



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance



Diverse, Responsible & Connected

November 2024

From the Executive Director 's Desk By Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier

The MPWA Office has been a busy place over the last few months. We said good-bye to Amy Charles as the Education & Outreach Coordinator on September 5th, we appreciate all that she contributed to the MPWA. We welcome Adanna Hustler as the new E& O Coordinator as of mid-October. Many of you may have met her this past summer as she worked as the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Steward. Lately, Adam, Adanna, and Ashley were wrapping up a number of projects and travelling the watershed to complete activities and data collection from various sites. Thank you to volunteers, and landowners who worked with us to accomplish these activities.

AEPA has initiated a Water Availability Engagement that includes a survey, please visit <http://www.gov.ab.ca/water-availability-engagement> to participate before January 10th.

If you have project ideas or questions regarding projects, source water protection, water/watershed management, seminars, or other water items, please contact our office.

Wishing you the very best over the upcoming holiday season.

Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer

Lots of work was done this past summer towards the objectives in our Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan. A large focus was placed on water well education on the aquifer. Adanna Hustler worked as our Aquifer Steward and both attended and hosted events that saw 1581 people from the region come out. A wellhead assessment program was run which sought to educate well owners about well maintenance, ways to prevent aquifer contamination and water testing. We hope to use the results from the water tests to determine water quality across the aquifer. We also had a lake level logger in Lac Cardinal that measure the water levels from August to November. This data will be used to confirm the findings of the Grimshaw Gravels water budget published in December 2023. Overall, we had a great response to the project and we are excited to see what the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association continues to do!



MPWA VISION

The Peace is a healthy, sustainable watershed that supports our social, environmental and economic objectives.

MPWA 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.

Reducing Invasive Species



Invasive species like Canadian Thistle can be very damaging to the ecosystem. Canadian Thistle can choke out other plants and patches can grow quickly due to their extensive root system. In October, Adam Norris and Ashley Garnham went to John D'Or to work with Little Red River Cree Nation where Canadian Thistle was threatening the banks of the river.

Fourteen grade 9 students from Little Red River Cree Nation came and helped remove the thistle. The removal process included weed whacking the invasive thistles, then spraying the open stems with 10% concentrated vinegar. Some more stubborn thistles were physically removed with shovels and some elbow grease.

The students had a great day learning about environmental stewardship, invasive species and removal techniques. By

working to remove the thistle themselves, these students took environmental stewardship into their own hands and help their community by reducing further damage from Canadian Thistle. Their hard work did not go unnoticed - muffins, fruit, and hot chocolate were provided in the morning, and a Subway sandwich and a variety of drinks for lunch.

We would like to thank Little Red River Cree Nation for being a partner. A special thanks goes out to Maxine Thunderchild and Dale Dumas who oversaw the field trip and of course, all the Grade 9 students who helped remove the thistle.



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Education and Outreach

It was a busy end of summer for MPWA! We attended 8 events in August which approximately 8522 people attended! These events included the Dunvegan Fresh Air Market, Pioneer Day at Lac Cardinal Regional Museum, Paddle the Peace in Peace River, Event at the Lake at Leddy Lake, Treaty Days with Woodland Cree Nation, End of Summer Days in Fairview and Agriculture and Aquifers in Grimshaw.

We would like to thank Amy Charles for her hard work and impact on the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance. Although sad to see her go at the beginning of September, we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Welcome to Adanna Hustler, Education and Outreach Coordinator. If you have an event or and activity that you would like to have MPWA present at, please call our office.



Floating Treatment Wetlands

On October 23rd, Adam Norris and Ashley Garnham finished up the floating treatment wetlands project in Grande Prairie with the help of Amy Clarkson from the City of Grande Prairie and volunteer Ernie Last. Despite the ice and a refreshing dip in the pond, the rafts were successfully pulled out of the stormwater pond.

The project was very successful, with the vegetation showing great root growth and survival rate. We were thrilled to see thick root mats and new growth in the rafts, this provides great feedback on our raft design as we have tweaked our approach every year. The rafts were disassembled to return to storage for future use and the vegetation will be composted. This completed the third year of the floating treatment wetland project with the City of Grande Prairie, and it has shown great promise to be a unique method to remove contaminants from the storm water pond before the water flows into the greater watershed.



Raft in August, lots of vegetation growth



October 2024: Lots of root mass and biofilm



Adam Norris and Ernie Last removing the rafts

Register Now!

Alberta's Northern WPACs invite you to:

WATER MANAGEMENT

in Alberta's Boreal 2025

FEBRUARY 25&26, 2025
Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre, Grande Prairie, AB

Don't miss out. This event will bring together WPACs, decision makers, researchers and practitioners to network, exchange knowledge, and discuss how we can improve watershed assessment and reporting in Alberta's Boreal to further watershed management.

Agenda topics include:

- Peatland restoration
- Arctic Grayling recovery
- Benthic invertebrates and aquatic health
- Community monitoring collaborations
- Wetland mapping and assessment tools
- Water efficiency, reuse and innovation in industry
- Wetland hydrology in industrial landscapes
- Impacts of industry on Traditional Land Use,
- AND MORE

Look forward to:

- Engaging discussion panels
- Networking opportunities
- Displays & watershed resources
- Daily door prize draws
- Tuesday cash bar & banquet dinner with keynote speaker

REGISTRATION FEE: \$225

Includes coffee, refreshments & lunch both days & banquet dinner on Feb 25th. Extra banquet tickets available at registration.

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

Or go to :
<http://bit.ly/WPAC2025>

Co hosted by:

ALMS conference

Ashley Garnham, Adam Norris and Adanna Hustler attended the Alberta Lake Management Society's Annual Conference in Hinton in September. This two-day workshop based event brought together, WPACs, water professionals, academics and members of the public to learn about all things lake related. We heard about a variety of topics including a chironomid diversity in Pigeon Lake, several Watershed steward groups, emerging invasive aquatic species in Alberta, lake monitoring and all about beavers. We got a private viewing of the film *Loosing Blue* directed by Leanne Allison and an accompanying presentation by Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke about alpine lake ecosystems. We also did a tour of Vista Mine, a coal mine near Hinton and a tour of the Beaver Boardwalk in Hinton. Overall, a great time spent learning and connecting with others in the field. Thank you to ALMS and co-partner Athabasca Watershed Council for hosting this event.



SOW Preparation

The MPWA Board of Directors has been putting pieces together to prepare for a renewal of our 2015 State of The Watershed (SOW). If you have any information that you feel can help contribute to this update (monitoring information, data, watershed landscape changes, water quality and quantity changes, etc), please connect with us.

MPWA Staff



Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier
Executive Director



Adam Norris
Watershed Coordinator



Ashley Garnham
Project Coordinator



Adanna Hustler
Education & Outreach
Coordinator

MPWA Board Members 2024-2025

SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE
Public Member at Large	Richard Keillor
Public Member at Large	Audrey DeWit
Conservation/Environment Director	Dave Walty
Research Education	Bin Xu
Watershed Stewardship	Cathy Newhook
Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries	Brian Lieverse
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Metis Settlements General Council	Alden Armstrong
Upper Watershed First Nation	Vacant
Lower Watershed First Nation	Vacant
Middle Watershed First Nation	Vacant
Rural Municipalities	Corinna Williams
Small Urban Municipalities	Elaine Manzer
Federal Transboundary Relations	Abdi Siad-Omar
Large Urban Municipality	Chris Thiessen
Provincial Government	Bonnie Segal

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
c/o Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, Executive Director
P.O. Box 217 McLennan, Alberta T0H 2L0
Phone: 780-324-3355 Fax: 780-324-3377
E-mail: info@mightypeacewatershedalliance.org
www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org

Newsletter produced with support from
AEPA, Alberta Government