

BRWA ANNUAL REPORT



2022-2023



Photo: Battle River south of Gwynne.

Message from the Co-Chairs

As an Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds, Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) recently reaffirmed its commitment to Alberta's *Water for Life* Strategy. A Mandate and Roles agreement was signed and a four-year grant confirmed with the Government of Alberta. This along with time from volunteers and funding from other levels of government and industry partner means:

- Community members 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, and engaged in watershed stewardship.
- All sectors and the public understand how their actions impact water quality, quantity, and the health of aquatic ecosystems, and can adopt water conservation practices.

BRWA Directors are committed to protecting the watershed. We are grateful for the dedication and support of this Board. If you would like to help us shape the future, please join the Board of Directors.

- Alan Corbett and Ryley Andersen



*Back (L to R): Terry Vockeroth, Ryley Andersen, Alan Corbett, Dale Pederson, Preston Weran, Greg King, Greg Smith.
Front (L to R): Melissa Orr-Langner, Peter Pullishy and Diane Hanson.*

Directors

Academia

Greg King, University of Alberta -
Augustana

Agriculture

Khalil Ahmed, Battle River Research
Group

Terry Vockeroth, County of Paintearth
(New BRWA Director in 2023)

Business/Industry

Ryley Andersen, BRWA Co-Chairperson

Dustin Owens, Heartland Generation

Environment

Diane Hanson

Individual

Alan Corbett, BRWA Co-Chairperson

Peter Pullishy

Greg Smith, BRWA Treasurer

Municipal Government

Dale Pederson, Beaver County

Bill Lawson, MD of Wainwright

Preston Weran, Town of Blackfalds

Ex-Officio

Jamie Bruha, Alberta Environment
and Protected Areas

Melissa Orr-Langner, Alberta
Agriculture and Irrigation

Catherine Peirce, Executive Director
of Battle River Watershed Alliance

David Samm, Retired as the BRWA
General Manager in 2023

About Us

VISION: We exist to have a watershed that sustains all life by using sound knowledge, wisdom, and wise actions to preserve our watershed for future generations.

MISSION: We achieve our vision by providing relevant science, social science, policies, and education for a diverse community of people to create solutions to our watershed's challenges.

OUR WORK: Our work focuses on two major themes of engagement and sustainability. These themes inform three key areas: Watershed Management, Watershed Engagement, and Watershed Stewardship. Our fourth overarching strategic area is Alliance Management.

BRWA Staff



Sarah Skinner



Kandra Forbes



Sheila Logelin



Susanna Bruneau



Carson Hvenegaard was seconded to the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) in 2022 and has since taken on the role of General Manager for PLWA.

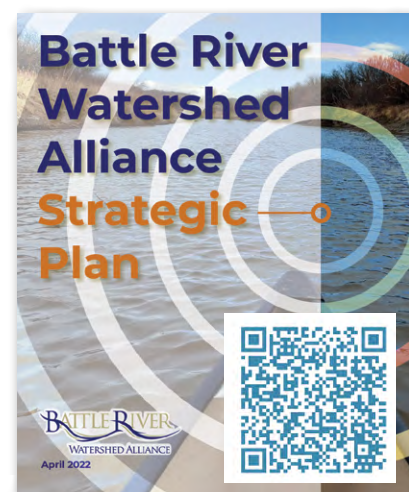
Message from the Executive Director



The BRWA Directors and staff are pleased to share our goals and accomplishments from the past year in this 2023 Annual Report. A new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 set the stage for our work in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds with a focus on the three “Ps” - People, Programs and Place.

At the office, it has been a year of welcoming in the new and reuniting with folks in person. In April 2022, BRWA members attended the Water’s Edge event at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose.

I started in July, dedicated to carrying on the great work of David Samm who established and built the BRWA into a strong community-based organization over the last 15 years—thank you, David.



Scan the QR code to access the Strategic Plan

In my early days at the Alliance, I was fortunate to meet the young nature enthusiasts who attended Magpie Camp and a group of youth who participated in a week-long



science camp hosted by Samson Cree Nation. In the fall, we met the newest BRWA member, Baby George! George is Susanna’s second child.

As the next generation, these young people are a great reminder of why it’s important that we all work together to achieve our vision and mission to preserve our watersheds.

- Catherine Peirce

Watershed Engagement

1700+ Youth
Involved

X-stream
Science

437

311 Discover Your
Wetlands

Future Farmers **50**

27 Magpie Camp

Waste in our
Watershed **108**

605 Teachers
engaged

We would like to acknowledge financial support for our programs from: Nutrien, Enbridge, Charities Aid Foundation America, and Heartland Generation.



Photo caption: Students pond-dipping during a Discover Your Wetland field trip in Coronation.

WOW Wetaskiwin:

BRWA now offers field trips on our Waste in our Watershed (WOW) Tour for grade 4 students in Camrose and Wetaskiwin.

Special thanks to City of Wetaskiwin, Aquatera, and Kiera Machin, Augustana student, for making WOW Wetaskiwin happen!

www.battleriverwatershed.ca/youth-programs/waste-tour/

Caring for Our Watersheds: Province-wide competition hosted by BRWA, funded by Nutrien

850 students presented to

580 students participated

275 student proposals received

Finalists represent communities across Alberta:

Cardston, Fort McMurray, Magrath, Medicine Hat, Milk River, Edmonton, Claresholm, Calgary, and Lloydminster

Community Events and Partnerships

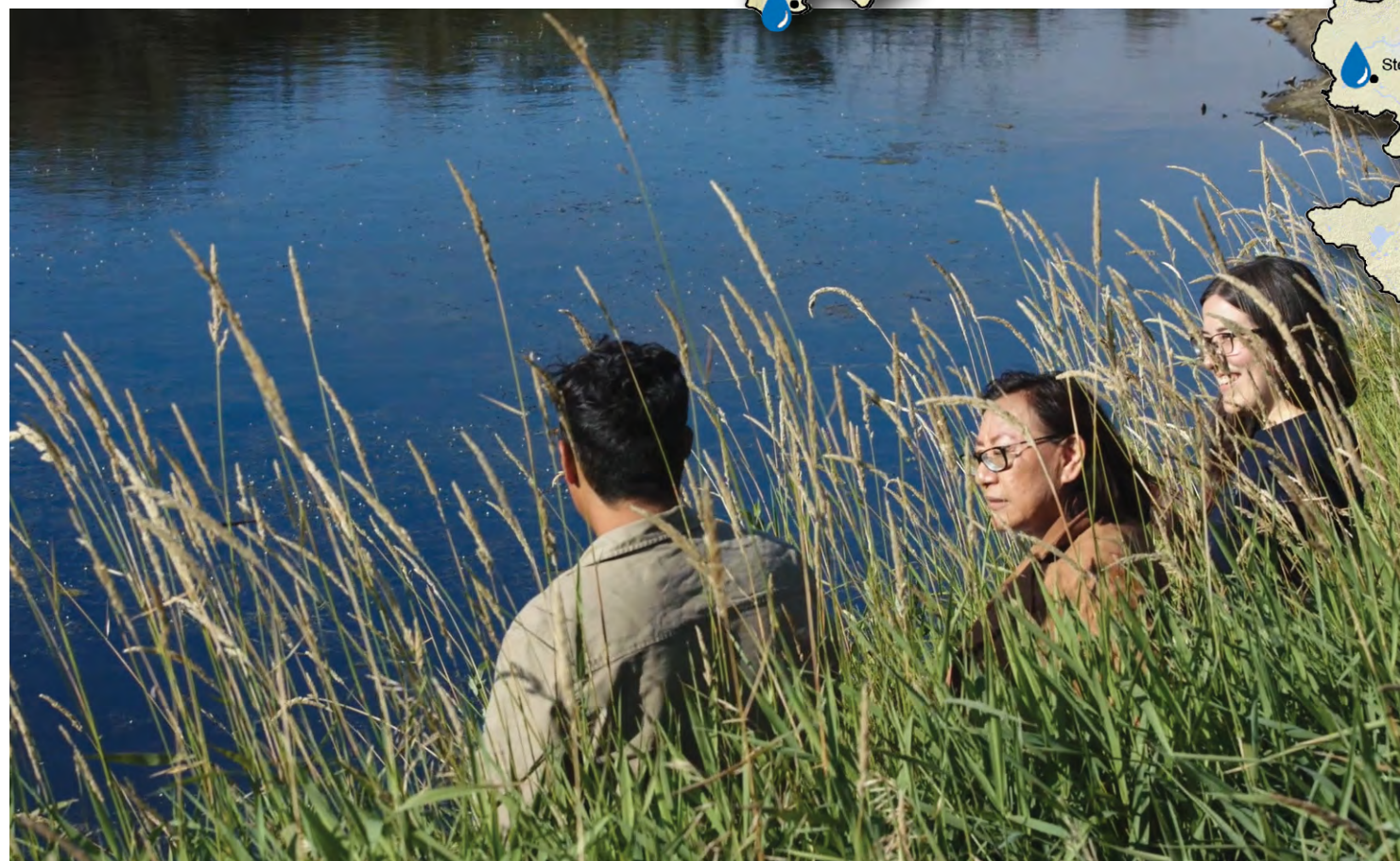
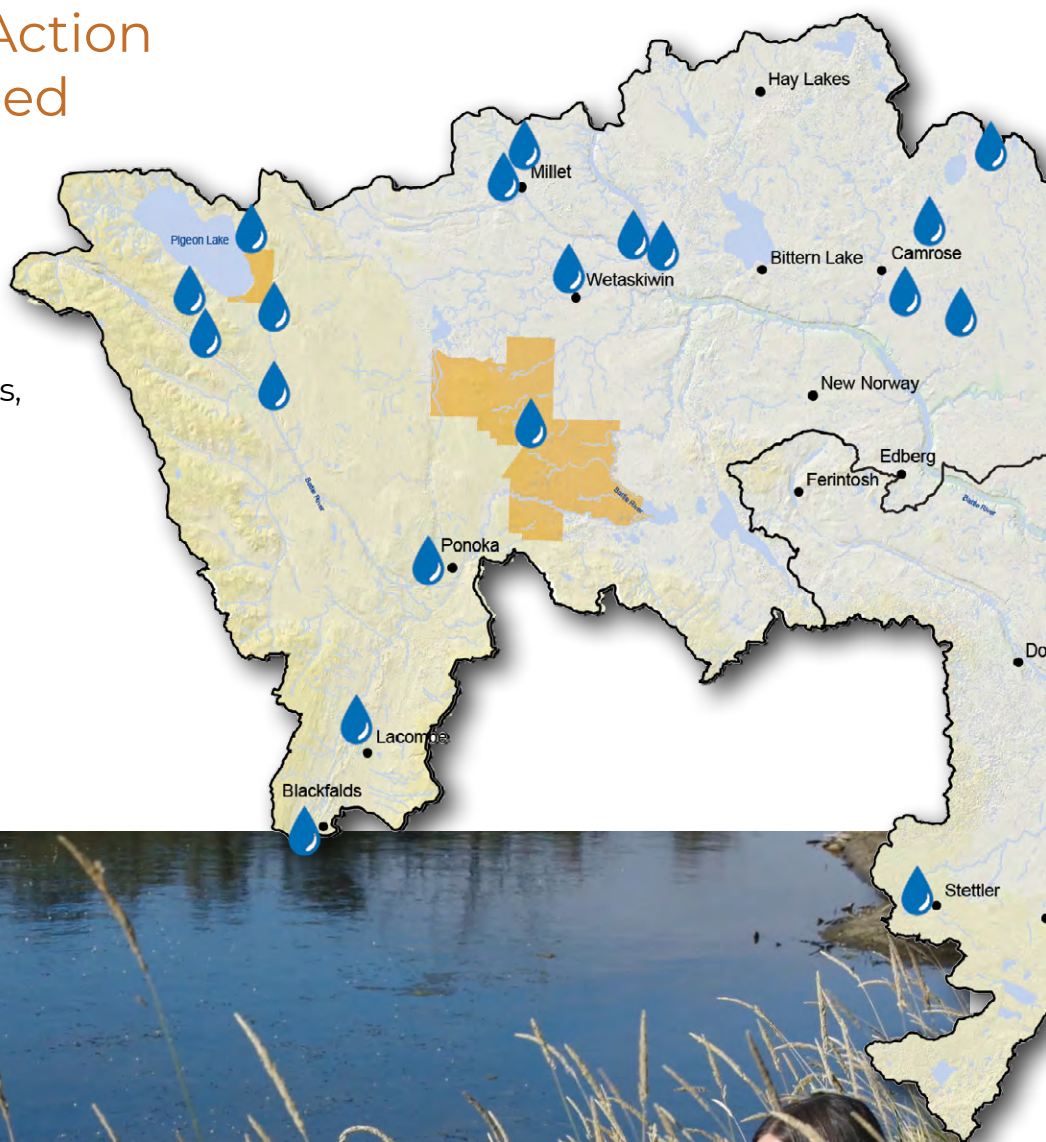


- Hiking at beautiful Spruce Coulee with the Buffalo Lake Nature Club
- Partnering with the Mound Red Camp for youth from the Maskwacis Cree Nations. The BRWA shared watershed knowledge throughout the week-long camp being hosted by Samson Cree Nation.
- Paddling the Battle River south of Gwynne.
- Reporting on Alberta Lake Management Society water quality data at a Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group meeting.
- Sharing about the Camrose Source Water Protection Plan at the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association's Road Salt Management Workshop with the City of Camrose, and Camrose County.
- Presenting at the "Conversations on Water" event hosted by the University of Alberta to explore personal and community relationships with water.
- Cutting and collecting Black Knot to help contain its spread at Edmonton Area Land Trust's Pipestone Creek Conservation Lands.

Engagement and Action across the Watershed

These water drops highlight
community engagement.

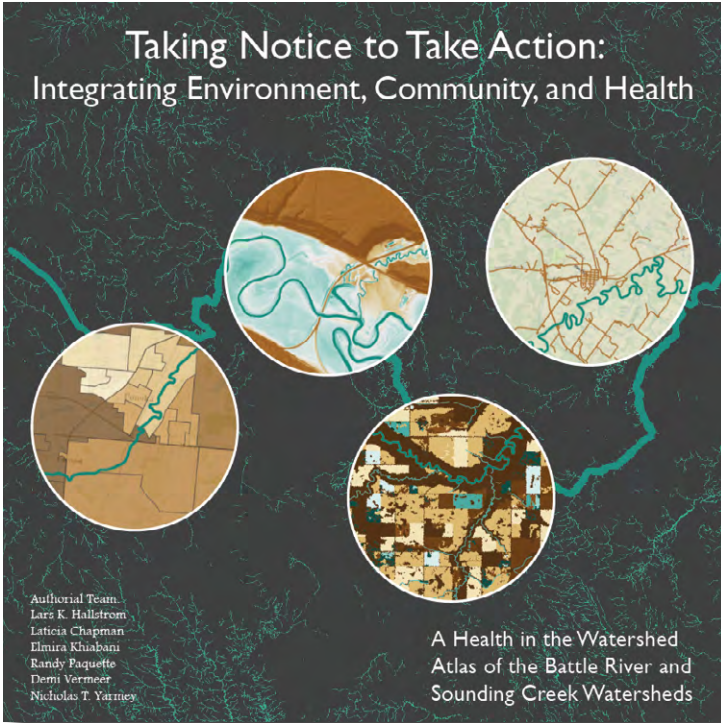
BRWA collaborated with
residents, municipalities,
partners, Indigenous
communities, students,
and educators across
our watershed to
implement watershed
management solutions.



Conversations with nipi committee members along the Battle River at Maskwacis.



Watershed Management



Health in the Watershed Atlas

The BRWA is excited to announce the release of ***Taking Notice to Take Action: A Health in the Watershed Atlas of the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds***. This project was a collaborative effort of the BRWA, Prentice Institute, and ECHO (Environment, Community, Health Observatory) Network. It features data, maps, and information on over 40 indicators related to ecological, community, and public health in our watersheds. The BRWA now plans to take the atlas out into communities across the region to discuss how these maps and data tell the story of health in the watershed, and what actions can be taken to support the holistic health of ecosystems, people, and communities.

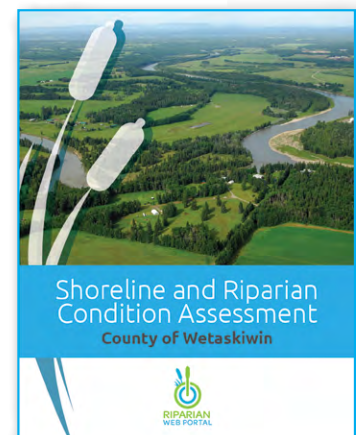


ECHO Network members gather at a fall meeting in the Cowichan watershed of Vancouver Island.

Riparian Data in Action

This year, the BRWA continued to share the riparian data that has been collected for over 10,000 km of riparian areas across the Battle River watershed. BRWA partnered with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance to host online workshops to share tools and resources for using the Riparian Web Portal. Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessments were developed for 18 counties, towns, and cities across the watershed, and the reports were shared through council presentations at each municipality.

www.riparian.info



Stewardship



Healthy riparian areas at a Buffalo Trail project along the Battle River near Brownfield.

The BRWA continues to work with agricultural producers to implement riparian projects that support the health of the Battle River, tributary streams, and wetlands. With the Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Program wrapping up in 2023, the BRWA has an ongoing commitment to support riparian conservation and restoration efforts through our new RiparianCARE program. This work will be informed by the conservation and restoration priorities identified through the [Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessments](#). We would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, which helps make this work possible. To learn more about our riparian programs, scan the QR code.



Otis Awards

Agriculture

Michael and Clara Hampson custom graze cow/calf pairs. Working with the ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc program, they are allowing natural willow regrowth and adding goose nest towers. Other beneficial management practices they adopted include excluding livestock access to a woodlot and implementing an off-site watering source, a creek crossing, and riparian fencing. These changes have increased habitat, protected and enhanced biodiversity, and improved the Eyot Creek's riparian area.



Individual

Robert Gibbs has volunteered in watershed management with the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) for over 15 years. He is a PLWA Board Member, Chair of its Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee, and member of its science committee. You will find Bob collecting water samples, establishing a creek sampling program with watershed staff, producing GIS maps to assess the hydrological and ecological implications of development initiatives in the watershed, and more.



Organization/Business

Ecoplast Solutions Inc. manufactures high efficiency building materials made from 100% recycled plastic bottles and uses the product to build high-performance dwellings. This green building technology provides a sustainable solution that enables circular economics to reduce wasteful in the construction industry, while creating structures with high energy ratings for reduced heating, cooling, and operational costs. They just completed a house near Millet, using 1.25 million recycled plastic bottles that were converted into building panels.



Youth

Altario School - Student Led Growcer Project involves a hydroponic food modular. Students plant, transplant, harvest, and sell leafy greens grown in a shipping container. Each week approximately 50 plants are sold through a student-run store and directly to Provost Lodge. This growing method contributes to food security in rural Alberta, reduces the ecological footprint of the growing cycle, uses state-of-the-art technology, and gives students hands-on experience in the agricultural industry.



Partners & Funders

The Battle River Watershed Alliance is a collaborative effort. We could not help improve the health of the area for all its inhabitants without partnerships with our funders, local governments, schools, landowners, and the many other groups working to care for this place. For that, we thank you.

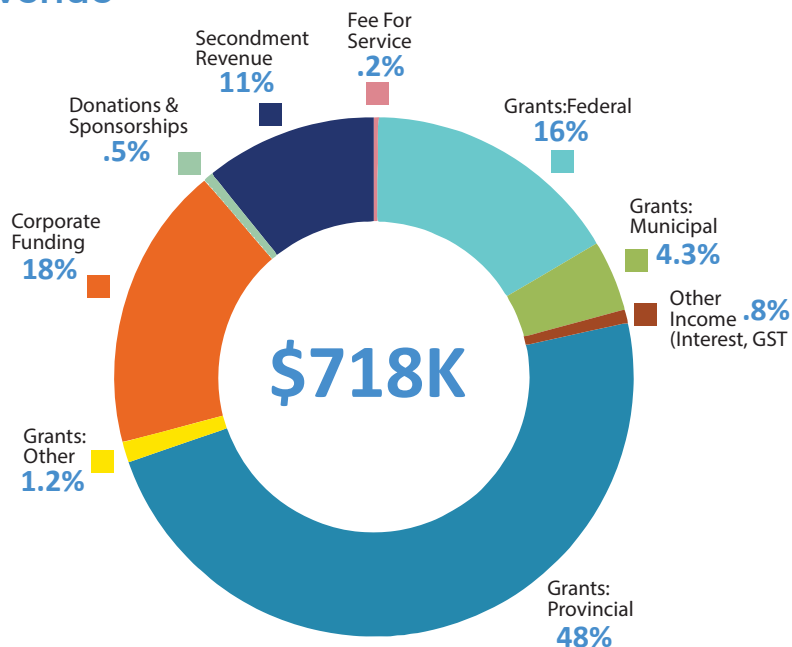
Alberta Environment & Protected Areas
 Heartland Generation
 Battle River Community Foundation
 Beaver County
 Charities Aid Foundation America
 Camrose County
 Camrose Energy
 Cargill Limited
 City of Camrose
 County of Paintearth
 County of Vermilion River
 Enbridge
 Environment & Climate Change Canada
 Flagstaff County
 Lacombe County
 Leduc County
 Municipal District of Wainwright
 Nutrien Inc.
 Ponoka County
 Samson Cree Nation
 Special Areas Board
 Summer Village of Argentia Beach
 Summer Village of Crystal Springs
 Summer Village of Golden Days
 Summer Village of Grandview
 Summer Village of Itaska Beach
 Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach
 Summer Village of Norris Beach
 Summer Village of Silver Beach
 Town of Blackfalds
 Town of Sedgewick
 Vern Malone Fund
 Village of Bittern Lake
 Village of Chauvin
 Village of Donalda
 Village of Halkirk
 Village of Loughheed
 Village of Paradise Valley

Partners

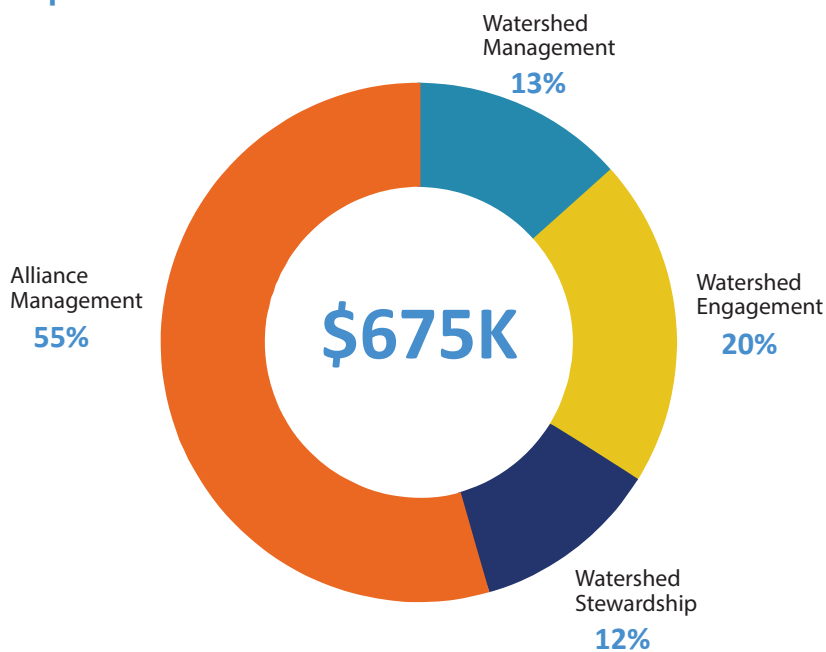
Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society
 Alberta Council for Environmental Education
 Aquatera Utilities Inc.
 Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group
 Buffalo Lake Nature Club
 Camrose and District Fish and Game Assoc.
 Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Society
 Cows and Fish
 Inside Education
 Peaceful Valley Advisory Committee
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan
 Steering Committee

Financials

Revenue



Expenses





Land Acknowledgement

