

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

Combined In person Meeting in McLennan, AB and Conference Call

November 15th, 2021

	Name	Sector
Attendees	Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal -Transboundary Relations
	Ashley Rowney	Utilities
	Becky Devaleriola	Watershed Stewardship (Alternate)
	Bob Cameron	Conservation/Environmental
	Brian Lieverse	Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries
	Dave Walty	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Vice Chair
	Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities
	Eric Jorgensen	Agriculture (Alternate)
	Jill Henry	Agriculture
	Jim Webb	Lower Peace First Nation
	Justin Hetu	Forestry
	Melanie Bird	Public Member-at-Large (Alternate)
	Michelle Gairdner	Large Urban Municipality (Alternate)
	Rick Keillor	Public Member-at-Large, MPWA Chair
	Sandra Miller	Oil & Gas
	Vern Lymburner	Small Urban Municipalities
	Darryel Sowan	Lower Peace First Nation (Alternate)
Regrets	Krista Park	Provincial Government
	Beatrice Amar	Research/Education
	Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship
	Roechelle Gaudet	Metis Settlement General Council (MSGC)
	Chris Thiessen	Large Urban Municipality
Staff	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Executive Director
	Adam Norris	Watershed Coordinator

ACTION LOG:

<u>Chairman</u>	R. Keillor
<u>Executive Director (5)</u>	R. Clarke-Gauthier
<u>Finance Committee (5)</u>	B. Cameron, R. Keillor, V. Lymburner, S. Miller, D. Walty, Executive Director
<u>Education & Stewardship Committee</u>	B. Cameron, J. Henry, B. Amar, E. Jorgensen, E/O Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Technical Committee</u>	R. Keillor, B. Cameron, E. Garrow, D. Walty, E. Jorgensen, B. Amar, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (IWMP SC) (7)</u>	B. Cameron, E. Garrow, R. Keillor, J. Webb, D. Walty, A. Siad-Omar, Justin Hetu, Watershed Coordinator, Exec Director
<u>Nomination Committee (3)</u>	B. Cameron, V. Lymburner, Exec Director

Chair

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Chair (with nomination committee)	Action 1.7	As opportunities arise, investigate reps for the remaining vacant Board seats.	In progress.

Executive Director

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 4.8	After Board meeting, Rhonda provides info. Releases that can be shared with each sector. Communication inquiries will go to Rhonda.	Ongoing
R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 6.4	Craft official correspondence requesting funding/support for Board members can distribute and request funding.	As requested
R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 7/30/2015-2	MPWA to develop protocols and procedures for dealing with challenges that will be present during the planning processes including grievance process, appeals, etc.). Staff to research and prepare.	In process
R. Clarke-Gauthier	Action 7/30/2015-5	Send letter campaign to partners and potential partners regarding funding, and letters of support for MPWA work.	As required

Finance Committee

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
Finance Committee	Action 2.4	The Finance Committee will move forward and solicit dollars.	In progress

Education and Stewardship Committee

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status

Technical Committee

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status

Directors

Lead	Meeting No.	Description	Status
All Directors and Alternates	Action 7/30/2015-6	Supply the office with contact names and addresses of potential funders and supporters in their sector.	Continue To Do
A. Siad-Omar	Action 4/07/2021-2	Arrange a presentation from AEP on the Wapiti River Water Management Plan implementation process and ongoing monitoring.	complete

A. Siad-Omar	Action 11/15/21—1	Work with C. de la Chevrotière to find further answers and clarification to the questions during presentation.	To do
--------------	-------------------	--	-------

1. Administration

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM by R. Keillor, Chair.
- Quorum was present

1.2. Introductions and Director Roundtable (include Sector Info important to MPWA)

- J. Henry - Erosion and watershed issues, hoping to extend out workshops. Looking to collaborate with others, the City of GP has reached out regarding some collaborative extension programs for Bear River and the fish kill.
- E. Jorgensen – No longer on County Council. Interested in the Floating wetland work that had been talked about by Mackenzie applied research and AIA.
- A. Rowney - that Aquatera submitted their WRWMP Implementation Plan to AEP as well as a request to have the Junior Water Act License amended to reflect the Water Conservation Objective recommended within the WRWMP.
- J. Hetu - AEP is releasing a new watercourse crossing manual -Crossing planning and audit by AEP
- B. Lieverse – BRAGRS is hoping to get fish back into the river by next spring
- B. Devaleriola – working on a terms-of-reference between Peace River, Northern Sunrise County, and MPWA for Pat's Creek
- R. Keillor – Discovered a wonderful trail from Hines Creek to the Peace River, good walk through the watershed. Thank goodness for Beavers, they saved his area from drought
- D. Walty - Has been working with the parties around the Pat's Creek TOR. Will be speaking with the Peace River Engineer and Mayor of Peace River. Working with Bonnie from AEP to sort out Source Water maps – Bonnie has been doing tremendous work on this project.
- J. Webb – Received funding through the Wood Buffalo Action Plan grant to obtain equipment etc for fisheries and water monitor in lower Peace. Noted the ongoing concern that the loss of wetlands is impacting Bison through loss of habitat.
- A. Siad-Omar - starting a review of the Implementation Plan for WRWMP and that will include amendment of the junior license
- V. Lymburner - There were water restrictions in place this summer, unfortunately they found out people used more water in a reduced water time.
- E. Garrow – Thankful for beavers and holding ponds.
- M. Gairdner – After the Municipal Election, Councillor Bressey has moved to different portfolio and has resigned from MPWA. The City has submitted Councillor Thiessen's nomination. They are working to better understand the Fish kills (due largely to bacteria) in Bear Creek, working with County & AEP on this. Also, Bear Creek has very low flow, discussions around mitigating flooding with Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, and Wembley. Monitoring is continuing.

1.3. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting Agenda November 15, 2021 was reviewed.

Motion to approve November 15, 2021 Agenda made by D. Walty.

Accepted by Consensus

1.4. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for July 15th, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from July 15th, 2021 was made by B. Cameron

Accepted by Consensus

Note: If grammatical/spelling errors are noted, then it is acceptable to provide edits to R. Clarke-Gauthier.

1.5 Changes to the Board of Directors

1.5.1 Receive Resignation – Dylan Bressey (Large Urban Director) resigned his seat.
The Board accepts D. Bressey's resignation with regret and thanks him for his work.

1.5.2 Receive Director Nomination – The City of Grande prairie nominates Chris Thiessen to the seat of Director for Large Urban Municipality. The paperwork has been provided.

Motion: to accept the nomination of Chris Thiessen to be the Director of Large Urban Municipality and this action will be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting, moved by V. Lymburner, seconded by B. Cameron.

Accepted by Consensus

1.5.3 Approval of named Alternates – Small Urban Municipalities – Brad Carr will replace Johanna Downing: Large Urban Municipality - Michelle Gairdner).

Motion to approve Alternates Brad Carr and Michelle Gairdner, as named by their Director, moved by B. Cameron, seconded by D. Walty.

Accepted by Consensus

2. Reports and Updates

2.1. Chairman Report – R. Keillor

- Very dry on the landscape – concerns regarding water storage and dugouts
- Please ensure to submit your bio (updated or new) and picture.

2.2. Office Report – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- Reviewed the report that was posted before the meeting – items included Manager's meeting, Discussed the items presented to multiple meetings, monitoring activities, and volunteers with sampling, Meetings and Webinars staff participated in, etc.

Appendix attached

Motion: to accept office report made by V. Lymburner.

Accepted by Consensus

2.3. Financial Update – R. Clarke-Gauthier

- Report reflects carryover from March 31, 2021 and income/expenditures from April 1-November 14, 2021.
- We are in a good position to date and still trying to obtain an E/O person. If can not find full time, will look at project contractors instead.
- Suggestion from Vern that perhaps consider actual cost analysis for same job if AEP was doing this work.

Motion: to approve Financial update, moved by B. Lieverse, seconded by M. Bird.

Accepted by Consensus

2.4. Technical Committee Update - Project Update and Possible New Initiatives — Mr. A. Norris

- Source Water Protection Plans (SWPP)
 - Reviewed source water protection planning process
 - Working to develop source water maps for every community in the watershed
 - Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer SWPP implementation is focussed on developing a water budget, initiating community-based aquifer monitoring and ongoing outreach around BMPs and aquifers
 - Wapiti Watershed SWPP implementation is engaging decision-makers and initiating cumulative effects monitoring
- Restoration projects focus on maintain and restoring function to maintain multiple uses on the landscape
 - Improved Livestock Crossing has installed its final crossing (fifth one) and final reporting is being completed
 - Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization is continuing to use planting, livestocking and bioengineering to stabilize banks and protect property on the Beaverlodge River and on the Bear River a floodplain is being created for a river avulsion to reduce erosion and protect downstream property
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative is seeking to reducing sediment entering species at risk habitat and provide shading to maintain cooler waters
 - Engagement on Facebook has been very good ~8000
 - fRI Research was engaged to model sediment delivery and riparian shading for this; field verification is complete
 - next steps are to develop workplans for this high sediment loading areas, engage schools, and continue water quality monitoring
- Monitoring is undertaken to understand the watershed and provide feedback on the effectiveness of the IWMP
 - LakeKeepers engages volunteers to monitor lakes both winter and summer
 - Assisted in groundwater monitoring at Evergreen Wetland Centre
- Continue to monitor induced meandering at the Powell property
- Upcoming potential projects include
 - A watershed restoration project in the Bear/Mikkwa watershed
 - Supporting the County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Services Board in their Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program application
 - Exploring floating wetlands and finding a location to install one

2.5 Education and Outreach Update

- Still working towards a Virtual Tour of the Bear Creek
- Looking at hosting a Green acreage workshop in new year.
- Participating in AB WPAC E/O Coordinator meetings – this group is continuing to work on the Watershed 101 video series
- Planning for an education/technical workshop for new year as well
- Search continues for a third staff person to cover this position.

Guest Speaker: Carmen de la Chevrotière, Transboundary Waters Team Lead, Alberta Environment and Parks, Watershed Resilience and Transboundary Waters, Resource Stewardship Division

**Presentation attached as appendix to these minutes and on the Director's area of the website

MRB Transboundary Waters Master Agreement

Mackenzie River Basin Board

- Meets 4 times yearly
- Shares detailed agency reports once a year
- Prepares annual reports
- Oversees sub-committees
- Recently updated the SOAER (traditional knowledge)

AB-NWT Agreement

- Signed in 2015
- 3 annual reports have been produced and hoping to release 2018-2020 in 2021
- Water quality, Water quantity, Biological and Groundwater categories
- Traditional knowledge is focussed on braiding TK and Science
- Climate change implications are starting to be considered

SK-AB bilateral water Management Agreement

- 2010-2014
- Agreement categories have been defined
- Risk informed management approach
 - The nature and intensity of bilateral management and Jurisdictional water management increase from class 1 to class 3 (varying levels of learning, transboundary objective-setting, monitoring)
 - Class 4 occurs when transboundary objectives are not met, indicating that the ecological integrity of the aquatic ecosystem may not be being maintained
- Bilateral management committee is active
 - In progress but moving slowly

BC-AB draft agreement

- Work from 2010-2014 provides the basis
- Peace River Special Provisions
 - Flow regulation will remain
 - BC Hydro Site C project
 - Compliance monitoring by regulators
 - Connections: BC Hydro – AEP Feb 2020
 - AEP actions: Regulatory assurance updated list of Water Act license holders
- Transboundary team – Gov of BC and BC Hydro
- Next steps:
 - Adaptive Management Plan, reservoir filling low flows
 - BC Hydro will be working with AB
 - AEP will use learning from low flows during tunnel construction
 - Emergency Management Plan
 - Needs to be completed
- Wood Buffalo National Park Action Plan
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada leads Environmental Flows and Hydrology actions
 - Parks Canada leads Monitoring and Science actions and Cooperative Management Committee for WBNP

Questions

- D. Walty: Is there a funding model?
- Carmen de la Chevrotière: The only one that is signed 900,000 over 5 years – AB-NWT

A. Norris: Timeline for BC /AB bilateral to be completed

Carmen de la Chevrotière: Hoping to get out to do engagement in 2022, working with BC and its open to the public

B. Cameron: There have been problems with MPWA directly communicating with the BC gov in the BC peace area (regarding the Wapiti River), however we have had our hands tapped from higher ups in the BC gov for doing this. Are there safety concerns with the Site C construction and slumping issues? How is compliance for emergency management?

Carmen de la Chevrotière: Our job is to help you communicate with the right personnel in the BC govt

D. Walty: It would be good for BC Hydro to present to us about the monitoring they are doing, and how they are working with AB. What are the downstream environmental issues such as water quality, hydrology and fisheries?

Carmen de la Chevrotière: I would start with the regulators and go from there

E. Jorgenson: We (Mackenzie County area) had a flood in 2018 and 2020. BC Hydro presented to Council and they used the term Scouring Velocity. I would like AEP to think about when we change the water speed. Sediment is being held and making new islands, I worry about new floods.

D. Walty: How do we get detailed monitoring on this issue?

Carmen de la Chevrotière: I would bring it up with the Mackenzie Basin Board. Who and where to contact? I will bring it to the Board for the MPWA, who to contact and how to proceed.

V. Lymburner: Why does the MPWA not have a seat the transboundary team?

A. Siad-Omar: I am not sure, will check into that.

Action 11/15/21—1: A. Siad-Omar and C. de la Chevrotière will find further answers and clarification to the questions during presentation.

3. Other

3.1. Office Rent

- MPWA received a notice in late August that AEP would no longer support a no-cost lease agreement as there has been a policy change within the GOA that all user groups that did not fit into the Tier 1 category (essential services to core GOA work) would be charged rent.
- MPWA is asked to pay a cost recovery amount plus 10%.
- Executive sent a letter to the Minister, Deputy Minister and Senior managers that outlined the work the MPWA does and how it aligns with the AEP Mandates. While MPWA was acknowledged for its good work the policy still stands.
- The amount will be \$8005.56 per annum payable as soon as the documents can be drawn up with Alberta Infrastructure.
- Discussion of options, requirements of office, other WPAC situations, etc.
- Discussion about how inappropriate it is that the GOA is asking for the change in the middle of our budget year.

Motion to remain in the building and pay the rent, moved by D. Walty, seconded by B. Cameron.

Accepted by Consensus

Motion to request that the agreement begin in our new fiscal year April 1, 2022 because not in our current budget moved by V. Lymburner, seconded by B. Cameron.

Accepted by Consensus

3.2. Director Bio for Website

- Reviewed website Bio area
- Please forward your information asap to the office (next couple of weeks preferred).

3.3 Update – Water Allocation and usage pilot survey

- There has been a setback and work has not begun on this.
- MPWA had lined up a contract person to do this work.
- Contact information has not been provided for the users, once that occurs we can begin.

3.4 Participants at the 2021 SUMMIT – Thoughts and Take away?

- Several Directors participated in some of the sessions
- Well done for a virtual event. Engaging sessions.
- Swan River presenter was great.
- Cost was minimal in this format; great job
- Excellent summit
- There was some talk about the role of advocacy in the WPAC work and what does that mean. AEP needs to discuss this topic.

3.5 Issues of Concern Discussion

- Directors had been asked to complete a quick survey regarding their work or sector initiatives that address the 4 Issues of Concern that the IWMP has identified.
- The Plan is in place and engagement with many sectors has occurred, as we evaluate the work and effectiveness of the plan we are trying to gauge the work that the Directors can identify in their sectors.
- Many had not had a chance to complete the questions
- Discussion indicated that there is some work being accomplished, more to do. Priority areas depend on the sector.

3.6 Board Retreat

- Staff would like to see a 2-day board meeting/retreat to be able to dig down into the work of the MPWA.
- If COVID-19 restriction decrease, would like to see this happen Feb. There was a willingness of Directors to look at this as long as safe to do so.

4. Upcoming Event Dates

Nov 16 - Alberta Watercourse Crossing Collaborative: New Fisheries Act & ASAR

Nov 17- Blue Economy: Tackling Plastics in Freshwater

Jan 19 - ABMI: Aquatic Invertebrates of Alberta

Feb 23 - ABMI: The Human Footprint Inventory

5. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm by E. Jorgensen

Office Report July 15 to November 15, 2021:

- Follow-up from July 15th Board meeting (minutes, etc.)
- July 16 – Evergreen Wetland Centre monitoring
- July 16 – Wapiti River Water monitoring discussion
- July 19 – Evergreen Wetland Centre call
- July 21 – Telus TV filming at Powell's
- July 27 – Evergreen Wetland Centre meeting
- Aug 11 – Discuss with AEP regarding letter indicating no longer receiving no-cost lease. Started to gather information about the value of MPWA to AEP
- Aug 13 – RMA presentation
- Aug 15-19 – PNWER Summit online event
- Aug 23 – MPWA Exec Meeting to discuss letter from DM regarding rent and possible actions
- Aug 24 – Discussion with Matt General of DFN to prepare for upcoming presentation.
- Aug 16 – Meeting with Carmen (Transboundary Waters) and Abdi to establish goals for presentation to MPWA
- Aug 27 – Call with Duncan's First Nation
- Sep 2 – Crossing installation work at Kennedy's
- Sep 9 – Dive into Riparian Data webinar
- Sep 10 – Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association meeting
- Sep 13 – Call with Mountain Metis Nation Association regarding biologists and support for trout protection
- Sent out information to Alternate Directors.
- Gathering information for new virtual meeting options – Hoot no longer available.
- Sep 13 – Foothills Forest Products Public Advisory Group meeting
- Sep 16 – Northern Sunrise County Watershed Advisory Committee meeting
- Sept 20 – AB WPAC Manager's meeting
- Sep 21 – Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice meeting
- Sep 23 – Streambank measurements at Powell's
- Sep 29 – WPAC Education/Outreach Coordinator meeting
- Oct 4 – Meeting with Abdi and Native Trout Team
- Oct 6 – Water Week North presentation
- Oct 6 – WBNP conference Call – first invite to group
- Attended some AB WPAC Summit sessions Oct 8, 22, 29
- Oct 13 – Update report for Transboundary Secretariat
- Oct 14 – Beaverlodge River Fish Passage site inspection
- Oct 14 – Kennedy crossing inspection
- Oct 15 – Meeting with MLA Tracy Allard and Minister Travis Toews – their request as a follow-up to the update information sent earlier in the summer. Discussed operations, projects in GP area and areas of concern.
- Oct 15 – call with Long and Naba re need for water survey contact info.
- Oct 20 – Mercer Public Advisory Group meeting
- Oct 27 – Call with the City of Grande Prairie about Bear River flooding and management
- Nov 5 – Technical committee meeting – Review TOR and Operating guide for potential Pat's Creek work
- Alberta Water Council Source Water Protection Project Team meetings – Jul 26, Sep 16, Oct 5, Oct 25
 - Clarifying target audience for SWPP tool, exploring possibilities for an online SWPP tool
- Education/Outreach
 - Social media posts
 - Exploration of different delivery formats
 - Advertizing for E/O Coordinator

- Collaboration with municipal partners for program delivery
- Working with Trout Unlimited to have municipalities install fish habitat signs
- Virtual tour at Evergreen Wetland Centre for schools
- Water Week North and Water Week presentations
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan
 - Work on aquifer water budget and engaging U of A grad student to assist with this
 - Input on development permits and by-law amendments
- LakeKeepers
 - Volunteers completed summer sampling at Lac Cardinal, Haig, Lac Cardinal, Peerless, Snipe, Swan and Wadlin Lakes; travel and time to coordinate kits and sample collection and shipment
 - We sampled Victor Lake with Mountain Metis Nation - July 20 & Sep 30
 - Sampling coordination, volunteer training and Recreational Lake Monitoring initiation
- Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project
 - Fish passage inspection and completion of summer monitoring
- Smoky Headwaters Initiative
 - Contribution agreement work with Habitat Stewardship Fund
 - E/O social media campaign
 - Watershed delineation, ran model, field verification (Sep 15 – 21) and engagement of Canfor and Weyerhaeuser
 - Baseline monitoring completed in delineated watersheds Aug 25 & 31, Nov 3 Simonette sampling & 4 Kakwa sampling
- Source Water map
 - Working with Bonnie Nicolai and Dave Walty to create source water watersheds for every community in the Peace and Slave Watersheds
- WRRP
 - Completion of final crossing
 - Streambank Stabilization measurements
 - Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization earthworks and livestaking at Patrick's
 - Oct 18 - Approval received, contractors and team coordination
 - Oct 19 – silt fence installation and site staking
 - Oct 25 – 31 – earthworks and livestaking
 - Nov 1 – site seeding and season wrap-up


Upcoming events

- AB WPAC Manager's – Nov 29-30 in Camrose

Submitted By: Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P.Ag, - Executive Director
Adam Norris, M.Sc, P.Biol, - Watershed Coordinator

Appendix – AEP Transboundary Waters Update Nov 15, 2021

AEP Transboundary Waters Update



Presentation to MPWA
Carmen de la Chevrotiere, TW Team Lead
Nov. 15, 2021

Alberta

Outline

1. Transboundary Agreements
2. BC Hydro Site C Project
3. Wood Buffalo National Park Action Plan
4. Water Planning and Transboundary Links

2

Alberta

Transboundary Agreements

Status

3

Alberta

MRB Transboundary Waters Master Agreement

- Mackenzie River Basin Board
 - Meets four times per year
 - Shares detailed [agency reports](#) once per year
 - Prepares [annual reports](#)
 - Oversees sub-committees, currently active:
 - Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships Steering Committee (TKSPSC)
 - State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (SOAER) Steering Committee
 - Water Quality Task Team
 - Recently updated the [SOAER](#) (Aug 2021)
 - Work continues to improve its capture of Traditional Knowledge

4

Alberta

AB-NWT Agreement

- Signed in 2015
- Work cooperatively to implement commitments
- Three annual reports published
 - [2015-16](#)
 - [2016-17](#)
 - [2017-18](#)
- 2018-2020 annual report will be published in 2021

5

Alberta

AB-NWT Agreement

- Water quality
 - analyze interim triggers and trends for a variety of parameters
- Water quantity
 - analyze interim water quantity triggers for aquatic ecosystem health

6

Alberta

AB-NWT Agreement

- Biology: learning for developing biological objectives
 - Slave River: large- and small-bodied fish monitoring program
 - Hay and Slave: sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates
- Groundwater: learning
 - Mapping buried channels
 - Mapping permafrost, based on remote sensing methods

7

Alberta

AB-NWT Agreement

- Traditional Knowledge (TK) Working Group established
 - developing framework to braid TK and science
- Climate change
 - Started gathering information on climate change implications transboundary waters

8

Alberta

SK-AB Bilateral Water Management Agreement

- BC-AB-SK-NWT Multi-lateral work (2010-14)
 - Agreement categories
 - Risk Informed Management approach
 - Bilateral Management Committee
 - Approve annual budget and appropriate funds for bilateral work
 - Establish priorities
 - Forum for sharing, notification and consultation
- In progress but moving slowly

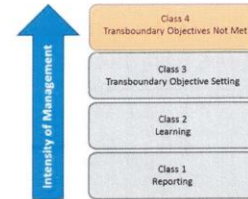
9

Alberta

Risk Informed Management Approach

The nature and intensity of Bilateral Management and Jurisdictional Water Management increase from Class 1 to Class 3 (varying levels of learning, Transboundary Objective-setting, monitoring, etc.).

Class 4 occurs when Transboundary Objectives are not met, indicating that the Ecological Integrity of the Aquatic Ecosystem may not be being maintained.



10

Alberta

BC-AB draft Agreement

- Same basis from multi-lateral work (2010-14)
- Peace River Special Provisions
 - Flow regulation will remain
 - Work together to identify and implement measures to enhance the condition of the aquatic ecosystem
 - Continue the AB-BC Joint Task Force on Peace River Ice
 - To influence freeze-up and break-up of Peace River at Town of Peace River
- In progress but moving slowly

11

Alberta

BC Hydro's Site C Project

Status

12

Alberta

General Conditions and Low Flows

- Approval conditions
 - Compliance monitoring by regulators (ECCC and BC Gov.)
- Connections: BC Hydro ➔ AEP Feb 2020
 - info. on construction of Peace River diversion tunnel
 - flow changes anticipated in summer 2020
- AEP actions:
 - Regulatory Assurance updated list of *Water Act* licence holders
 - During construction: BC Hydro ➔ AEP Forecast Centre ➔ Alberta Transportation and AEP Regulatory Assurance ➔ licensees

13

Alberta

Emergency Management Concerns

- Minister Nixon ➔ AEP Staff
 - letters and concerns from municipal leaders
- Transboundary Team ➔ Gov. of BC and BC Hydro
- Responsibilities:
 - BC: emergency/cascade dam failure flows at BC-AB border
 - BC: emergency management plan to BC-AB border
 - AB: emergency management plan BC-AB to AB-NWT border
 - Updated as required (about every 15-20 years)
- Run-of-river dams' reservoirs (Site C, Dinosaur): much less storage than Williston

14

Alberta

Next Steps

- Adaptive Management Plan, reservoir filling low flows
 - BC Hydro will be working with Alberta
 - AEP will use learnings from low flows during tunnel construction
- Emergency Management Plan, update in progress
 - Inundation study recently updated for current dams (2020-21)
 - AEP will engage affected communities, emergency managers
 - BC: will provide updated emergency flows after Site C completed
 - Affected communities not likely to change

15

Alberta

Emerg. Management Plan Communities

- Dunvegan Settlement
- Verte Island - Township 800A
- Shaftesbury Settlement
- Town of Peace River
- County Of Northern Lights
- Paddle Prairie
- La Crete
- Town of Fort Vermilion
- North Vermilion Settlement
- Fox Lake
- Garden Creek
- Wood Buffalo National Park
- Peace Point
- Fitzgerald (Smith Landing) Settlement

16

Alberta

Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) Action Plan

Status

17

Alberta

WBNP Action Plan

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) leads Environmental Flows and Hydrology (EFH) actions
ec.efh-hde.ec@canada.ca
- Parks Canada leads Monitoring and Science actions and Cooperative Management Committee for WBNP
- [Newsletter updates](#)
 - <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/info/action>
 - https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/info/action/SEA_EES/bulletin
- Implementation guided by coordinating committee, with task teams driving project specific work collaboratively with government and Indigenous partners

18

Alberta

WBNP Action Plan Task Teams with AEP membership

- Environmental Flows and Hydrology (EFH) Working Group Task Teams
 - Water Control Structures Task Team
 - Strategic Flow Release Protocol Task Team
 - Terms of Reference Task Team (not currently active)
 - Information Sharing Task Team
 - Indigenous Task Team
- Monitoring and Science Task Teams
 - PAD Monitoring, Science and Indigenous Knowledge Task Team
 - Non-PAD Monitoring, Science and Indigenous Knowledge Task Team

19

Alberta

EFH Current Status

- Water Control Structures—preliminary design for two new structures in the PAD
- Strategic Flow Release Protocol—focused on gathering data from ice break-up 2020
- Environmental Flows Framework Development—ECCC is working towards the development of a Level 1 EFH framework leveraging existing knowledge, data and key indicators, as well as initiating work on necessary hydrological/hydraulic models
- Planned Structured Decision Making (SDM) work to inform strategic flow release protocol development & control structures operation

20

Alberta

Transboundary Linkages to Water and Watershed Management Planning

21

Alberta

Drivers for Water and Watershed Management Planning

- Need for decision making guidance, AEP authorities:
 - Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act approvals
 - Water Act: licences and approvals for activities
 - Public Lands Act approvals
- Consideration of cumulative effects in decision making
 - Environmental Management Frameworks

22

Alberta

Pressures on Water

- Some pressures:
 - Water licences—water diversions: taking, storage, redirecting
 - Activities in and near water bodies
 - Treated discharge
 - Land use in basin
- Both inside and outside of Alberta
- Cumulative effects of above

23

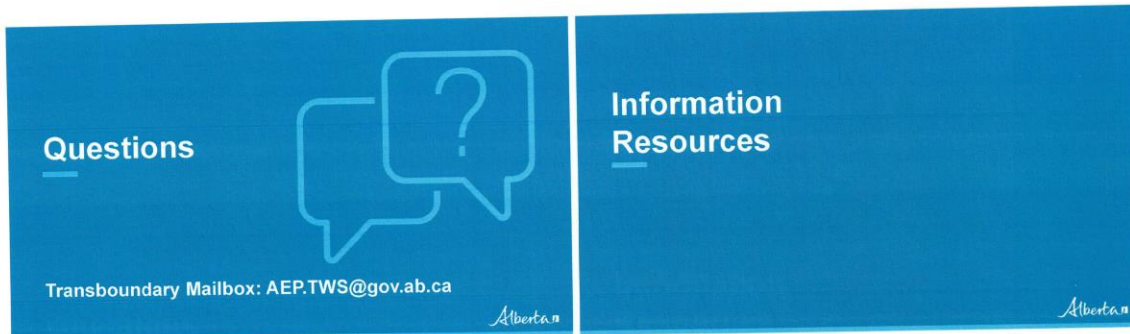
Alberta

Transboundary Agreements

- Border outcomes—bilateral agreements
- Peace River basin, Alberta is mostly downstream
- Bilaterals have Risk Informed Management approach
 - Bilateral Management Committees—classification/prioritization
 - Learning (Class 2), monitoring near border important
 - Objective setting at Class 3
- MRBB Water Quality Task Team (YK, BC, AB, SK, NWT)
 - Common approaches to assessing changes to water quality

24

Alberta



Information Resources

- MRBB
 - [Agency reports](#)
 - [Annual reports](#)
 - [SOAER](#)
 - AB-NWT annual reports ([2015-16](#), [2016-17](#), [2017-18](#))
- WBNP
 - [Newsletter updates](#)
 - EFH Questions: ec.efh-hde.ec@canada.ca

27

Alberta

Resources—Monitoring

Environmental Monitoring

- AEP: [Water Quality Data Portal](#); [GOWN](#)
- ECCC: [Freshwater Quality Monitoring](#)
- Joint programs (e.g. [Hydrometric Agreements](#), [OSM](#))
- Community, municipal

Regulatory Monitoring

- [AEP](#), [AER](#), ECCC approvals
- ECCC, BC Energy Regulator and Gov. approvals
 - [Site C: Construction Newsletters, Permits, Reports](#)

28

Alberta