



# 2024-2025 Annual Report







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.

#### MPWA is

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

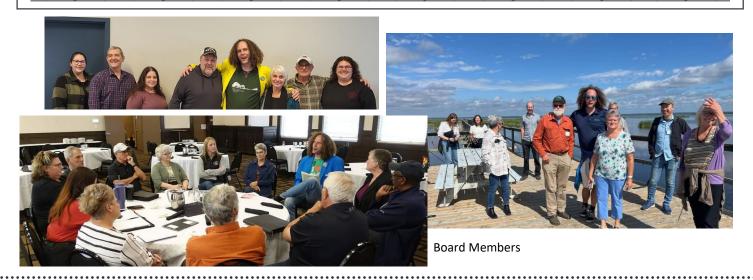
\*Diverse group of people representing diverse interests.
\*Responsible for bringing those interests together.
\*Connected to stakeholders across the watershed area.

#### Chris Thiessen, Director for Large Urban Municipality Chair, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

Salutations from the Chair!

This past year, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance has continued diligently with our mandate towards watershed excellence and education, while navi-

gating the sometimes turbulent waters within the changing landscapes of government, the natural environment, and the industries which impact the Mighty Peace. The only constant, it seems, for WPACs nowadays is change. In many ways it requires us to be both fluid and solid like water can be. Solid, in continuing our cumulative efforts towards ensuring water literacy, advocacy, monitoring, project work, and reporting is meaningfully done throughout the Mighty Peace. Fluid, in how we manoeuvre with the changing priorities of government, new industry inputs impacting our watershed, and shifts in our environment. Whether we are talking Site C Dam flows, data centres, lithium extraction, impacts of fire and drought, the cumulative impacts of stakeholders along the watershed, or the Province's new Water and the Circular Economy Division and what that direction means for us as a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, there will be no shortage of discussion. All this, will inform our most important work in the upcoming year - the State of the Watershed (SOW) report. This second iteration of the report will not only allow us to compare and analyze the long-term impacts to our watershed identified in our first SOW in 2015, it will also allow us to fill in some of the original's data gaps, refresh our knowledge base, inform the next Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP), and provide a baseline for study of these new impacts upon our watershed, for the next 10 years. In saying such, our multi-stakeholder board and highly capable administration will be tasked all year with producing a new SOW that will serve our Region and Alliance for years to come. Exciting times are ahead! May our work be good and our impact be glorious!



#### Message from the Executive Director—R. Clarke-Gauthier

The underlying theme for 2024-2025 continued to be the challenge of working in and around drought conditions. Once again wildfires played havoc across the Peace Basin and many tributaries experienced very low/no flows. So, conversations regarding safety, protecting water resources, improving water supplies, effect and efficient water use continued to be priority for the MPWA.

Many of our ongoing projects were wrapping up this year and some new ideas were being formed while searching for funding opportunities. With increased staff, MPWA was able to provide more education and literacy events and experiences as well as offer some exceptional workshops. Last June we offered a packed day with the Current & Future Water Uses Forum where our newly completed report of the same title was unveiled and speakers from various industries talked about their uses and potential future uses. This past winter MPWA worked with Lesser Slave Watershed Council and Athabasca Watershed Council to provide a second Water Management in Alberta Boreal Conference, a 2-day conference held in Grande prairie that explored a variety of sessions around the themes of Water quality, quantity, data collection and biodiversity of Alberta Boreal. Time was also spent responding to AEPA's Water Availability Engagement process – we ask each and every individual and organization to become informed and participate in these discussions. It is very important to have a better understanding of the Water Act, Water Availability, Water security, Water resource quality and quantity and most importantly how all these pieces need to be brought together to determine the appropriate best steps forward. No one piece can be looked at independently but instead requires open conversation to do the best for safe secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable supplies for economic sustainability collectively. Fresh water supplies are not an infinite resource. Careful and thoughtful considerations are required, and we are each asked to provide information and insights to help this process.

MPWA has also been working towards updating the State of the Watershed for the Peace/Slave Basins. The first MPWA SOW was produced in 2015, and then our Integrated Watershed Management Plan was approved in 2018. Since then, we have been working towards fulfilling the recommendations identified in the plan as agreed to through a multi-sector, consensus -based process. The MPWA focus continues to be on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and our Strategic Plan—the areas of concern and search for solutions helps us establish work-plans and next initiatives.

MPWA's staff complement for the 2024-2025 year consisted of 4 full-time positions. Also, we were pleased to have Adanna Hustler join us for a 4.5-month Grimshaw Gravels Summer Steward position, she was a tremendous asset in promoting the work being done under the Grimshaw Gravels Aguifer Source Water Protection Plan and education/awareness initiatives around the unique water system of the aquifer. Amy Charles worked with MPWA until the end of August 2024 as a full time Education & Outreach Coordinator to improve watershed literacy of residents and reaching out to all who live, work, and play in the watershed to promote Beneficial Management Practices, literacy and partnership programs. As of October 2024, Adanna shifted gears and took over the reins as the new Education / Outreach Coordinator. Ashley Garnham, Project Coordinator, worked on a variety of projects and programs by providing guidance, technical project planning, and assisting with monitoring initiatives. Adam Norris continued in his role of Watershed Coordinator; he has provided a high level of experience, knowledge, and professionalism to the organization since 2012. He is an exceptional part of our MPWA team. With this staff complement we were able to address a number of project areas which have been identified over the years.

At each Board meeting there are speakers and presenters who are brought in to share ideas, bring forward information, ask questions, and identify issues or concerns. This is an important part of the process so that the board members gain a better understanding of this vast and varied watershed. If you or your organization would like to participate in the MPWA as a Director, volunteer, observer, project partner, presenter, or any other way that may help move our mandate and initiatives forward, please contact me.

We are now midway through our 4-year funding agreement with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas. The MPWA continues to work within the signed agreement mandate which includes Watershed Assessment, Integrated Watershed Management planning, Education and Literacy, and Convening & Collaboration. MPWA is very thankful for this consistent funding model.

On behalf of the MPWA, I would like to send a Thank you to the Board of Directors (and named alternates), Volunteers, Partners, Financial Contributors, in-kind supporters, contractors, and staff for their passion for this work in the world of watershed management. Our very important work regarding our water and watershed health and viability can not continue without this large complement of people and organizations.

# Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Financial Highlights 2024/2025

#### Message from the Treasurer

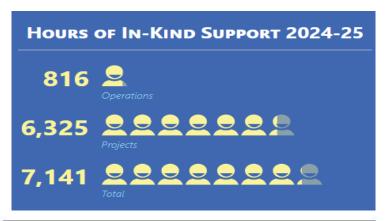
MPWA is in the middle of a 4 year funding agreement with AEPA April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2027. This has certainly allowed us some breathing room with consistent funding to do the work mandated under the AB Government Water For Life Partnership. In the 2024/25 year, MPWA received funding for Core operations from AEPA of \$320,000 plus \$9,539 carried over from the previous year. Project funding was received from AEPA, ECCC (Environment and Climate Change Canada), WRRP Program, Grimshaw Gravels Aguifer Management Advisory Association, MD of Greenview for work of a Stream bank Restoration WRRP project, Monitoring and modelling work on the Beaverlodge River, Reducing Invasive Species in the Peace Athabasca Delta, Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction, Resiliency in the Wapiti Watershed, GGA Summer Steward Position, and Kids Can Catch event.

We also received Sponsorship support from a number of municipalities and associations—County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie, Saddle Hills County, Aquatera, Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association, MD of Fairview, MD of Peace, Town of Peace River. These funds are used to cover organizational capacity expenses above and beyond our AEPA Core grant, and project money. We continue to have tremendous support from partners in Industry, Municipalities and organizations generating \$248,876 in In-kind donations. The amount of hours (approximately 7,141) alone is a testament to the importance of the work this organization does. All these groups continue to provide their expertise and input as we continue the work required.

January 2025, Kim Sturgess, Founder and CEO of Water SMART Solutions, made an incredible one-time \$25,000 donation to the MPWA, part of a tremendous \$250,000 contribution to Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils across Alberta, demonstrating her dedication to the collaborative work needed to protect Alberta's watersheds. This generous contribution bolsters the MPWA's capacity to deliver programs and projects that enhance the health of the Peace and Slave River Watersheds and the communities within. Thank you Kim, for being an important friend and champion of MPWA and Alberta's Watersheds.

Thank you to Administration and Staff as they balance our budget while fulfilling the priorities and goals of the organization.

Elaine Mainzer Treasurer



Financial Snapshot April 1/24 - Mar 31/25		
INCOME		
Sponsorship (24/25)	53,785	
AEP Grant	329,539	
AEP Project Grant	27,207	
ECCC Grant (2)	25,499	
Grimshaw Gravel Aquifer	16,000	
WRRP	1,486	
Sponsorship Contributions (carried forward - Mar/24)	204,593	
Bank Interest	172	
Total	658,281	
EXPENSES		
Subcontracts – Projects	25,449	
Salaries, Honoraria & Benefits	294,373	
Advertising & Promotions	8,101	
Office & Administration	25,436	
Travel	48,292	
Knowledge Transfer Activities & Board/Staff		
Development	8,425	
Total	410,076	
Note: Grants are carried forward year to year until end of project.		

\*Gifts in Kind = \$248,876\*

#### The 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Member	Sector	Affiliation			
Non-Government Organizations					
Dave Walty	Conservation- Environmental	Alberta Fish and Game Association			
Bin Xu	Research - Education	Centre for Boreal Research			
Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship	West County Watershed Society			
Brian Lieverse	Recreation - Tourism - Fisheries				
Richard Keillor	Public-At-Large				
Audrey DeWit	Public-At-Large				
Industry					
Ashley Rowney	Utilities	Aquatera Utilities Inc.			
Wayne Thorp	Forestry	Thorp Consulting			
Sandra Miller	Oil and Gas	ARC Resources Ltd.			
Sarah Cairns*	Agriculture	Peace Region Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)			
VACANT	Mining				
Indigenous Communities					
Alden Armstrong	Metis Settlement General Council	Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement			
VACANT	Upper Watershed First Nation				
VACANT	Middle Watershed First Nation				
VACANT	Lower Watershed First Nation				
Wendy Patton*	Métis Nations of Alberta	District 14			
Government					
Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal- Transboundary Relations	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas			
Chris Thiessen (Chair)	Large Urban Municipality	City of Grande Prairie			
Elaine Mainzer	Small Urban Municipalities	Town of Peace River			
Bonnie Segal	Provincial Government	Alberta Health Services			
Corinna Williams	Rural Municipalities	Rural Municipalities of Alberta -Northern Zone			
*Resigned their seat due to	*Resigned their seat due to changes in circumstances during the term.				

<u>We also acknowledge the contributions of named alternates</u>: Danny Roy, Jill Henry, Kevin Kemball, Long Fu, Nakita Stamp, Trina Tosh & Vern Lymburner

#### \*\*Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Staff 2024/25\*\*



Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier Executive Director



Adam Norris Watershed Coordinator



Amy Charles Education & Outreach Coordinator (until Aug 24)



Ashley Garnham Project Coordinator



Adanna Hustler Grimshaw Gravels Steward (2024) and Education & Outreach Coordinator (Starting 10/24)

<sup>\*</sup>Thank you to the Board members, your continued contributions are appreciated. \*

#### **Education & Outreach Report**

As a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC), Education & Outreach takes many different forms and is often tied to other initiatives or projects. Sometimes the opportunity to share watershed info or better practices comes through policy recommendations, on the ground projects or through advisory committees. MPWA makes a concerted effort to do education that improves water literacy and enable people in the Peace and Slave Watersheds to make beneficial water management decisions. Over this past year we have had a few staff people work on a variety of programs and events.



We had 255 students in grades 3 to 11 participate in a presentation or field trip with MPWA with topics of watersheds, wetlands, riparian areas, erosion, groundwater, and better management practices being covered. Adanna Hustler aided by Board Chair Chris Thiessen attended Mighty Peace Teachers Convention to discuss watersheds and make connections, leading to many potential classrooms for the following year.

Lots of youth were reached, with 13 youth events and 1295 youth participating in classroom presentations and field trips, 4-H groups, MPWA as guest speakers at summer programs, libraries and Walk through the Forest.

Over the winter, MPWA hosted 'Hook, Fish and Learn' with help from the Alberta Conservation Association's Kids Can Catch program. Fishing supplies and rods were available to borrow for attendees to give their hand at ice fishing. It was a fun day filled with learning

and trying new things. A few lucky attendees even walked away with some door prizes.

MPWA held a booth at 14 events across the Peace Watershed and beyond. We could be seen at several summer market events, tradeshows and partner organization events such as the SARDA tradeshow, Northern Women in Agriculture Conference by PCBFA, Lac Cardinal Pioneer Village events, and Indigenous events such as Metis Fest and Treaty Days.

We had a designated summer staff member Adanna Hustler to focus specifically on events and outreach within the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer. She attended many events and ran the Wellhead Assessment Program which proved to be quite successful in the area, visiting nearly 30 residential water well owners in the area.

MPWA participated in several events in collaboration with other Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils. The full staff team was very excited to host our very successful conference, 'Water Management in Alberta's Boreal', you can see details of these on page 8. As well, the AB WPACs E&O Coordinators once again put together a great webinar event held March 21st to celebrate World Water Day with the theme Glacier Preservation. MPWA is pleased to work with so many enthusiastic water folks around the province.

MPWA also reintroduced the **Education** and Stewardship committee this past March. With our first meeting completed, staff are working towards initial goals. The committee is open to MPWA members as approved by the board, if you are



interested in being a committee member, please contact Adanna at outreach@mpwa.ca

#### **Technical Committee Report — A. Norris**

I would like to thank the Technical Committee for another great year, overseeing projects and providing technical support to the operations of the MPWA. Some highlights from this last year include:

Completion of The Peace and Slave River Watershed:
 Current and Future Water Use project which examined water use as well as new and projected uses



- Ongoing collaboration with Alberta Lake Management Society provides much needed lake monitoring and opportunities for education and stewardship
- We worked with Mountain Metis Nation Association to do a Riparian Assessment on Victor Lake and train some of their youth on these techniques
- Completion of Reducing Invasive Species in the Peace-Athabasca Delta project with Little Red River Cree Nation that tracked and controlled invasive riparian plants upstream of the Peace-Athabasca Delta
- Completion of Lower Peace Freshwater Contaminant Reduction project with Mackenzie County focussed on reducing the entry of sediment and agricultural chemicals into waterways
- The start of the Resiliency in the Wapiti Watershed Project with the AgroForestry Woodlot Extension Society, Alberta Conservation Association, County of Grande Prairie, Cows and Fish and a couple of landowners. This project will restore floodplain connectivity and riparian function to provide resiliency for floods and droughts.

Figures: Clockwise from top left—Little Red River Cree Nation youth eradicating invasive riparian plants; Water licence and use data and projections from The Peace and Slave River Watershed: Current and Future Water Use; restoration of field and water course for Lower Peace Freshwater Contamination; Mountain Metis Nation Association youth taking part in Victor Lake Riparian Assessment.

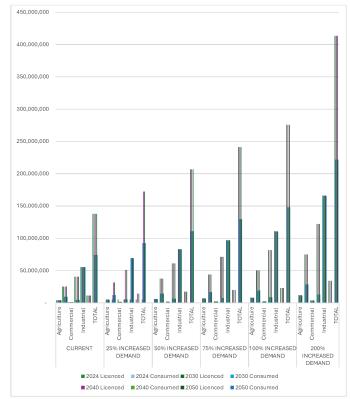


Figure 20. Surface water volume licenced and consumed by sector in the Smoky / Wapiti River subbasin of the Peace River watershed under changing demand scenarios over time.



#### Conference: Water Management in Alberta's Boreal 2025

For a second time, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, Lesser Slave Watershed Council and Athabasca Watershed Council joined forces to present 'Water Management in Alberta's Boreal 2025' conference in Grande Prairie from Feb 24-26. The conference was very successful with 121 registrants and presenters attending the event.

The themes of the event included: water quality and data management, water quantity and water use and boreal ecosystems.

We offered a very full agenda with speakers from a variety of sources:

Mary Kruk -The use of DataStream for open water quality data,

**Bradley Peter**, ALMS -How to use citizen science to improve water monitoring in the boreal,

**Lynn Smith and Wynter Flett,** Peavine Metis Settlement - about their water program,

**Johanne Little,** Office of the Chief Scientist -The condition of environment reporting in Alberta

**Craig Melin** Alberta Energy Regulator -Water allocations and drought **Chiadih Chang,** AEPA - The new AFETUW tool for estimating flows in Alberta

Petra Rowell AWC –Water supply in the Athabasca

Bob Christian, Forcorp - Forestry management in relation to watersheds.

Darryl Smith Alberta Wildlife Federation - The state of arctic grayling and walleye

Landon Driedger Mackenzie County -Farmer conversations

Micheal Merchant, Alberta Biomonitoring Institute - Wetland habitat mapping

Bin Xu, NAIT Centre for Boreal Research - Update on the progress of peatland restoration

Lelia Tuffner, Athabasca University - Impacts of seismic lines on water

Scott Ketcheson, Athabasca University - Roads and wetlands in the boreal

Bruce Nielsen - new Alberta Watercourse Crossing Guidebook

Sarah Shortt (AWC) and Jess Lario (LSWC) - Benthic invertebrates in Northern Alberta

Rick Murray, Ducks Unlimited - Moving wetland science into practice

Ken Monk, Northern Fly Fishers - Arctic grayling in the Pembina River

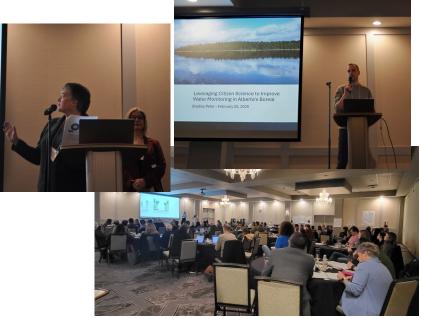
Adam Norris, MPWA - Surface water management.

Keynote speaker **John Pattison-Williams** gave a thought-provoking talk about the Myth of Hyperabundance of Water in Northern Alberta.

The conference offered a chance to network, exchange ideas, and learn from others in the room. We would like to thank our sponsors ARC Resources LTD, Canfor, Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre, TOLKO, Aquatera, Millar Western and Weyerhaeuser for their support and funding. A huge thank you to all presenters for sharing their knowledge and insights with us.







#### IWMP and SOW—Putting the Pieces Together

Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) Assessment—Each year our IWMP SC (Steering Committee) takes time to evaluate and assess the implementation of recommendations found in our 2018 IWMP. While recommendations were agreed to through consensus, MPWA takes the time to assess what has been accomplished, achieved, worked towards by stakeholders, and by MPWA to fulfill the

recommendations. Some recommendations have been easier to address than others but we hope to support and encourage all partners and stakeholders to continue to work towards these goals. As the name IWMP suggests, it requires the integration of different aspects of human activity and decision-making. This necessitates recommendations to decisionmakers beyond the MPWA to work towards watershed scale outcomes.

The other major part of the adaptive management cycle to which the IWMP belongs is the **State** of the Watershed reporting

of the Watershed reporting. As the saying goes, you can't

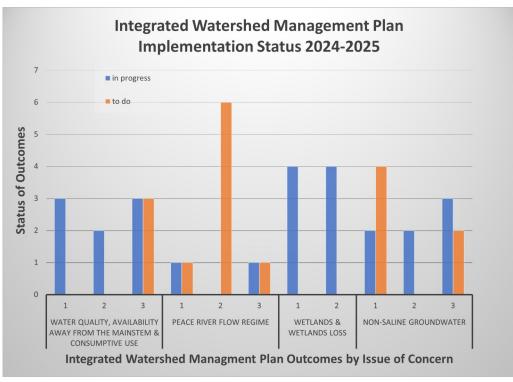
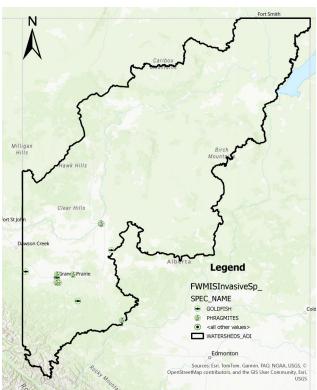


Chart showing implementation status of Integrated Watershed Management Plan recommendations in 2024-25

manage what you don't know. So our State of the Watershed reporting supports our management rec-



ommendations. Currently, we are working on an update to our State Of The Watershed Reporting for the Peace and Slave Watersheds. For instance, one indicator of watershed function that we use is the presence of invasive species. Currently, we are lucky to have few reports of invasive aquatic or riparian species in our watershed. Check out our State of the Watershed Report on our website for more about other indicators and watershed information.

Do you have information to share? Data, Monitoring information, New or Upcoming projects on the land-scape that will require water usage or have an effect on the landscape? Source Water Projects such as reservoirs, regional pipelines? We would love to hear from you.

Map showing the records of invasive aquatic and riparian species in the Peace and Slave watersheds.

	2024-2025 Technical Project Work Overview
Source Wa	ter Protection Web-based Tool Project (Lead—Alberta Water Council)
Goal: Supp	ort source water protection work by reducing barriers for small municipalities and small utilities
Partners	Alberta Water Council, AEPA, AFPA, AHS, ALMS, AM, City of Calgary, RMA, AB WPACs
Funding	Alberta Innovates and Alberta Water Council
Status	Almost complete. Web-tool has been created and piloted. Making updates based on feedback.
Evergreen	Wetland Centre (Lead—Ducks Unlimited)
Goal: Inspi	re a culture of wetland stewardship and resource development through learning, innovation, and information sharing.
Partners	County GP, Ducks Unlimited, Indigenous Innovative Solutions, Hammerhead Resources, Seven Generations Energy,
	Natural Resources Canada, Weyerhaeuser
Funding	Ducks Boreal Program, Industry sponsorship
Status	Development of interpretative trails, wetland education, BMP demos and ongoing research.
	Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan Implementation (Lead – MPWA)
	ort the implementation of the Grimshaw Gravels Source Water Protection Plan
Partners	EPA, Berwyn, Clear Hills County, County of Northern Lights, Grimshaw, GGAMAA, MD of Fairview, MD of Peace, U of A
Funding	Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association (Municipal)
Status	Continue to work on education, Beneficial Management Practices, and water budget for aquifers
LakeKeepe	ers - Summer and Winter; Recreational Waters (Lead- Alberta Lake Management Society and Alberta Health Services)
Goal: Colle	ct data on lakes and support a stewardship ethic
Partners	ALMS, Derek Dyck, Lisa Steciuk, John Zacharias, Megan Schur, Rick Keillor, Ernie Last, Sarah Cairns
Funding	Alberta Lake Management Society
Status	Summer 2024 (Lac Cardinal) and winter 2025 complete (Snipe, Swan & Sturgeon Lakes); ongoing
Lower Pea	ce Freshwater Contaminant Reduction (Lead—MPWA)
	ice the amount of contaminants (sediment, nutrients, pesticides, metals, hydrocarbons) entering the Lower Peace River
Partners	Mackenzie County, Mackenzie Applied Research Association, Cows and Fish, Landowners
Funding	EcoAction (federal grant) and partner
Status	Complete
Peace Rive	er Small Tributaries (Lead—MPWA)
	ove management practices to support ecosystem services such as flood and drought mitigation
Partners	Mackenzie County, Northern Sunrise County, Landowners
Funding	Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (Government of Alberta)
Status	Workplans are being finalized and preparations for field work are being made.
	nvasive Species in the Peace-Athabasca Delta (Lead-MPWA)
•	ice the volume of invasive plant propagules reaching the Peace-Athabasca Delta
Partners	Little Red River Cree Nation, Alberta Invasive Species Council
Funding	EcoAction (federal grant)
Status	Complete
	Watershed Restoration Project (Lead – MPWA)
	port the implementation of recommendations to restore fish habitat in the Redwillow Watershed.
Partners	AWES, ACA, AEP, County of GP, Cows and Fish, West County Watershed Society
Funding	Environmental Damages Fund (federal grant), Corporate donations, habitat offset for Alberta Transportation, AEPA grant
Status	Beaverlodge Water Quality & hydrological model supports evaluation; all regulatory requirements fulfilled.
	in the Wapiti Watershed (Lead – MPWA)
	ort watershed function to reduce the impacts of flood and drought as well improve water quality.
Partners	AWES, ACA, County of GP, Cows and Fish, Landowners
Funding	EcoAction (Canada Agency Water) and partners
Status	Site assessment and workplans are almost complete. Field work is being planned.
	tershed Source Water Protection Plan (Lead – MPWA) ctive water resource for the many uses of water in the Watershed.
Goal: Proa	Aquatera, ARC Resources, CAPP, County GP, MD of Greenview, Sturgeon Lake First Nation
Funding	In-kind
Status	Collating water quality monitoring to assess cumulative effects in watershed and education and outreach.

NOTE: MPWA provides staff time and other resources for these and various other projects

#### Highlights of 2024-2025

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance worked on the 6 Goals that have been established for the organization:

# Goal #1 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a strong, vibrant, and sustainable organization.

- 5 Board of Director meetings (Jun, Aug, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar) in various locations: Grande Prairie, Peace River, McLennan, Spirit River and Virtual/Conference calls. Held a 23/24 AGM in June in Peace River. Numerous Committee meetings.
- Professional Staff complement incl 4 Full time Staff and 1 Summer Steward
- Board Development opportunities: Melodie Lepine (Firelight group), Marsha Trites-Russell (AEPA), Bradley Peter (ALMS), Robert Willing (MD of Peace), Nick Van Rootselaar and Dan Dibbelt (MD of Spirit River), Naba Adhikari (AEPA), Dayal Wijanarathne, Tiago Morais and Aprami Jaggi (InnoTech Alberta).
- Further development of policies and processes.
- Discussions with various councils and organizations about MPWA work.
- Exploring funding options, e.g. other grants, sponsorship, etc.
- Conversations and planning with Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) managers regarding funding, collaborations, policy, drought conditions, Provincial SOW, and Water Availability Engagement Processes.
- AB WPAC Education Coordinators met to find common goals, share resources, and move initiatives forward.
- Board Chair and 2 staff attended the AEPA Water Partner meeting in Nov in Edmonton.
- Continued work on Strategic Plan update
- Updates to website and office systems

#### 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.

- Part of DUC's Wetland Innovation Workshop
- Participated in U of A's Peatland Policy workshop
- Presentations for and discussions with various groups: Rural Municipalities Association—Northern Zone, various Municipalities with updates of projects and organization, Source Water Protection partners, Partners of the Restoration work. RMA Zone 4 Drainage Ditch Committee, Grande Regional Emergency Partnership, Peace Living Labs (presented at Below Ground Soil Conference and Soil Health Caravan (2 sites)), Water North Coalition
- Hosted a Current Future Water Use Forum in Peace River in Jun 2024
- Co-hosted Water Management in Alberta's Boreal 2025 in Feb 2025.
- Co-chaired AB Water Council's Source Water Protection Project Team.
- Participated in webinar training on fish habitat, wetlands, BMPs, and Watershed Management.

# Goal #3 - The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is well-known and accessible to residents in the basin.

- Participated in Rural Municipalities Zone meetings.
- Maintained website and social media presence
- Attended at Peace Country Beef and Forage's Field Day
- Member of Mercer's Public Advisory Group.

# Goal #4 - Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.

- Participating in Water North Coalition.
- Source Water Protection Plan for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer implementation work—including Wellhead inspections
- Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan implementation work
- Partner with organizations and landowners to improve water quality through restoration work.

# 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.

- Beaverlodge Monitoring Program using community based monitoring to work towards a hydrological model of the Redwillow Watershed; completed temperature monitoring project
- Ongoing conversation with Municipalities.
- Extension and monitoring work in Lower Peace Freshwater Contamination Reduction, Redwillow Watershed Restoration, and advising upon request
- Working with ALMS to do LakeKeepers (Summer and Winter) and with AHS to do recreational water monitoring.
- Completed The Peace and Slave Watersheds: Current and Future Water use project.

## Goal #6 - Watershed Stewardship is widely supported by residents throughout the basin.

- Project lead for Lower Peace Freshwater Contamination Reduction and Reducing Invasive Species in the Peace-Athabasca Delta which engage watershed residents through forums, workshops and one-on-one.
- Tours & Education events at Evergreen Wetland Centre
- Interviews with various organizations to increase stewardship awareness, ie, Local Radio Stations
- Participated on the Land Stewardship Centre Grant Committee.
- Engage community members in MPWA activities such as Floating Treatment construction, monitoring and retrieval
- Presented at West County Watershed Society's AGM
- Presented at & manned booths at various Schools, youth groups, community gatherings, Pow Wow, Metis Fest, Peace Wapiti and Kee Tas Kee Now Teacher Conventions, AB Sand and Gravel Convention
- Riparian Assessment at Victor Lake with Mountain Metis Nation Association included training youth

#### Financial and In-Kind Supporters 2024-2025

**AgroForestry Woodlot Extension Society** 

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

**Alberta Conservation Association** 

**Alberta Environment and Protected Areas** 

**Alberta Transportation** 

**AQUATERA Utilities Inc.** 

**ARC Resources Ltd** 

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Canada Water Agency

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

**Canfor Company** 

City of Grande Prairie

County of Grande Prairie

County of Northern Lights

Cows and Fish

Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory

Association

Little Red River Cree Nation

Mackenzie Applied Research Association

Mackenzie County

Milk River Watershed Council of Canada
If we have forgotten anyone, we offer our sincere apologies and request that you please contact us so that we can remedy it.

**Municipal District of Greenview** 

Municipal District of Fairview

Municipal District of Peace

**Municipal District of Spirit River** 

NeoLithica

**Northern Sunrise County** 

Peace Region Assoc. of AB Agricultural Fieldmen - AAAF

Parks Canada

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Rural Municipalities Association—Northern Zone

Saddle Hills County

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Town of Fairview

Town of Peace River

Town of Valleyview

University of Alberta

West County Watershed Society

All the landowners who worked with us

All volunteers who helped with monitoring (Ernie Last, Karlen

Lowes)

#### Collaborators 2024-2025

Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Alberta Conservation Association

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

Alberta InnoTech

Alberta Lake Management Society

Alberta Water Council

Aquatera Inc.

Athabasca Watershed Council

**Canfor Company** 

City of Grande Prairie

Clear Hills County

**County of Grande Prairie** 

County of Northern Lights

Cows and Fish—Riparian Management Society

**Ducks Unlimited Canada** 

fRI Research

Grande Prairie and Area Environmental Sciences

**Educational Society** 

Lake Monitoring Volunteers (Sarah Cairns, Rick Keillor, Ernie

Last, Megan Schur)

Landowners (Owen Bexson, Little Red River Cree Nation, Mackenzie County, John Neufeld, Graham Powell, Gloria Sebastian-Powell, John Wall)

Lesser Slave Watershed Council

Little Red River Cree Nation

Mackenzie Applied Research Association

Mackenzie County

Mountain Metis Nation Association

Municipal District of Fairview

Municipal District of Greenview

Municipal District of Peace

**Northern Sunrise County** 

Northwestern Polytechnic

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association

**Trout Unlimited Canada** 

**Town of Grimshaw** 

University of Alberta

Village of Berwyn

**West County Watershed Society** 

Weyerhaeuser

#### **Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance**

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