



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

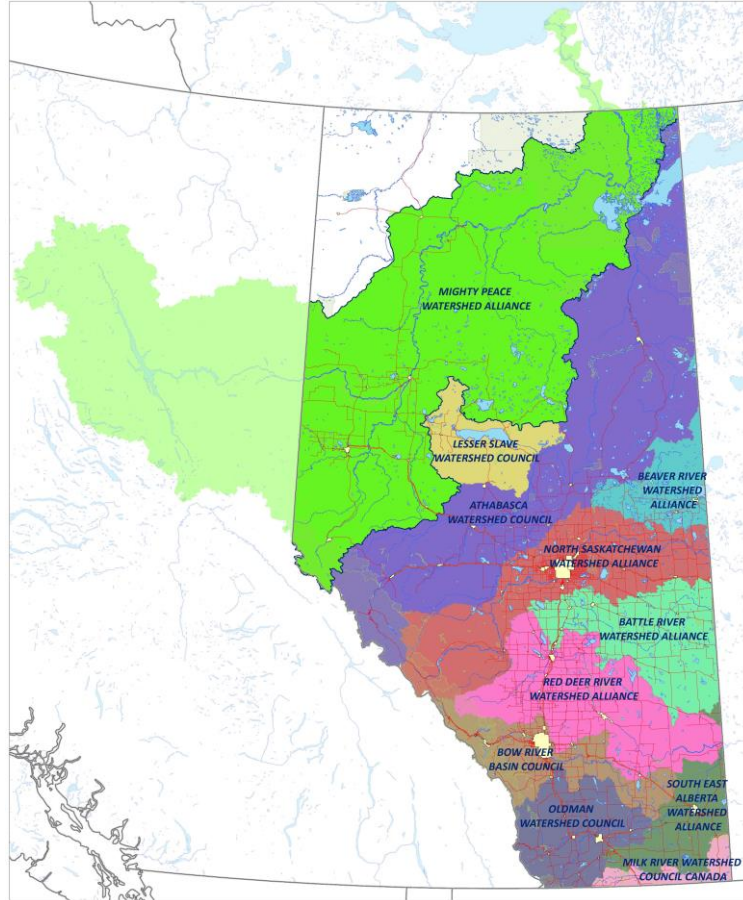


Three Year Strategic Plan, 2015 to 2018 (Review Document)

Final – February 20, 2015
Updated to include 2018/19 Funding Requirements

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Peace River Watershed

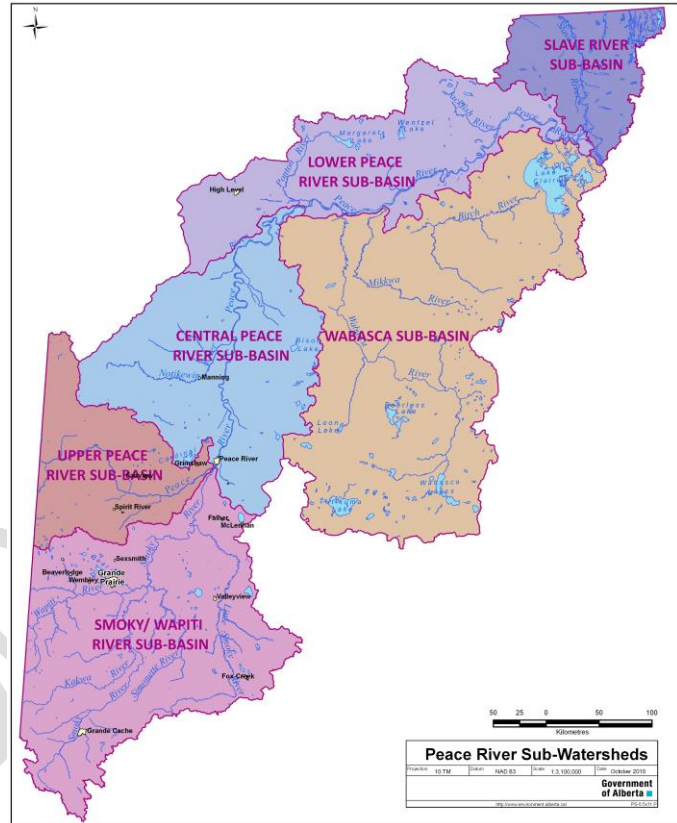
The Peace River originates out of the Finlay River/Williston Reservoir in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, flowing northeast through Alberta. It joins the Slave River before these waters flow into the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories, eventually draining into the Arctic Ocean. The Peace River is 1,923 km long (from the head of Finlay River to Lake Athabasca). At Peace Point, where it drains into the Slave River, the Peace River has an annual discharge of 2,161 cubic metres per second (68,200,000 dam³ per year).

The Peace River has many tributaries. Within Alberta, larger tributaries include the Smoky, Heart, Cadotte, Notikewin and Wabasca rivers. The Peace River *Watershed*, the area of land draining into the Peace River, is approximately 302,500 km² or about 30% of the province of Alberta.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

The Government of Alberta's *Water for Life* Strategy encourages a collaborative watershed approach where active stakeholders and communities use consensus, adaptive management and innovation to understand and promote living within the carrying capacity of the watershed. Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) are designed to report on the state of the watershed, lead watershed planning activities, promote best management practices and develop education programs.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance held its first AGM on March 18th of 2011, where a Board of Directors were elected. The MPWA has since worked through its first 3 year Strategic plan (as drafted by the Initiator Group. Most recently the board has completed an exercise of evaluation and future visioning to establish a new three year plan to cover 2015 to 2018. This exercise allowed the board the opportunity to reaffirm the organization's vision, mission and goals. The Board reviewed and approved by consensus that the original 2011 MPWA's Vision, Mission and Values were still applicable to the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.



2. WHO WE ARE

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is guided by its vision, mission and shared values.

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.

Shared Values

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will:

Respect a diversity of peoples and values	By demonstrating individual and collective respect for the air, land and water and by appreciating the diversity of values and opinions found in the Peace watershed.
Be an ambassador for the Peace watershed	By promoting our vision and mission, demonstrating integrity, accountability and practicality, and practicing effective communication, knowledge-building and consensus decision-making.
Be a trustworthy and credible source of information	By being well-informed and providing sound advice through an adaptive watershed approach that integrates traditional, local and scientific knowledge in information-gathering and problem-solving.
Be fair and transparent to all	By seeking balanced representation and listening to all stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.
Be inclusive and collaborative	By facilitating inclusive and collaborative processes and partnerships, promoting membership and interaction, and providing opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved.
Be innovative and action-oriented	By being motivated, resourceful and action-oriented in finding new, innovative ideas and win-win solutions.
Foster Stewardship	By encouraging and enabling individuals and organizations to be good stewards of the watershed.

3. WHAT WE DO – Strategic Business Plan

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) is also guided by a rolling three-year strategic plan (April 1, 2015 until March 31, 2018). This plan provides goals¹ and strategies² required to achieve the vision and mission of the MPWA. A more-detailed annual operational plan will also be developed each year (For 2014-15, see appendix 1).

¹ A Goal is a desired outcome that supports the Mission and helps achieve the Vision.

² A Strategy is a plan of action designed to achieve a Goal.

Goals and Strategies 2015-2018

Goals	Strategies
Goal #1 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a strong, vibrant, and sustainable organization.	1.1 Develop a strong financial position and certainty (timing, opportunities)
	1.2 Build organizational and project capacity through committee, staff development and recruitment
Goal #2 The Board and Members of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance are well educated about air, water and land issues in the basin and are open to innovative ideas and practices.	2.1 Improve board understanding about the cumulative effects of land-use on water quantity, quality and aquatic health
	2.2 Encourage knowledge/innovation by bringing in expertise to address Board and member's concerns
Goal #3 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is well-known and accessible to residents in the basin.	3.1 Develop and implement a community engagement strategy to dialogue with communities in the Peace basin
	3.2 Develop and implement a community engagement strategy to dialogue with aboriginal communities in the Peace basin
Goal #4 - Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.	4.1 Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.
	4.2 Promote Best Management Practices for drinking and wastewater management
Goal #5 - Water quality, quantity and seasonal rate of flow in the Peace watershed is understood and advice on its uses are made to the appropriate bodies.	5.1 Improve understanding of the water quantity, quality and seasonal rate of flow in the Peace basin
	5.2 Improve understanding about the instream flow needs of the Peace River and its major tributaries and wetlands
Goal #6 - Watershed Stewardship is widely supported by residents throughout the basin.	6.1 Strengthen the Alliance's effectiveness by building a collaboration of community networks that promote MPWA stewardship initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will monitor its activities and will report annually on its progress against the goals and strategies listed above. Specific outcomes are indicated in the Operational Plan and will be adjusted as circumstance dictates.

Appendix 1 - 2018-19 Operational Plan and Budget

Note: The body responsible for each action is abbreviated as follows: B=Board; EC=Executive Committee; ED=Executive Director; FC=Finance Committee; AS=Admin Support; TC=Technical Committee; CC=Communications Committee; IWMP SC= IWMP Steering Committee; OC=Outreach Coordinator & WC=Watershed Coordinator.

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Staff Review
Goal #1 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a strong, vibrant, and sustainable organization.	1.1 Develop a strong financial position and certainty (timing, opportunities)	1.1.1 Through the Finance committee (FC) lobby to address multi- year funding and timing concerns by the end of January 2015. Lobbying will involve proposing resolutions to AAMDC and AUMA. MPWA will seek support from other WPACs to address funding issues. The Board through the Chair (and ED) is to pursue other sources of funding through new partners by phone and/or letter. Quarterly reports by Chair on funding progress will be provided to the Board.	By 2016 the MPWA will endeavor to have 3 year MOUs (target AEP, AB Health Services, AB Culture, AAF, NADC and other as board determines; there is ongoing work on these items) Through the MPWA efforts to network and increase the Alliance's membership, in kind support will increase by 20 % each year.	1.1.1 Lobbying by ED and Chairman Armstrong has occurred to AEP minister; ED worked with NSC to send resolution to RMA; No MOUs achieved. WPAC managers continue to present a united front on issues to the ministry. 1.1.2. ED and WC presented to City of GP. MD of Fairview, MD of Peace, Grimshaw Gravels, County of Northern Lights and MD of Smoky River consistently provide cash dollars. Limited funds through the Board solicitation/sector support – mostly in form of project funding & 2018 Summit. In-kind support is increasing for projects (including IWMP) not for the organization in general. Membership has remained constant. Secured EDF and WRRP grants, financial support for projects from Alberta Transportation, D-Ray and Farlinger, etc.
		1.1.2 The Board Chair will send letters requesting funding support to the Ministers of ESRD, Agriculture, Municipal Affairs and others. The MPWA (ED,WC) will pursue federal/provincial grants and Board (B) members will approach and solicit financial support from the sectors they represent (2015/16).	By end of 2015, appropriate funding to be acquired and staff be hired to fulfill the work requirements of the MPWA. Bylaws, Process Guide and Committee TORs are regularly reviewed & updated as necessary. (ED,B)	1.2.1. 3 FTEs (ED 2011-2018, WC 2012-2018, EO 2015-2018); board and staff development continues. Work on policies and by-laws. No internships taken on but have worked with partners
	1.2 Build organizational and project capacity through committee, staff development and recruitment	1.2.1 In 2015 hire an outreach (OC) staff person and strengthen Board capacity by procuring grants for Staff and Board Development. In addition investigate secondments and internships with organizations (ie DU and others) to address specific work areas (ie Wetlands)		

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Staff Review
<p>Goal #2 The Board and Members of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance are well educated about air, water and land issues in the basin and are open to innovative ideas and practices.</p>	<p>2.1 Improve board understanding about the cumulative effects of land-use on water quantity, quality and aquatic health</p>	<p>2.1.1 Dedicate at least one Board meeting a year and invite speakers who are knowledgeable about cumulative effects. In addition incorporate tours to improve the Boards understanding. In 2016, address what comes next after modelling.</p>	<p>Board members will have an understanding of the issues associated with monitoring and managing the cumulative effects and the threshold values of the Peace Watershed by inviting in appropriate speakers.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Knowledgeable speakers presented and tours occurred, no general modelling happened.</p> <p>2.1.2. No ALCES modelling secured; IWMP working groups considered cumulative effects.</p>
		<p>2.1.2 Investigate acquiring at no expense to the MPWA the Alberta Land Cumulative Effects Survey (ALCES) non spatial model to be used in a workshop for the Board by the end of 2015 and investigate other models options.</p>	<p>The Board will have least 7 presentations (over 2 years) from a variety of experts covering a number of related topics. (ED, TC). Suggested opportunities: Brad Stelfox (ALCES), Dr. Fred Wrona (AEP), Barry White (Lidar), somebody to talk about Peace River Hydrology (Michael Church).</p>	<p>2.2.1. Numerous information sessions and training have occurred for the Board.</p> <p><u>**PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE FOR LIST OF SPEAKERS FROM JANUARY 1st ,2015 to NOVEMBER 2018</u></p>
	<p>2.2 Encourage knowledge/innovation by bringing in expertise to address Board and member's concerns</p>	<p>2.2.1 Assess Board knowledge gaps and bring in expertise from organizations such as GoA, University, Colleges, Aboriginal and others for at least two Board meetings a year. Some suggested topics include Lidar, forest management plans, land use planning, agriculture practices, ground water use and stored water management.</p>	<p>NOTE: Board has received presentations from Barry White, Michael Church, Scott Millar (AER), Brian Smerdon and Greg Hartman (AGS), Chris Chalk (AEP), Andrew Schoepf (AEP), Dave Walty - Lake Watershed Index, Troy Stuart (Bigstone Cree Nation), Oil and Gas 101 (CAPP sub-table), Town of Grande Cache (Source Water Protection Plan)</p>	

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Review
<p>Goal #3 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is well-known and accessible to residents in the basin.</p>	<p>3.1 Develop and implement a community engagement strategy to dialogue with communities in the Peace basin</p>	<p>3.1.1 CC to develop a plan to effectively network within the watershed. (Example - ERSDs communication template). Activities would include workshops, at least 7 presentations to municipalities/year, attending a min two trade shows/year and hosting workshops.</p>	<p>Over the next three years the membership in the MPWA will increase by 100%. (B, OC) Membership database will be up-to-date after being re-organized & revised (incl. mailing lists). (AS,ED, CC)</p>	<p>Membership did not increase by a 100% - very little movement, question why to be member. The work on the lists needs to be reviewed again.</p> <p>Visited several Municipalities: Village of Berwyn, NLC, MD of Smoky River, City GP, County GP, Town Beaverlodge, etc</p>
	<p>3.2 Develop and implement a community engagement strategy to dialogue with aboriginal communities in the Peace basin</p>	<p>3.2.1 Over the next three years MPWA is to request meetings with all Tribal Councils, Metis Settlements, Metis Nation of Alberta Zones and ANW Co-operatives and enterprises. Arrange meetings using proper meeting protocol (Check Aboriginal Relations) to collect information regarding Aboriginal issues and to share how the MPWA can assist.</p>	<p>Completed schedule of visitation/workshop meetings & follow through (ED,OC, CC)</p> <p>Increased connection with Aboriginal Communities & understanding of concerns. (ED, CC, B)</p>	<p>3.1.1. There needs to be more work on networking plan. Communications Committee has changed to Education and Stewardship Committee with an approved TOR. Events: Municipal Wetland Workshop (x2), SARDA Field Day Booth, Water North Week Booth, Peace Country Classic, Clear Hills County Tradeshow, Peace River Chamber of Commerce Tradeshow, Smoky River Tradeshow, Earth Day, ATCO tradeshow, Peace River Valley County Recreation and Boat Users, GP After 5 Rotary Club, Home and Garden Show, School Presentations, Social Media, Website and Newsletter updates.</p> <p>3.2.1. Communication has been initiated and positive response has occurred with North Peace Tribal, Bigstone Cree Nation, Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Duncan's First Nation, Woodland Cree First Nation, Beaver First Nation, and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. The IWMP working groups had involvement from several Aboriginal Communities. Continued work is needed to establish dialogue with the Aboriginal Communities. Work around this engagement strategy is needed.</p>

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Review
<p>Goal #4 - Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.</p>	<p>4.1 Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water</p>	<p>4.1.1. Collaborate with existing organizations/communities and develop an inventory of existing source water protection (SWP) plans. Address the gaps where plans do not exist. Focus on areas of high priority such as Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer and John D’Or Prairie. Include SWP as an action in the integrated watershed management plan. (WC,ED,IWMP SC)</p>	<p>SWP in priority areas will be identified by 2018. MPWA will be instrumental for support and assistance to appropriate authorities to develop SWP plans. Currently working on Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer SWP and plans to begin work on Wapiti (TC, WC, CC) Respected presenter re SWP Planning provides</p>	<p>4.1.1. Inventory of SWPP complete. Gaps are being addressed – Grimshaw Gravels, and Wapiti River. SWPP has been included in the IWMP recommendations</p>
	<p>4.2 Promote Best Management Practices for drinking and wastewater management</p>	<p>4.2.1 In 2015 the ED and the CC will develop a program that shares BMP with other stakeholders in the MPWA using websites, social media and other medias. Focus will be on water conservation, waste water management and managing drinking water. The ED and CC will consider collaborating with NADC and other organizations. Essential information needs for IWMP. (ED, CC, IWMP SC)</p>	<p>information through workshop 2016).(Stephanie Neufeld, EPCOR, Troy Stuart, Bigstone Cree Nation, Town of Grande Cache have presented)</p> <p>By 2018, MPWA will be sought after by municipalities, industry and Aboriginal communities for information and contacts regarding best management practices. (TC, IWMP SC, CC, ED, WC)</p> <p>Investigate new Water North Coalition (WNC) – if appropriate established linkage with WNC on common goals that will assist with IWMP. (We are a non-voting member)</p>	<p>4.2.2. This is occurring and continues to improve. MPWA received requests from Industry, Governments, Aboriginal Communities and the public regarding watershed information and Beneficial Management Practices.</p> <p>MPWA is a non-voting member of WNC (Water North Coalition) .</p>

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Review
<p>Goal #5 - Water quality, quantity and seasonal rate of flow in the Peace watershed is understood and advice on its uses are made to the appropriate bodies.</p>	<p>5.1 Improve understanding of the water quantity, quality and seasonal rate of flow in the Peace basin</p>	<p>5.1.1 In 2016 the ED, TC and IWMP SC will review the State of the Watershed report (SOW) and address gaps such as the effects of seasonal flow. (other resources to include: Transboundary conversations, Resiliency & Mitigation –Peace Basin, WWF Monitoring on the Peace document)</p> <p>5.1.2 AEMERA will be invited to present the monitoring program designed for the Peace Watershed to the Board for input and review.</p>	<p>The MPWA and its members will have a better understanding of seasonal rate of flow.</p> <p>The MPWA will have had an opportunity for input in AEP’s monitoring program and Regional Plans. MPWA will communicate the AEP program and the results distributed to the Alliance members.</p>	<p>Data gaps have been identified and included in the IWMP recommendations as appropriate. Ongoing conversations with regards to Regional Plans and other Land-use plans.</p> <p>5.1.1 Review has been completed and some gaps have been addressed. Speakers: Michael Church presented at the AGM, Tim Toth spoke at the AGM, and Summit Speakers included presentations from Dawson Creek Watershed Group and NWT. MPWA meets with AEP Regional Operational staff for program alignment and have ongoing collaboration. IFN has not been a priority; focus moved from SOW to IWMP.</p>
	<p>5.2 Improve understanding about the instream flow needs of the Peace River and its major tributaries and wetlands</p>	<p>5.2.1 In 2016 the ED, TC and IWMP SC to review and identify data gaps regarding instream flow needs. Once developed the CC will develop a strategy to share findings including workshops. (ED, TC, IWMP SC, CC, WC, OC).</p>	<p>Board will have better understanding of IFN by engaging a presenter on Topic in 2015. (ie AEP Staff)</p> <p>Data gaps as determined regarding instream flow needs are communicated to the appropriate agencies. Data gaps identified in the IWMP process & communicated by recommendations in the IWMP by 2017 (To be released in IWMP March 2018).</p>	<p>5.1.2. AEMERA has been invited but has not yet presented.</p> <p>5.2.1. IFN work has not occurred on the whole watershed but for the Wapiti River and Little Smoky River.</p>

Goals	Strategies	2015-2018 Activities	Outcomes	Review
Goal #6 - Watershed Stewardship is widely supported by residents throughout the basin.	6.1 Strengthen the Alliance's effectiveness by building a collaboration of community networks that promote MPWA stewardship initiatives.	6.1.1. In 2015 the ED and CC will review and update existing aboriginal and non-aboriginal stewardship networks using Social network analysis (SNA), workshops, newsletters and website. (Stewardship Organizations could include Lake Management Groups, Watershed Stewardship Groups, PADEMP, Industry Boreal Leadership Councils, and Municipalities, etc.)	By 2018 an efficient and effective system of communicating MPWA stewardship initiatives will be developed and implemented. MPWA will be considered a leader in its abilities to collaborate.	6.1 Social Network Analysis has not occurred. A piecemeal network with receptive partners is proceeding, we need to develop a system to engage. Engagement events: Wetland workshop, tradeshow, FINS, Invasive species and recreation workshop, school classroom presentations on water and wetlands, Beaverlodge Riparian Spring Tour, Water Stewardship Day, Riparian Function Workshop, Wetland Education Committee, Groundwater Forum, Lake Forum, Walk through the Forest (Grande Prairie and Peace River), Little Green Thumbs, SARDA Field Day, Municipal Wetland Workshop, Livestock Crossing Structure, Soil Erosion Field Day, Soil Erosion Workshop, Soil Erosion Contractor Workshop, Working Wells workshop.

****2.2.1.** January 1, 2015 – November 2018. Courtney Hughes PLUZ, (Summit speakers), Monika Benoit – Agriculture and Stewardship, Sarah Skinner – Camrose source Water Protection Plan, Ngaio Baril – Foothills Stream Crossing Partnership, Vashti Dunham Weyerhaeuser – Watershed Management and Forestry BMPs, Bin Xu Boreal Research Institute – Peatland Reclamation, Brian Smerdon – AGS – Grimshaw Gravels, Greg Hartman AGS – Grimshaw Gravels, Chris Chalk AEP – Grimshaw Gravels, Scott Millar AER – Play Based Regulation Pilot, Andrew Schoepf AEP – WPAC Role Review, Dave Walty – Lake Index, Michael Church UBC – Peace River Regulation, Kim Lalonde AEP – Relationship between IWMP and Regional Planning, Albert Yellowknife Bigstone Cree Nation – Aboriginal perspectives on Water, Troy Stuart Bigstone Cree Nation – Wabasca Source Water Protection Plan, Deborah Mooney Alberta Health – Recreational Water Management and Health, Mary Nelson and Sean Noonan Town of Grande Cache – Town of Grande Cache Source Water Protection Plan, Natalia Thornton 7 Generations, Deanna Cottrill Shell, Emily Jobson Chevron -Oil and Gas 101, Ernie Hui AEP – WPAC Role Review, Tim Toth AEP – Transboundary Issues, Kerri O'Shaughnessy Cows and Fish – Heart River Life and Times, Barry White AAF – LYDAR, Petra Rowell – IWMP facilitation, Darcy Beach AEP – AEP Regional Priorities, Stephanie Neufeld EPCOR – Source Water Protection Planning, Andy Ridge and Edith Vanderpuye AEP – Duvernay and Montney Policy and Regulatory Pilot.