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Sept 16, 2022

Douglas Thrussell
Senior Advisor
Agency and Partnership Governance Team
Intergovernmental Relations and Engagement Branch
Alberta Environment and Parks

Dear Mr. Thrussell;

As the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Society (MPWA) looks forward to another 4 years of business, I would like to thank you and your staff for the support of this WPAC (est.2011). MPWA has continued to work diligently to maintain and improve the organization, board, and staff compliment. The WPAC continues to make positive strides to engage stakeholders and pursue partnerships that are beneficial to the watershed work. This aligns with the WPAC, *Water for Life* Strategy, and AEP outcomes of ecosystem health and integrity as well as protecting public health and safety (ie., flood and drought mitigation and safe, secure drinking water).

The MPWA has had many successes in the past 4 years in the areas of Collaborator and convenor, Planning (IWMP implementation, Source Water protection Planning, Riparian Restoration Plans, initial work in Surface Water Management Planning, etc), Education and Literacy (workshop hosts, tours, demos, seminars, education products, partnering with municipalities and other stakeholders to hold information updates on technical advancements), Watershed Assessment as many projects are gathering information towards watershed assessment and filling data gaps.

MPWA plans to continue working in the areas of planning initiatives, data collection, increased education and literacy, further engagement and inclusion of outreach opportunities to encourage and aid improved uptake of IWMP recommendations. Discussions will begin this winter regarding the update of the SOW and the best, most efficient process to fit the needs of the Peace and Slave River Watersheds. Many of our past and current projects align with priorities of AEP (ie Wapiti Basin, Smoky Headwaters, Lower Peace Watershed).

You will see that our request is for \$397,000 per year which is a \$167,000 increase over the last 4 years. In northern Alberta we struggle to find qualified staff (this is a ongoing issue that many industries encounter) as it is expensive to live in the north, limited access to easily acquired necessities in other parts of the province and a general unwillingness to relocate to the north; therefore we need extra funding to be in the market to hire staff whether fulltime or contract. This budget reflects adding 2 more staff (Education Coordinator and a Technical Support) and the increased expenses included with that (travel, office supplies, payroll, etc). The other increase expenses is around insurance, review engagement, office rent and travel in general. The cost of fuel does not appear to be decreasing in the foreseen period after a significant increase in the Peace this past year.

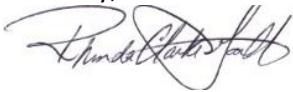
The MPWA covers 2 extensive watersheds and feel that our request for increased funds is not out of line. If it is hoped that the MPWA can continue to do the work it has across this vast watershed with key stakeholders, we

require further funding to meet those objectives. Education should be greatly increased and outreach is necessary to do that, further funding would allow the MPWA to increase the message and outcomes with a fuller staff component. We receive significant in-kind supports from partners but actual cash is more difficult to obtain.

The MPWA Board will continue to address the goals and strategies listed in the Strategic Plan (provided with this package), while working towards the *Water for Life* Strategy goals. Please find attached a grant application for a **\$ 397,300.00 per year operational** support for the 2023-2027 period. This funding will allow the MPWA to continue to do the WPAC work of Convening and Collaborating, Planning, IWMP Implementation projects including Monitoring and Reporting. The core funding not only provides for this work directly but also enables leveraging other funding by allowing MPWA to lead and support other work and initiatives across the watershed (including planning initiatives, Restoration Projects, collaboration with AEP priorities, etc). Core funding allows for the MPWA to take lead roles in a variety of program areas and to continue our valuable role of providing professional staff services.

Again, thank you for your continued support of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance WPAC. If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P. Ag.
Executive Director
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

Attachments:

- AEP Grant Application Form for 2023-2027 (incl Program Description Part A & B)
- Grant Budget for 2023-2027
- 2019-2024 Strategic Plan