



March 2012

Issue #2

Flow of the Peace "Current Eddies"

Look at us Flow

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance! The board of Directors have been very busy since the last communications. We had a majority of the board participate in the AB WPAC Summit held in Slave Lake in October, they had a wonderful opportunity to meet other Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils from across the Province and were able to learn more about the workings of the councils, the challenges and concerns about WPAC's and discuss possible options towards a bright future for Alberta's Watersheds.

The Board has spent a great deal of time giving input and reviewing the 4 projects that are being worked on in the 2011-2012 year. The 4 projects (Water organizations and Agencies, State of Drinking Water, Current & Future Water Uses and Issues, and Aquatic Ecosystem Health) are part of the initial stages to helping the board gain a broader and deeper understanding of the Peace Watershed.

You will notice that the MPWA has unveiled its new logo, and hopefully you have had a chance to visit our website

(www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org).

Join us at our AGM on March 24th at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Center.

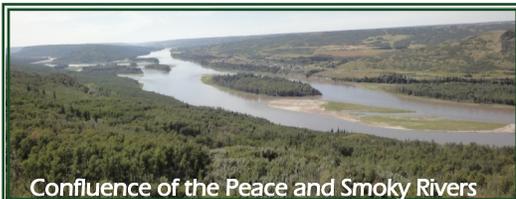
Some of the highlights of the upcoming AGM:

- Discussion regarding BC Hydro Site C
- David Leonard and Laura Gloor - History of the Peace
- Projects and Board Updates
- Nominations will be received for 5 vacant positions (Mining, Tourism/fisheries/ Recreation, Member at Large, and 2 First Nations Seats)
- See our new display materials

On a closing note, as with many Not-for-profit organizations, there is always a need for financial support. We have some costs that need to be covered by the end of March that can not be paid with our operational grant (ie. one of our projects). If your organization or business feel that you can contribute financially to the MPWA, we would truly appreciate your support.

What Flows

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Confluence of the Peace and Smoky Rivers

Upstream

Look at our "NEW" Logo



- AGM - March 24, 2012 at the Sawridge Inn - Peace River
- Visit MPWA's booth at the Clearhills Tradeshow on April 14, 2012
- Earth Day Event - City of Grande Prairie - April 21, 2012

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.

MPWA Board Members - Part 2

Rick Keillor



Since 1982 Rick has been operating his own mixed (cattle and grain) farm. He is married and has a grown son and daughter.

Before returning to the farm Rick obtained a BSc in Zoology, minor Geography, course work in Geology at

the University of Alberta. (1975)

From 1976-1982 he worked for Alberta Fish and Wildlife, mainly on Wildlife management and Land use issues.

Over the past years Rick has been involved in organizations such as Peace Country Beef and Forage Association and Holistic Management, with an interest in grass management, including riparian and forest grazing management. (All bush and riparian areas on his farm are fenced out from general grazing use)

During the 1990's Rick served as a member of DMI Peace River (Daishowa Marubeni International) Public Advisory Council. He gained valuable insights into forest management and water issues, as well as the mill side effects and issues.

Currently he is councillor for the M.D. of Peace # 135 (2nd term), and in this capacity he is chair of the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Association (inter municipal group), and represents the Northern Zone on the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) on the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, which is just started.

Rick has a long standing interest in land use and land and water management issues, as it relates to agriculture, industry, recreation and ecosystem needs.

Kimberley Watson, P.Eng



Kimberley was born and raised in rural Prince Edward Island. She is a professional engineer with an Agricultural Engineering Degree from the Technical University of Nova Scotia. Mrs. Watson started her career with Petro-Canada in

2007. At Petro-Canada, she provided Production Engineering and Optimization expertise and leadership in various in-situ SAGD projects. Kimberley Watson joined Penn West in August 2010 as the Manager of Operations Engineering for the Peace River Oil Partnership. Kimberley resides in Calgary with her husband and their three young daughters. In her spare time, she is an avid "scrapbooker", a guide leader and enjoys playing squash, as well as watching her children play sports.

Abdi Siad-Omar, Senior Water Management Planner Alberta Environment



Abdi Siad-Omar has a Masters Degree in Rural Planning and Development from the University of Guelph, Ontario. Abdi has over 20 years experience in water resource planning, environmental management, project management and

coordination. Currently, Abdi is a senior water management planner with Northern Region of Alberta Environment.

A water management planner provides a proactive leadership role in water resources planning and management. Abdi leads, coordinates and participates in the following activities:

- Lead and manage the planning of multi-objective watershed management projects.
- Lead and coordinate lake water management studies.
- Develop and coordinate proposals and terms of reference for watershed management planning.
- Design of planning process to address watershed management concerns.
- Clarify the purpose, scope, parameters, issues to be resolved.
- Conduct research on regional water uses and impacts.
- Participate operational planning of capital projects.

Geoff Milligan



Geoff Milligan, represents small urban communities. He serves as a councillor with the Town of Peace River and has held that position for eight years. Geoff is now retired but during his 35 year career as a consultant and civil servant he was engaged in community and

regional economic development and public administration with the Alberta and British Columbia governments. Prior to his retirement he was the Director of Child Welfare with Alberta Child and Family Services, Region 14. His interest in watershed planning is both academic and personal. He lives in the town most impacted by changes in the river system and his academic qualifications include a BSc. in Agriculture and a Masters Degree in Community Development. He lives with his wife and close to extended family members in the town of Peace River.

Board Members Continued

John Zylstra



John Zylstra has worked with the government of Alberta, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development since 1988, in the areas of soil conservation, direct seeding, nutrient management, year round grazing, crop rotations, land management, land use, environmental farm plans, Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture, greenhouse gases, carbon offsets, extension and research, and program planning, mostly in the Peace Region of Alberta. He also worked on land use issues in Northeastern Alberta with the recent Lower Athabasca Regional Planning Process. Previously from 1983-1988 John worked as an Agriculture Fieldman for ID 20 near Spirit River, including being a regional director for the AAF for two years. He also worked briefly as a development officer for ID 20. In addition, since 1978, John has farmed on a small scale with grain, hogs, and cattle since 1978. He has seven children and 21 grandchildren, most of whom live in the Peace Region of Alberta.

Willard Roe



Willard's formal Education was at NAIT where he Took Forestry/Environmental Resources; Fish and Wildlife Management and Parks Management. He worked for 12 years as a District Ranger with Alberta Government. For the past 24 years Willard has been in the Oil /Gas business as a Supervisor operating Plants; Construction; Reclamation and Pipeline Projects. He currently sit as a Board member with Canadian Forest Products and Enbridge Pipelines. Willard has been involved in and was a Board Member with Children's Services in this Region for about 12 years. He was also the Metis Local President for a total of about 15 years. Willard is a Licensed Land Man (Agent) in the Province of Alberta .

Louis Pawlowich



Louis Pawlowich is a member of the Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. He traces his Canadian heritage back 300 years to English and Aboriginal decedents working for the Hudson's Bay Company. Many descendants, have been found, who took part in paving the way for settlers and explorers into this great land as scouts and leaders. Louis's father was a European settler who took advantage of the opportunities and came to farm in Alberta. Louis feel an obligation to watch over this land for many more generation to come.

Monitoring and the MPWA



Recently you may have seen the announcement from the Federal and Provincial Environment Ministers about a more rigorous monitoring system for the oilsands. A few days before the announcement I attended a workshop in Ft. McMurray on our behalf as

Rhonda was busily preparing our project and core funding grant applications. It was made clear at that workshop that environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting would change for the whole province not just the oilsands area in the Lower Athabasca.

Monitoring results from government and industry are the basis of the evaluation of the state of our watershed. The more systematic the information used the more solid a base to develop a watershed plan. The Executive Director for the Athabasca Watershed told the meeting in Ft. MacMurray that of the 11 watershed health indicators they had chosen they only had 4 which had enough scientific data to be scientifically credible. To put it another way wouldn't you rather build a pyramid with a base of 11 than 4. The 11 indicators were chosen from the 33 in the provinces guide for water management planning.

It's important to note that the technical reports being prepared by our consultants will provide us with a gap analysis. This will help us understand how valid our assessment of the state of our watershed might be using what scientific data we have now. We have to remember too, that our work will be subjected to the common sense and intimate knowledge of the watershed details of our friends and neighbours when it goes out for public comment.

Bob Cameron
MPWA Chair

Projects Update

Project 1 – Directory of Water Organizations and Agencies - A report and directory to inform the MPWA of what potential partnerships and sources of information it can draw on, and what needs to be gathered so that preparations for the State of The Watershed (SoW) report can be done.

Project 2 – State of Source Drinking Water - A report about the quantity and quality of drinking water in the Peace watershed, both regulated and non-regulated.

Project 3 – Current and Future Water Use and Issues – A report on water availability as well as the

demand and use in each of the six Peace sub-basins in Alberta, and considers the use of both surface and groundwater.

Project 4 – Aquatic Ecosystem Health of the Peace Watershed – This report provides the MPWA with a thorough overview of the current state of knowledge with respect to aquatic ecosystem health in the Peace watershed and describes any present or anticipated issues affecting aquatic health.

MPWA is expecting final reports for these projects in the next couple of months.

From the Executive Director’s Desk!



Who knew that time could fly by so fast! Well, it has been 7 months since I joined the MPWA as the Executive Director. We now have an established office in McLennan, a working website, our second newsletter, have held 8 board meetings since April 1st and numerous committee meetings to deal with technical, communications, and financial issues.

We are currently working through the granting and budgeting process (since January 2012) to obtain funding for both core operations and future projects.

Plans for the next few months are the upcoming AGM, filling 2 staffing positions, wrapping up the 4 technical projects, and hopefully starting on new projects once funding has been secured.

MPWA will be coming to a community near you to hear what you would like to share with regards to the challenges, issues, concerns, and stories of the Mighty Peace Watershed.

If you happen to pass through the McLennan area, please stop by, coffee is always on.



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**2nd Annual General Meeting
Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre**

**Ballroom 9510 100th Street
Peace River Saturday March 24th, 2012**

9:00am - Coffee and Registration
10:00am - 4:00pm AGM and Program

- Discussion Regarding Site C
- History of the peace – David Leonard
- Update of Projects
- General Meeting

Lunch Included

This meeting is open to the public. However for planning purposes, if attending, please check one of the boxes below and send back to Rhonda by March 16, 2012 via email to rhonda.mpwa@serbnet.com or FAX to 780-324-3377.

Attending Not Attending

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

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Willard Roe
Provincial -John Zylstra	Forestry -Brian Gilliland	Watershed Stewardship -Don Thomas	Métis Settlement General Council -Louis Pawlowich
Large Urban -Dan Wong	Oil & Gas -Kimberley Watson	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Curtis Mitchell
Small Urban -Geoff Milligan	Utilities -Ashley Parker	Member-at- Large -Vacant	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Richard Keillor	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/Recreation -Vacant	Lower Watershed First Nation -Vacant