



August 2016

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #10

Flow of the Peace



On Aug 9, 2016 the Minister of Environment, Hon Shannon Phillips, and Minister of Energy, Hon Marg McCuaig-Boyd, announced the yearly operational grant funding for the MPWA. This is a grant that is applied for yearly so the WPAC can continue operations to do work in the areas of “State of the Watershed’ assessment, Integrated Watershed Management Planning, Education and Outreach.

In the picture (from L to R): Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier (Executive Director), Adam Norris (Watershed Coordinator), Natalia Rossiter-Thornton (Oil and Gas Seat), Hon Shannon Phillips, Alden Armstrong (MPWA Chair and Metis Settlements General Council Seat), Hon Marg McCuaig-Boyd, Michelle Gairdner (Alternate - Large Urban Municipality Seat).

Message from the Executive Director Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier

The MPWA celebrates 5 years of organizational work towards our planning and advisory function under the Government of Alberta’s Water for Life Strategy. The group of volunteer board of directors and members have achieved a great deal in a relatively short period of time. After completing background work, the MPWA released the State of The Watershed for the Peace and Slave River Watersheds in March 2015. Along with the SOW work, they have moved into preparing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) terms of reference and now engaged in the IWMP work plan.

This not-for-profit organization has spent much time engaging with stakeholders and the public as well as providing education and awareness opportunities. The MPWA plans to provide more of these events and activities in the future. If you have ideas or thoughts about further education or outreach events, please contact us. Also, as we work through the ‘issues of concern’ as identified in our previous work, we will be continuing to move around the watershed and invite you to participate as we create the IWMP.

I would like to thank the many stakeholders who participate in the MPWA as Directors, Alternate Directors, Members and supporters. We

look forward to your continued support as we fulfill our role as the designated planning and advisory council by working towards the goals of ‘Water For Life’ – 1. Safe secure drinking water. 2. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems. 3. Reliable quality water for economic sustainability.



What Flows

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AGM Update—May 27, 2016

MPWA hosted our 6th Annual General Meeting in May. The meeting was located in Peace River at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre. Throughout the day there was two presentations, organization updates, financial reports and election of the new directors.



The first presentation was from Tim Toth the Senior Transboundary Advisor within the Strategy Division of Alberta Environment and Parks. Mr. Toth’s presentation was on the Alberta & North West Territories Transboundary relations as well as the Alberta and British Columbia Trans- Boundary relations.

The second presenter of the day was Kerri O’Shaughnessy a Riparian Specialist from the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (also known as Cows & Fish). Ms. O’Shaughnessy presented a Life & Times project on the Heart River. The presentation is designed to use history, visual imagery and ecological concepts to offer insight into what the watershed looked like in the past, how it looks today and what it could be in the future.

For more information from the AGM please contact our office at (780) 324-3355 or email mpwa.admin@telus.net.

Message from the Chair Alden Armstrong



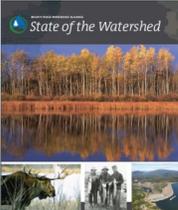
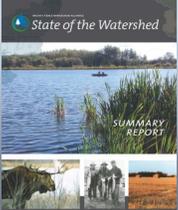
Hello Everyone, my name is Alden Armstrong and I was recently appointed Chair of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.

I would like to thank past Chairman Bob Cameron for his years of dedication to the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance. Mr. Cameron has always had a regional perspective and real knowledge of environmental issues and has been deeply involved in the development of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Cameron will continue to work on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan as a committee member.

I am pleased with the wide diversity of the board members that include all kinds of people, from all walks of life. The group of folks that have assembled are all passionate about the areas that they work in, and the organization they represent. These individuals are all concerned about the environment and its land and water. I expect to spend the next year working with the board to develop and implement the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

I look forward to working with the regional stakeholders, aboriginal governments, municipal governments, and the Alberta Government to build a better understanding among all of us so that we can maintain the ecological integrity of the Peace River Basin.

Check out our State of the Watershed Report!
For copies please email Megan Graham at
mpwa.admin@telus.net or check out our
website for electronic copies

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



New to the Board



Natalia Rossiter-Thornton (Oil & Gas)

Natalia was born and raised in Ontario and has an M.Sc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Duke University.

She moved to Grande Prairie and started in the oil industry in 2010 working as a hydraulic fracturing field engineer (EIT) and has since called Grande Prairie home. She

left the hydraulic fracturing job in 2012 to work as an environmental scientist focused on groundwater and soil monitoring projects and from there joined Seven Generations Energy (7G) in 2013 as an Operations Engineer (EIT).

Natalia is assigned to 7G's Grande Prairie based Environment Group, which is tasked with addressing numerous strategies and practices for long term sustainability in the interaction of the Company's operations with the biophysical environment.



Sylvia Johnson (Metis Nation of Alberta)

Sylvia Johnson is the President of Region VI Metis Nation, the Northwest Region of the Province of Alberta. The Metis population in this area is over 20,000 people with 7,000 Metis holding membership with the Metis Nation of Alberta.

Five times elected for three year terms, serving her membership is first, ensuring training, education, establishing partnerships with industry and community on their behalf.

She has received both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Governor General of Alberta Medal and the Golden Eagle Award from Native Women of Canada.

Married, with three grown children and ten grandchildren, she was born and raised in the Peace River area and has a strong pride and love for the north.

Her strengths are to work with both provincial and federal government, proud to be able to contribute to volunteer board appointments that will bring a voice to Aboriginal people.



David Walty (Member at Large)

David Walty lives in a log house that he built himself on a small farm just outside of the Town of Peace River. The view from his house looks down the valley of the Mighty Peace. "I can view the many faces of the river, its fury, its ever changing flows and its radiant beauty from my front door".

Dave recently retired from 40 years of managing the Fish and Wildlife resources of the Peace Region. Dave is a fisheries biologist by training. His experience with management, planning, aboriginal relations, stakeholder relations, communication, education and working in a team environment are many. Dave has an intimate knowledge of most lakes and rivers in the Peace Watershed. Dave is a founding member and a director of the East Peace Water Co-op, the largest water co-op in the province.

Dan Benson (Provincial Government)



Dan was raised on a farm in the County of Camrose. He attended Northern Alberta Institute of Technology where he graduated as an Engineering Technologist.

He moved to Peace River in 1997 where he worked for PFRA/AAFC. In 2013 he started a new position with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry as an Agricultural Water Specialist.

He served as an alternate on the MPWA board of directors since 2014 and became the Provincial Government Director in May 2016

Watershed Coordinator *Adam Norris*



Years of foundational work have led the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) to the point where we now are. Work on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan has begun and is continuing into the coming year. The State of the Watershed Report, public forums, projects and conversations throughout the watershed have guided the Board of Directors as the MPWA does its work on this plan. Two working groups have already looked at two identified 'Issues of Concern', one is Water Quality and Availability away from the Mainstem and Consumptive Use of Water, and the other is Wetlands and Wetlands Loss. The Board of Directors continue to work through these Issues and how best to address them, however an initial discussion paper has been released to help the MPWA engage in conversation around these issues throughout the watershed. **Please go to our website to get this report and provide feedback.**

Starting in the autumn of 2016, two new working groups will begin looking at the other 'Issues of Concern' identified for this first round of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. One issue is Non-saline Groundwater, which will consider our fresh water resource that is below the surface and the second one is the Peace River Flow Regime which will consider the timing and volume of flows in the Peace River as well as how it affects the watershed.

The working groups are teams made up of individuals who are active in these areas in the Peace and Slave Watersheds. Their process includes coming together and sharing relevant information, concerns of their sectors and potential solutions. We would like to thank very much all those who have contributed to this.

PCBFA Whole Farm Water Planning Workshop

On August 3 the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association hosted a Whole Farm Water Planning Day Workshop with host Jesse Lemieux of Pacific Permaculture. The workshop was hosted near Blueberry Mountain. The morning included an engaging lecture while the afternoon was out in the field learning practical skills for whole farm water design and planning.

People who attended the workshop learned how to:

- Assess the landscape and determine the best location for dugouts, ponds and other water infrastructure
- How to improve dugout design and construction for maximum economic benefit
- How to connect water infrastructure to maximize water use efficiency and drought farm resistance.

For additional information on the workshop please feel free to contact PCBFA at 780-835-6799



Rain Barrel Update

This past spring we held our first Rain Barrel Fundraiser with collaboration with an Rain Barrel Fundraising group out of Ontario.

MPWA had two target locations within the Peace Watershed: Grande Prairie & Peace River. Between both locations 90 rain barrels were sold.

We would like to thank **AQUATERA** for helping with organization, support and providing a location to store and distribute the rain barrels in Grande Prairie. We would also like to thank the **Town of Peace River** for providing a location to store and distribute the rain barrels in Peace River.

If there are any questions about the sale or if you are interested in purchasing rain barrels next year, please contact Megan at mpwa.admin@telus.net

Board Members

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar (Alternate - Courtney Hughes)	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig (Alternate- Eric Jorgensen)	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Sylvia Johnson (Alternate -Barry Dibb)
Provincial -Dan Benson (Alternate - John Zylstra)	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Cathy Newhook (Alternate - Tony Saunders)	Metis Settlement General Council -Alden Armstrong (Alternate -Stan Delorme)
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen (Alternate - Michelle Gairdner)	Oil & Gas -Natalia Rossiter-Thornton (Alternate - Jennifer Ezekiel)	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze (Alternate - Bin Xu)	Upper Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Small Urban -Elaine Manzer (Alternate - Jonathan Anaka)	Utilities -Ashley Rowney	Public Member-at- Large (2) -Richard Keillor -David Walty	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Elaine Garrow (Alternate - Ray Skrepnek)	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Dave Hay (Alternate - Roxie Rutt)	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb (Alternate - Lindee Dumas)