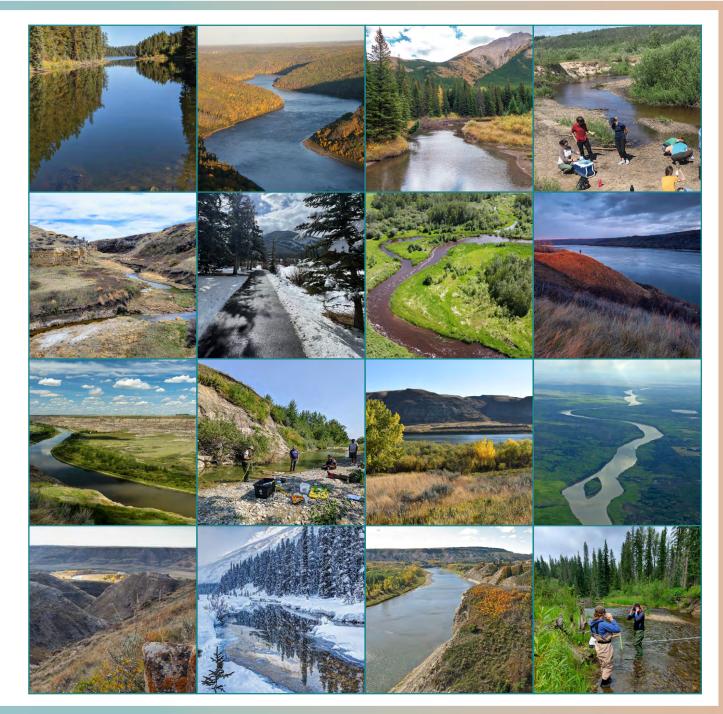
Report on Alberta's WATERSHED PLANNING & ADVISORY COUNCILS

2021-2022



Water for Life Strategy

Alberta's designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) support the <u>Water for Life</u> <u>strategy</u> and work collaboratively with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEP) to achieve the goals and key directions of the strategy. These include:

Goals

- Albertans are assured their drinking water is safe.
- Albertans are assured that Alberta's aquatic ecosystems are maintained and protected.
- Albertans are assured that water is managed effectively to support sustainable economic development.

Key Directions

- Albertans will have access to the knowledge needed to achieve safe drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.
- Water for Life partners are empowered, informed, and fully engaged in watershed stewardship.
- All sectors (and the public) understand how their behaviours, actions, and activities; impact water quality, quantity, and the health of aquatic ecosystems, and they adopt a "water conservation ethic" and take action.

WPACs support implementation of the *Water for Life strategy* and work collaboratively to:

- 1. Periodically assess and report on the state of their designated watersheds.
- 2. Develop Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP) and then lead, promote and coordinate the implementation of the IWMP across stakeholders.

a. Integrated Watershed Management Plans will align with the corresponding Regional Plan(s) under the Land Use Framework and existing/relevant policies and plans.

3. Inform, educate, and involve watershed stakeholders, including the public, on water issues and watershed stewardship.

a. WPACs and AEP will collaborate on water and watershed literacy and education outreach initiatives, where appropriate.

4. Serve as a convenor and collaborator across watershed stakeholders to advance overall watershed stewardship and management.

a. WPACs shall provide advice to AEP about integrated watershed management and with respect to related issues requested by AEP, as resourcing permits.

WPACs at a Glance

- Multiplied the \$2.5 million invested by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas with an additional \$4.8 million of non-Government of Alberta investments.
- Employed 45 individuals, contributing to, and diversifying Alberta's economy in primarily rural areas.
- Were directly supported by more than 4,500 organizational and individual members representing over 20 sectors.
- Worked with 1,000+ partners and 1,300+ volunteers to deliver carbon reducing restoration projects, land use planning recommendations and implementation, land-based education, and watershed monitoring projects across the province.
- Engaged with 33,000+ followers on social media channels.
- Actively participated on the Alberta Energy Regulator Multi Stakeholder Engagement and Advisory Committee where we provide our advice on how to engage sectors on priorities such as the expanded mandate (e.g., geothermal and minerals) and liability management framework.



STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENTS & REPORTING



Assessment: Evaluate the condition of the aquatic environment in Alberta watersheds using a variety of indicators and metrics informed by the best available science.

Reporting: Publish State of Watershed reports to identify watershed conditions, local pressures in the watershed, and potential gaps in environmental data and/or research needs.

PLANNING



Planning: Prepare Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMPs) for Alberta watersheds to advise relevant decision- makers and stakeholders of watershed issues and potential best responses.

Implementation: Promote, lead, and coordinate implementation of IWMPs, including opportunities to integrate and adopt strategies across stakeholders.

Policy Input: Contribute, when requested, watershed knowledge and perspectives to relevant Government of Alberta policy development and implementation activities. Communicate with AEP via the Watershed Co-ordinators when policy issues arise within their regions.

LITERACY & EDUCATION



Education: Enhance environmental literacy throughout Alberta watersheds by developing and delivering education products or programs that foster water and aquatic ecosystem stewardship.

CONVENORS & COLLABORATORS



Convener: Provide a forum where stakeholders meet to share information and identify, discuss, and recommend priorities for issues, initiatives, and the implementation of IWMPs.

Collaborator: Develop partnerships across the watershed with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to lead or support watershed-related projects and programs.



The Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC) was established in 2009 and today, is a registered charity, operating in Treaty 6, 8 and 10 Territories. The AWC uses consensus and collaboration to identify and address water issues in the Athabasca watershed, an area representing almost one quarter of Alberta's land base, stretching from Jasper to Fort Chipewyan. The AWC and its partners work towards a vision where, from its mountain headwaters to the delta lowlands:

The Athabasca River watershed is ecologically healthy, supporting resilient communities and a sustainable economy.

The organization is guided by its Board of Directors, who oversee the work of four staff.



The AWC is supported by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA), as well as a number of municipal, industry, Indigenous, and nongovernment partners and supporters who provide financial, technical, and in-kind support.

The work of the AWC is guided by its 4-year Strategic Plan. The AWC's five strategic goals for 2023-2026 are:

1. Provide easily accessible information to improve knowledge about the Athabasca watershed.

2. Actively engage others in mobilizing resources and commitments to achieve shared outcomes.

Website: www.awc-wpac.ca Twitter: @awc-wpac.ca Facebook: AthabascaWatershedCouncil Instagram: awc_wpac LinkedIn: awc-wpac YouTube: @awc_wpac



3. Be a credible, recognized authority on the condition of the Athabasca watershed and use this information to implement an Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

4. Promote the alignment and integration of land and water statutory and non-statutory policies, plans and programs across jurisdictions.

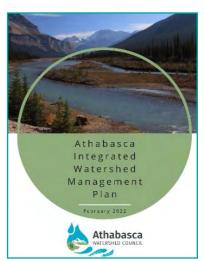
5. Strive for organizational professionalism, balanced representation, sustainability and effective and efficient use of resources.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

The AWC has completed a number of <u>State of the</u> <u>Watershed</u> (SOW) reports and is currently updating its SOW reporting framework. We also play a role making connections between numerous <u>monitoring</u> <u>and research</u> interests and initiatives throughout the basin.

PLANNING

In 2022, the AWC approved the<u>Athabasca</u> <u>Integrated Watershed</u> <u>Management Plan</u> (IWMP) which provides strategic, long term actions to protect the health of the watershed and achieve the three goals of the <u>Water for Life Strategy</u>.



IWMP

implementation is occurring via a number of projects and collaborations such as the Athabasca <u>Healthy</u> Shorelines, Upper Athabasca Biomonitoring initiative and the <u>Community</u> Drinking Water Resiliency project.



Subwatershed and lake stewardship groups like <u>Baptiste and Island Lakes Stewardship Society</u> <u>and the Lac La Biche Watershed Management</u> <u>Plan Implementation Committee</u> are also key to achieving shared watershed management goals across the Athabasca watershed.

The AWC is also pleased to promote and support AEPA's implementation of the Upper and Lower Athabasca water management frameworks and other initiatives that integrate land and water

management in this region.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The AWC works to share information about the Athabasca watershed using our website, weekly social media posts and monthly blogs and newsletters.



We also host project related webinars and participate in a number of virtual, in person and

in the field educational events. We are pleased to be collaborating on the Caring for Our Watersheds and X-Stream Science educational youth projects.

We also work to promote the work of other organizations in the Athabasca watershed and

to amplify our partner communications, to reinforce watershed knowledge and stewardship key messages across the basin.



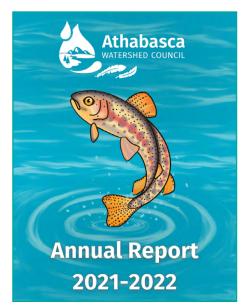
CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

The Athabasca

watershed is a large basin with a small population. Collaboration is key to our success and we have been focussing on convening working groups and partnerships across the watershed. Issues are also different across the watershed. Hence projects, working group membership and activities reflect the needs of the local area.

For more information, please refer to the <u>AWC Annual</u> <u>Report</u> or check out our website at <u>www.awc-wpac.ca</u>.

If you are interested in participating on our board, committees, or projects, please <u>contact us</u>. We look forward to hearing from you!





The Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA), established in 2006, is a designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) in Alberta. BRWA is made up of the people who live, work, and play in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.

Guided by the Government of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy, the BRWA is working together with landowners, community members, business people, producers, researchers, and decisionmakers to ensure a stable economy, healthy natural areas, and resilient communities in this place that we love.

We exist to ensure our local watersheds sustain all life by using sound knowledge, wisdom, and wise actions to preserve our watersheds for future generations.

BRWA <u>Staff & Board</u> include a 10-member Board representing academia, agriculture, business/ industry, and the environment and a team of five staff members and regular student interns.



The BRWA operating budget was over \$800,000 in 2021-2022. Government of Alberta WPAC funding supports our core operations and we more than doubled this contribution to enhance our reach and value in the community.

Major Funding Contributors:

Cargill, CAF America, Environment Community Health Observatory Network, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Enbridge Pipelines, Government Website: www.battleriverwatershed.ca Twitter: @Battleriver Facebook: BattleRiverWatershed Instagram: @BattleRiverWatershed LinkedIn: Battle River Watershed Alliance YouTube: @BattleRiverWatershed

of Canada, Heartland Generation, Nutrien Inc., United Nations, and contributions from over 25 municipal governments.

In addition, local residents and partner groups contribute thousands as in-kind support.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

The <u>BRWA Strategic Plan 2022-2026</u> focuses on the three "Ps" - People, Programs and Place. Our objectives and strategies in each of these areas include:



Watershed Management: Working with stakeholders to complete a holistic approach to reporting on watershed health and investing in relationships with stewardship partners to take action.

Watershed Engagement: Offering watershed-wide engagement activities for all ages and with sensitivity to historical and cultural beliefs and customs.

Watershed Stewardship: Facilitating opportunities that connect people to their place, build skills, capacity and leadership for sustainability, and help Alberta's natural resource sector to advance watershed sustainability to address climate adaptation.

Alliance Management: Supporting Board members and staff by providing workplace policies and practices that foster equity and inclusion, health and safety, professional development as well as a resilient organization.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

BRWA released <u>Our Battle: State Of The Battle</u> <u>River And Sounding Creek Watersheds (2011)</u>

as an important first step in becoming more knowledgeable about our watersheds and more attuned to what we need to do to make them healthier.

In 2017, the BRWA worked with the Environment, Community, Health Observatory (ECHO) Network

to develop a new Watershed Health Indicator Framework. The ECHO Network includes partners from the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy at the University of Lethbridge



as well as other universities, public health authorities, and non-profit organizations across Canada and around the world.

This framework guides our conversations and actions to care for the holistic health of land, water, people, and communities in our watersheds. It is also part of a new Health in the Watershed Atlas for Battle River and Sounding Creek. A release of the Atlas is expected in 2023. To learn more: <u>Health in the Watershed</u>.

WATERSHED PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Taking action on <u>BRWA watershed management</u> <u>recommendations</u> is an ongoing process. In 2021-2022, BRWA convened and collaborated with partners to focus on riparian intactness, land use pressures, and priority areas for conservation and restoration, including:

- Collecting over 10,000 km of riparian intactness data in the watershed
- Collaborating with six WPACs, the Government of Alberta, and partners to launch the award-winning Riparian Web Portal in 2021

- Working with NSWA to host over 15 workshops to train partners in using the Riparian Web Portal
- Providing Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessment Reports to 18 municipalities in the watershed to build a shared understanding of riparian conditions



- Launching a new <u>riparian video series</u> and presenting Otis Awards for stewardship at a community gala in Camrose, Alberta
- Partnering with 10 local agricultural producers to install livestock watering systems and over 20 kilometers of riparian fencing
- Sitting on Samson Cree Nation's Nipiy committee, to help facilitate riparian restoration projects within the Nation

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

In 2021-2022, BRWA became the Alberta Lead for a province-wide Caring for Our Watersheds Competition for students in grades 7-12. In addition, our youth education programs reached more than 1,200 youth. These programs include:

- X-Stream Science
- Discover your Wetland
- Waste in our Watershed
- Future Farmers for Fresh Water
- Magpie Nature Camp



For more detailed information you can refer to the <u>2021-</u> <u>2022 BRWA Annual</u> <u>Report</u> or check out our website: <u>www.</u> <u>battleriverwatershed.ca</u>



Working together to nurture, share, and protect the waters of the Bow River Basin

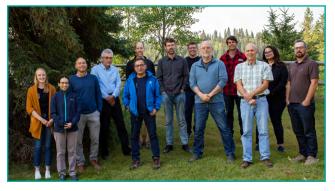
The Bow River Basin Council started as a task force in the 1980s, becoming Alberta's first Watershed Planning and Advisory Council under the 2003 Water for Life Strategy. Today it is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder, charitable organization serving the collective interests of more than 1.3 million residents as a widely trusted voice of reason, respect, and balance within our watershed.

Comprised of over 450 active members and more than 700 participants, the Council welcomes a diverse and devoted membership including members from a broad range of sectors.

We are dedicated to facilitating meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding, and work to provide unique opportunities that lead to tangible impacts. Together, through science and inclusion, we promote balanced solutions for a healthy watershed. Website: <u>www.brbc.ab.ca</u> Twitter: @BowRiverWPAC Facebook: BowRiverBasinCouncil Instagram: bowriverbasincouncil LinkedIn: Bow River Basin Council YouTube: Bow River Basin Council

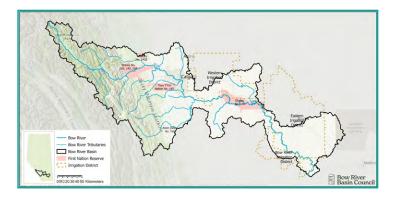
- Maintain a quarterly educational and networking forum for all Council members to share perspectives and exchange information.
- Participate in water and watershed management and planning activities focusing on the issues in the basin that may affect the quality and/ or quantity of groundwater, surface water or riparian zones.
- Develop and recommend improved water and watershed management procedures and performance measures.
- Encourage the implementation of cooperative water and watershed management strategies.
- Participate in activities that promote and demonstrate increased awareness of water and watershed management issues to its members, the governments of Alberta and Canada, and the public.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING



The BRBC is guided by a <u>multi-sector Board of</u> <u>Directors, with three full-time staff</u>.

The ultimate goal of the BRBC is to participate in and promote activities that will help the Bow River Basin be one of the best-managed watersheds in the world. The BRBC undertakes the following core activities to achieve its stated goals: The BRBC's major project over the next few years will be undertaking a new State of the Watershed assessment on a sub-watershed scale, integrating detailed State of the Watershed information from the various Watershed Stewardship Groups active in the basin. The interactive report will be hosted online using ArcGIS Online. Our last <u>State of the Watershed</u> was published online in 2015.



The BRBC is forming a Water Quality Technical Committee to determine a process for water quality reporting tools/visuals/parameters in all future reports.

PLANNING

A key function of the BRBC is to undertake a <u>Watershed Management Planning</u> process, informed by the State of the Watershed report. The most recent Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP) was completed in 2012 and continues to provide guidance and recommendations to decision-making authorities, municipalities, natural resource managers, users and residents regarding land and water resources in the watershed.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The BRBC works hard to be a trusted resource for the membership on the Bow Basin. We host forums and workshops throughout the year as learning opportunities for the membership. In 2022, we hosted four Quarterly Forums, two <u>Citizen/Community Science Workshops</u>, one Science Forum, one Legislation and Policy Workshop, and six <u>tours</u> of stormwater facilities in partnership with MAGNA Engineering.



In late 2022, we launched an updated logo, brand, and <u>website</u> as part of the BRBC's brand refresh.

We also have a weekly news and events bulletin sent to the membership via email, and publish a quarterly newsletter, <u>Preserving our Lifeline</u>.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Collaboration is key to the BRBC's success over its more than 20-year history. In addition to the various events and networking opportunities, the BRBC houses five member-led <u>standing committees</u> for the Council to contribute their diverse knowledge, expertise, and perspectives towards our core goals and mission:

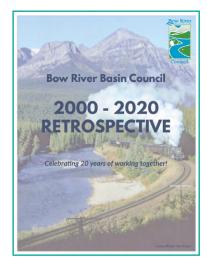


- Legislation and Policy Committee
- Science Committee
- Stakeholder Engagement Committee
- Youth and Young Professionals Committee
- Watershed Stewardship Coordination Committee

The Bow Basin is lucky to have many active Watershed Stewardship Groups in the area. The BRBC is a strong supporter of stewardship work in

the Basin, supporting over 30 stewardship groups and providing over \$2.3M in direct funding since its inception.

For more information on the BRBC, please visit our <u>website</u>, <u>annual report</u>, or <u>20-year retrospective</u>.





The Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC) began as a ground of concerned citizens in the late 1990's, was established as a non profit in 2006, and in 2007 recognized by the province as a multi-stakeholder watershed planning and advisory council. The LSWC provides a forum to identify and address issues affecting watershed health in the 20,100 square kilometer Lesser Slave watershed surrounding Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta's third largest lake with an area of 1,160 square kilometers. In collaboration with our partners and stakeholders the LSWC works towards its vision:

"A healthy resilient watershed that is valued and stewarded by engaged citizens and communities."



The LSWC is guided by a 16-person volunteer Board of Directors and has 3 staff members: our Executive Director, Watershed Coordinator and Education & Outreach Coordinator.

The operating budget of the LSWC is approximately \$325,000 with major contributions provided by Alberta Environment and Parks, Vanderwell Contractors, Big Lakes County and oil and gas operators in the watershed. All our partners provided over \$475,000 worth of in-kind support in 2021-2022. Website: www.lswc.ca Twitter: @abLSWC Facebook: Lesser Slave Watershed Council Instagram: @ablswc LinkedIn: Lesser Slave Watershed Council YouTube: @lesserslavewatershedcounci6234

The work of the LSWC is guided by the WPAC Mandate and Roles Document and its 3-year Strategic Plan. The LSWC's Strategic Goals are to:

- 1. Maintain good governance
- 2. Be a convenor and collaborator
- 3. Lead or support watershed policy and planning
- 4. Lead or support watershed monitoring and reporting
- 5. Promote watershed education, literacy, and stewardship.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

The LSWC completed a State of the Watershed report in 2008 and recognized that there were many data gaps preventing accurate assessment of watershed condition. Since then, the LSWC has been working with partners to fill these gaps, conducting riparian health assessments, and initiating a water quality monitoring program.

LSWC Tributary Monitoring Program

The Lesser Slave Watershed does not have government long term river network stations, and field monitoring of Lesser Slave Lake or the tributaries flowing into it is limited and sporadic. In 2017 the LSWC obtained financial support to begin a tributary monitoring program to collect water quality information on the streams flowing into Lesser



Slave Lake. LSWC staff collect samples and take measurements 10 times per open water season at 15 locations in the watershed. The program is funded with support from industry and the <u>LSWC collaborates with DataStream</u> to make data publicly accessible.

PLANNING

The work of the LSWC is also guided by the <u>2019</u> <u>Lesser Slave Integrated Watershed Management</u> <u>Plan</u> (IWMP) which provides recommended actions to protect the health of the watershed and achieve the three goals of the <u>Water for Life Strategy</u>.

Swan River Watershed Initiative

The Swan River watershed is home to Swan River First Nation and is a busy part of the watershed with oil and gas activities, agriculture, and forest harvest activities throughout. Traditionally abundant in this watershed, Arctic Grayling populations are at risk and severely declined due to habitat loss and fragmentation.



The Swan River Watershed Initiative is an informal collaboration between the LSWC, Swan River First Nation, industry in the watershed and staff form the Government of Alberta. The group meets to share information and resources, update each other on work in progress in the watershed, and identifies potential project collaborations.

The LSWC has initiated a Swan River State of the Watershed project that will provide valuable information to decision makers and stakeholders in the watershed.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The LSWC is a key resource for watershed information about the Lesser Slave Watershed. We provide numerous resources on watershed topics and distribute resources on invasive species, lake stewardship, best management practices and more. LSWC staff collaborate with partners to deliver youth education programs focused on freshwater life cycles and water quality and its great to see youth connect with the environment.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Collaborative partnerships are the core to successful watershed planning and stewardship. Strong relationships with government agencies, municipalities, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Indigenous communities and landowners are the key to successful program and projects.



With support from the Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program the LSWC has been building capacity and supporting landowners in the watershed in implementing projects that enhance watershed resiliency since 2016.

For more detailed information you can check out our website at <u>www.lswc.ca</u>





LICA – Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) Environmental Stewards was formed in October 2000 as a not-for-profit association, registered under the Alberta Society Act. LICA operates as a synergy group, as an airshed zone, and the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Beaver River Watershed. LICA focuses on environmental monitoring, environmental management, and community education and outreach. LICA facilitates all stakeholders' and rightsholders' voices when addressing issues concerning the environment in their region.

'A Healthy Beaver River Watershed for the Future!'

LICA's work is governed by an 18-member Board that represents the diverse views and perspectives of stakeholders and rightsholders in the region.

Employees & Contractors: 8

Board Members: 18 LICA Members: 287 GOA Grant: \$233,661.00 GOA Projects: \$319,935.70 In-Kind: \$53,805.00 LICA's watershed work is guided by its Mandate and Roles Document and its <u>5-year Work Plan</u>.



Email: lica2@lica.ca Phone: (780) 812-2182 Website: www.lica.ca Instagram: @infoLICA Facebook: @infoLICAonline

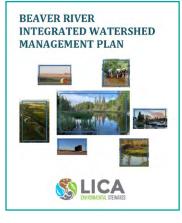
- 1. **Convene and Collaborate:** Connect with stakeholders and promote community involvement.
- 2. Educate and Inform: Educate the community, advocating for environmental stewardship.
- 3. Influence and Improve: Provide timely, defensible, and accessible environmental data. Interpret data and work with others to improve collective understanding of the environment in which we live. Use data to identify opportunities and synergies for positive environmental outcomes in our region.
- 4. **Optimize and Evaluate:** Effectively and efficiently manage our resources to achieve our vision and mission.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

The <u>Beaver River State of the Watershed</u> report was completed in 2013. This report uses watershed health indicators to assess how current and historical conditions across the Beaver River Watershed compare to ideal conditions. LICA will revisit, periodically assess, and report on the current state of the watershed.

PLANNING

With the recent completion of the <u>Beaver River</u> <u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan</u> (IWMP), LICA will continue to promote and implement the Plan's recommendations which address matters of water quantity and quality, riparian areas and wetlands, biodiversity, land use, and knowledge and understanding. The Beaver River IWMP provides broad guidance for watershed management and sets out a clear direction that will result in consistent, specific actions for integrated management of land and water resources to support long-term watershed health.



LITERACY AND EDUCATION

LICA collects, shares, and acts upon credible data, Indigenous knowledge, and information relevant to the environment. This is achieved through scientific study, community engagement and meaningful partnerships. LICA focuses on environmental monitoring, environmental management and community education and outreach.

In the summer of 2019, LICA developed a <u>Keep Our</u> <u>Lake Blue</u> campaign, to help improve the water quality at Moose Lake. Residents and community members were educated on water quality health and were encouraged to reduce runoff and pollutants from entering the lake. This campaign's outreach continues to expand.

LICA is proud to offer the <u>Stream of Dreams</u> program to local schools each year. This ecoeducational program helps students discover their local watershed, learn about human impacts on



water bodies, and become stewards of all aquatic life.

To support lake health in the region, LICA partnered with the Alberta

Lake Management Society (ALMS) to execute the <u>LakeWatch</u> Program. The association also piloted the RiverWatch Institute of Alberta's <u>CreekWatch</u> Citizen Science Program, a community-based water quality monitoring program that trains community volunteers to conduct water monitoring on their local creeks!

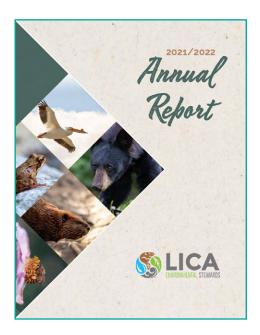
CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Meaningful united collaboration ensures effective watershed management and planning within the LICA region. LICA is proud of its strong,



unfailing relationships with government agencies, municipalities, industry, non-government agencies, First Nations, Métis, and local watershed stewardship groups. They serve as a convenor and collaborators across the Beaver River Watershed with stakeholders and rightsholders' to improve overall watershed stewardship and management.

For more information and additional detail, please refer to the <u>2021-2022 Annual Report</u>, or check out our website at <u>www.lica.ca</u>





Website: www.mrwcc.ca Twitter: @MRWCouncil Facebook: @milkriverwater YouTube: @MRWCC

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC) is a unique watershed located in southern Alberta. It is known for its dry climate, extraordinary landscapes and diverse plant and wildlife communities. The Milk River is the only watershed in Alberta that drains south to the Gulf of Mexico. Alberta shares the Milk River watershed with the province of Saskatchewan and the State of Montana, U.S.A.

Water shortages are not uncommon in the Milk River watershed. As the problem of water scarcity continues to grow, proper water and watershed management is critical. The MRWCC is committed to working with government and non-government agencies, other non-profit organizations, industry, and Milk River watershed residents to effectively manage these watershed resources.

Our vision:

A watershed where community well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment that will endure for future generations.

The MRWCC is a broad partnership of interested and informed people living and working in the Milk River Watershed who provide leadership in watershed management and planning. As a transboundary watershed, we foster good relationships with our Montana neighbours for the continued comanagement of the Milk River waters. The MRWCC consists of 19 Directors and 3 staff members.

The 2021-22 operating budget of the MRWCC was \$400,000 with major contributions provided by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Environment Climate Change Canada, Alberta Ecotrust, and Alberta Conservation Association. Annually our partners provided over \$200,000 worth of in-kind support. The work of the MRWCC is guided by its Mandate:

To engage governments, stakeholders, other partnerships, and the public in watershed assessment and watershed management planning, considering existing land and resource management planning processes and decisionmaking authorities.

Our Annual workplan is crafted with consideration of the recently agreed upon Water for Life WPAC Mandate and Roles Document and our current 3 year Strategic Plan.

2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS



STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

In 2021-22 the MRWCC Contracted Palliser Environmental Services Ltd. to compile the 2023 Transboundary State of the Watershed report. A partnership Terms of Reference was agreed upon and information for the report is being compiled from over 75 professionals and agencies across Alberta, Montana, and Saskatchewan. The Report is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

In support of watershed reporting, a Red Creek Water Quality trend analysis report was completed to investigate potential community and municipal Water Quality concerns and potential impacts on wildlife and livestock health.

The MRWCC also entered an agreement in the interest of promoting knowledge sharing and advancing collaborative water stewardship with DataStream, an open-access platform for water quality data.

The MRWCC also started the <u>Securing a Home</u> for Bats in the Milk River Watershed project, a multi-year project that will be completed in 2023. The project identifies and documents important roost sites being used by the Little Brown Myotis throughout the watershed.

Ultimately, the goals are to develop an inventory of this species to understand population trends over time, to monitor the presence of disease (specifically White Nose Syndrome), and to collaborate with private landowners to increase awareness of the presence and value of bats on their properties.

PLANNING

In 2021-22 the MRWCC completed two planning projects that supported our community and watershed stakeholders. WaterSMART Solutions was contracted to develop a Water Shortage Contingency Plan based on the 2020 diversion failure experience to document the lessons learned and provide clear planning direction for community leaders and water managers to prepare for future challenges or disruptions that impact water security.

A second planning activity funded in part by ECCC was the <u>Milk River Producers Leading the Way</u> project. Survey work was conducted by Arvense consulting with producers who own or occupy native rangeland as part of their operation within the watershed. All aspects of grassland stewardship and conservation were explored including key partners, motivators, barriers and opportunities to improve grassland and species at risk conservation efforts within the watershed. The project was essential in identifying actions that are appropriate and acceptable for future extension and conservation efforts.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Watershed literacy and education efforts are critically important to the MRWCC success. In 2021-22 the MRWCC collaborated with the Alberta WPACs



Education and Outreach committee to promote the collective actions. In addition, the MRWCC completed and delivered an Alberta Conservation Association funding project called "From the Field" – a virtual fieldtrip program that promotes watershed fish and wildlife diversity, as well as the important role of producer stewardship and ranch management planning to manage all aspects of working landscapes within the watershed. The virtual fieldtrip project was delivered locally to watershed schools and to communities outside the watershed including Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. In addition, post Covid outreach activities included limited field days and a canoe tour. We anticipate a return to more in person activities within the next fiscal year.

CONVENER AND COLLABORATOR

Ongoing Covid challenges and restrictions in 2021-22 limited in person opportunities but the MRWCC continued to participate in the <u>Transboundary</u> <u>Grasslands Partnership</u> as co-chair of the MT, AB, and SK initiative to help foster improved relationships among transboundary partners and keep the dialogue open towards addressing habitat and SAR issues within the watershed.

The MRWCC also became an official partner in the International Joint Commission St. Mary/Milk River study project and participated in 5 Letter of Intent management meetings for river and diversion operations and providing strong and timely communication to all municipal managers and water users.

For more detailed information please refer to the <u>2021-2022 MRWCC Annual Report</u> or check out our website at <u>www.mrwcc.ca</u>



The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) was established in 2011 as a multi-stakeholder, multi-sector watershed planning and advisory council. MPWA provides a forum to identify and address issues affecting watershed health in the Peace River and Slave River watersheds covering approximately 30% of the province of Alberta.

MPWA Board consists of 21 available seats representing 4 general sectors which cover various levels of Government (Federal transboundary, Large Urban Municipality, Rural Municipalities, Small Urban Municipalities), Indigenous People and Communities (Metis Settlements General Council, Metis Nation of Alberta, and Upper, Middle and Lower Watershed First Nations), Non-Government Organizations (Conservation Groups, Watershed Stewardship Groups, Research/Education, Members at Large, and Recreation/Tourism/Fisheries) and Industry (Agriculture, Oil/Gas, Utilities, Forestry, Mining). The work of the Board is currently delivered by 2 Staff and occasional part-time support.

The MPWA receives operation funding through a Grant from Alberta Parks and Environment of \$230,000 per year. A number of Municipal partners provide funding for operational and project work. Major projects are funded (approx.



Website:

www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org Twitter: @mpwa3355 Facebook: Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance YouTube: Watershed Restoration @watershedrestoration249

270,000) through a variety of grants and partners such as Alberta Transportation, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, Conservation, Community and Education Grants, Habitat Stewardship Fund, etc. Also, numerous partners assist with in-kind contributions totaling approximately \$190,000.

The work of the MPWA is guided by our Strategic Plan, and Recommendations in our Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The MPWA work focusses on 4 main issues of concern as identified in our IWMP: 1. Non-saline Groundwater; 2. Peace River Flow Regime; 3. Water Quality and Availability away from the Mainstem along with Consumptive Use; 4. Wetlands and Wetlands Loss.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

State of Watershed – Our SOW was completed in 2015. Since that time, MPWA has been gathering material, leading discussions, and facilitating projects to work towards update the SOW. The IWMP Committee does a yearly review of the recommendations and actions found in the plan to evaluate progress or other resources needed, this evaluation is helpful as MPWA looks toward future SOW assessments.

Monitoring and Reporting – At the completion of the SOW and IWMP, it was confirmed that significant data gaps exist throughout the basins. MPWA engages, coordinates and supports staff and volunteers to do monitoring on a variety of Lakes (in collaboration with Alberta Lake Management Society).

Additionally, monitoring occurs in the Smoky River headwaters, the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer (water budget), and water quality monitoring along some rivers where riparian and fish habitat restoration work has occurred and wetland groundwater project.

PLANNING

Planning initiatives worked on in the past couple of years have entered into the implementation stage as of 202/22. MPWA has assisted stakeholder collaborations by leading 2 Source Water Protection Plans – Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer and Wapiti Watershed. In the past year, workshops on surface water management, drinking water wells, septic sense, riparian health, and improved fish habitat have been presented.



LITERACY AND EDUCATION

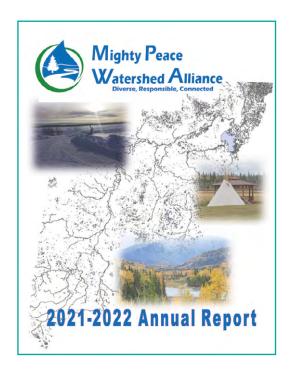
The MPWA has become known as a resource for watershed and water literacy information, with many partners, stakeholders and public members connecting throughout the year. Also, MPWA provides a venue for partners and stakeholders (including AEP) to advertise Beneficial Management practises, learning opportunities, and webinars.

Highlights: 1. Increased our social media presence, provide opportunities to learn through videos, demos, tours, and our website. 2. MPWA continues to participate with and present at the 'Walk through the Forest' program which typically sees 1000 students walk their way through learning stations over 3 days. An in-person Surface Water Management workshop which was taped and then released to the public with key messages for municipalities, landowners, and agriculture producers.
 Partnered with Municipalities to offer Working Well and Septic Sense workshops 5. Participate with the AB WPACs on projects such as World Water Day presentations.
 Pilot project with City of Grande Prairie and North Western polytechnic around Floating Wetland Treatment for Storm Ponds.

In a continued commitment to encourage learning and expand the knowledge base of Board members, there are usually guest speakers at each Board Meeting on a variety of topics related to sectors, water quality and quantity, and other planning initiatives.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Working with a variety of partners and stakeholders has been a key part of MPWA operations. All of our initiatives engage local partners to accomplish either planning initiatives or projects. MPWA works with Municipalities, Industry, Indigenous Communities, Research Groups, and NGO's to accomplish outcomes in source water protection, riparian restoration, streambank stabilization, surface water management plans, floating treatment wetland Pilot For more detailed information you can refer to the <u>2021-2022 Annual Report</u> or our website.





The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) was established in 2000 as a multistakeholder watershed planning partnership. NSWA provides a forum to identify and address issues affecting watershed health in the 57,000 square kilometer North Saskatchewan watershed. In collaboration with our stakeholders the NSWA work towards its vision:

People working together for a healthy and functioning North Saskatchewan River watershed – today and tomorrow.

The NSWA organization is guided by an <u>18-member</u> <u>multi-stakeholder Board and has a complement of</u> <u>six staff</u>.

The <u>operating budget</u> of the NSWA is approximately \$885,000 with major contributions provided by Alberta Environment and Parks, EPCOR, and municipal contributions. All our partners provided over \$475,000 worth of in-kind support in 2021-2022.

The work of the NSWA is guided by its Mandate and Roles Document and its <u>3-year Strategic Plan</u>. The NSWA priorities for 2023-2025:



- Focus collaborative efforts on partnerships that can most effectively address the directions and action of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- 2. Complete a 2025 State of the Watershed report to provide an update on the

Website: www.nswa.ab.ca Twitter: @NorthSaskRiver Instagram: north_sask_river Facebook: NorthSaskRiver LinkedIn: North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance YouTube: @northsaskatchewanwatershed4299

watershed health and implementation status of the IMWP.

3. Focus and align communication efforts on key stakeholders who have the greatest influence on watershed health.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

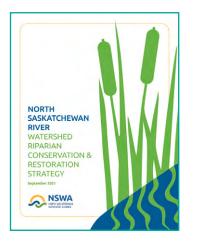
The NSWA completed a basin wide <u>State of the</u> <u>Watershed</u> (SOW) report in 2005. We are currently updating our SOW framework including new watershed health indicators and metrics and focussing on creating an online GIS map-based SOW for easier access and updating.



The <u>WaterSHED</u> project created the North Saskatchewan River's most comprehensive river monitoring program in 2018. It encompasses 20 monitoring stations from the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River to the Saskatchewan border.

PLANNING

The work of the NSWA is also defined by the <u>2012</u> <u>Integrated Watershed Management Plan</u>(IWMP) which provides strategic, long term actions to protect the health of the watershed and achieve the three goals of the <u>Water for Life Strategy</u>. NSWA has implemented the IWMP through basin wide initiatives such as the <u>*Riparian Health Action*</u> <u>*Plan*</u> and accompanying <u>*Riparian Web Portal*</u> which hosts riparian intactness data from across Alberta.



The IWMP is also implemented through our subwatershed alliances that address local watershed issues with local solutions:

- <u>Headwaters Alliance</u>
- <u>Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance</u>
- <u>Vermilion Watershed Alliance</u>

NSWA also supports AEP frameworks and programs such as:

- North Saskatchewan Regional Plan
- Industrial Heartland Designated Industrial Zone
- Industrial Heartland/Capital Region Water
 Quality Framework



LITERACY AND EDUCATION

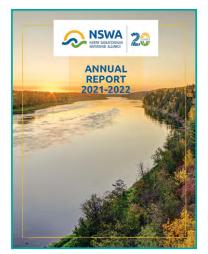
The NSWA is a key resource for watershed information on the North Saskatchewan watershed. We align and compliment the communication efforts of AEP to reinforce watershed knowledge and stewardship key messages such as the <u>Water</u> for Life Water Literacy Outcomes and <u>Respect Our</u> Lakes programs. Our communications strategy focuses on the sharing of knowledge through the recently updated <u>NSWA</u> <u>website</u>, <u>regular newsletters</u>, <u>educational forums</u>, and one-on-one meetings with our key stakeholders.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Collaborative partnerships are the core o successful watershed planning for the NSWA. Our strong relationships with government agencies, <u>municipalities</u>, Indigenous communities, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and <u>watershed stewardship groups</u> provide us with the ability to align our work with our key stakeholder's watershed issues and projects.



For more detailed information, you can refer to the 2021-2022 <u>NSWA Annual Report</u> or check out our website at <u>www.nswa.ab.ca</u>





The Oldman Watershed Council was established in 2004 when the Oldman River Basin Water Quality Initiative merged with the Oldman Basin Advisory Council. When the Province's Water for Life Strategy was released, these two groups combined to provide a diverse partnership knowledgeable in all areas of watershed management.

The Council is governed by a Board of Directors that is composed of nineteen perspectives from diverse sectors, including two First Nations and four members at large.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

- More than doubled our core operational grant of \$255,000 from Alberta Environment and Parks with an additional \$365,918 from non-AEP sources.
- Total revenue of \$1,023,097 from 70 funders, a new record for OWC.
- Received \$360,721 of in-kind support from 73 partners and volunteers.
- Membership of 416, including 37 organizational members from 14 sectors, and 377 individual members.
- 23 board members from 14 sectors donated expertise, time and money, and shared valuable insights that would be nearly impossible to replicate.
- The Board of Directors developed a Neutrality Policy to cement OWC's foundation as an unbiased, apolitical, and diverse forum for all voices.

PLANNING

To achieve the goals within the OWC's Integrated Watershed Management Plan, and the Government

Website: www.oldmanwatershed.ca Twitter: @Oldmanwatershed Instagram: oldman_watershed_council Facebook: Oldman Watershed Council LinkedIn: Oldman Watershed Council YouTube: @oldmanwatershed

of Alberta's South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP), and Livingstone Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan, we lead and support riparian restoration activities, in collaboration with many partners.

This year, we planted over 2500 willow stakes along 11 streambanks. During these planting events, we



trained 47 volunteers in proper willowstaking techniques. We also hired a contractor to complete bioengineering of decommissioned recreation areas along Dutch Creek and invested in 3 riparian enhancement projects led by agricultural producers through our Watershed

Legacy Program. Streambank rehabilitation initiatives are critical to enhancing resilience to floods and droughts, the objective of Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and



Restoration Program, and to ensure the water quality objectives within the SSRP Water Quality Management Framework are met.

The OWC invested \$141,100 in Indigenous-led environmental initiatives. The funding supported 65 range health assessments, 15 riparian health assessments, the establishment of 10 range reference sites, 4 willow staking events, multiple beneficial management practices on 13 pastures, prescribed burns and goats for invasive species control at Naapi's Garden, and the





planting of <u>700 potted</u> <u>plants</u> and thousands of <u>native seeds</u> to re-establish a native grassland ecosystem.

The OWC also invested \$50,000 in the Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project to build

the capacity of Blackfoot land management staff to complete eDNA sampling, redd surveys, and habitat restoration. The project also includes knowledge weaving, and learning from and showcasing Indigenous knowledge through <u>10</u> <u>Elder interviews</u>, storyboards, and a story map.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

The OWC leads a citizen science stream monitoring program using the highly respected Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocol, which is overseen by Environment and Climate Change Canada. In 2021, we collected benthic invertebrate samples and site characteristics from 8 streams and hired Cows and Fish to perform riparian health assessments along 6 streams on public and park land to

measure the efficacy of riparian restoration activities.

In support of AEP's goal to <u>advance</u> <u>citizen science</u> in Alberta.



the OWC is building the capacity of other groups to become certified in using the CABIN protocol.

OWC staff assisted with training 9 field technicians in the North Saskatchewan watershed and organized_ <u>CABIN field training</u> for 2 OWC and 6 Blood Tribe Land Management staff. We continue to host meetings for the Eastern Slopes Biomonitoring Collaborative—a network of experts supporting WPACs and watershed stewardship groups in developing stream biomonitoring programs across the province.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

- Directly engaged 3500 people, including 550 youth, through 8 projects, 49 presentations, and 35 events.
- Through our Headwaters Education and Restoration project, we hired 4 seasonal Outreach Assistants who spoke to 1024 recreationists about responsible use of public lands, in support of Alberta's Recreational Literacy Strategy. We also completed 218 surveys



of recreationists to gauge how behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs have changed since our baseline surveys in 2017. The Outreach Assistants delivered interactive educational programs to 751 people at 14 events.

- To support reconciliation, we hosted Blackfoot speakers at two <u>online events</u> where 235 participants learned from Blackfoot ways of knowing, and through partnerships engaged 273 Indigenous youth in educational activities.
- The OWC continued to support Alberta's curriculum by promoting the Caring for our Watersheds contest; 73 students from two schools submitted 36 proposals, which are being judged in April 2022. We delivered our first two distance learning programs, to 49 students in classrooms and learning online at home.



The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA) was established in 2005 as a multi-stakeholder watershed planning and advisory council (WPAC). The Red Deer River watershed is home to approximately 300,000 people and covers an area of 49,650 square kilometres in central Alberta. RDRWA acts as a collaborative forum for stakeholders from across sectors to work together in support of healthy waters, landscapes, and communities. We all have a role to play in watershed management, and the RDRWA helps community members and key sectors find meaningful opportunities to make a difference.

The RDRWA organization is guided by a 15-member multi-stakeholder *Board* and has a complement of *three staff*.

In 2021-2022, the operating budget of the RDRWA was \$430,000 with major contributions provided by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, partner municipalities and NOVA chemicals. Our partners also provided an estimated \$95,000 worth of in-kind support.

The work of the RDRWA is guided by its strategic plan and Mandate and Roles Document. The RDRWA works to:

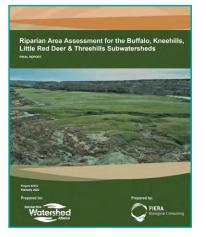
- Assess and report on the state of the watershed
- Develop and implement an integrated watershed management plan (IWMP)
- Inform, educate and involve stakeholders
- Serve as a convenor and collaborator
- Conduct sound governance



Website: www.rdrwa.ca Twitter: @RDRWA Facebook: Red Deer River Watershed Alliance YouTube: @reddeerriverwatershedallia8078

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Assessment activities work to address data gaps identified in the <u>State of the Watershed Report</u>.

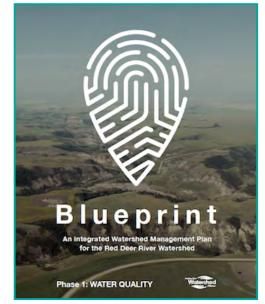


In 2021-2022, we continued to work on our WRRP-funded riparian assessment projects in support of riparian conservation and restoration activities. We have mapped over 8,000 km of shoreline in 7 subwatersheds in the Red Deer River Basin.

PLANNING

The work of the RDRWA is also defined by the <u>Blueprint: An Integrated Watershed Management Plan</u> (IWMP) which provides strategic, long term actions to protect the

health of the Red Deer River watershed and supports the three goals of Alberta's <u>Water for Life</u> <u>Strategy</u>.



LITERACY AND EDUCATION

2021-2022 was an incredible year for the RDRWA with new projects, partnerships, and a strengthening of the collective WPAC voice.

The RDRWA reached a broader audience this past year, with more people reading our monthly E-newsletter, more social media followers, and an improved awareness of local watershed issues. Over the past year, we presented to a wide range of groups, including schools, watershed stewardship groups, and post-secondary institutions.

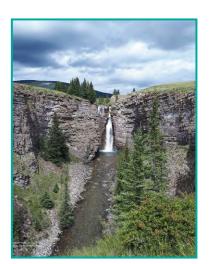
This year we launched a short new video on native trout in partnership with Trout Unlimited Canada. Our growing suite of communications tools has amplified the RDRWA's impact to improve regional water literacy.



CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

The RDRWA led multiple successful programs in 2021-2022 in support of a healthy, dynamic, and sustainable watershed, working alongside partners from across sectors.

Collaborative partnerships are the core to successful watershed planning for the RDRWA. Our strong relationships with government

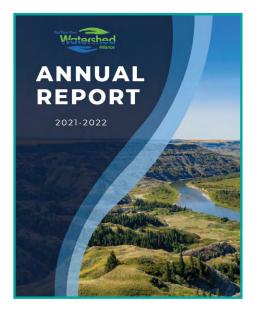


agencies, municipalities, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and watershed stewardship groups provide us with the ability to align our work with our key stakeholder's watershed issues and projects.

Partnerships

- Government and WPACs: We work collaboratively to support the strategic priorities of the Government of Alberta, and work closely with fellow Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils.
- Watershed Stakeholders: In 2021-2022, we shared information to our members related to multiple Government initiatives (e.g., flood engagement, temporary surface pipelines, coal mining strategy, aquatic invasive species, water conservation, etc.)
- Stewardship Groups: We work with local watershed stewardship groups including the Medicine River Watershed Society to support their local monitoring and education efforts.

For more detailed information, please refer to the RDRWA's <u>2021-2022</u> <u>Annual Report</u> or check out our website at <u>www.</u> <u>rdrwa.ca</u>.





Website: www.seawa.ca Twitter: @SEAlbertawaters Facebook: @SEAWAlliance YouTube: @seawawatershed191

The South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA) is a registered not-for-profit organization. It was designated by the Government of Alberta (GoA) in 2008 as the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the South Saskatchewan River Basin within Alberta and the Pakowki Lake watershed. Both watersheds comprise the 'SEAWA watershed' covering a total area of 19,929 km2.

SEAWA works towards achieving its Vision: A healthy watershed that provides balance between social, environmental, and economic benefits by implementing its Mission: SEAWA brings together diverse partners to educate the public, to support knowledge development, and to develop and facilitate the implementation of management plans for the sustainable use of the South Saskatchewan Rive Basin and the Pakowki Lake watershed.

SEAWA is governed by a volunteer-based multi-sector board with representatives from agriculture, industry, water licensees, all three levels of government, environmental NGO, outdoor recreation & tourism, indigenous, academic institutions, and the public. Committees include Executive/ Hiring, Technical, Communications, and Policy committees. SEAWA has one permanent staff member, the Executive Director, assisted by an intern and/or summer students. For 2021-2022, the operational budget was \$230,000. The grant from GoA was \$195,000 and the value of in-kind contribution was \$189,669.

SEAWA's Mission and <u>strategic plan</u> align with the roles of WPACs agreed upon with the GoA as well as the goals and key directions of <u>Water for Life</u> <u>strategy</u>. Implementation of these roles and goals varies with time depending on available funding and staff capacity.

STATE OF WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Water for Life goal: Healthy aquatic ecosystems

Watershed assessments are posted on SEAWA's website: <u>Water and Riparian Assessments (</u>https:// seawa.ca/your-watershed/watershed-assessment). We have completed the following:

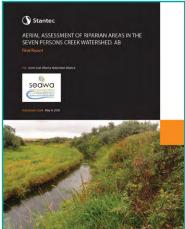
<u>Water Quality of the Seven Persons Creek</u> – completed in 2021, funded by Plains Midstream Canada.

<u>Riparian assessment of the South Saskatchewan</u> <u>River at Medicine</u>

<u>Hat</u> – completed in 2021 in partnership with Medicine Hat Interpretive Program.

<u>Riparian assessments</u> of the Seven Persons <u>Creek watershed</u> - completed in 2018, funded by the

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP), GoA.



PLANNING

Water for Life goal: Safe, secure drinking water

In 2022, we have started a phase of the <u>source</u> <u>water protection planning</u> (SWWP) process: "Characterization of drinking water source area for the City of the Medicine Hat and the Town of Redcliff", funded by Alberta Real Estate Foundation. The project report is due to be completed by winter 2023. Partnership with both municipal governments and other stakeholders is necessary for the planning process to continue in the upcoming year(s).

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Water for Life goal: Healthy aquatic ecosystems

Local knowledge development with focus on promoting healthy aquatic ecosystems within the semi-arid grassland ecosystem has been a key activity of SEAWA. Healthy riparian areas are essential components of healthy aquatic ecosystems. Invasive plants degrade the health of riparian areas. *Riparian revegetation* projects (4 sites, 1000+ native shrubs and trees, 1.2 km) that were started in 2018 have been maintained as educational sites to continue the development of local knowledge that is essential for the education of landowners, watershed stakeholders, stewardship groups, conservation groups, students, and the public.

Applied research on <u>invasive plant management</u> in riparian areas has been ongoing since 2019. Vegetation establishment and restoration of

riparian functions take decades. Field applied research takes 3-4 years to get useful results. Some of the experiments have already been concluded in



2021-2022 and their results are documented as Info Sheets: <u>Effect of Mowing on leafy spurge</u>, and <u>Riparian Cottonwoods, beavers, and deer</u>. A general information on <u>Recreational fishing in the</u> <u>SEAWA watershed</u> was also written.

Revegetation requires knowledge and education on native plants and the impacts of unmanaged human activities. We updated our <u>Riparian Plants</u> <u>booklet</u> that was originally written in 2018. We develop <u>propagation methods for native plants</u> to ensure that we are planting the correct species for the watershed, and to have native plants that are not available commercially.

Funding of these projects was provided by the WRRP, GoA (2018-2021), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2018-2019). Current maintenance of these educational sites is funded through the GoA operational grant and stakeholder donations.

Knowledge development and education have been the key drivers behind SEAWA's model for

community engagement,

as shown in the diagram at right.

These activities align with Water for Life's key directions: Partnerships, and Knowledge and Research.

A dozen volunteer events

and educational activities were conducted outdoors at SEAWA's riparian educational sites and natural areas within the watershed.

The photo below shows the tour of the SEAWA riparian restoration educational site and applied research experiments, Yeast site, Seven Persons



Creek, August 13, 2021. Silver wolf willows at this creek section were planted in 2018.

CONVENOR AND COLLABORATOR

Riparian educational sites are maintained,

and the holding of volunteer and educational events are, in partnertship with landowners and local organizations. The new "Adopt-a-Pond or Path" initiative is a collaboration between Grasslands Naturalists, SEAWA, and the City of Medicine Hat. SWWP process and other work are done throughs partnership.

SEAWA participates in the activities of WPACs, conservation and environmental groups, and local community organizations. We listen to concerns about climate change, biodiversity, pollinators, and ecosystems. Our work on riparian restoration, invasive plants management, and promotion of native plants offer local solutions to these concerns. We maintain an urban pollinator garden.

Our education role is supported by:

Website: <u>https://seawa.ca</u> Twitter: <u>@SEAlbertawaters</u> Facebook: <u>SEAWAlliance</u> Quarterly <u>newsletters</u>

Detailed information on our accomplishments for 2021-2022 is found in the <u>SEAWA Annual Report</u>.



For More Information

WPACs do much more than we can share in these few pages. An online presentation on the roles and impacts of WPACs can be found as a PowerPoint presentation <u>here</u> or the full video presentation <u>here</u>.

For more information, we hope you will check out the WPAC in your area (see web links in the box below). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your WPAC office.

We hope you will become actively engaged with your WPAC, by signing up for a membership or newsletter, attending a WPAC event, or supporting our work through a donation. WPACs can connect you to local watershed groups in your area – or help you form a group if one doesn't exist.

CONTACT US AND FIND OUT MORE

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL www.awc-wpac.ca

AWC 2021-22 Annual Report

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

www.battleriverwatershed.ca BRWA 2021-22 Annual Report

BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL www.brbc.ab.ca BRBC 2021-22 Annual Report

LICA-ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS (BEAVER RIVER WATERSHED)

www.lica.ca LICA 2021-22 Annual Report

LESSER SLAVE WATERSHED COUNCIL

www.lswc.ca LSWC 2020-21 Annual Report

MIGHTY PEACE WATERSHED ALLIANCE

www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org MPWA 2020-21 Annual Report

MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA www.mrwcc.ca MRWCC 2020-21 Appual Report

MRWCC 2020-21 Annual Report

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

www.nswa.ab.ca NSWA 2020-21 Annual Report

OLDMAN WATERSHED COUNCIL www.oldmanwatershed.ca OWC 2020-21 Annual Report

RED DEER RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE www.rdrwa.ca

RDRWA 2020-21 Annual Report

SOUTH EAST ALBERTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE www.seawa.ca

SEAWA 2020-21 Annual Report

Front cover photo credits Top row (left to right):

1 LSW: Meghan Payne; 2 AWC: Staff; 3 OWC: Jon Martin; 4 LICA: Tricia B. Fleming 2nd row (left to right):

1 MRWCC: Staff; 2 BRBC: G. Marshall; 3 BRWA: Staff; 4 MPWA: Paul Lavoie

3rd row (left to right): 1 RDRWA: Staff; 2 OWC: Randy Paquette; 3 SEAWA: Ben White; 4 AWC: Staff **Bottom row (left to right):**

1 MRWCC: Staff; 2 NSWA: Bill Trout; 3 RDRWA: Tjarda Barratt; 4 NSWA: M.E. Shain

Back cover photo credit AWC Staff

