



February 2019

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #17



Flow of the Peace



What Flows

LakeKeepers Program	Page 1
Message from the Executive Director	Page 2
From the Watershed Coordinator	Page 3
Staff of MPWA	Page 3
Municipal Wetlands Workshop	Page 4
Working Well Workshop	Page 4
Board of Directors	Page 4



SAVE THE DATE: MPWA Annual General Meeting

May 24th, 2019 – Peace River

*Seats up for election on page 4

LakeKeepers Program

This past summer the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance had the opportunity to participate in the pilot project of the LakeKeepers Program with Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS). This program from ALMS was intended to complement the existing LakeWatch program by bringing a less intensive monitoring program to lakes inaccessible by LakeWatch. For the pilot project 5 lakes were monitored within the summer of 2018; three of which were in the Peace Watershed— Figure 8 Lake, Haig Lake and Snipe Lake. Volunteers were provided with training manuals and videos, additionally they had an opportunity to attend a lake forum we hosted on July 5th which had some demonstrations on how to use the equipment.

From June to September, three volunteers sampled their lake 3 times at a chosen sample site at each lake; which was as close as possible to the deepest spot. The parameters that were tested were; total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, Microcystin, Chlorophyll-a, Secchi Disk Depth and Euphotic Depth.

For the full summary on the LakeKeepers Program and the results please visit: <https://alms.ca/lakekeepers/>



Education Opportunities: If you would like a school visit, a speaker at your organization meeting (youth or adult) or at a speaker event, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance would be interested in presenting about our organization, wetlands or stewardship. Please contact Megan at mpwa.admin@telus.net

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

As the MPWA moves towards the end of its 8th year of operations, we have lots to reflect on. The 2015 release of the SOW (State of the Watershed Report) seems a long time ago, but was and is so very crucial for the basis of our work. The IWMP (Integrated Watershed Management Plan) was released after extensive work by the board, many people and organizations in March 2018. MPWA has now been working towards implementation of a variety of recommendations of the IWMP as well as some on the ground projects that will show beneficial management practises. Be sure to check out our website www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org or our facebook page to view information and pictures about our partner projects i.e., Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan, Redwillow Riparian Project, Livestock Crossings, and Streambank Improvements, etc.



Thank you to our sponsors both monetary and in-kind, your generous donations truly help us focus our work in the area of watershed management planning and projects.

We look forward to seeing a large turnout of members, public, and organizations at our AGM on May 24th in Peace River. This day will include guest speakers, short business meeting, and an election of a variety of Board of Director seats. Further notices will be posted on the MPWA website closer to the event.

Have a wonderful rest of winter and a refreshing spring season.



As of February 1, 2019 Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan is now on the [Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org) Website.

Come visit us at the following Tradeshows:

- SARDA Ag Research Tradeshaw in Falher on March 14-16
- Clearhills County Tradeshaw in Hines Creek on April 13
- Petroleum Show in Grande Prairie on May 15 & 16



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.



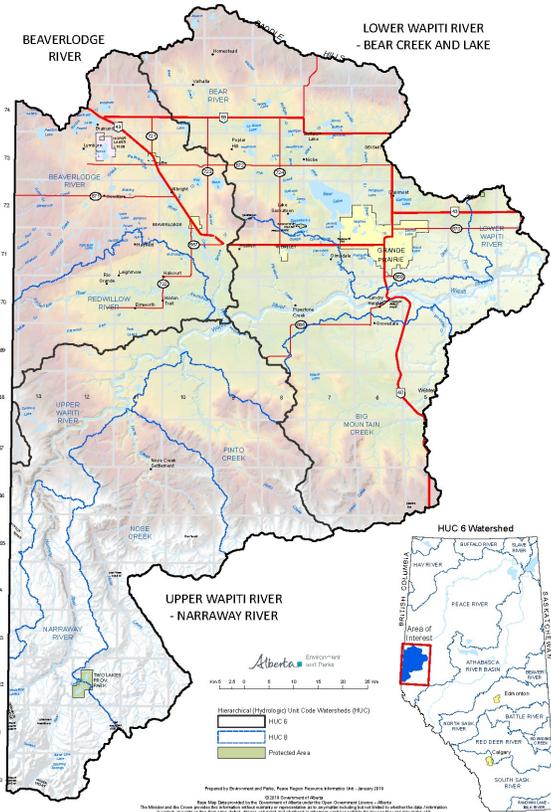
Watershed Coordinator Adam Norris

MPWA is pleased to be starting on another Source Water Protection Plan/Watershed Management Plan with a great group of organizations. Right now work is proceeding to put the final touches on the Wapiti River Water Management Plan, a plan which deals with the amount of water that is available for withdrawal under different circumstances. Although this plan focuses on water quantity, it recognizes that



water quality is critical to ensuring that the available volume is useful. One of the recommendations coming out this plan was the task of addressing water quality in the Wapiti Watershed.

Upper and Lower Wapiti Watershed & Beaverlodge River Watershed



The Wapiti Watershed Source Water Protection Plan aims to do just this and will use the following process:

- 1) identify all hazards to the source water; identifying hazards is essentially the process of asking “What could go wrong?”
- 2) assess the risk of each hazard; assessing the risk is trying to get a handle on the likelihood of a hazard affecting the source water and the severity of the impact when it does occur. Here the questions are “How often or how likely is this to occur?” and “How bad will it be if it does occur?”
- 3) develop mitigative strategies for each hazard; the question for mitigative strategies is “How can we reduce the chances of these bad things happening?”

This project is examining the whole of the Alberta watershed to ensure that we are considering all waters that flow into the Wapiti River. Potential contaminants could enter the Wapiti River through any of the tributaries.

MPWA Staff



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



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

Focuses on planning & technical project work



Megan Mader— Education & Outreach Coordinator

Focuses on various educational programs, resources & opportunities

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Municipal Wetlands Workshops

In October, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance hosted two Municipal Wetlands workshops in partnership with Alberta Environment & Parks and NAIT Boreal Research Institute.

The first workshop was on the evening of October 29th in Grimshaw; with 40 people in attendance. The second workshop was on the evening of October 30th in Sexsmith; it had 22 people in attendance.

The workshop focused on basic wetland education, the benefits to having wetlands within municipalities and on your property, as well as wetland policy and legislation. The workshop also gave the opportunity for Municipalities and land owners to learn what the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance organization is. MPWA also shared our resources with participants.



Working Well Workshop

On December 15th, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance hosted a Working Well Workshop in Grimshaw. The workshop had 15 people in attendance.

The workshop was targeted towards home owners who have a well on their property. During the workshop the following topics were covered:

- Groundwater & how it works
- Water quality & quantity testing
- Well protection—protecting your well from contamination
- Basic well maintenance
- Water sampling & how to do it

Speakers included Ken Williamson with the Working Well Program, Dan Benson with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and Bonnie Segal with Alberta Health Services.

For more information on the Working Well Program please visit: <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/education-guidelines/working-well/default.aspx>

Board Members 2018-2019

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations * -Dave Coish	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 Municipality* -Chris Thiessen	Oil & Gas -Sarah Belak	Research/Education- Catherine Brown	Upper Watershed First Nation* -Vacant
Small Urban Municipality -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

Elections to be held May 24, 2019:

*The positions denoted with an *, are up for election for a 2 year term.*

*The positions denoted with an **, are up for election to fulfill the second year of a 2 year term.*