

WPAC Summit 2018

The week of June 19th, 2018 the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance hosted the biennial Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Council Summit in Peace River, Alberta for the directors and staff of the 11 WPACs throughout the province.

Throughout the 4 day conference there were over 20 speakers from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and North West Territories who came to address issues and concerns around the theme of Source Water to Drinking Water. The conference provided the opportunity for all of the WPACs to share what they are currently working on as well as projects they have completed.



The attendees had an opportunity to do some pre-conference tours of the Town of Peace River and a tour of various MPWA project sites. On the evening of the 21st, participants enjoyed a BBQ evening along Peace River, a few participants had the chance to do a short float down the Peace River and a number of participants crossed the Shaftsbury Ferry.



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

Welcome to Fall! Just as the seasons change so does the work of the MPWA. The organization experienced a very busy spring as we held our AGM in May and hosted the Alberta WPAC Summit in Peace River June 19-22. Along with those 2 larger events, we also continued to work on projects such as the Grimshaw Gravel Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan, Lake Forum at Figure 8 Lake, Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Projects, and preparing for fall programs and projects (Wetland Education Day for Municipalities and a Soil Erosion Series Workshop). For information on any of these items, please check our website or call the office.



As MPWA moves into the fall, we are wrapping up some projects and moving towards new work pieces. It is exciting times at the MPWA and we are always open to discussions regarding potential projects to address watershed concerns. Water for Life Strategy continues to be a focus of the organization.

If you have project ideas or you are able to contribute financially to any of our work, please contact the office. Have a great fall.

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

Streambank Stabilization and Extension is maybe not the most captivating name but it is a fascinating project. The site that we are working on is a cropped field where a drainage ditch was constructed in the 70's. Many decades later the effects of speeding up the exodus of water from the field is being felt in the large amount of erosion and the huge gully that now runs through the field. The name refers to the fact that we are working on stabilizing a stream channel that has eroding banks and that we are focussed on extending that knowledge to others throughout the project.



Restoration techniques will be employed to stabilize the streambanks in 2 primary ways: 1) by reintroducing meandering and 2) by raising the channel bottom. If you are thinking that meandering means destabilizing the banks you are correct. Initially, there will be increased erosion as the water resumes a serpentine pattern that will dissipate its energy. Subsequently, however, there will be increased bank stability over the long term as the channel has enough space to function properly. Raising the channel bottom involves creating depositional areas where the water will slow down enough to drop the sediment that it is carrying. So this raising of the channel bottom will help reduce the amount of initial sediment moved by the stream due to the increased meandering.



**Soil Erosion Series
FIELD DAY**

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 | 12:30 - 4:00 PM
Visit www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org for more information and to RSVP
Lunch Included

FIELD EROSION ZUNI BOWL

Did the spring run off with your soil? Are you a landowner or land manager facing water-related soil erosion issues, or just interested in restoring eroded land? Join us on our public field day showcasing a range of erosion control and mitigation techniques completed on a down-cutting stream and eroding field near La Glace in the County of Grande Prairie. This work is in partnership with Craig Sponholz of Watershed Artisans, Inc. – a restoration contractor that works to heal waterways using local materials and natural ecosystem processes.

Event contact: Adam Norris 780.552.4354

Visit www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org to see similar projects

The meandering stream will have a floodplain, which is simply an area above the banks where normal flows are, and this allows for several important processes to occur.

Flood plains are the buffer for water courses so that when high flows come the potentially destructive force is lessened. Rivers that have accessible and vegetated flood plains, use this as a release valve so that water spills over the banks during a flood and spreads out into the floodplains. The greater area available for water to flow through allows the water to spread out, reducing its energy or erosive power. Vegetation in the flood plain also slows down the water, as well as traps some of the sediment in the water. Many other important functions occur in the flood plain such as recharging groundwater, supporting riparian vegetation (critical for stable streambanks) and hosting increased biodiversity.

**Soil Erosion Series
WORKSHOP**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM - CLASSROOM SESSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Elks Hall, Sexsmith Civic Centre 99 St, 99 Ave Sexsmith, AB
RSVP to the **Classroom Session** and the **Workshop** on Eventbrite.
Lunch is included.

Boulder One Rock Dam Boulder Baffle

Did the spring run off with your soil? Are you a landowner or land manager with water-related soil erosion issues, or just interested in restoring eroded land? In this hands-on workshop, attendees will learn to build erosion control and mitigation structures on an eroding field and a down-cutting stream near La Glace in the County of Grande Prairie. This work is in partnership with Craig Sponholz of Watershed Artisans, Inc. – a restoration contractor that works to heal waterways using local materials and natural ecosystem processes.

Event contact: Adam Norris 780.552.4354 [mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org)
Visit <http://www.watershedartisans.com/> to see similar projects

Please join us for our Soil Erosion Series, a series of events that are part of our effort to restore this stream. Contact us at 780-324-3355.

MPWA Staff



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



Adam Norris, M.Sc., P.Biol.—Watershed Coordinator

Focuses on planning & technical project work



Megan Graham— Education & Outreach Coordinator

Focuses on various educational programs, resources & opportunities

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An Evening at the Lake

On July 5th the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance hosted an evening event at Figure 8 Lake. The evening was open to the public and had roughly 10 people in attendance.

There were two guest speakers: Bradley Peter from the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) who spoke on lake ecology, lake stewardship, as well as lake monitoring. The second speaker was Nikita Lebedynski from the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) who was able to inform people about the lake history as well as recreation and fisheries on the lake.

For more information on the event please contact our office at (780) 324-3355



Walk through the Forest

For the first time the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance was able to participate in the Grade 5 Walk through the Forest program in Grande Prairie as well as Peace River. During the event MPWA was able to assist with the wetlands station in Grande Prairie and run the wetlands station in Peace River.



The goal of the station was to have the children go over the 5 types of wetlands. The students also learned why wetlands have an important role with mitigating flooding as well as helping filter out contaminations that can happen throughout a watershed.



Education Opportunities: If you would like a school visit from the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance about our organization, wetlands or stewardship please contact Megan at mpwa.admin@telus.net

Board Members 2018-2019

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Vacant	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Vacant
Provincial -Dan Benson	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Vacant	Metis Settlement General Council -Darren Calliou
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen	Oil & Gas -Sarah Belak	Research/Education -Catherine Brown	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