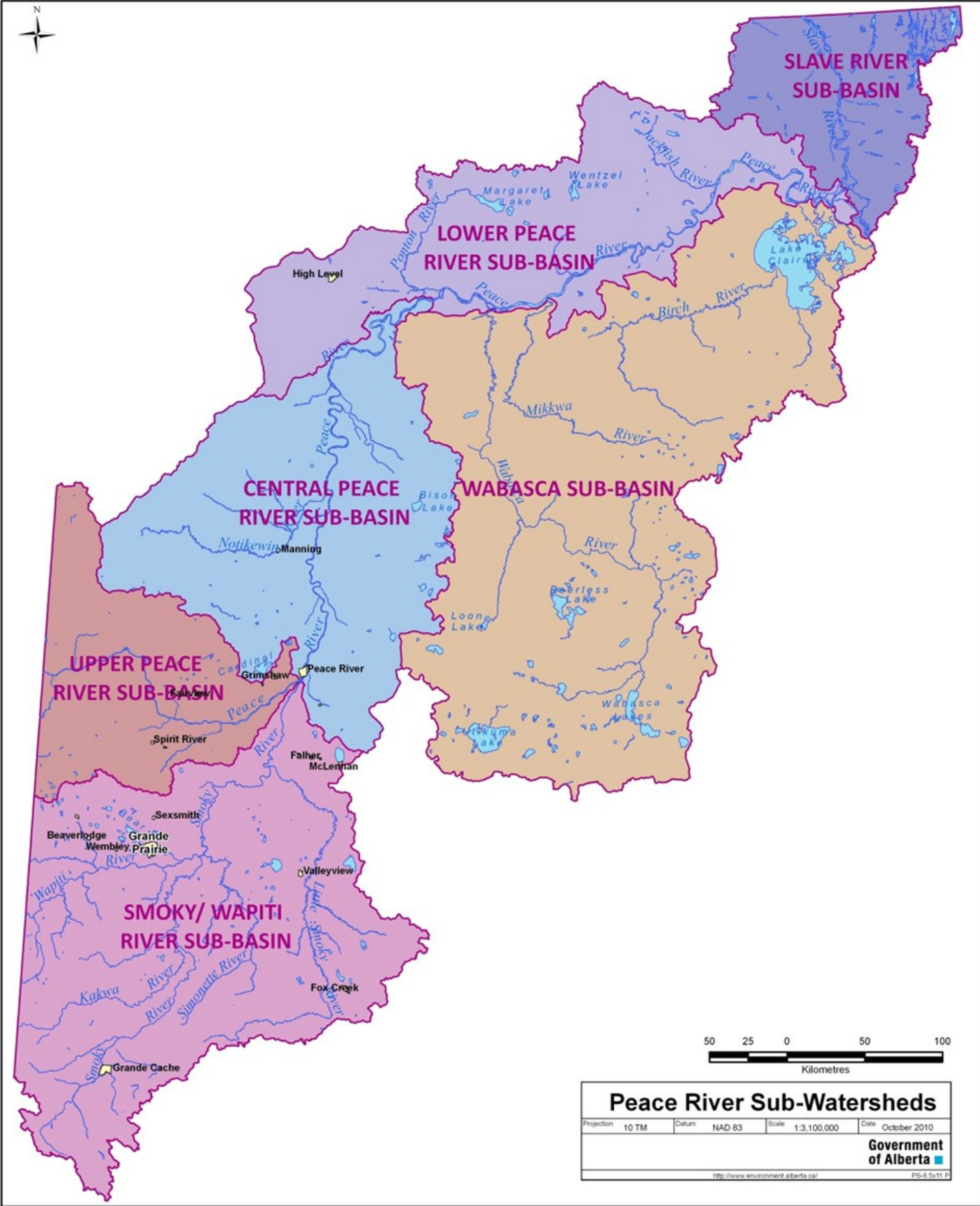




**Mighty Peace  
Watershed Alliance**



# ***2011-2012 Annual Report***



Mighty Peace Watershed and Sub-basins

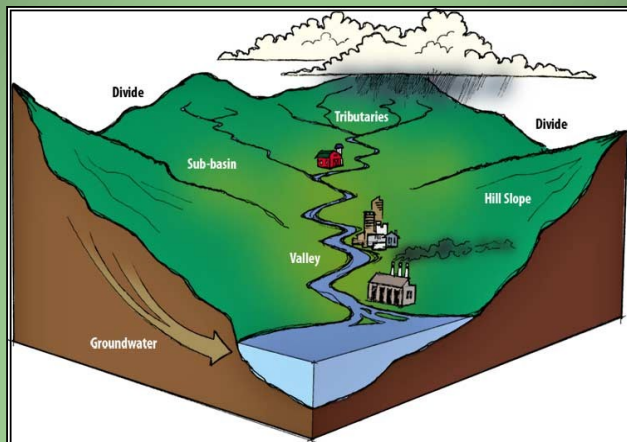
## Might Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
What is a Watershed ?	3
About MPWA—Vision, Mission, Goals & Shared Values	4
Message from the Chairman	5
Message from the Executive Director	6
Financial Highlights	7
2011-2012 Board of Directors	8
Communications Committee Report	9
Technical Committee Report	9
Highlights and Projects for 2011-2012	10
Financial and In kind Supporters	11

### 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.



The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) was formed in 2011 and was designated by the Government of Alberta (GoA) as the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Peace/Slave River Basin under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is the 11th WPAC to be formed in the province and was created to address the key outcomes of Alberta's Water for Life 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, 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.*

### **GOALS**

- The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is a strong, vibrant, and sustainable organization.
- 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.
- The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is well-known and accessible to residents in the basin.
- Residents of the Peace watershed have access to safe, secure drinking water.
- Water quantity in the Peace watershed is understood and advice on its uses are made to the appropriate bodies.
- Watershed Stewardship is widely supported by residents throughout the basin.

### **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:**

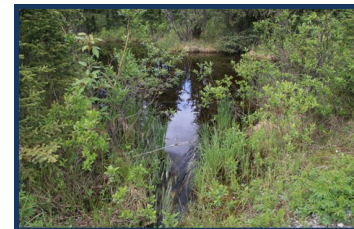
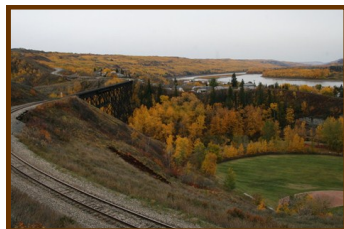
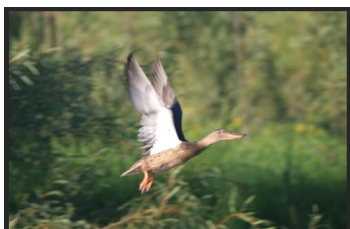
By facilitating inclusive and collaborative processes and partnerships, promoting membership and interaction, and providing opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved.

#### **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.



## Message from the Chairman

In October 2010, a large group of over 80 people met to give direction to planning in the largest of Alberta's watersheds. A smaller group of those attending that meeting became the Initiators Group and in five short months came up with a revised mission, vision, bylaws and process guidelines that were affirmed by the first annual general meeting last March.

Those elected to the board at that first meeting then began the work of building the organization. We began by submitting our first core funding grant request and four technical report funding proposals. We were thankful for the assistance of Ms. Petra Rowell in the preparation of these grant proposals and acting in the interim and during the transition after we hired Ms. Rhonda Clarke Gauthier as our Executive Director in early July.

Although we were advised of the success of our grant application in April and signed contracts were returned to the Department in early May we did not receive any funds until the 27th of July. Rhonda operated the organization out of her home until we were able to secure a rent free office in McLennan at the Government of Alberta Offices in the W.C. Kirkland Building.

Board members had their first chance to meet members of the 10 other WPAC's in June at a meeting hosted by AEW in Edmonton . With a board eager to learn about WPAC's we were the best represented in the province at the meeting. Another chance came in October at the WPAC Summit in Slave Lake hosted by our neighbouring WPAC Lesser Slave Watershed Council in conjunction with the Athabasca Watershed Council.

I was asked to present on a topic of my choosing at the Summit. My presentation centered around alternatives for sustainable funding of WPAC's outside the current granting process of AEW, mostly provoked by the many sleepless nights after we had hired Rhonda and before the money to pay her arrived. There is currently no process except voluntary donations to ensure that we will have operating funds at the beginning of our fiscal year in April. A formal letter from myself reiterating some of the points of my presentation at the Summit has gone out

to all the other WPAC chairs and Executive Directors in January 2012.

We are thankful and appreciate the support of our stakeholders and endeavour to continue to make strong partnerships and collaborations in the future. For 2011-2012, thanks goes out to PennWest, an industry member of MPWA, and Vice chair Kimberley Watson, for her efforts in securing the needed \$25,000.00 in further project funding. We also would like to express our appreciation to all the stakeholders who have made contributions both in-kind and financial. We appreciate AEW for their support (grant opportunities, resources and in-kind ). We look forward to further partnerships with stakeholders, industry, and the Alberta Government to help the MPWA meet our needs and fulfill our mandate.

While sustainable funding will remain a major part of my focus in the coming year I think I can speak for most board members in saying that we aren't anxious to continue working towards a watershed plan without understanding the issues and concerns that you the citizens, governments and businesses of our basin see now and in the future. So, we hope to be out and about throughout the basin in the coming year listening to what you think about the water in your life.

Current board members have shown passion and dedication to the organization taking hundreds of hours away from their regular jobs and families to put some legs under it. We freely admit we have taken but the first few steps in the direction set out for us last year. There is a resolve amongst us to reach for the best in the Mighty Peace Watershed. Please join us! We need all the help we can get! This after all is the largest watershed in Alberta.



*Robert A. Cameron*

Sincerely,  
Bob Cameron  
MPWA Chair





**Confluence of the Peace and Smoky Rivers**

## **Message from the Executive Director**

When people across the Province hear of the name of the newest Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC), they comment on what a majestic name it is. Truly, those of us who live in the peace region of Alberta already know how majestic our river and the entire area are. I believe that sometimes though, we take for granted the beauty and the natural resources that we find all around us. The work of the MPWA reminds us of the interconnectedness of the air – land – water. Also, that protection of these elements is essential to the future of the Peace Country and the Peace Watershed.

It has been a very interesting year for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance – new organization, new board, new staff, new office and a new way of addressing the protection and use of our resources (the water and the watershed). As we move along gathering the necessary information to gain insights into the state of the watershed, we are also building community by learning from and discussing with others.

The work of the MPWA has been accomplished by a very dedicated board, who are committed to the goals of the Water For Life Strategy – safe, secure drinking water; Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems; Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy. These individuals have put in many hours, and I greatly appreciate their

insights and experiences that they bring to the table. From December until the end of March, we have had the pleasure of having Carol Boucher work for us as admin support. Her presence has been a tremendous benefit to this organization. The supporters of the MPWA are a major asset to our organization – from financial contributions, to many forms of in-kind support – we wish to say thank-you. We can only continue our work with your support and assistance.

The next year proves to be very interesting and challenging. Interesting due to the work that needs to be accomplished and challenging due to the same reason. We have plans for various projects and public forums, where we will have the opportunity to come out to meet and talk with you, the residents of the watershed and I look forward to continued work with this WPAC and the people of the Mighty Peace Watershed.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier".

**Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier**  
Executive Director

## Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Financial Highlights

The Fiscal year for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. As this is not the first full year of operations, this will be a financial update. When a year is reached, there will be an audit conducted by Dan Wong and Jill Carlsen as directed by the AGM held March 18<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The Administration of MPWA uses *QuickBooks Premier Pro* software program to track expenditures and budgeted funds allocated in the Annual operational Plan and Budget.

As of July 27, 2011, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance received a \$200,000.00 core operational fund grant from Alberta Environment. This money was allocated for operation expenses to the end of March 2012. Further, the MPWA received \$55,000.00 to be used for 3 specific technical projects.

The Audited financial statements will be posted on the MPWA website ([www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org)). Individuals will also be able to receive copies upon request.

The following financial highlights summarize the financial position of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance as of March 9, 2012:

### INCOME

Sponsorship	\$26,556.00
Operating Grant (AEW)	\$200,000.00
Project Funding (AEW)	\$40,000.00
Bank Interest	\$29.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$266,585.63</b>

### EXPENSES

Subcontracts – Projects	\$57,360.60
Salaries, Honoraria & Benefits	\$65,299.14
Advertising & Promotions	\$1,942.63
Office & Administration	\$9,559.07
Travel	11,994.79
Board/Staff Development	\$1,025.00
	<b>\$147,181.23</b>

Cash on hand March 9	\$116,006.16
Receivables (AEW Projects)	\$15,000.00
GST Payable	\$3,398.24
Projects Funds Payable (as of Mar 9)	\$13,840.00
Gifts in Kind Incl Office as of Jan 31/12	\$212,216.00



Despite the financial uncertainty during the first year of operation, the MPWA was able to successfully secure a staff and an office located in McLennan. The MPWA has submitted, in February 2012, its request for core grant funding for the upcoming fiscal year beginning April 1, 2012. Included in that submission was a request to carry over unspent funds committed in our last year's budget to complete our staffing and organizational set up. To date we have not received a specific commitment to core operation funding but we have been assured that funding will be available to us to continue to operate into the next fiscal year.

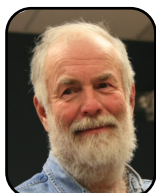
The project funding provided for the past fiscal year from AEW and Private Sector has been fully allocated and will produce four reports on time. Project funding for the 2012-13 fiscal year is uncertain at this time. Partnerships with the private sector and local governments remaining the most critical areas for future funding. Partnerships will continue to be a very important part of the financial picture for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance. Financial and in-kind support from governments and the private sector will be critical to the future growth and the direction of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.





***The 2011-2012 Board of Directors***

MEMBER	SECTOR	AFFILIATION
<b>Non-government Organizations</b>		
VACANT	Public-at-large	
Bob Cameron (Chair)	Environmental	South Peace Environmental Association
Jean-Marie Sobze	Research-Education	NAIT Boreal Research Institute nova NAIT Centre for Applied Research
Don Thomas	Watershed Stewardship	Clear Hills Watershed Initiative
VACANT	Recreation-Tourism-Fisheries	
<b>Industry</b>		
Shelleen Gerbig	Agriculture	Smoky Applied Research & Demonstration Association
Brian Gilliland	Forestry	Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.
Ashley Parker	Utilities	AQUATERA® Utilities Inc.
Kimberley Watson (Vice-Chair)	Oil and Gas	PennWest Energy
VACANT	Mining	
<b>Aboriginal</b>		
Willard Roe	Métis Nation of Alberta	MNA
Curtis Mitchell	Upper Watershed First Nation	Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Louis Pawlowich	Métis Settlements General Council	Métis Settlements General Council
VACANT	Lower Watershed First Nation	
VACANT	Middle Watershed First Nation	
<b>Governments</b>		
Richard Keillor	Rural Municipalities	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties – Zone 4
Geoff Milligan (Treasurer)	Small Urban	Town of Peace River
Abdi Siad-Omar	Federal-Trans boundary Relations	Alberta Environment and Water
Dan Wong (Secretary)	Large Urban	City of Grande Prairie
John Zylstra	Provincial Government	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>Resignations with Regret</b>		
Brandy Mitchell	Metis Nation of Alberta	MNA - Region 6
Walter Andreef	Public-at-large	ACME Economic and Environment
Conroy Sewepagaham	Lower Watershed First Nation	Little Red River Cree Frst Nation



Bob Cameron  
Chair



Kimberley Watson  
Vice-Chair



Dan Wong  
Secretary



Geoff Milligan  
Treasurer



Jean-Marie  
Sobze



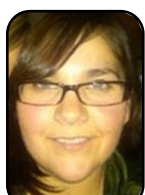
Shelleen  
Gerbig



Louis  
Pawlowich



Don  
Thomas



Ashley  
Parker



Willard  
Roe



Richard  
Keillor



Brian  
Gilliland



Abdi  
Siad-Omar



John  
Zylstra

Missing - Curtis Mitchell



## Communications Committee Report

*Dan Wong*

The communications committee has spent a considerable amount of time creating and implementing a communications plan for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA). The plan contains 3 major parts: internal communications, public information releases and branding/marketing. Since members of the MPWA board of directors reside hundreds of kilometers from one another, it was important for us to incorporate technology and the internet into the communications plan. In the past year, we have completed the following activities:

- Developed a website
- Created a Facebook and Twitter account to tie into social media
- Developed a logo

- Gathered a Media Contact List for the region
- Created a brochure
- Developed and distributed a newsletter
- Purchased promotional items for trade shows

We have also actively marketed our organization through our attendance at the WPAC Summit and other conferences. As we near the completion of our first projects, communication of the results of these reports will be our focus. The committee plans to complete the branding process and ensure that our goals are understood through the use of trade show engagements and public outreach opportunities.

## Technical Committee Report

The Technical Committee of the MPWA has been very busy this year as they have been managing 4 projects. RFP's (Requests for Proposals) were sent out in July for 3 of the projects and contracts were awarded to Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd for the Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources and State of Drinking Water, work began in early September. There were no proposals submitted for the third project, so it was reworked and submission of RFP's was asked for again. The contract for the Current & Future Water Uses & Issues in the Peace Watershed was awarded to Watrecon Consulting, with work beginning in October. The fourth project is the Aquatic Ecosystem Health of the Peace Watershed, RFP's were asked for in October. Charette Pell Poscente (in conjunction with Hutchinson

Environmental Sciences Ltd) was awarded this contract and began work in late October.

With these 4 projects in process, the technical committee have spent a tremendous number of hours reading, reviewing and critiquing the reports. They have also committed to numerous hours at meetings (both face-to-face and conference calls) to do this work. The work is progressing nicely with final reports for the first 3 projects due in March 2012 and the fourth project in April.

These 4 projects are the beginning step to gathering the necessary information for the State of the Watershed Report. In 2012, the Technical Committee will authorize further projects to gather missing data required.

- 1) Directory of Water Organizations and Agencies - A report and directory to inform the MPWA of what potential partnerships and sources of information it can draw on, and what needs to be gathered so that preparations for the State of The Watershed (SoW) report can be done.
- 2) State of Source Drinking Water - A report about the quantity and quality of drinking water in the Peace watershed, both regulated and non-regulated.
- 3) Current and Future Water Use and Issues – A report on water availability as well as the demand and use in each of the six Peace sub-basins in Alberta, and considers the use of both surface and groundwater.
- 4) Aquatic Ecosystem Health of the Peace Watershed – This report provides the MPWA with a thorough overview of the current state of knowledge with respect to aquatic ecosystem health in the Peace watershed and describes any present or anticipated issues affecting aquatic health.

## **Highlights and Projects for 2011-2012**

***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.**

- The Alliance hired a full-time Executive Director in July 2011 to assume the duties of administration of the MPWA under the direction of the Board of Directors.
- A temporary part-time administrative support person was hired from December to March to assist with the ongoing administrative duties of the Executive Director.
- An office was created at the WC Kirkland Building in McLennan (Building leased by the Government of Alberta), with office space provided as an in-kind donation from Alberta Infrastructure.
- Completed a Three Year Strategic Plan for the MPWA for 2011-2014.
- Completed a one year Operational Plan and Budget for 2011-2012.
- Application for project funding submitted to Alberta Environment for 2011-2012 year.
- Updated Three year Strategic Plan and completed one year Operational Plan and Budget for 2012-2013.
- Application for operational year funding for 2012-2013 submitted to Alberta Environment and Water.
- Applications for project funding submitted to Alberta Environment and Water for 2012-2013 year.
- Executive Director participation on the Alberta WPAC Managers meetings, working towards common understanding and solutions to the work of the watershed councils.
- Approved Terms of Reference for Committees

### **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.**

- Initiated 4 project to help board members gain a better understanding of the information available regarding the watershed and to help identify information gaps.
- Board of Directors welcomed presenters to their board meetings to gain better understanding of the science and work that

is happening within the bounds of the watershed ie/ Ralph Wright, Alberta Agriculture; Weyerhaeuser, Aquatera, SRD, AEW.

- Several Board members participated in the Alberta WPAC Summit in Slave lake

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

- This goal will be a major focus for the 2012-2013 year – with opportunities to be in community at tradeshow, gatherings etc.
- Presentations were made at Peace Region Ag Food & Fibre Research Meeting, AAMD&C, some Agriculture Service Boards, Heart River Watershed Group.
- Distribution of newsletters and brochures to update the communities of the Mighty Peace.
- AGM open to the general public.

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

- Initiated a State of the Drinking Water project to gain a better understanding of drinking water – needs, gaps, work to be done.

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

- Initiated an Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Instream flow needs project to gain better understanding of the situation in the Peace River sub-basins.

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

- There will be a bigger focus on strengthening partnerships and communications with other stewardship initiatives in the basin in the 2012-2013 year.
- Building capacity for stewardship in the Peace basin initially through education of the board of current status, data gaps, concerns, needs and possible options for the future.



## **Financial and In-Kind Supporters**

ACME Economic and Development  
Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development  
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties – Zone 4  
Alberta Environment and Water  
Alberta Infrastructure  
AQUATERA Utilities Inc.  
City of Grande Prairie  
Clear Hills Watershed Initiative  
County of Grande Prairie  
Duologic Technology  
EnCana Corporation  
Little Red River Cree First Nation  
Metis Nation of Alberta  
Metis Settlements General Council  
Municipal District of Peace  
NAIT Boreal Research Institute  
PennWest Exploration  
Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association  
South Peace Environmental Association  
Town of Peace River  
Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd

## **Contact Us**



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



Annual Report produced with support from Alberta  
Environment and Water

