

## **Peace Watershed Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources**

Prepared for:

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the Report

In August of 2011, Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. (Aquality) was contracted by the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) to complete a Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources Project for the Peace River Watershed (the Directory). The purpose of the report is to inform the MPWA of what potential partnerships and sources of information it can draw on, and what it needs to gather, so that they can begin to prepare a State of the Watershed (SoW) report.

The main goals are to:

- Determine what potential partnerships and sources of information are available to the MPWA to complete a SoW report;
- Determine what information is required to complete a SoW report;
- Raise public awareness of the Watershed Planning & Advisory Council (WPAC) roles and the *Water for Life Strategy*; and
- Develop a public document that may be of value to the Alberta Government and other organizations undertaking water management initiatives within the Peace River Watershed.

### 1.2 Scope of the Report

The scope of the report is limited to the Peace River Watershed within the Province of Alberta. The report will include the following information:

- An annotated directory identifying all of the organizations from governments, industry, non-government groups, rural and aboriginal communities, and academic research institutions with a water mandate in the Peace basin;
- A copy of the informative letter which was sent to the organizations within the directory to determine the potential for partnership;
- A list of information requirements to complete a comprehensive SoW report;
- A description of applicable SoW indicator categories which may be used for the Peace Watershed;
- Description of the available information to complete a comprehensive SoW report, and information gaps; and
- Recommendations for filling the information gaps.

### 1.3 Peace River Watershed

The Peace River originates in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia and northeast across northern Alberta, joining with the Athabasca River to form the Slave River (see **Figure 1**). The Slave River is a tributary of the Mackenzie River.



Figure 1: Peace River Watershed

Under natural flow conditions, the Peace River originated at the confluence of the Finlay and Parsnip Rivers in northeastern British Columbia. However, since the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam in 1968 and the Peace Canyon Dam in 1980 by BC Hydro, the Peace River headwaters are now Williston Lake, located approximately 170 kilometers (km) upstream from the BC/Alberta border. With the construction of the WAC Bennett Dam, the Peace River flows have been modified with spring and summer flows detained and more water released during the winter.

Within Alberta, the Peace River Watershed includes several important tributaries representing six sub-basins: the Upper Peace, Smoky River (including the Little Smoky and Wapiti Rivers), the Central Peace, the Wabasca River, the Lower Peace and the Slave River, as shown in **Figure 2**. Technically, the Slave River is part of the Great Slave river basin, however it has been included by AEW in the Peace River

Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC). At Peace Point (within Wood Buffalo National Park), the Peace River has a drainage area of 293,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a mean annual flow of 68,200,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

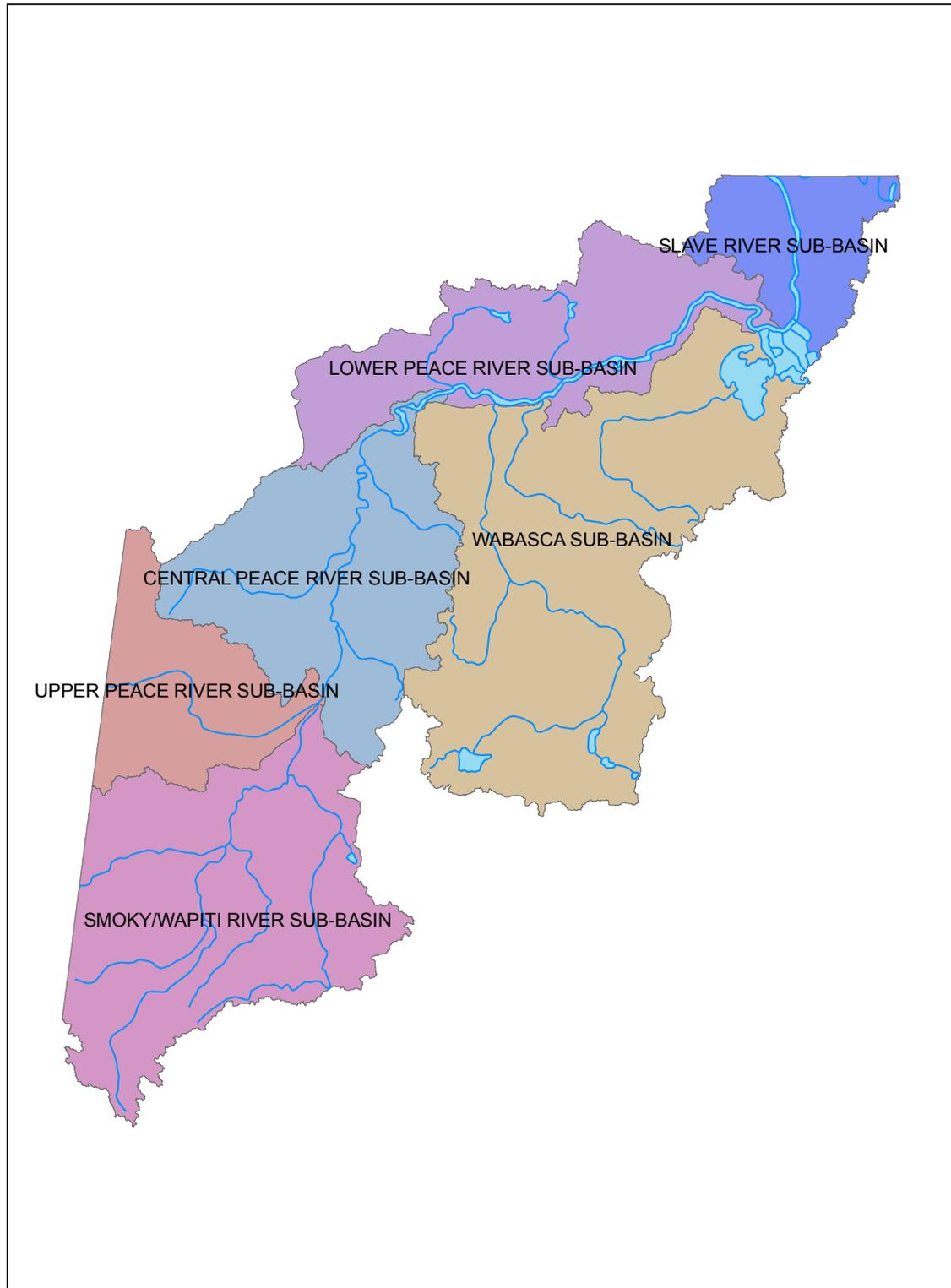


Figure 2: Peace River Sub-Watersheds

## 2 Organizations and Contacts

In order to gather the pertinent information which may be relevant to a State of the Watershed Report for the Peace River Watershed, a number of organizations were contacted via email and phone. The list of organizations included, but was not limited to: Alberta Government Departments (ARD, Energy, Environment, SRD – Fish and Wildlife and Public Lands, Health and Wellness, Innovates – AWRI); Federal Government Departments (Agriculture, DFO, Environment, Water Survey Canada, Transport – Navigable Waters, Indian and Northern Affairs, Health); major non-government conservation organizations (Ducks Unlimited Canada, Alberta Conservation Association, Nature Conservancy Canada, Land Trusts, Local Naturalists); urban, rural, and aboriginal (First Nation and Metis Nation) municipalities; Academia (Grande Prairie Regional College, Universities of Alberta, Athabasca, Calgary, and Lethbridge); and Industry (CAPP – oil and gas, Forestry FMA holders – Weyerhaeuser, DMI, MDFP, Tolko, Ainsworth).

A comprehensive list of the organizations contacted is presented in the Directory in **Appendix A**.

## 3 Summary of Preceding Deliverables

The ‘Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources’ project began in August of 2011. To date, a few documents have been submitted to the MPWA as predecessors to this report.

### 3.1 Project Workplan

A project Workplan with a task breakdown and timeline was submitted to the MPWA on August 30, 2011. This served as project management tool for both Aquality and the MPWA. The Workplan is presented in **Appendix B**.

### 3.2 List of WPAC Information Needs

A List of WPAC Information needs, gleaned from other SoW examples and the Government of Alberta’s *Handbook for State of the Watershed Reporting* was submitted to the MPWA on September 30, 2011. This document provided a guideline for the types of data and reports that is required to write a State of the Watershed report for a WPAC. The ‘List of WPAC Information Needs’ is presented in **Appendix B**.

### 3.3 Draft List of Organizations

A Draft List of Organizations was submitted to the MPWA on October 30, 2011. The document consisted of a compilation of all potential organizations with a water mandate in the Peace River Watershed and their contact information. The current directory in **Appendix A** is an expansion of the ‘Draft List of Organizations’.

## 4 State of the Watershed Information Requirements

### 4.1 Information Requirements for State of the Watershed Reporting

The 'Information Requirements for State of the Watershed Reporting' section is based on the specifications of the *Handbook for State of the Watershed* (Government of Alberta, 2008), as well as recently completed State of the Watershed Reports for other major river systems within the province of Alberta.

- **The Peace River Watershed in Alberta**

- Watershed Overview

General description of watershed (location, size, boundaries), including identification of relevant sub-watersheds within the larger watershed. This information sets the geographical context of the watershed within the larger region, and also delineates the smaller sub-watersheds that exist within. This may also provide opportunity for smaller scale investigations into localized issues and opportunities.

- Climate

Local climatologic data (precipitation, temperature, wind). This information may be used to characterize seasonal weather and runoff patterns in the watershed, to understand the local water budget for the region, and also for modeling purposes.

- Land Cover and Use

Geographical breakdown of land cover (public/private/agricultural/residential/forested/ natural) within the watershed and sub-watersheds as interpreted from available satellite, air and/or orthophotos. Different land cover types have different potential impacts on water quality, quantity, and other resources.

- Wildlife Resources

Description of types of wildlife and their habitat requirements (particularly species at risk). This information may identify critical wildlife habitats to protect, and may also identify pollutant sources associated with wildlife (eg: seasonal flocks of waterfowl may be an important source of bacteria and nutrients affecting water quality). Review should assess fragmentation, connectivity, and configuration of wildlife habitat (terrestrial and aquatic).

- Species at Risk

Description of occurrences of Species at Risk in the region.

- Geography, Soils, and Topography  
Description of bedrock and surficial geology, soils, topography, elevation and landforms. This information may identify areas of groundwater recharge/discharge, areas at risk of groundwater contamination, soil erosion, etc.
- Surface Water Resources  
General overview of surface resources, drainage patterns and infrastructure (eg: dams and diversions), volume to area ratio, lake residence times. This section may also consider the water balance that exists between the lake and its watershed. Those contributing/non-contributing areas within the basin and the extent of contribution should be identified, outlining areas to consider for potential source water protection.
- Groundwater Resources/Aquifers  
Overview of known groundwater resources in terms of volume, depth to water table, direction of flow, yield, recharge rates, and potability. Assessment of the importance and usage of groundwater within the watershed, either as a domestic/industrial water source, or its contribution to lake volumes or river flows. Discussion may also include inventory of known and licensed groundwater withdrawals.
- Natural Regions in the Peace River Watershed
- Air Quality  
Overview of known information on status of air quality, trends, sources of contaminants (eg: major urban centres, industrial plants), etc. Summary should include discussion on any air quality public advisories, and known or potential impact upon other media (water, land).
- **Public Perceptions and Concerns**  
Highlight current and/or previously identified public concerns so that they may be used to provide direction/focus to the report, and perhaps also identify issues to be addressed through the findings of the report. Information may come from previous municipal or other surveys, interviews, public meetings, letters to the editor, statements of concern, etc.
- **Land Use and Social/Cultural Resources**
  - History of Human Settlement  
Information on history of development (urbanization/industrialization/ agriculture), description of communities, demographics, resources, and cultural values.

- Aboriginal Communities  
Description of aboriginal communities inhabiting the area.
- Major Communities in the Watershed
- Land Use  
Evaluation of land use type as it influences the physical conditions of the watershed.
- Water Supply and Wastewater Systems  
Identification of all sources of drinking water within the watershed, description of water treatment processes and any delivery infrastructure, as well as processes for local treatment of wastewater (lagoon, septic fields, land-spreading of septage, etc). Discussion of any future plans for expansion of supply systems, and/or other actions to meet future demands.
- Riparian Health Assessments  
Review of any available shoreline assessment and riparian health data collected within the watershed. Issues of stream/lake water quality/ quantity may be related to riparian health and management.
- Wetland Inventory  
Review of wetland inventory findings where such an inventory has been conducted.
- **Surface Water Quality**
  - Water Quality Parameters
    - i. Water quality monitoring initiatives; assessment of chemical, physical and biological data for lakes within the watershed; Identification of potential point/nonpoint sources, internal/external sources.
    - ii. Paleolimnological studies which may provide insight into historic, pre-settlement water quality conditions of the lakes within the Peace region, and their watersheds, and provide some context as to natural water quality conditions.
    - iii. Record of water quality monitoring initiatives and assessment of chemical, physical and biological data for tributaries within watershed.
  - Point Source Discharges  
Identification of the location of any known pollutant point sources.

- Aquatic Ecosystem Health (Biological Indicators)  
Assessment of current and historic fish habitat inventory data. Records of catastrophic and seasonal events, such as recorded winter fish kills, algal blooms, or changes to diversity of aquatic species (extirpations/ introductions) may be incorporated. This information may be used as an indicator of water quality and may also highlight particular environmental threats or reoccurring events that should be considered.
- Public Health  
Discussion of any recorded public beach closures, fish consumption advisories, boil water advisories, etc, and description of factors or events contributing to and following public health advisories.
- **Surface Water Quantity and Management**
  - Hydrology and Lake Levels  
Record of lake level fluctuations, river/stream/tributary base flow, inventory and management of lake/river/drainage/ storm-water infrastructure, history of flood/drought events.
  - Apportionment and Other Flow Agreements  
Review of conditions of any recognized apportionment and other agreements influencing water flow and management.
  - Water Allocations, Withdrawals and Consumption  
Assessment of current and past licensed/permitted water withdrawals from rivers, lakes and tributaries for municipal/domestic/livestock/irrigation/ industrial/wildlife usage.
  - Instream Flow Needs and Water Conservation Objectives  
Studies of calculated flow needs for any rivers/streams within the watershed. Current flow conditions compared to desired conditions and existing plans or efforts to achieve water conservation objectives.

## 4.2 Watershed Indicators

There are a number of measurable ecosystem components that reflect the health of a watershed. The complex nature of interactions comprised within watershed ecosystems makes it difficult to measure watershed health directly. Therefore, a set of defined, easily measurable parameters (biological, physical, chemical, and socio-economic) serve as surrogates of underlying ecological functions. These surrogate parameters are considered watershed health indicators. Watershed indicators can be a

measure of a single parameter, otherwise known as a metric, or an index that incorporates a number of metrics or measured parameters.

Provided in **Table 1** are some watershed health indicators that have been outlined in the *Handbook for State of the Watershed* (Government of Alberta, 2008), and used in recently completed State of the Watershed Reports for other major river systems within the province of Alberta.

These indicators are examples of what has been used, and what is suggested to be used. The indicators that will be used for the Peace River Watershed, the ‘assessment role’ of the indicators, and the metrics are to be determined by WPACs during the completion of the SoW. Indicators can be specialized to the watershed that is being assessed.

*Table 1 – Possible Watershed Health Indicators for Peace River Watershed*

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessment Role of Indicator	Metric
Landscape	Wetland Inventory	Reflects land use conversion from a natural to a “developed” state and identifies potential alterations to local hydrological patterns and water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current wetland area (%)</li> <li>• Wetland area lost due to human activity (%)</li> </ul>
	Riparian Health	Reflects type and extent of human disturbance and degree of natural ecosystem function contributing to stream health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width of vegetated zone</li> <li>• Species composition, age structure, and percentage of tree canopy cover within the riparian area</li> <li>• Extent of impervious area</li> <li>• Bank condition</li> </ul>
	Land Cover	Identifies habitat types within the watershed.	Impervious area, bare area, and vegetated area by vegetation type.
	Land Use	Illustrates extent and location of natural and human disturbed areas.	Percentage of industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, protected, etc. within watershed.
	Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity	Illustrates level of human disturbance, wildlife mobility, and viability/sustainability.	Size, shape, and spatial arrangement of habitat patches and corridors.
	Industrial Features	Illustrates extent and location of human disturbed areas and identifies different types of pressures on local ecosystem.	Density of livestock operations (CFOs), industrial processing plants, oil and gas wells, groundwater wells, landfills.
	Human Population	Provides general measure of the level of human pressure on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population density</li> <li>• Dwelling unit density</li> </ul>
	Livestock Density	Provides measure of water quality degradation risk via contaminated runoff and	Livestock units per unit area.

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessment Role of Indicator	Metric
		effluent.	
	Linear Development	Provides general measure on extent of human disturbance and fragmentation.	Extent of transportation routes, utility corridors, and seismic lines.
	Stream Connectivity	Illustrates level of disturbance to natural flow conditions that could impair natural ecosystem function.	Number and impact of culverts or other natural and artificial hydraulic breaks (eg: dams, weirs, culverts).
	Soil Erosion	Identifies potential, extent of, and contribution to sedimentation impacting water quality and flow.	Rate of soil erosion (measured or model predicted)
	Fertilizer/Pesticide Application Rates	Provides measure of water quality degradation risk via contaminated runoff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilizer application rates as per Canada Agricultural Census data</li> <li>• Rate and location of pesticide application on land within watershed</li> <li>• Record of pesticide sales</li> </ul>
Water Quality	River Water Quality Index	Provides a general overall assessment of water quality by summarizing chemical, physical, and biological data. It reflects the impact of activities that significantly change water quantity or cause changes in inputs to rivers from either point or non-point sources.	<p>Composite index value is calculated as an overall average of the combined index values for each of the four specific variable groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Metals Index</li> <li>• River Bacterial Index</li> <li>• River Nutrient Index</li> <li>• River Pesticide Index</li> </ul>
	CCME Water Quality Index	Provides a general assessment of water quality based on chemical and physical parameters.	Subset of the following physical, chemical, and biological parameters: chloride, fecal coliforms, copper, iron, lead, manganese, zinc, NO <sub>3</sub> and NO <sub>2</sub> , total kjeldahl nitrogen, total dissolved phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, pH, sodium, sulphate, total dissolved solids.
	Lake Trophic Status	Provides a general assessment of a lake's productivity or fertility.	<p>Based on the following collective or individual measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total phosphorus</li> <li>• Chlorophyll a</li> <li>• Secchi-disk visibility</li> </ul>
	Nutrients	Provides a general measure of nutrient concentrations in Alberta rivers and streams and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phosphorus</li> <li>• Nitrogen</li> </ul>

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessment Role of Indicator	Metric
		may be used to assess nonpoint source nutrient contamination.	
	Pathogen	Provides an indication of bacterial contamination that may pose a potential risk to human, animal, and ecosystem health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fecal coliforms</li> <li>• E.coli</li> <li>• Enterococci</li> <li>• Giardia</li> <li>• Cryptosporidium</li> </ul>
	Dissolved Oxygen	Provides insight into potential factors influencing the distribution and abundance of aquatic species, as well as other critical chemical processes, including the release and adsorption of pollutants in sediments. Also reflects degree of mixing of water body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration of dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• Percent saturation</li> </ul>
	Water Temperature	Provides insight into the distribution and abundance of aquatic species.	Water temperature
	pH	Provides information on the chemical balance and biological state of the ecosystem.	Relative acidity of water
	Sediment Contamination	Provides information on sediment supply and contaminant dynamics, as many nutrients and contaminants adhere strongly to sediment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total suspended solids</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> </ul>
	Individual Pesticides	Provides an indication of pesticide contamination that may pose a potential risk to human, animal, and ecosystem health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence/absence of select pesticide</li> </ul>
	Individual Heavy Metals	Identifies potentially toxic conditions for humans and aquatic life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead</li> <li>• Arsenic</li> <li>• Cyanide</li> <li>• Mercury</li> </ul>
	Wastewater Loadings (municipal or industrial)	Provides an indication of direct human inputs to natural system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrients</li> <li>• Pathogens</li> <li>• Total suspended solid</li> </ul>
	Lake Level Index	Shows the status of individual lakes from year to year. This information can assist in	Lake level elevation relative to a standard level.

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessment Role of Indicator	Metric
Water Quantity		interpreting related observations of changes in water quality, fisheries, or recreational opportunities as lake levels change over time.	
	Deviation of recorded flows from naturalized flows	Illustrates the extent the natural flow regime has been altered and provides insight on status of meeting any apportionment agreements.	Deviation of actual recorded flow from what would have occurred naturally (ie: in the absence of any man-made effects).
	Deviation of recorded flows from Water Conservation Objective (WCO)	Illustrates where, when, and to what extent water management targets are being achieved.	Deviation of actual recorded flow from water management targets set by Alberta Environment for the protection of that water body.
	Deviation of recorded flows from Instream Flow Need (IFN)	Illustrates where, when, and to what extent natural aquatic ecosystem components may be stressed.	Deviation of actual recorded flow from what has been scientifically determined to be required to sustain a healthy aquatic environment.
	Floodplain Presence and Flooding Pattern	By considering where and how frequently it floods, illustrates changing conditions to floodplain ecosystems.	Area of historically connected floodplain vs. area of currently connected floodplain.
	Hydrograph Alteration	Reflects changes to natural seasonal flow patterns and potential impact on flow-dependent ecosystem functions.	Changes in duration, timing, and magnitude of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak flow</li> <li>• Base flow</li> <li>• Seasonal patterns in hydrograph</li> <li>• Frequency of overbank flow</li> </ul>
	Surface water allocations and withdrawals by sector (eg: irrigation, industrial, municipal)	Illustrates relative level of water use and withdrawal from the natural system.	Volume, rate and timing of withdrawals allocated through Water Act registrations, permits, and licenses.
	Index of Biotic Integrity	Reflects the quality and amount of aquatic habitat.	Subset of the following fish species richness, composition, abundance, and condition metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of fish species</li> <li>• Numbers of specific native, intolerant, and sensitive fish species</li> <li>• Percentage of fish that are omnivores, insectivores, and carnivores</li> </ul>

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessment Role of Indicator	Metric
Biological Community			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent of individuals that are hybrids</li> <li>• Percent of individuals that are diseased or deformed</li> </ul>
	Macrophyte Community	May reflect level of eutrophication, or other condition within water body.	Species composition and abundance.
	Benthic Macroinvertebrates Assemblage	Reflects cumulative effects of chemical, physical, and biological health of watersheds. May also reflect presence, level, and type of potential pollutant.	Species composition and abundance.
	Individual Indicator Species	May reflect level of human disturbance (eg: development/encroachment, manipulation of water levels, recreational activities, etc).	Presence/absence of leopard frogs, piping plover, american white pelican, bull trout, cottonwoods, other species sensitive to human disturbance.
	Blue-green Algae Outbreaks	Reflects level of water body eutrophication, and provides frequency and level of potential risk to human, animal, and ecosystem health.	Record of Cyanobacterial bloom.
	Invasive/Introduced Species	Confirms stress incurred by native species competing with invasive or introduced species.	Presence of purple loosestrife, common tansy, Eurasian water milfoil, Didymosphenia geminata, quagga mussels, New Zealand mud snails, spiny waterflea, other.

\* The information in this table has been obtained from the Government of Alberta's State of the Watershed Handbook (2008).

## 5 Available Information for the Peace River Watershed

The selected watershed health indicators are listed below, with data sources and organizations in point form. For more information about the data/reports or organizations, see the Directory in **Appendix A**.

### 5.1 Landscape

#### 5.1.1 Wetland Inventory

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Generalized Landcover GIS data
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute

- Wetland Habitat Data
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
  - Wetland Assessments
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Wet Areas Mapping
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Various Environmental Assessments performed throughout the watershed
- Natural Resources Canada
  - CanVec Geospatial Data – Waterbodies
- Northern Alberta Development Council in Association with W-E-R Engineering Ltd
  - Water in Northern Alberta: Technical Report (1987)

#### 5.1.2 Riparian Health

- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Wildlife Habitat Suitability Information
- Cows and Fish
  - Riparian Health Assessments
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
  - Classification of each stream in the watershed
- North Peace Applied Research
  - Riparian Health Assessments

#### 5.1.3 Landcover

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Land cover satellite imagery (2000)
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
  - Generalized Land Cover
  - Watershed Drainage Basin Boundaries
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Terrestrial Species Data, Terrestrial Habitat Data, Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data, Human Footprint Habitat Data
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Aerial Photography
  - Forest and Vegetation Inventories
  - Wildlife Habitat Suitability Information
- Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
  - Natural Regions and Sub regions

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
  - Installation of Culvert at Big Fill (06-01-21766)
- Mackenzie River Basin Board (MRBB)
  - Maps of biological/ecological/physical parameters for the watershed
  - Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Natural Resources Canada
  - Topography
  - Waterbodies

#### 5.1.4 Landuse

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Land Cover Satellite Imagery
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
  - Fitzgerald Farmstead Water Quality Study
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Map of Active/Abandoned Wells in Alberta
  - Peace WPAC Socio-Economic Review
- Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation
  - Natural Regions and Sub regions
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Aerial Photography
- Industry Canada
  - Canadian Industry Statistics
  - A Geographic Profile of Canadian Livestock, 1991-2001
- Willmore Wilderness Foundation
  - Traditional and aboriginal knowledge

#### 5.1.5 Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Land Cover Satellite Imagery
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Aerial Photography
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
- Natural Resources Canada
  - Aerial Photography

#### 5.1.6 Industrial Features

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Land Cover Satellite Imagery
- Alberta Centre for Boreal Studies
  - The Oil and gas Industry in Alberta: Drilling and Production
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Map of Active/Abandoned Wells in Alberta
  - Current State of Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters (March 2009)
  - Peace River Watershed Water Act Licenses and Allocation Data
  - Selenium Concentrations in the Tissues of Fish from the Upper McLeod and Smoky River Systems (2006)
  - Transboundary Waters Bilateral Agreement Information Sharing Master Report (Nov 2009)
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Hidden Lake North and Moody Creek Compressor Stations (11-01-60999)
  - Tallcree First Nation - Indian Reserve No. 173 - Proposed Gravel Pit Development (10-01-54124)
  - Authorization to Conduct a seismic Exploration Program for Oil and/or Natural Gas (10-01-53241)
  - OS-6548 Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road and/or for a natural gas Well (10-01-52327)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road (09-01-52169)
  - NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. - Gordondale Lateral Loop No. 2 Pipeline Project (10-01-59639)
  - Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation - Indian Reserve No. 154 - 2010 Timber Harvesting and Salvage (10-01-59711)
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
- Energy Resources Conservation Board
  - List of Wells in Alberta
- Industry Canada
  - Canadian Industry Statistics
  - A Geographic Profile of Canadian Livestock, 1991-2001
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)
  - Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Natural Resources Canada

- Aerial Photography

#### **5.1.7 Human Population**

- Natural Resources Canada
  - The Atlas of Canada
    - Population density
- Statistics Canada
  - Population density
  - Population, urban and rural, by province
  - Population in private households

#### **5.1.8 Livestock Density**

- Statistics Canada
  - A Geographic Profile of Canadian Livestock, 1991-2001
    - Proportion of Farmland over Total Land
    - Livestock Distribution
    - Livestock Density
  - A Geographical Profile of Livestock Manure Production in Canada (2006)

#### **5.1.9 Linear Development**

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Land Cover Satellite Imagery
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Aerial Photography
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
- Natural Resources Canada
  - Aerial Photography

#### **5.1.10 Stream Connectivity**

- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Aerial Photography
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
- Department of Fisheries Oceans
  - Stream crossings/culverts numbers and locations
- Natural Resources Canada
  - Waterbody Crossings
  - Aerial Photography

#### 5.1.11 Soil Erosion

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
    - Soil Erosion Risk for the Agricultural Area of Alberta

#### 5.1.12 Fertilizer/Pesticide Application

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Map of Pesticide Sales in Alberta
  - River Pesticide Index

## 5.2 **Water Quality**

To avoid repeating the same reports and data sources for each indicator, the water quality indicators are presented in groups below. In the cases where a data source includes data for only one or a couple of indicators, the indicators are presented separately.

#### 5.2.1 River Water Quality Index

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta River Water Quality Index Results
  - Surface Water Quality Guidelines for Use in Alberta (1999)

#### 5.2.2 CCME Water Quality Index

- CCME
  - CCME Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life
  - Water Quality Index Results

#### 5.2.3 Lake Trophic Status

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Lake Water Trophic Status
  - Alberta State of the Environment Report: Aquatic Ecosystems (1996)
  - Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta (2007)
  - Current State of Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters (March 2009)
  - Information Synthesis and Initial Assessment of the Status and Health of Aquatic Ecosystems in Alberta: Surface Water Quality, Sediment Quality and Non-Fish Biota (2007)

#### 5.2.4 Nutrient

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

- Fitzgerald Farmstead Water Quality Survey
- Fitzgerald Farmstead Water Quality Study
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta River Water Quality Index Results (Nutrients)
  - Water Quality of the Peace River in Alberta (1990)
  - Water quality in the Wapiti-Smoky river system under low-flow conditions 1987-1991 (1992)
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Various Environmental Assessment reports completed for works within the Peace River Watershed
- Clear Hills Watershed Group
  - 2007 - 2011 water quality data on 5 streams/creeks, dugouts and the Whitelaw Springs
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Parks Canada Agency
  - Wood Buffalo National Park Water Quality: Status and Trends from 1989-2006 in three major rivers; Athabasca, Peace, and Slave

#### 5.2.5 Pathogens

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta River Water Quality Index Results (Bacteria)
- Municipal beach and water supply testing
- Smoky River Applied Research & Demonstration Association
  - Water quality data for a sample of dug-outs being used by rural households

#### 5.2.6 Water Temperature

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Publicly available surface water quality data and reports
  - Publicly available groundwater quality data and reports

#### 5.2.7 pH

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Publicly available surface water quality data and reports
  - Publicly available groundwater quality data and reports

#### 5.2.8 Sediment Contamination

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Publicly available surface water quality data and reports
  - Publicly available groundwater quality data and reports
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans

- Total Suspended Solids/Turbidity data and reports

#### 5.2.9 Individual Pesticides

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta River Water Quality Index Results (Pesticides)
  - Investigations of poly-chlorinated biphenyls in bottom sediments of the Bear-Wapiti-Smoky-Peace and Upper Athabasca River systems, 1989-2000 (2004)

#### 5.2.10 Individual Heavy Metals

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta River Water Quality Index Results (Metals)
  - Selenium Concentrations in the Tissues of Fish from the Upper McLeod and Smoky River Systems (2006)
- Smoky River Applied Research & Demonstration Association
  - Water quality data for a sample of dug-outs being used by rural households

#### 5.2.11 Wastewater Loadings (municipal or industrial)

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta State of the Environment Report: Aquatic Ecosystems (1996)
  - Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta (2007)
  - *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and *Water Act* Approvals
  - Publicly available surface water quality data and reports
  - Publicly available groundwater quality data and reports
- Industrial Facility Effluent Testing
- Municipal Effluent Testing

### 5.3 Water Quantity

#### 5.3.1 Lake Level Index

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Lake and Reservoir Levels
  - Lake and Reservoir Level Index

#### 5.3.2 Deviation of Recorded Flows from Naturalized Flows

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - River Flows and Levels
  - Lake and Reservoir Levels
  - Precipitation and Snowpack Data
  - Alberta's Hydroelectric Energy Resources (2010)

- Transboundary Waters Bilateral Agreement Information Sharing Master Report (Nov 2009)
- Impact of Climate Change on the Winter Regime of the Peace River in Alberta (2005)
- Slave River Hydro Feasibility Study (1981)
- Peace River Watershed Water Act Licenses and Allocation Data
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Peace Regional Groundwater Assessment (via Hydrogeological Consultants)
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
  - Fish and Fish Habitat Assessments, Fish Passage Assessments,
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Hidden Lake North and Moody Creek Compressor Stations (11-01-60999)
  - Tallcree First Nation - Indian Reserve No. 173 - Proposed Gravel Pit Development (10-01-54124)
  - OS-6548 Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road and/or for a natural gas Well (10-01-52327)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Right of Way for a Natural Gas Pipeline (08-01-36293)
  - Bridge Replacement over the Smoky River near Grande Cache (11-01-63947)
  - Cutbank-Musreau Area Expansion (11-01-62493)
  - NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. - Gordondale Lateral Loop No. 2 Pipeline Project (10-01-59639)
  - Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation - Indian Reserve No. 154 - 2010 Timber Harvesting and Salvage (10-01-59711)
- Environment Canada
  - Water Survey Canada Hydrometric Data
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association
  - Technical Report for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer was published in 1998
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - Mackenzie River Basin Board's State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)
  - MRBB Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Parks Canada
  - Water Quality data from Peace Point station on Peace River
  - Wood Buffalo National Park Water Quality: Status and Trends from 1989-2006 in three major rivers; Athabasca, Peace, and Slave
- University of British Columbia
  - Research upper Peace River Watershed - physical response of the river to the closure of Bennett Dam over 40 years

### **5.3.3 Deviation of Recorded Flows from Water Conservation Objectives (WCO)**

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - River Flows and Levels

### **5.3.4 Deviation of Recorded Flows from Instream Flow Needs**

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - River Flows and Levels
  - A Desktop Method for Establishing Environmental Flows in Alberta Rivers and Streams
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Minimum Instream Flow Values for Fish and Proposed Water Balance Modelling Evaluation Criteria for the Peace River in Alberta (1991)
  - Peace River Instream Flow Needs (1991) - Prepared by the Alberta/British Columbia Instream Flow Needs Sub-committee
- Mainstream Aquatics
  - Fisheries studies for BC Hydro (including instream flow needs)

### **5.3.5 Floodplain Presence and Flooding Pattern**

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Non-Contributing Drainage Area
  - Subwatersheds
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - River Flows and Levels
  - Precipitation and Snowpack Data
- Environment Canada
  - Water Survey Canada Hydrometric Data

### **5.3.6 Hydrograph Alteration**

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - River Flows and Levels
  - Precipitation and Snowpack Data
- Environment Canada
  - Water Survey Canada Hydrometric Data

### **5.3.7 Surface Water Allocations and Withdrawals by Sector**

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Groundwater Licenses
  - Surface Water Licenses
  - Alberta Water Well Information Database
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association
  - Technical Report for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer was published in 1998

### 5.3.8 Groundwater Extraction

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Peace Regional Groundwater Assessment (via Hydrogeological Consultants)
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Groundwater Licenses
  - Mackenzie River Basin Board's State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)
  - MRBB Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
  - Water in Northern Alberta: Technical Report (1987)
  - All publicly available groundwater studies and data
- Alberta Geological Survey
  - Geology and Groundwater Resources of the Peace River District, Northwestern Alberta
  - Hydrogeological map of the Peace River area, Alberta, NTS 84C
  - Hydrogeological map of the Winagami area, Alberta, NTS 83N
  - Hydrogeological map of the Clear Hills - Chinchaga River area, Alberta, NTS 84D and NTS 84E
  - Hydrogeological map of the Grande Prairie area, Alberta, NTS 83M
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
  - Tallcree First Nation - Indian Reserve No. 173 - Proposed Gravel Pit Development (10-01-54124)
- Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association
  - Technical Report for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer was published in 1998
- Mackenzie River Basin Board (MRBB)
  - Maps of biological/ecological/physical parameters for the watershed

## 5.4 **Biological Community**

### 5.4.1 Index of Biotic Integrity

- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta State of the Environment Report: Aquatic Ecosystems (1996)
  - Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta (2007)
  - Aquatic Studies in the McLeod and Upper Smoky River Systems (2005)

- Current State of Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters (March 2009)
- Fish Diet Analysis McLeod and Smoky River Drainages (2004)
- Selenium Concentrations in the Tissues of Fish from the Upper McLeod and Smoky River Systems (2006)
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Monitoring Data for Amphibians, Birds, Fish, Invertebrates, Mammals, Reptiles, Trees and Plants
- Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation
  - Biodiversity data for provincial parks
  - ACIMS Website for biological data
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Authorization to Conduct a Seismic Exploration Program for Oil and/or Natural Gas (10-01-53241)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Right of Way for a Natural Gas Pipeline (08-01-36293)
  - Beaverlodge River culvert, NE 22-73-13-W6M (11-01-63568)
  - Bridge Replacement over the Smoky River near Grande Cache (11-01-63947)
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
  - Hay Camp Road Repair (04-01-3454)
  - Hidden Lake North and Moody Creek Compressor Stations (11-01-60999)
  - Tallcree First Nation - Indian Reserve No. 173 - Proposed Gravel Pit Development (10-01-54124)
- Charlie Lake Conservation Society
  - Fish Habitat Assessment
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - Mackenzie River Basin Board's State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)
  - Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Mainstream Aquatics
  - Fisheries studies for BC Hydro (including instream flow needs)
  - Walleye Spawning Watch

#### 5.4.2 Macrophyte Community

- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - Mackenzie River Basin Board's State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)

- MRBB Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta State of the Environment Report: Aquatic Ecosystems (1996)
  - Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta (2007)
  - Aquatic Studies in the McLeod and Upper Smoky River Systems (2005)
  - Current State of Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters (March 2009)
  - Information Synthesis and Initial Assessment of the Status and Health of Aquatic Ecosystems in Alberta: Surface Water Quality, Sediment Quality and Non-Fish Biota (2007)
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Monitoring Data for plants

#### 5.4.3 Benthic Macroinvertebrates Assemblage

- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data
- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Alberta State of the Environment Report: Aquatic Ecosystems (1996)
  - Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta (2007)
  - Aquatic Studies in the McLeod and Upper Smoky River Systems (2005)
  - Current State of Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Health in Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters (March 2009)
  - Information Synthesis and Initial Assessment of the Status and Health of Aquatic Ecosystems in Alberta: Surface Water Quality, Sediment Quality and Non-Fish Biota (2007)
  - Water quality in the Wapiti-Smoky river system under low-flow conditions 1987-1991 (1992)
  - Fish Diet Analysis McLeod and Smoky River Drainages (2004)
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
  - Fish and Fish Habitat Assessments, Fish Passage Assessments, Wetland Assessments
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - FWMIS Fisheries and Wildlife Data
  - Historical fisheries studies, synopses, and synthesis throughout the Peace River watershed; recent information regarding proposed Dunvegan Dam
  - Monitoring Data for Amphibians, Birds, Fish, Invertebrates, Mammals, Reptiles, Trees and Plants
  - Status of Alberta Fish
  - Wildlife diseases information

- Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation
  - Biodiversity data for provincial parks
- Mackenzie River Basin Board
  - Mackenzie River Basin Board's State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (2003)
  - MRBB Peace Sub Basin Report (2003)
- Mainstream Aquatics
  - Fisheries studies for BC Hydro (including instream flow needs)

#### 5.4.4 Individual Indicator Species

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Agricultural Land Resource Atlas of Alberta
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Terrestrial Species Data, Terrestrial Habitat Data, Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data, Human Footprint Habitat Data
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - FWMIS Fisheries and Wildlife Data
  - General Status of Alberta Wild Species
- Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
  - ACIMS Website for biological data
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project (04-07-2996)
  - Hidden Lake North and Moody Creek Compressor Stations (11-01-60999)
  - Tallcree First Nation - Indian Reserve No. 173 - Proposed Gravel Pit Development (10-01-54124)
  - Authorization to Conduct a Seismic Exploration Program for Oil and/or Natural Gas (10-01-53241)
  - OS-6548 Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road and/or for a natural gas Well (10-01-52327)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Right of Way for a Natural Gas Pipeline (08-01-36293)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road and/or for an Oil, Natural Gas Well (10-01-53226)
  - Authorization to Construct and Operate a Surface Lease for an access road (09-01-52169)
  - Bridge Replacement over the Smoky River near Grande Cache (11-01-63947)
  - Cutbank-Musreau Area Expansion (11-01-62493)

- NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. - Gordondale Lateral Loop No. 2 Pipeline Project (10-01-59639)
- Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation - Indian Reserve No. 154 - 2010 Timber Harvesting and Salvage (10-01-59711)

#### 5.4.5 Blue-green Algae Outbreak

- Alberta Environment and Water
  - Limnological Reports for Lake Water Quality Monitoring
- Alberta Lake Management Society
  - Lakewatch Program Reports
- Local Newspaper Articles
- Local Watershed Society Monitoring

#### 5.4.6 Invasive/Introduced Species

- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
  - Terrestrial Species Data, Terrestrial Habitat Data, Wetland Species Data, Wetland Habitat Data, River Species Data, River Habitat Data, Lake Species Data, Lake Habitat Data, Human Footprint Habitat Data
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
  - Fish and Fish Habitat Assessments; Fish Passage Assessments; Wetland Assessments
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
  - Monitoring Data for Amphibians, Birds, Fish, Invertebrates, Mammals, Reptiles, Trees and Plants
  - FWMIS Fisheries and Wildlife Data
- Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation
  - Biodiversity data for provincial parks
  - ACIMS Website for biological data

## 6 Filling Information Gaps

Based on the responses from individual organizations, the information that we know is publicly available, and the information requirements for writing a State of the Watershed report, we can infer where the data gaps are. Listed below is the type of desired information/data, with possible partner organizations listed in sub-points.

The data gaps for the Peace River watershed, and potential partners to obtain the missing information are as follows:

- Wetland Inventory

- AEW has partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DU) to perform a provincial wetland inventory for Alberta. At the time of the completion of this report, DU had completed a small portion of the Peace watershed, and was expecting to finish the remaining study areas within the watershed by the end of 2013.
- Linear Development
  - Landscape scale studies may be available through University of Alberta Departments (Biological Sciences; Alberta School of Forest Science & Management; Renewable Resources)
  - Sustainable Resource Development Public Lands
  - Consultation with utility companies, industry
- Deviation of Recorded Flows from Instream Flow Needs
  - BC Hydro has done some work in Instream flow needs on the Peace mainstem within British Columbia
  - AEW representatives have confirmed that there is little publicly available information regarding instream flow needs on the Peace River within Alberta. The MPWA should discuss calculation of Instream Flow needs for the Peace River with AEW

The majority of the organizations listed in the Directory in **Appendix A** are potential partners for both financial and technical support. A number of the organizations responded very positively to the formation of the MPWA, and the potential of a partnership with their own organization, including: Alberta Conservation Association; Alberta Environment and Water; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development; Alberta Health and Wellness; Alberta Lake Management Society; Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation; Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association; Canfor; Clear Hills Watershed Initiative; the Community Mapping Network; the County of Birch Hills; Ducks Unlimited; Greater Kakwa; Town of High Level; Parks Canada (for Wood Buffalo National Park); the Municipal District of Greenview; Municipal District of Peace; the County of Northern Lights; Smoky Applied Research & Demonstration Association; South Peace Environmental Association; Weyerhaeuser; Willmore Wilderness Foundation; Woodmere Nursery.

## 7 Conclusions

Aquality formed the Directory based on internal knowledge about requirements for past SoW reports; the Alberta Stewardship Network's Stewardship Directory; and AEW's Peace WPAC Communities and Stakeholders Directory. A total of **246** organizations were contacted to introduce the MPWA, and to determine what types of information they had available. For organizations that were non-responsive to emails, Aquality re-emailed or telephoned the contacts. In many cases, an alternative contact was suggested. To date, there are a few non-responsive municipalities, First Nations contacts, and Industries.

## 8 Recommendations

To achieve the goal of assembling all of the data available for a State of the Watershed Report, the MPWA's next steps should be to:

- Hold discussions with organizations regarding the extent of and availability of their internal datasets;
- Apply to specific organizations for funding; and
- Formation of official data sharing agreements with desired organizations.

## 9 Bibliography

Alberta Environment and Water. Alberta River Basins. Accessed from [www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx](http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx) on October 20, 2011.

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Alberta Stewardship Network. 2005. Watershed Stewardship Alberta: A Directory of Stewardship Groups, Support Agencies, and Resources.

Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. 2009. Red Deer River State of Watershed Report. Online at <http://www.rdrwa.ca/sow.php>

Government of Alberta. 2008. Handbook for State of the Watershed Reporting: A Guide for Developing State of the Watershed Reports in Alberta. Online at: <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8044.pdf>

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. 2005. North Saskatchewan River State of Watershed Report. Online at <http://www.nswa.ab.ca/content/state-of-the-watershed>

## **Appendix A - Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources**











































## **Appendix B – Preceding Deliverables**

<i>Project 1: Peace Watershed Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources Project</i>							
<b>Task</b>	<b>Sub-task</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Proposed Timeline</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>	
1. Project Management	Schedule meetings	Schedule monthly meetings for M. Mclean and R. Clarke-Gauthier (J. White and N.Wyngaarden as availability allows)	Aug 23/11 - Aug 26/11				
	Work Plan	Prepare spreadsheet outlining tasks and deliverables	Aug 23/11 - Aug 30/11	<b>Project Work Plan</b>	August 30, 2011	✓	
	Invoices	Monthly invoices prepared at end of each month and delivered to R. Clarke-Gauthier	Monthly				
2. Information Sources and Contacts	List of Water Organizations	Prepare directory spreadsheet	Aug 23/11- Aug 25/11			✓	
		Contact board members and technical committee members for initial contacts to add to directory	Aug 29/11- Sept 2/11				
		Add the organizations from board/committee members and Alberta Land Stewardship Centre (ALSC) directory	Sept 5/11 - Sept 15/11				
		Add organizations from point 5, Task 2.1 (from proposal) to directory	Sept 5/11 - Sept 15/11				
	Contact Water Organizations	Contact AENV Partnership and Planning unit, transboundary water unit, AENV peace river regional office for contacts, BC Hydro	Sept 5/11 - Sept 15/11				
		Prepare info/intro letter (including MPWA group info, SOW report info, Aquality info, and what information we are looking for). Send to all contacts in directory	Sept 12/11 - Sept 16/11				
		Follow up letters with phone call	Sept 22/11				
	Develop List of Contacts and Available Information	Add the 'available data and information' to the directory spreadsheet, as responses are received	Sept 22/11- Oct 30/11	Directory of water organizations, contact info, and available information	October 30, 2011		
		Determine	Prepare document on 'How to Write a State of the Watershed (SOW) Report'	Aug 26/11 - Sept 7/11	2-3 page document		

3. Information Gathering	Determine SOW Information Requirements	Create outline of information to be included in SOW report	Aug 26/11 - Sept 7/11	<b>Outline (of information requirements to prepare SOW report) in form of spreadsheet</b>		
	Compile Information and Determine Gaps	Based on information received from contacts in directory, identify the information gaps	Oct 30/11- Nov 9/11	<b>Highlight the gaps in the outline spreadsheet</b>		
	Develop Strategies for Filling Gaps	Identify strategies to obtain the missing information. End product of this task will be the annotated directory	Nov 9/11- Nov 18/11	<b>Add 'recommendations' to the outline spreadsheet</b>	November 18, 2011	
4. Development of Directory and Documentation	Prepare Draft Directory and Report	DRAFT - Finalizing the annotated directory; Preparing a report summarizing the study results, conclusions, and recommendations (i.e.: potential strategies, potential partnerships, and recommendations for filling the information gaps).	Nov 18/11 - Nov 30/11	<b>Draft Directory and Report - electronic submission to MWPA (Rhonda)</b>	November 30, 2011	
	Prepare final draft directory and report	Final DRAFT - Finalizing the annotated directory; preparing a report summarizing the study results, conclusions, and recommendations (i.e.: potential strategies, potential partnerships, and recommendations for filling the information gaps); <u>editing the draft based on recommendations</u>	Dec 5/11- Dec 23/11	<b>Draft Final Directory and Report - electronic submission to MWPA (Rhonda)</b>	December 30, 2011	
	Prepare final directory and report	Final - Finalizing the annotated directory; Preparing a report summarizing the study results, conclusions, and recommendations (i.e.: potential strategies, potential partnerships, and recommendations for filling the information gaps); <u>editing the final draft based on any final recommendations</u>	Jan 2/12 - Jan 30/12	<b>Final Directory and Report - Three hardcopies and one CD submitted to MWPA (Rhonda)</b>	January 30, 2012	

<i>Project 2: State of Drinking Water in the Peace Watershed</i>						
1. Project Management	Schedule meetings	Schedule monthly meetings for M. Mclean and R. Clarke-Gauthier (J. White and N. Wyngaarden as availability allows) - Coordinate meetings with Project 1	Aug 23-26, 2011			
	Work Plan	Prepare spreadsheet outlining tasks and deliverables	Aug 23/11 - Aug 30/11	<b>Project Work Plan</b>	August 30, 2011	✓
	Invoices	Monthly invoices prepared at end of each month and delivered to R. Clarke-Gauthier	Monthly			
2. Information Sources and Contacts	Collect initial information from MWPA Board and Technical Committee	Contact board members and technical committee members for initial contacts	Aug 29/11- Sept 2/11			
	Develop Additional Drinking Water Sources	Compile a list of organizations to contact, and their contact info, in spreadsheet form (see organizations listed in 2.2)	August 26/11- Sept 15/11	<b>List of agencies, organizations, and individuals with information on drinking water and wastewater in the watershed</b>	September 15, 2011	
	Contact Information Sources	Prepare info/intro letter (MPWA group info, Aquality info, and what information we are looking for, determine potential for a partnership with the organization for financial and technical support, and complete any data sharing or confidentiality requirements). Send to all contacts on directory	Sept 12/11 - Sept 16/11			
		Follow up letters with phone call	Sept 22/11			
3. Information	Gather Information in Concert with MPWA and Technical Committee	Review incoming information and data, asses relevance and accurateness, identify data gaps	Sept 30/11- Nov 9/11			

3. Information Gathering and Compilation	Identification of Preliminary Data Gaps	Create a list of data/information gaps and uncertainties	Sept 30/11- Nov 9/11	<b>Bibliography of data sources and available information, and list of data/information gaps and uncertainties</b>	November 9, 2011	
4. Report and Presentation Development	Prepare Draft Table of Contents	Based on kick-off discussion with MWPA/Board, form a foundation for the report to highlight the important issues	Sept 15/11- Sept 30/11	<b>Draft Table of Contents</b>	September 30, 2011	
	Prepare Draft Report	Summarize the information received from sources and follow the table of contents outlines by the MWPA to write the Draft State of Drinking Water Report. Submit electronically to MWPA and Technical Committee for review	Nov 9/11- Nov 30/11	<b>Draft Report</b>	November 30, 2011	
	Prepare Final Report and Presentation	Revise the draft report as advised by the MWPA and board. Submit electronically to MWPA (Rhonda)	Dec 15/11 - Feb 28/12	<b>Final Report and Presentation (submitted for approval)</b>		
		Prepare presentation highlighting the findings of the report, for use of the MWPA. Submit electronically to MWPA (Rhonda)	Dec 15/11 - Feb 28/12		February 28, 2012	
	Final Approved Report and Presentation	Submit 10 hardcopies and one electronic copy of final approved report; and one electronic copy of the approved presentation to the MWPA (Rhonda)	Feb 28/12- March 10/12	<b>Final Approved Report and Presentation</b>	March 10, 2012	

September 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Request for Partnership**

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) was officially formed on March 18, 2011. The MPWA is a multi-stakeholder, not-for-profit organization, and one of several Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) created under Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy. The MWPA is committed to achieving and implementing the three goals of the *Water for Life* strategy:

- ◇ Safe, secure drinking water supply;
- ◇ Healthy aquatic ecosystems; and
- ◇ Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

Aquality has recently been engaged by the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) to complete 2 projects:

1. Develop a directory of organizations, and their contacts, within the Alberta portion of the Peace River Watershed with a water mandate; and
2. Develop a report on the state of drinking water in the Peace River Watershed.

The directory will provide the MPWA with a listing of organizations, within the Peace River Watershed, that have a water or water-related mandate, including drinking water, and may have information required to complete a state of the watershed report; and with which the MPWA may develop potential partnerships.

The state of the drinking water report will identify the current drinking water sources and the type, level and status of drinking- and waste-water treatment facilities, within the watershed, and identify any information and data gaps on the supply of drinking water.

The Peace River originates in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, and flows to Alberta are influenced by the W.A.C. Bennett Dam and Williston Lake, located on the Peace River in British Columbia. The river flows northeast across northern Alberta and drains into the Slave River, east of Peace Point. Within Alberta the Peace River Watershed includes several important tributaries: the Upper Peace, Smoky River (including the Little Smoky and Wapiti Rivers), the Central Peace, the Wabasca River and the Lower Peace.



Figure 1: The Peace River Watershed

## State of the Watershed Report

The MPWA intends to complete a State of the Watershed (SoW) report for the Peace River watershed within Alberta, as is intended for all the major river basins in Alberta, under the *Water for Life* strategy.

To complete a State of the Watershed, the MPWA must undertake a watershed assessment. A watershed assessment is a process that characterizes a watershed’s current condition by evaluating how well a watershed is working. It is a descriptive survey or inventory of the existing natural and cultural resources within a watershed, including an analysis of how landscape and hydrologic systems interact and function within that watershed. The watershed assessment process includes examining the history of the watershed, describing its features, identifying issues and concerns, evaluating the condition of the resources within the watershed, and determining the impact of human activity. A State of the Watershed report documents and interprets the findings of the watershed assessment process.

A State of the Watershed report is:

- ◇ The scientific interpretation of watershed information and data, leading to conclusions about watershed condition;
- ◇ An objective tool that uses available data and information to assess conditions and concerns within a watershed, as well as identify information gaps;
- ◇ A report on the analysis and findings of the watershed assessment that by identifying factors potentially contributing to concerns within the watershed, can be used to develop appropriate actions; and
- ◇ A component of a watershed management package that leads to planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Specifically, a state of the watershed report should contribute to:

- ◇ An understanding of how natural features and processes influence watershed conditions;
- ◇ Insight into the linkages between watershed health and land and water uses;
- ◇ Identification of priority watershed risks, and an evaluation of the individual and cumulative effects of water and land management practices; and
- ◇ The validation of public perceptions as to stressors and conditions within the watershed.

Documenting watershed assessment findings in a State of the Watershed report will substantiate potential concerns, may identify information gaps, or make recommendations on the collection of additional data not currently available.

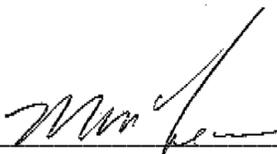
## How You Can Help

To successfully complete a State of the Watershed report, the MPWA needs to build partnerships with governments, industry, non-government organizations, communities and others to collect all the data and information on a suite of watershed indicators, as per the state of the watershed reporting guidelines developed by Alberta Environment, from numerous sources. They also need these partnerships to secure the necessary financial and technical support to undertake this important work. The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, therefore, invites you and/or your organization to partner with, and share the Peace River Watershed water-related and drinking water information and data that may of interest and benefit to them. They would also appreciate your financial and technical support to undertake this important work.

If you have drinking water information and/or data or information that would be helpful in the preparation of a State of the Watershed report for the Peace River Watershed, or if you have any questions, please contact me by telephone or email before Friday, October 14, 2011.

Yours truly,

AQUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LTD.

Per:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Megan McLean, M.Env.Sc., BIT**

Biologist

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September 30, 2011

Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier  
Executive Director  
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance  
[rhondan@telusplanet.net](mailto:rhondan@telusplanet.net)

Dear Ms. Clarke-Gauthier,

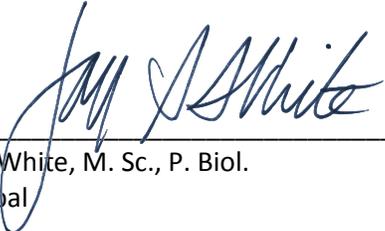
**RE: MPWA State of the Watershed Directory Project - List of WPAC Information Needs**

Attached is the 'List of WPAC Information Needs' as requested in the Request for Proposals titled *Peace Watershed Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources Project*. We hope this satisfies your requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (780) 757-5530 or via email at [megan.mclean@aquality.ca](mailto:megan.mclean@aquality.ca), or alternatively you can contact Jay White at [Jay.White@Aquality.ca](mailto:Jay.White@Aquality.ca).

Yours truly,  
AQUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LTD.

Per:   
Megan McLean, M.Env.Sc., BIT  
Project Manager

Per:   
Jay S. White, M. Sc., P. Biol.  
Principal

## 1 Introduction

In August of 2011 Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. was contracted to undertake the 'Peace Watershed Directory of Water Organizations and Information Sources Project' for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA). One of the deliverables of this project, as stated in MPWA's Request for Proposals (RFP) was a 'List of WPAC Information Needs' which would describe the information typically required to complete a State of the Watershed (SoW) report.

This deliverable has been composed in the form of a typical table of contents for a SoW report, with information specific to the Peace River Watershed. This table of contents has been derived from previous SoW reports, and Alberta Environment's 2008 *Handbook for State of the Watershed Reporting*. Where appropriate, a description of the headings and sub headings is provided.

## 2 List of WPAC Information Needs

### *Table of Contents*

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### **1.0 Executive Summary**

#### **1.1 Background**

#### **1.2 Watershed Overview**

#### **1.3 Indicators**

#### **1.4 Watershed Summary**

#### **1.5 Conclusions**

#### **1.6 Recommendations**

### **2.0 Introduction**

#### **2.1 Purpose of Report**

#### **2.2 Scope of Report**

#### **2.3 Description of Format and Content of Report**

### **3.0 The Peace River Watershed in Alberta**

#### **3.1 Watershed Overview**

- General description of watershed (location, size, boundaries), including identification of relevant sub-watersheds within the larger watershed. This section will set the geographical context of the watershed within the larger region, and also delineate the smaller sub-watersheds that exist within. This may also provide opportunity for smaller scale investigations into localized issues and opportunities.

#### **3.2 Climate**

- Local climatologic data (precipitation, temperature, wind). This information may be used to characterize seasonal weather and runoff patterns in the watershed, to understand the local water budget for the region, and also for modeling purposes.

### **3.3 Land Cover and Use**

- Geographical breakdown of land cover (public/private/agricultural/ residential/forested/ natural) within the watershed and sub-watersheds as interpreted from available satellite, air and/or orthophotos. Different land cover types have different potential impacts on water quality, quantity, and other resources.

### **3.4 Wildlife Resources**

Description of types of wildlife and their habitat requirements.

#### **3.4.1 Species at Risk**

Description of occurrences of Species at Risk in the region.

### **3.5 Geography, Soils, and Topography**

Description of bedrock and surficial geology, soils, topography, elevation and landforms.

### **3.6 Surface Water Resources**

General overview of surface resources, drainage patterns and infrastructure, volume to area ratio, lake residence times.

### **3.7 Groundwater Resources/Aquifers**

Overview of known groundwater resources in terms of volume, depth to water table, direction of flow, yield, recharge rates, and potability, possibly an inventory of known and licensed groundwater withdrawals.

### **3.8 Natural Regions in the Peace River Watershed**

#### **3.8.1 Central Mixedwood Region**

#### **3.8.2 Dry Mixedwood Region**

#### **3.8.3 Lower Boreal Highlands Region**

#### **3.8.4 Upper Boreal Highlands Region**

#### **3.8.5 Peace River Parkland Region**

#### **3.8.6 Northern Mixedwood Region**

#### **3.8.7 Lower Foothills Region**

#### **3.8.8 Kazan Uplands Region**

### **3.9 Air Quality**

Overview of known information on status of air quality, trends, sources of contaminants

## **4.0 Public Perception and Concerns**

- Highlight current and/or previously identified public concerns so that they may be used to provide direction/focus to the report, and perhaps also identify issues to be addressed through the findings of the report. Information may come from previous municipal or other surveys, interviews, public meetings, letters to the editor, statements of concern, etc.

### **4.1 Public Consultations**

### **4.2 Surveys**

### **4.3 Interviews**

### **4.4 Newspapers**

## **5.0 Land Use and Social/Cultural Resources**

### **5.1 History of Human Settlement**

Information on history of development (urbanization/industrialization/ agriculture), description of communities, demographics, resources, and cultural values.

### **5.2 Aboriginal Communities**

Description of aboriginal communities inhabiting the area.

### **5.3 Major Communities in the Watershed**

### **5.4 Land Use**

Evaluation of land use type as it influences the physical conditions of the watershed.

#### **5.4.1 Land Resources Overview**

#### **5.4.2 Agricultural Resources**

- Overview of agriculture in watershed/subwatersheds, breakdown of agricultural lands (cropland/forage/pasture), farm type/size/abundance/ distribution, agricultural production and livestock density/placement, trends/threats/opportunities in agriculture. Knowledge as to the type, intensity and location of agricultural practices.

#### **5.4.3 Recreational Resources**

- Inventory of permanent and seasonal lakeshore or other residential/commercial developments, recreational facilities/ areas (eg; beaches, parks, campgrounds), planned and potential expansions, usage rates, services, waste production and disposal facilities, trends/threats/opportunities in recreational activities or investments, mapping of shoreline municipal and environmental reserves, review of shoreline development and municipal land-use zoning planning processes.

#### **5.4.4 Other Human/Industrial Influences, Developments, and Disturbances**

Assessment of oil & gas/mining/gravel extraction/other industrial activities.

#### **5.5 Water Supply and Wastewater Systems**

- Identification of all sources of drinking water within the watershed, description of water treatment processes and any delivery infrastructure, as well as processes for local treatment of wastewater (lagoon, septic fields, land-spreading of septage, etc). Discussion of any future plans for expansion of supply systems, and/or other actions to meet future demands.

#### **5.6 Riparian Health Assessments**

Review of any available shoreline assessment and riparian health data collected within the watershed. Issues of stream/lake water quality/ quantity may be related to riparian health and management.

#### **5.7 Wetland Inventory**

Review of wetland inventory findings where such an inventory has been conducted.

### **7.0 Surface Water Quality**

#### **7.1 Water Quality Parameters**

- Water quality monitoring initiatives; assessment of chemical, physical and biological data for lakes within the watershed; Identification of potential point/nonpoint sources, internal/external sources.
- Paleolimnological studies which may provide insight into historic, pre-settlement water quality conditions of the lake and its watershed, and provide some context as to natural water quality conditions.
- Record of water quality monitoring initiatives and assessment of chemical, physical and biological data for tributaries within watershed

#### **7.2 Point Source Discharges**

- Identification of the location of any known pollutant point sources.

### **7.3 Aquatic Ecosystem Health (Biological Indicators)**

- Assessment of current and historic fish habitat inventory data. Records of catastrophic and seasonal events, such as recorded winter fish kills, algal blooms, or changes to diversity of aquatic species (extirpations/ introductions) may be incorporated. This information may be used as an indicator of water quality and may also highlight particular environmental threats or reoccurring events that should be considered.

### **7.4 Public Health**

- Discussion of any recorded public beach closures, fish consumption advisories, boil water advisories, etc, and description of factors or events contributing to and following public health advisories.

## **8.0 Surface Water Quantity and Management**

### **8.1 Hydrology and Lake Levels**

- Record of lake level fluctuations, river/stream/tributary base flow, inventory and management of lake/river/drainage/ storm-water infrastructure, history of flood/drought events.

### **8.2 Apportionment and Other Flow Agreements**

- Review of conditions of any recognized apportionment and other agreements influencing water flow and management.

### **8.3 Water Allocations, Withdrawals and Consumption**

- Assessment of current and past licensed/permitted water withdrawals from rivers, lakes and tributaries for domestic/livestock/irrigation/ industrial/wildlife usage.

#### **8.3.1 Surface Water Licenses**

#### **8.3.2 Groundwater Licenses**

### **8.4 Instream Flow Needs and Water Conservation Objectives**

- Studies of calculated flow needs for any rivers/streams within the watershed. Current flow conditions compared to desired conditions and existing plans or efforts to achieve water conservation objectives.

## **9.0 State of the Peace River Subwatersheds**

A sub section will be completed for each subwatershed.

## **9.1 Wabasca River Subwatershed**

### **9.1.1 Land Use**

### **9.1.2 Water Quality And Quantity**

### **9.1.3 Biological Indicators**

### **9.1.4 Wabasca River Watershed Summary**

## **10.0 Issues and challenges**

### **10.1 Discussion of Data and Data Gaps**

- Discussion of data gaps and limitations with available data/knowledge, identification of potential sources of additional data, along with recommendations for the collection of any additional data (including the means of collecting this data).

#### **10.1.1 Land Use Data Sources**

#### **10.1.2 Water Quality And Quantity Data Sources**

#### **10.1.3 Biological Indicator Data Sources**

## **11.0 Conclusion**

General summary of the main sections of the report.

### **11.1 Discussion of Indicators**

#### **11.1.1 Land Use**

#### **11.1.2 Water Quality**

#### **11.1.3 Water Quantity**

#### **11.1.4 Biological Indicators**

#### **11.1.5 Conclusion Summary**

## **12.0 Recommendations**

- Discussion of where we go from here, how this data could/should be used by landowners, stakeholders, municipalities, and government in future watershed management planning and for the implementation of beneficial management practices.
- Discussion of role, responsibility and mandate of institutional and regulatory bodies in light of this information.

### **13.0 Stewardship Opportunities**

- Discussion of the role of the watershed stewardship group in terms of communications/outreach, program/project delivery.
- Recommendations for future project areas and stewardship initiatives.

### **14.0 Glossary**

### **15.0 References**