



April 2018

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #15



What Flows

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Welcome Spring!

Save the Date

Annual General Meeting – May 25, 2018

9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Sawridge Inn, Peace River, AB

AGM – Including Project and organization updates presented by Staff and Directors

Election of Directors (Nomination forms can be found on the MPWA website)

-2 year terms (May 2018– May 2020) - Metis Nation of Alberta; Lower Watershed First Nation; Conservation/ Environment; Research/ Education; Agriculture; Oil & Gas; Utilities; Provincial Government; Small Urban Municipalities; Rural Municipalities.

-1 year term (May 2018– May 2019 to fulfill the second year of a 2 year term) – Mining; Upper Watershed First Nation; Middle Watershed First Nation, Métis Settlement General Council.

Guest Speaker:

Sarah Skinner, Watershed Planning Coordinator, Battle River Watershed Alliance.
Camrose Source Water Protection Plan

For More Information & membership forms please go to our website:

www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org

From the Executive Director 's Desk By Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier

Welcome to Spring 2018!

The MPWA is pleased to present its first Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The draft plan was presented last May at the Annual General Meeting. Then several months were spent engaging a variety of sectors regarding the plan and the recommendations held within. For a look at the final copy of the IWMP, please visit the MPWA website. All sectors, stakeholders, and the public are encouraged to review the 4 issues of concern identified in the plan and the recommendations that are put forth to address these areas. This plan has been a work in progress since winter 2014 when the MPWA invited stakeholders into conversations around the Terms of Reference of the IWMP. Many miles and hours have been spent discussing and engaging sectors regarding the needs identified, and possible recommendations to be included in the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The board of directors worked diligently to vet this work and ensure that the voices of the stakeholders were heard. MPWA thanks everyone who took the time to provide counsel, suggestions, and feedback to the development of this plan.



Further to the IWMP, the MPWA has moved towards implementation strategies and work plans to address recommendations. MPWA continues to provide education opportunities and technical project coordination to a number of projects across the watershed including: Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Projects, Restoration Plans, Source Water Protection Planning, Wetlands Education, and promoting watershed stewardship. To learn more about these items, check out the MPWA website www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org.

MPWA looks forward to continued opportunities of collaboration and engagement with numerous sectors, groups, and stakeholders to advance watershed management, education and stewardship.



VISION

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

MISSION

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



Diverse, Responsible & Connected!

- *Diverse group of people representing diverse interests.
- *Responsible for bringing those interests together.
- *Connected to all stakeholders across the watershed area.



Watershed Coordinator Adam Norris

The Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer is a unique and valuable high quality source of water for those in the Grimshaw area. MPWA is pleased to be working with the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association and Alberta Environment and Parks to develop a Source Water Protection Plan for this aquifer.

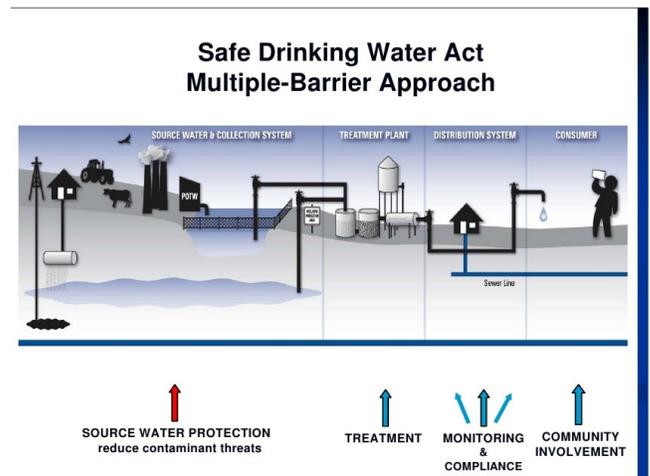


Aquifers are water bearing geological formations that are permeable enough to allow water to move through them. The Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer is considered a high quality source of water because of the consistent yield (volume of water) and the characteristics of the water are generally very good for use as potable water. It is also easy to access because there is not much overburden, that is there is not a lot of soil and/or rock covering the aquifer. This accessibility is an advantage when water is needed but brings a hazard with it. Due to the lack of soil and/or rock overlaying the aquifer, any contaminant from the surface can more readily find its way into the aquifer. Special care is needed to ensure that we do not negatively impact this aquifer.

A Source Water Protection Plan is a concerted effort to be proactive and prevent negative impacts to the water that we use. The “source water” part refers to the body of water that we draw our water from and it can be a lake, river, wetland or aquifer. These bodies of water receive water from the surrounding landscape that replenishes the water in them; otherwise these bodies of water will dry up. To ensure the quality of water in the source water is good, we need to consider the water flowing into and the landscape across which it flows. The proactive element is looking at how water gets, in this case, to the aquifer and then identifying the hazards. Once the hazards are identified, we can then assess the risk by ranking the hazards as to how likely they are to occur and what the impact would be should they occur.

The next step is to come up with mitigative strategies, which are ways that we can reduce the probability of hazards occurring or the intensity of their impact and thereby reduce the risk. This is roughly the point in the process at which we find ourselves. After the most effective strategies are identified, we will be working on implementation together with our partners this is where the rubber hits the road.

Watch for a chance to provide input on this plan in autumn 2018 and for implementation to begin in 2019.



MPWA Staff



Rhonda Clarke—Gauthier, P.Ag.—Executive Director



Adam Norris, M.Sc., B.i.T.—Watershed Coordinator

Focuses on planning & technical project work



Megan Graham— Education & Outreach Coordinator

Focuses on various educational programs, resources & opportunities

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
www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org

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Upcoming Tradeshows

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will be attending two tradeshows in the Month of April!

- 1) **Clear Hills County Agricultural Tradeshow**
Where: Dave Shaw Memorial Complex, Hines Creek
When: Saturday April 14th 10AM—5PM

- 2) **Peace River & District Chamber of Commerce Spring Tradeshow**
Where: Baytex Energy Centre, Peace River
When: Friday April 20th 4PM—9PM
 Saturday April 21st 10AM—5PM

We would love for you to stop by and say hello! We will be providing lots of information about the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, as well as having a fun demonstration on riparian areas! And don't forget the fun giveaways!

Land Stewardship Centre Grant Update

Thank you for all the watershed stewardship groups within Alberta who applied to the Watershed Stewardship Grant with the Land Stewardship Centre! The Land Stewardship Grant Committee met in March to discuss funding; and applicants will be notified by May 1st, 2018.

For more information on the Watershed Stewardship Grant or about the Land Stewardship Centre please visit there website at: <http://www.landstewardship.org/watershed-stewardship-grant-program/>



Board Members 2017-2018

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Sylvia Johnson
Provincial -Dan Benson	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Tony Saunders	Metis Settlement General Council -Darren Calliou
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen	Oil & Gas -Robert Thompson	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Small Urban -Elaine Manzer	Utilities -Ashley Rowney	Public Member-at- Large (2) -Richard Keillor -David Walty	Middle Watershed First Nation -Troy Stuart
Rural Municipality -Elaine Garrow	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Dave Hay	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb