collaboration with ALMS, the MPWA monitored 5 lakes in the summer and 4 in the winter and took part in a pilot project to monitor isotopes and winter chlorophyll.



*Tetra Tech staff collecting water from the Sturgeon River in April 2021 during Spring freshet for the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance's Water Quality Study. Photo credit: Michelle Gordy.*

- **Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project**  
After developing a watershed restoration plan, the MPWA is conducting monitoring in the Redwillow sub-watershed. In summer, work focusses on water quality and fish passage conditions at a weir where fish passage improvement has been completed. Throughout the watershed MPWA and partner organizations are monitoring the effectiveness of restoration activities including streambank restoration, modified management practices, livestocking, erosion control projects and riparian enhancement.

- **OWC Collaborations with Indigenous Communities**

The Oldman Watershed Council has invested in range and riparian health assessments at over 75 sites with our partners Blood Tribe Land Management and Piikani Nation Land Management.



*The Swan River Watershed and Lesser Slave Watershed Council are working with partners to protect and monitor the Arctic Grayling. As a species of special concern, the fish is currently the focus of habitat surveys, improved stream crossings and habitat restoration. Photo credit: AK Smith. (En.wikipedia.org/wiki/arctic\_grayling)*



*Many WPACs are collecting data on the broadscale intactness of riparian areas to gain insight on ecosystem and water quality, policy, and on-the-ground projects. Photo credit: Steve Ricketts.*

# POLICY & PLANNING



*As knowledge-builders, WPACs can provide input and insight on watershed management issues through participation in water use management and planning activities with stakeholders. They can also lend this expertise to other regional, municipal and resource planning initiatives. Additionally, WPACs can provide a regional multistakeholder perspective to federal, provincial and municipal policy.*

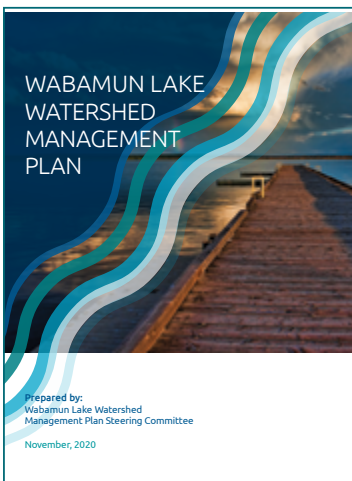
*WPACs regularly promote and provide input to federal, provincial, municipal and resource engagement processes for the development of policies, legislation, land use and water management plans, and water management/monitoring frameworks. WPACs have also developed their own watershed management plans to address water management issues in their region and assist stewardship groups with planning at the sub-basin or lake scale.*

**In 2020-21, examples of WPACs providing policy and planning advice included:**

- WPAC representatives participated on the Alberta Water Council which in turn provided policy advice on wetland policy implementation, future water management issues, source water protection and drought planning.
- WPACs provided advice directly to the GOA by engaging on regional land use plans, wetland policy, stormwater management practices, Industrial Heartland water management framework, etc.
- WPACs provided input to the federal Canada Water Agency engagement process, both individually and collectively.
- WPACs provided advice to municipalities through sub-basin initiatives like the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance IWMP and Wabamun Lake IWMP.
- Responding to the needs of its members the BRBC Legislation and Policy Committee developed and hosted a series of workshops on the issues of Gravel extraction and interactions with water bodies. A “What We Heard” document has been developed with plans for follow up activities in 2022.



WPACs are at the forefront of providing neutral, trusted information to stakeholders to depolarize issues and build common ground. OWC Website.



Left: Cover of the Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Right: The Red Deer Watershed Alliance put out a factsheet for an overview of hydraulic fracturing in its watershed.

- The RDRWA released a fact sheet and management recommendations about hydraulic fracturing in 2020, following analysis and engagement with multiple sectors. This is to provide guidance and recommendations to decision-makers, industry groups, and stakeholders.
- The Oldman Watershed Council was at the forefront of providing neutral, scientific information about coal mining to Albertans, to the GOA, and to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. This work demonstrated how WPACs fill a vital role in providing trusted, unbiased information to stakeholders and regulators, which became increasingly critical as the issue became polarized.
- WPACs have recently hired their first WPAC Legislation and Policy Manager to develop a collaborative decision-making process for collective action. This is a big step forward for watershed health and will enable efficient information sharing, education and a unified voice for WPACs.



Susanna Bruneau will facilitate collaborative action as the WPAC Legislation and Policy Manager. Photo credit: Carla Lehman.



The Riparian Web Portal houses data for over 40,000 kms of riparian data. This multi-WPAC project serves as a useful tool for municipal planners and land managers.

# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

WPACs excel in creating opportunities for public engagement, increasing awareness of watershed management issues, and ensuring the public is knowledgeable about what they can do as good stewards of the water resource. Many WPAC events include experiential learning through activities out in the watershed such as weed pulls, riparian plantings and other activities. These 'boots on the ground' type activities not only contribute to efforts to educate, but they also result in tangible improvements to the watershed. Significant milestones, like the NSWA's 20-year anniversary, are also utilized as 'teachable moments'.



Students from the Two Hills school (Vermilion River Watershed Alliance) helped plant local wildflowers for the ecobuffer while the interpretive signage below explains the importance and function of ecobuffers (Photo credits: Willie Babiuk).



Summer students plant chokecherries to benefit shorelines & pollinators along Sauder Reservoir as part of a partnership with the Saint Mary River Irrigation District. Photo credit: SEAWA.

Some examples of education and outreach activities in 2020-21 include:

## PROVINCIALY

- WPACs began working together on Watershed 101 videos.

## REGIONALLY

- The NSWA hosted "Watershed Wednesday" webinars, covering a variety of watershed topics for its 20-year anniversary.
- SEAWA hosted riparian educational tours for college students and the public and an invasive species workshop (in collaboration with Grassland Naturalists).
- The RDRWA developed a professional short documentary called *Source Waters: The Rivers that Shape Us*, plus videos about gravel-bed rivers, climate change and streamflows, and municipal planning. This work has led to higher engagement and supports water literacy efforts.



Students participated in a hands-on XStream Science workshop where they learned about water quality. The event was hosted by the BRWA and VRWA. Photo credit: Nathalie Olson.

*WPACs are engaging others in on-the ground restoration or conservation projects such as shoreline weed pulls or plantings; lakeshore cleanups; installing fencing, pond levelers, or solar livestock waterers.*



A total of 12,500 trees were planted in the riparian areas bordering Jessie Lake. Photo Credit: LICA

## LOCALLY

WPACs supported local sub-basin and lake initiatives such as:

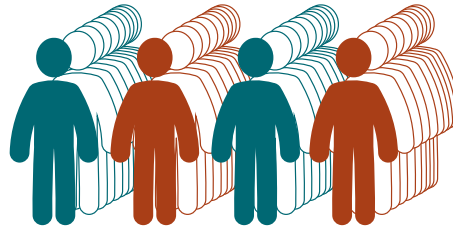
- The OWC developed an immersive virtual reality experience of the watershed, that trains participants how to be good watershed stewards by removing invasive weeds, putting out fires and planting vegetation.
- The MPWA Streambank Stabilization and Extension project addressed erosion and improved flood and drought resiliency (funded through WRRP and partners). The team wrapped up the on-site work and workshops with a live event and video release.
- The BRBC has partnered with SAIT and completed a Capstone project with students on the issue of Water Re-Use. This project led to a forum presentation and paper for use by anyone with an interest.
- LICA partnered for the second year with the Moose Lake Watershed Society to launch their annual Keep Our Lake Blue campaign (KOLB).
- SEAWA established an adopt-a-pond initiative in Medicine Hat for volunteers to pick-up trash around stormwater ponds and along the creek and report invasive species using EDDMapS

# SUMMING IT UP

People and financial resources are the fuel that propels WPACs forward. Both are necessary to ensure success. In 2020-21, WPACs continued to galvanize support.

## STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Alberta's WPACs employ 40+ full time staff and inject about \$4 million/year into the economy contracting expertise such as facilitators, project managers, GIS and other specialists.



**40+ STAFF**



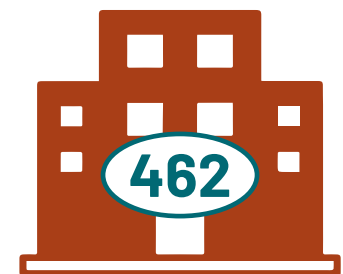
**CONTRACTORS**

## VOLUNTEER BOARDS, PROJECT TEAMS & COMMITTEES

Alberta's 11 WPACs are not-for-profit societies governed by volunteer Board of Directors, Project Teams and Committees; these 430 volunteers represent more than 20 sectors of Alberta society (including Governments, industry, non-government organizations, conservation agencies and Indigenous communities).



**BOARDS, COMMITTEES,  
PROJECT TEAMS**



**MEMBER  
ORGANIZATIONS**

## MEMBERS & FOLLOWERS

There are an additional 2,836 individual members, which means a total of 3,710 Albertans directly engaged in WPACs and a large social media presence that exceeds 40,000 Albertans.



**4,300+ MEMBERS**



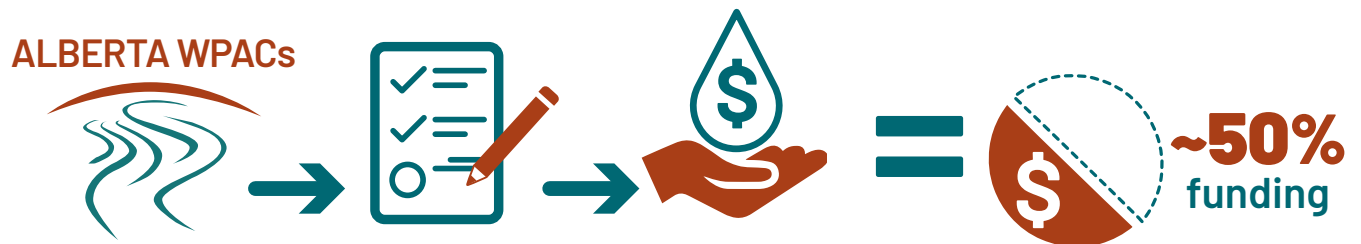
**41,000+ FOLLOWERS**

# FUNDING FOR WPACs



The GOA provides core operational funding to WPACs; in return these multi-stakeholder consensus based boards provide advice to the GOA on the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy and other water management issues in their watershed.

This support from the GOA accounts for approximately 30% of WPAC funding and is essential to WPAC operations as well as securing commitments from other sectors.



The GOA and other government, industry, and non-government granting institutions partner with WPACs in arrangements where WPACs produce a product or deliverable in return for a set grant amount.

This support accounts for approximately 50% of WPAC funding.



WPACs rely on in-kind (non-financial) support from its board and committee members, volunteers, GOA and municipal technical staff and others.

This support accounts for approximately 20% of WPAC funding.



# Revisiting the *Water for Life* Goals

While WPACs have been busy in 2020-21, leveraging both human, social and financial resources, one might ask: has this made a difference in achieving *Water for Life* goals?

## **Safe, Secure Drinking Water Supplies**

Today, for the most part, the majority of Albertans have access to safe, secure drinking water supplies, thanks to a committed network of Indigenous, municipal and utility drinking water operators, water consortiums, and researchers. WPACs contribute to this effort in a number of ways including participating in water coalitions, promoting source water protection planning, hosting Working Well workshops and more to protect our drinking water resource.

## **Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems**

Healthy aquatic ecosystems are the foundation of water management and a requirement for meeting the water needs of society and the economy. WPACs, in addition to providing input to GOA and other initiatives, are investing in their own monitoring and assessment, conserving and restoring aquatic ecosystems, which includes riparian areas, wetlands, lakes and smaller streams. WPACs are also working on a number of issues affecting species at risk, biodiversity and invasive species. Finally, WPACs provide a watershed perspective to land use and resource planning initiatives.

## **Reliable Quality Water Supplies for a Sustainable Economy**

In order to thrive, much of Alberta's economy requires reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy. While the GOA is responsible for water allocation under the *Water Act*, WPACs contribute to achieving this WFL goal by bringing a multi-sector perspective to studies, modeling initiatives and other research to help understand current and future supply and demand.

# Conclusion

WPACs are the go-to organizations for watershed management in watersheds across Alberta.

This report has highlighted our reach and impact, as we continue to use collaboration and innovation to support the goals of the *Water For Life* Strategy. Moving forward, WPACs will continue to expand our networks, knowledge, and capacity in service of healthy watersheds. With a track record spanning 18 years, we are prepared to meet the water challenges of the 21st century alongside our trusted partners. We look forward to continuing our work in support of water and watershed management, now and in the future, for all Albertans.

# For More Information

WPACs do much more than we can share in these few pages. For more information, we hope you will check out the WPAC in your area (see the web links in the box below). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your WPAC office.

We hope you will become actively engaged with your WPAC, by signing up for a membership or newsletter, attending a WPAC event, or supporting our work through a donation. WPACs can also connect you to local watershed stewardship groups in your area – or help you form a group if one doesn't already exist.

## CONTACT US AND FIND OUT MORE

### **ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL**

[www.awc-wpac.ca](http://www.awc-wpac.ca)

*AWC 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

[www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca)

*BRWA 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL**

[www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca)

*BRBC 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **LICA-ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS (BEAVER RIVER WATERSHED)**

[www.lica.ca](http://www.lica.ca)

*LICA 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **LESSER SLAVE WATERSHED COUNCIL**

[www.lswc.ca](http://www.lswc.ca)

*LSWC 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **MIGHTY PEACE WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

[www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org)

*MPWA 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA**

[www.mrwcc.ca](http://www.mrwcc.ca)

*MRWCC 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

[www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca)

*NSWA 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **OLDMAN WATERSHED COUNCIL**

[www.oldmanwatershed.ca](http://www.oldmanwatershed.ca)

*OWC 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **RED DEER RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

[www.rdrwa.ca](http://www.rdrwa.ca)

*RDRWA 2020-21 Annual Report*

### **SOUTH EAST ALBERTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

[www.seawa.ca](http://www.seawa.ca)

*SEAWA 2020-21 Annual Report*

