



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

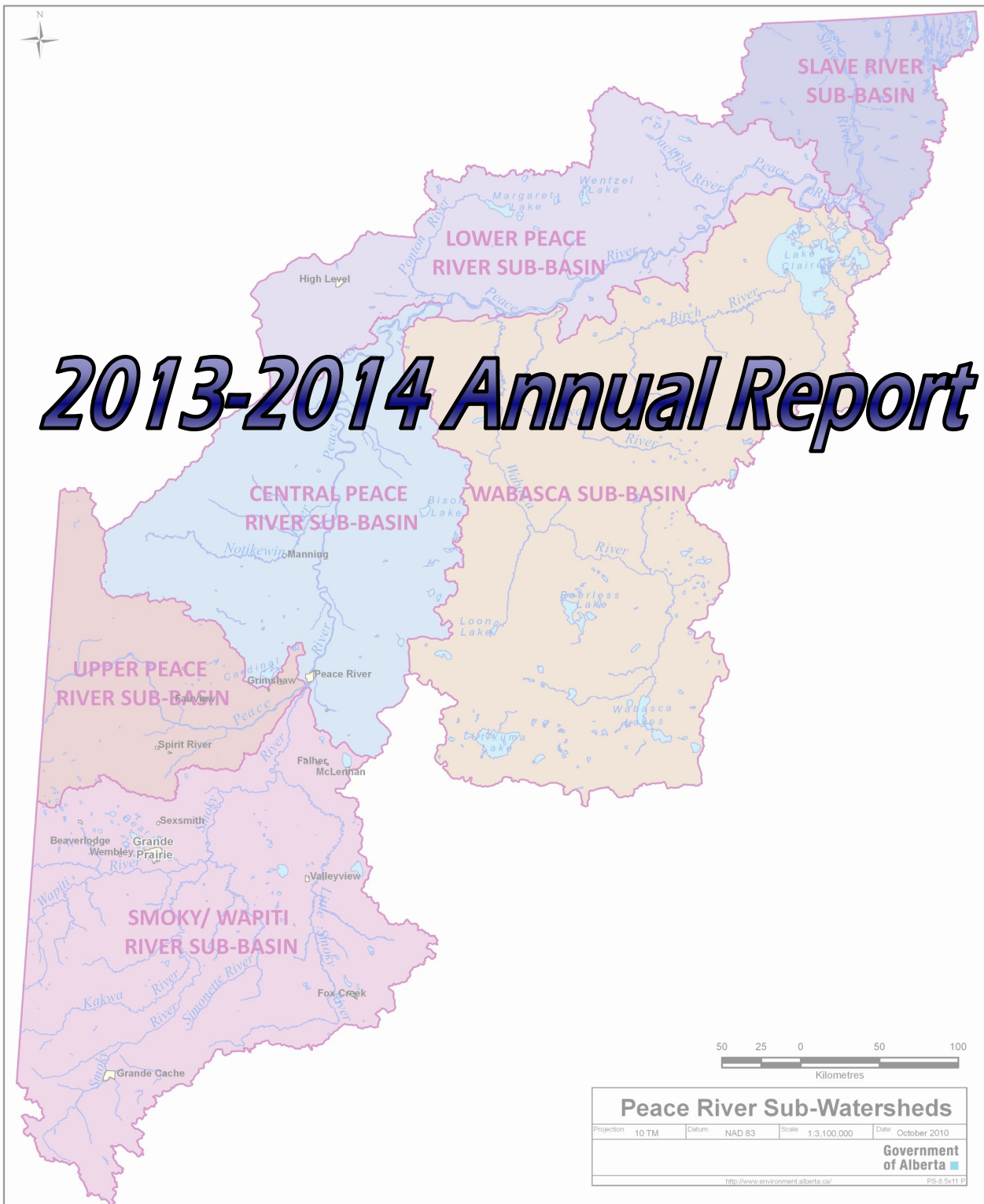


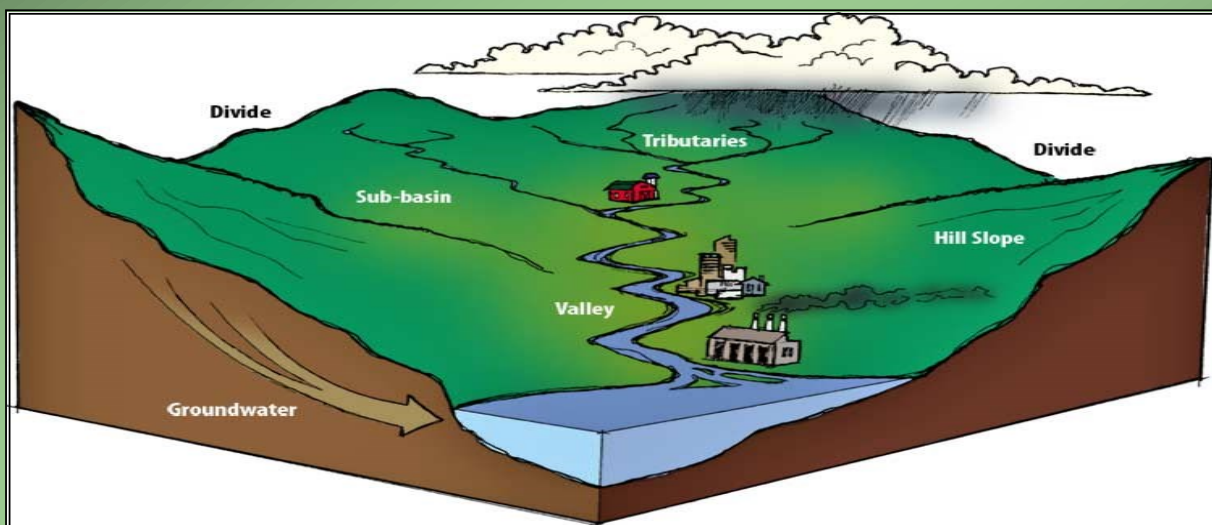
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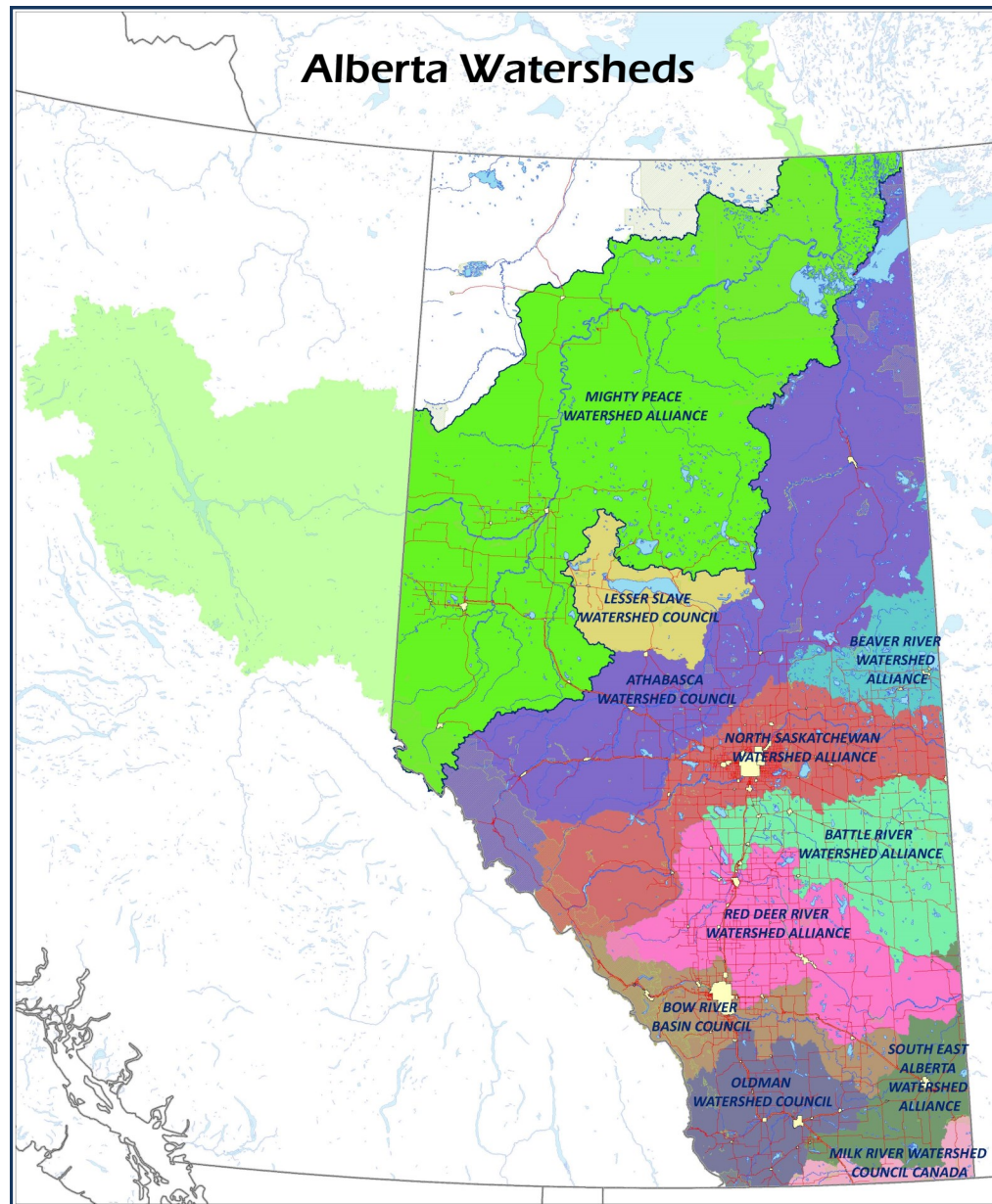
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WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

The term watershed refers to the geographic boundaries of a particular water body, its ecosystem and the land that drains to it. A watershed includes groundwater aquifers that discharge to and receive discharge from streams, wetlands, ponds, and lakes.

Everyone lives in a watershed. You influence what happens in your watershed, good or bad, by how you treat the natural resources, the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. What happens in your small watershed also affects the larger watershed downstream.





Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA): Formed in 2011, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance has been designated by the Government of Alberta (GOA) as the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Peace and Slave River Basins under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy. The MPWA was created to address the key outcomes of the Strategy:

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

This multi-sector, not-for-profit society is committed to planning for an ecologically healthy watershed while ensuring environmental, economic and social sustainability.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a group of active stakeholders and communities that use consensus decision-making, adaptive management, and innovation to understand and promote living within the watershed. The Board will report on the state of the watershed, lead watershed planning activities, promote best management practices and develop educational programs.

About the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

The MPWA is guided by its vision, mission, goals and shared values:

VISION

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

MISSION

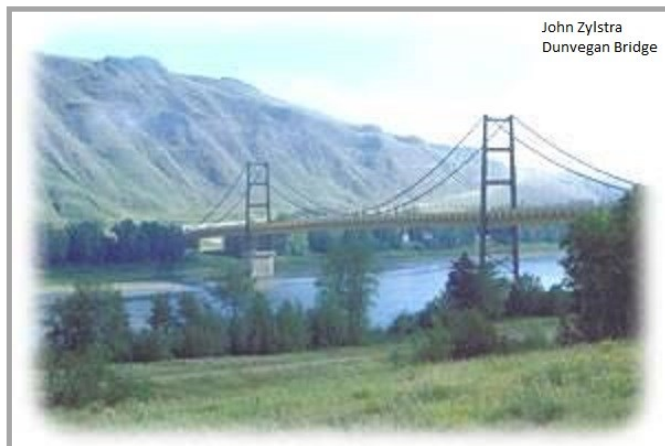
To promote watershed excellence, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will monitor cumulative effects from land use practices, industry and other activities in the watershed and work to address issues through science, education, communication, policy and by supporting watershed stewardship.

Diverse, Responsible & Connected!

***Diverse** group of people representing diverse interests.

***Responsible** for bringing those interests together.

***Connected** to all stakeholders across the watershed area.



SHARED VALUES

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will:

Respect a diversity of peoples and values:

By demonstrating individual and collective respect for the air, land and water and by appreciating the diversity of values and opinions found in the Peace watershed.

Be an ambassador for the Peace watershed:

By promoting our vision and mission, demonstrating integrity, accountability and practicality, and practicing effective communication, knowledge-building and consensus decision-making.

Be a trustworthy and credible source of information:

By being well-informed and providing sound advice through an adaptive watershed approach that integrates traditional, local and scientific knowledge in information-gathering and problem-solving.

Be fair and transparent to all:

By seeking balanced representation and listening to all stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

Be inclusive and collaborative:

By facilitating inclusive and collaborative processes and partnerships, promoting membership and interaction, and providing opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved.

Be innovative and action-oriented:

By being motivated, resourceful and action-oriented in finding new, innovative ideas and win-win solutions.

Foster Stewardship:

By encouraging and enabling individuals and organizations to be good stewards of the watershed.

Why I participate.....

I have the opportunity to bridge the gap between agriculture and environment. With my personal and professional contacts, I am able to be an intermediary for both. **-Shelleen Gerbig, Agriculture**



Message from the Chairman

I would like to thank all of those who've given of their time and effort to further the goals of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance this year. The generous in kind support offered by the sectors represented at our board and on our technical committee are essential to the task of accomplishing more with less. The support ranges from dozens of hours of reading technical reports, reviewing requests for proposals, to providing meeting venues and lunches.

We've come a long way this year to accomplish one of the tasks required of a watershed planning and advisory council (WPAC). We now have a draft State of the Watershed report that must be taken out to the public in our watershed so that they can see how we reflected the concerns they brought to us in the 22 communities we visited from August 2012 to June 2013. The science we've collected to assess the State of our watershed will also be available for all to see.

In the next year, we'll have to develop a strategic plan for the coming three years and the next major task of a WPAC, the development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The advent of regional planning processes for the Upper and Lower Peace and the Alberta Environmental Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Agency will challenge us to adapt to new realities.

Our continued participation in the Wapiti River Water Management Plan process as well as the development of restoration plans for the Heart and Redwillow Rivers funded by the Environmental Damages Fund are commitments that will play out in the coming years.

Once again thank you all for the personal dedication to the waters of the Peace and its future health.

Robert A. Cameron
Chairman of the Board



Why I participate.....

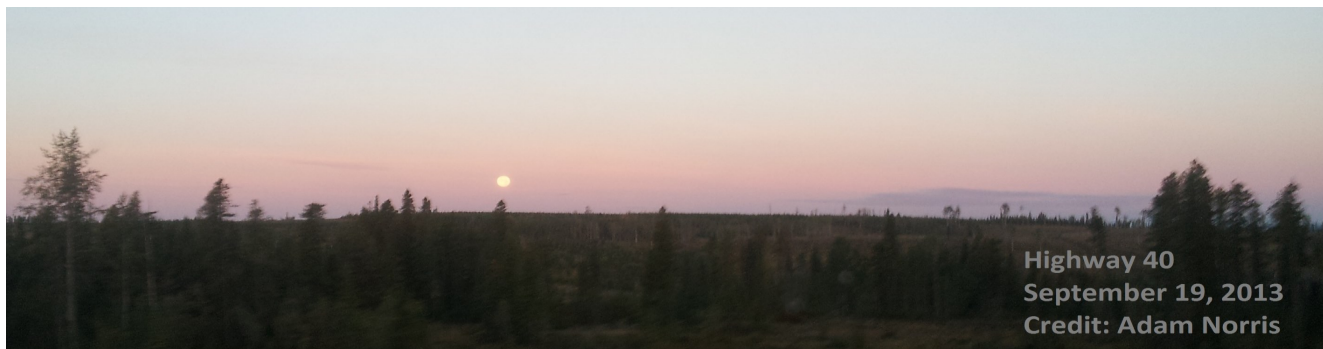
I genuinely appreciate the diversity and uniqueness of the watershed and its inhabitants, and hope to leverage my experience and knowledge to contribute to its continued success

-Wayne Kooy, Oil and Gas



Why I participate.....

I think I sit on this Board because it is important that we Aboriginal people walk the walk as well as we talk. If the land, air and water are necessary and needed then let's all attempt to ensure it is there for all our children and the future children in our communities. Step up to the plate and try to get the Governments' attention so we as a group can make it happen....nothing happens unless everyone shows some courage to take the right steps! - Willard Roe, Métis Nation of Alberta



Highway 40
September 19, 2013
Credit: Adam Norris

Message from the Executive Director

Over the past 2 and a half years, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) has worked diligently to gather relevant information and research necessary to complete the *State of the Watershed* report. The end of March 2014 will see a draft SOW document that will be ready to take out to the public and stakeholders for review and discussion.

The MPWA has made great strides in informing stakeholders, communities and the public about the types of activities MPWA has engaged in and how that effects the public. However, I was recently at an event where I was asked why a watershed group would address those who live in urban settings. It surprised me that people didn't see the relationship between all people who live, work and play in the watershed and how all of their actions have some type of effect on our water resource. Everything that happens in the water and on the landscape of the geographic area that eventually drains into the Peace River and Slave River, has a relationship to our water quality and quantity. In that respect, when we look at what those in communities (such as large or small urbans) are contributing to our water systems, we need to consider something as basic as what goes into our storm sewer systems (lawn herbicides and fertilizers, detergents from washing our cars in the driveway, the gasoline and oil leaks that appear under our vehicles, and the variety of garbage items that are washed away down the drain system). The Watershed Alliance continues to work towards education, information, and planning for all people of the watershed. All systems are

interconnected, just as all the stakeholders and directors of the board of the MPWA are interconnected—everyone has an equal say and opportunity for participation in the planning process for the watershed—industry, government, non-governmental agencies, aboriginal communities, and the public at large.

This watershed is vast and varied and in many respects it is taken for granted that it will always be available for our enjoyment and use. I would encourage all people of the watershed to think about how they live, work, and play in their day to day lives and see if there are ways that we can make improvements that will benefit our watershed.

I am pleased with the tremendous work of the board of directors and the support from many of the stakeholders. This next year will provide the MPWA with the time to finalize the SOW and continue to work towards an Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

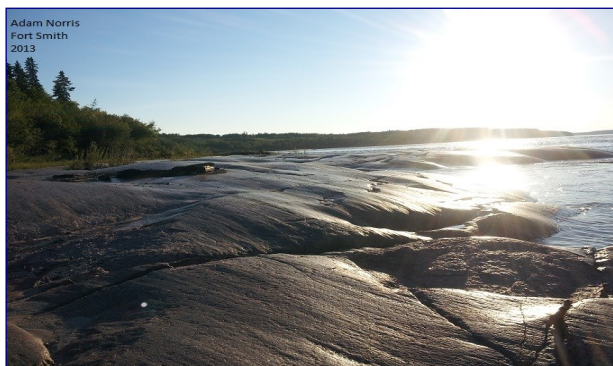


Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier
Executive Director

Why I participate.....

Understanding and protecting hydrological processes is a key value to me as a Forester and as such I feel responsible to do what I can to protect the watershed in which I work.

-Ian Daisley, Forestry



Adam Norris
Fort Smith
2013

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Financial Highlights

Base core funding to meet the operational requirements of the MPWA are provided on a year to year basis by our primary partner, the Government of Alberta. The process of receiving these funds can be long and arduous, and often with wait times that truly effect how the MPWA can do business and move forward on needed projects. As funds are not able to be carried from one year to the next, it leaves the organization in a state of uncertainty. While we have always received funding and are assured there will be funding, there is often no indication of the amount or timeline that the funding will be available. As a result of this process, operational expenses are constrained until funds are received, and projects may be delayed. This year's project, the biggest and most important to date, thus needed to be defined, researched, written, reviewed, and approved within a six month window as opposed to the appropriate full year timeline. The MPWA appreciates the funding but is trying to find ways to work around the process to become a more self-sufficient and self-reliant organization.

The AESRD Government funding for the 2013-2014 year was \$250,000 and has been supplemented by cash and in-kind contributions, from a small number of industry and municipal

partners. It is important to note that there has been significant in-kind support by Board Members and their sponsoring organizations that keeps travel and honorarium costs down. Also, in the 2013-2014 year, the MPWA received \$225,000 to begin the work of compiling and writing the State of the Watershed report that will cover the 5 sub-basins of the Peace River and the Slave River basin.

While completion of the SOW will be our primary focus for 2014-2015, MPWA has also secured two tranches of funds from the Federal Environmental Damages Fund in the amount of \$200,000. In partnership with local Watershed Stewardship Groups, Applied Research Associations, Municipalities, Conservation groups, and other partners, the MPWA has begun work on 2 multi-year restoration plan projects for the Redwillow River and the Heart River.

Needs for the 2014-2015 year:

As information about the Peace/Slave watershed continues to be gathered and reported on as part of the State of the Watershed (SOW) Report, and the subsequently mandated Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP), the Board recognises the need for an additional staff position for outreach and communication with residents and organizations in this geographically large and diverse watershed. Funding for this staff position is included in the 2014-2015 budget. Therefore the core operational ask will be \$366,000. The Board has also requested \$120,000 for Project funding for the 2014-2015 year to complete the State of the Watershed (SOW) Report (public validation, stakeholder forums, complete the final document and reproduction, as well as an online SOW tool).

We continue to have discussions with our primary partners and our industry and municipal partners to work towards the organization goals. We have had a successful year and wish to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of the sponsors and stakeholders who have stepped forward to support this very important work of the MPWA WPAC. We look forward to continued financial partnerships as we move forward.

Rick Keillor
Treasurer

Financial Snapshot April 1/13-Feb 28/14

INCOME

Sponsorship	7,800.00
Operating Grant (ESRD)	250,000.00
Project Funding (ESRD)	128,000.00
Project Funding (EDF)	4,671.00
Bank Interest	82.56
Total	390,553.56

EXPENSES

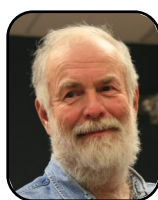
Subcontracts – Projects	60,436.27
Salaries, Honoraria & Benefits	165,088.19
Advertising & Promotions	3,571.19
Office & Administration	12,335.69
Travel	33,079.18
Board/Staff Development	12,285.52
Total	286,795.04

Receivables (ESRD Projects)	97,000.00
Projects Funds Payable (as of Feb 28)	120,778.00
Gifts in Kind (Incl Office space)	170,436.00

Note: year end is March 31

The 2013-2014 Board of Directors

MEMBER	SECTOR	AFFILIATION
Non-government Organizations		
Bob Cameron (Chair)	Conservation-Environmental	South Peace Environmental Association
Jean-Marie Sobze	Research-Education	NAIT Boreal Research Institute— nova NAIT Centre for Applied Research
Cathy Newhook	Watershed Stewardship	West County Watershed Society
VACANT	Recreation-Tourism-Fisheries	
Jamie Rich	Public—At- Large	
Richard Keillor (Treasurer)	Public—At—Large	
Industry		
Shelleen Gerbig (Vice-Chair)	Agriculture	Smoky Applied Research & Demonstration Association
Ian Daisley	Forestry	Alberta Forest Products Association
Ashley Parker (Secretary)	Utilities	AQUATERA® Utilities Inc.
Wayne Kooy	Oil and Gas	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
VACANT	Mining	
Aboriginal		
Willard Roe	Métis Nation of Alberta	Métis Nation of Alberta
VACANT	Upper Watershed First Nation	
Alden Armstrong	Metis Settlements General Council	Metis Settlements General Council
Jim Webb	Lower Watershed First Nation	North Peace Tribal Council
VACANT	Middle Watershed First Nation	
Governments		
Elaine Garrow	Rural Municipalities	AAMDC Northern Zone — MD of Spirit River
Elaine Manzer	Small Urban	Town of Peace River
Abdi Said-Omar	Federal-Trans boundary Relations	Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Chris Thiessen	Large Urban	City of Grande Prairie
John Zylstra	Provincial Government	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development



Bob Cameron



Willard Roe



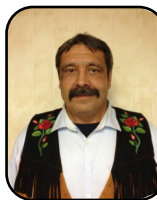
Rick Keillor



Abdi Siad-Omar



John Zylstra



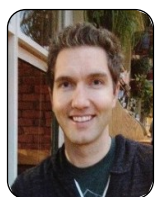
Alden Armstrong



Ashley Parker



Chris Thiessen



Wayne Kooy



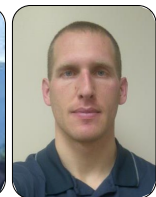
Jean-Marie
Sobze



Shelleen Gerbig



Jamie Rich



Ian Daisley



Cathy Newhook



Elaine Garrow



Elaine Manzer



Jim Webb

Thank you to the following Board members whose resignations were received throughout the year: Norm Duval (Watershed Stewardship), Kimberley Watson (Oil & Gas), Dan Wong (Large Urban), Peter Frixel (Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation), Sharon Nelson (Rural Municipalities), Geoff Milligan (Small Urban). We are very thankful and appreciative for your contributions.

Technical Committee Report

Scope of the Technical Committee (TC)

The technical committee was appointed by the Board of Directors of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance as a standing committee to assist and advise the board of directors on technical and scientific matters of proposed projects and oversight of technical reports. The technical committee reports directly to the board of directors on a regular basis.

Members of the Committee for 2013/14:

Abdi Siad-Omar , Bob Cameron, Rick Keillor, Ashley Parker, John Zylstra, Jean-Marie Sobze, Ian Daisley, Wayne Kooy , Willard Roe.

The technical committee was actively supported by Adam Norris, Watershed Coordinator and Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, Executive Director of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.

Tasks Completed Year 2013/2014

The technical committee had a very busy and productive year in 2013/2014. The following projects were successfully managed and completed by the technical team.

Initiation of the State of the Watershed Report (SOW): This was the main project undertaken for the fiscal year. After initiating the project, it was decided to strike a State of the Watershed Steering Committee to guide the process.

Watershed Indicators Workshop: A two day workshop was held on June 25 & 26 to develop watershed indicators for the SOW. After this event the SOW Steering Committee took over the SOW project.



Watershed Restoration Projects: In order to undertake some of the projects that the board had prioritized, other funding sources were sought. Through the Environmental Damages Fund, two watershed restoration projects obtained funding and provided a diversification of funding sources for the MPWA. These projects include many partners, are long-term (three and a half years), and involve the creation of watershed restoration plans. Several of MPWA's strategic goals are being addressed through these projects including: 1) seeking out partnerships to undertake shared initiatives, 2) making the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance well known and accessible to residents in the basin, 3) promoting Beneficial Management Practices for drinking and wastewater management, 4) improving understanding about the Instream flow needs of the Peace River and its tributaries, 5) sharing findings and knowledge with other planning initiatives, 6) strengthening communications between the Alliance and stewardship initiatives in the basin and 7) building capacity for stewardship in the Peace basin. The TC has assigned Adam Norris to be the MPWA representative on the board and he reports back to the TC.

Wapiti River Watershed Management Plan:

Another ongoing project for the MPWA is the Wapiti River Management Plan, where Bob Cameron, Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier and Adam Norris are involved directly in the process. The strategy, planning and set-up for this Water Management Plan (WMP) is mostly complete now and there is a move into data collection to support decision making and the creation of guidance for the WMP.

Review of TC Terms of Reference: The TC also updated their Terms of Reference in June.

Potential Projects for 2014/15: The MPWA board adopted the list of potential projects put forward by the (TC) and provided guidance to the TC for the projects which should be pursued. The main project for the coming year is to complete work on the State of the Watershed (SOW) report.

Highlights of 2013-2014

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.

- Met with AESRD Minister to in February 2013 to discuss Water for life Strategy and financial situation
- Worked with municipalities on funding both general and specific
- Application for operational year and project funding submitted to AESRD.
- Secured Government of Canada Environmental Damages Fund
- Reviewed by-laws and quorum requirements
- Continued conversations and planning with Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) managers and AESRD re: funding & solutions, structure, plans
- Indicator selection event and board training
- Directors continue to address Partner/ stakeholder support needs
- Arranged a board website training event, hydraulic fracturing information, trans-boundary update, and West County Watershed Society (WCWS) presentation
- Attended Closer2Home Initiative (C2H) webinars, Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) conference, Fundraising Association seminar, Watershed 2014, Science and Policy seminar, Craig Sponholtz workshop
- Involved with or discussions with Wapiti River Water Management Plan (WRWMP), Redwillow Watershed Restoration Project, Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Advisory Committee (GGAAC), PROSA CRISP (Peace River Oil Sands Area Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Plan), Applied Research Associations (SARDA, MARA, NPARA), Horse Lake First Nation IRC (HLFN IRC), Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) northern Zone, GOA Water Conversations, Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program (JOSM)
- Held 7 Board met in Grimshaw, Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Peace River and McLennan

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.

- Attended Site C Hearings, WPAC Summit, WPAC managers meetings, partner AGMs

- Guest Speakers: Robert Harrison (Transboundary), Lorne Fitch (Cows'n'Fish), Bob Willard (ERCB), various watershed groups
- Initiated State of the Watershed Report (SOW) in 2013 (DRAFT by early 2014)

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

- Presented at Grande Cache, Peace-Athabasca Delta Ecological Monitoring Program (PADEMP), AAMDC, partner AGMs, Treaty 8 Days, HLFN IRC, Smith Landing First Nation, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement (February 2013)
- Produced 2 newsletters, articles for SARDA's Back 40, interviews with Radio, maintained website, attended tradeshow and forums.

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

- Ongoing SOW, WRWMP and CRISP work
- Discussions with Smoky River Water Management Plan (SRWMP) group, GGAAC, C2H and Aquatera, and AB Land Stewardship Centre (re Municipal Watershed Governance)
- Attended Source Water Protection Plan workshop

Goal #5 - Water quantity in the Peace watershed is understood and advice on its uses are made to the appropriate bodies.

- Ongoing SOW, WRWMP and CRISP work
- Involvement with PADEMP, SRWMP discussions, Surface Water Quantity Stakeholder Meeting, land use planning initiatives
- Participated in GOA Water Conversations
- Gathering reports from Clear Hills, Heart River, etc

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

- Attended WCWS, PADEMP, Weberville Model Community Forest, Clear Hills Watershed Initiative, Peace Parkland Naturals, Peace Country Beef and Forage, Municipal Councils, and Heart River Watershed Advisory Committee events
- Discussions re establishing new Watershed Stewardship groups

Communications Committee Report

The Communications committee continues to search for ways and means to engage the public in the work of the board and the MPWA.

The board members & staff have participated in a number of opportunities such as tradeshow, stakeholder gatherings, councils, etc to talk with the public and discuss water issues and concerns as well as the activities that are happening across the watershed that may effect the water quality and quantity found throughout the watershed.

There has been a continued effort to produce a quarterly newsletter and to keep the website up to date. Please go to

www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org to find out the latest events, information and reports. Soon we will be posting the draft document of the State of The Watershed Report as well as an on-line tool that will allow the public to find out a great amount of

information about the Peace and Slave Watersheds. The Committee has moved forward with ways to improve marketing of the Alliance.

One of the ways that the general public can assist the MPWA is by providing us with photos from across the watershed including a wide variety of activities that occur throughout the landscape and on the water resources—wildlife, activities, people, industry, etc.

If you know of youth who would be interested in submitting a water drop picture that describes the activity they most like to do in the watershed, then please have them visit the website to see how that can be done.

This coming year, the MPWA will be heading back out across the watershed to engage with the public regarding the draft State Of The Watershed Report. The MPWA looks forward to these discussion forums.

Why MPWA.....Involvement within the MPWA, where I represent the Utilities Sector, is important to the corporation in which I represent for various reasons. The mission, vision, goals and shared values of the MPWA are ones that we stand behind and support. We at Aquatera strongly believe in environmental stewardship and the importance of active partnerships where we can work towards the goals set out in the Water for Life Strategy: Safe, secure drinking water; healthy aquatic ecosystems; reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

- Ashley Parker, Utilities



Why I participate.....

I enjoy working with MPWA because we have no resource more important than water and the watershed is the home of water, so its ability to function is crucial. As well, the MPWA is a



consensus based organization so there is a great challenge on agreeing how we should live, work, and play together in the watershed. **-Adam Norris, Staff -Watershed Coordinator**

Why I participate.....

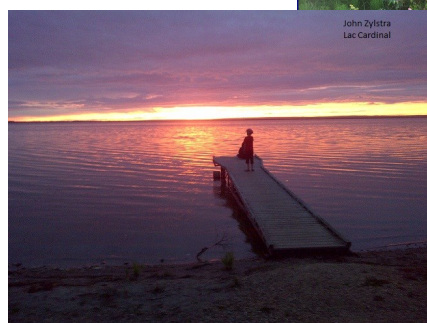
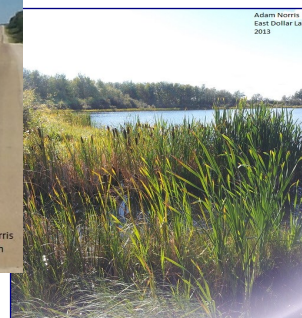
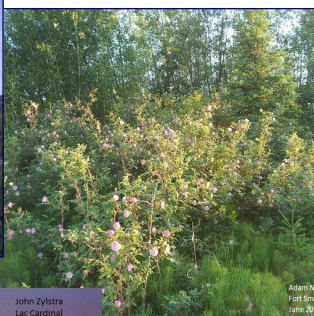
To be a voice for our sector and to have the opportunity to add valuable input from local watershed societies.

-Cathy Newhook, Watershed Stewardship

Financial and In-Kind Supporters

Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties – Zone 4
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Infrastructure
Alberta Newsprint Company
AQUATERA Utilities Inc.
City of Grande Prairie
Clairmont Gas & Grocery
County of Grande Prairie
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.
Grimshaw Gravels Aquifers Management Advisory Association
Municipal District of Opportunity
Métis Nation of Alberta
Metis Settlements General Council
NAIT Boreal Research Institute
Northern Sunrise County
Parks Canada
PennWest Exploration
Ruskin Construction Ltd
Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association
Town of Peace River
West County Watershed Society
Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd

If we have forgotten anyone, we offer our sincere apologies and request you please contact us so that we can remedy it



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