



February 2017

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #11

Flow of the Peace

HOW DOES INVASIVE SPECIES AFFECT RECREATION?

March 7, 2017

Grande Prairie, AB

12:30PM - 4PM

Cost: \$10/person
To Register please contact:
mpwa.admin@telus.net
OR
call (780)-324-3355
Registration Deadline:
March 3, 2017

Who should attend:
Resort Owners, tourism promoters, boat owners, fishers, watershed stewardship groups, park staff, campgrounds, and anyone who is interested

Learn about common invasive species that are threatening watershed health and sustainability.
Find out how to identify them and prevent their spread
Guest Speakers from Alberta Environment Parks and County of GP

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Save the Date!
May 26, 2017 Annual General Meeting
Peace River, AB

- Come Visit us at the Following Tradeshows!**
- Peace Country Classic, Grande Prairie: March 9-11
 - Smoky River Agricultural Tradeshow, Falher: March 16-18
 - Clear Hills County Tradeshow, Hines Creek: April 8



Adam Harris
Billion Year Valley
September 2012

WPAC Summit—October 26-28, 2016

On October 26th to 28th the Bow River Basin Council hosted the 11 of the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) in Calgary Alberta.

Throughout the three days the WPACs had a chance to discuss province-wide issues and successes, as well as what roles WPACs play in current regional provincial planning.

There were many presentations which gave each WPAC the opportunity to share what they are currently working on as well as projects they have completed. To see a summary of each WPAC in Alberta please visit our [website!](#)



Source Water Protection Planning Forum Summary



On the afternoon of December 1st the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance hosted a Source Water Protection Forum in Grande Prairie. Throughout the day there were three different speakers that addressed different components of a Source Water Protection Plan.

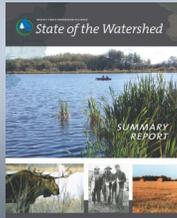
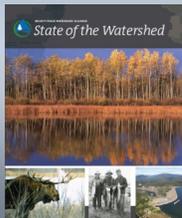
The first speaker of the afternoon was Jennifer Guth and Debra Mooney for Public Health Standards and Regulations with the Province of Alberta. They spoke about the Proposed Recreational Water Management Protocol (RWMP) pilot study they created which is supposed to help build a recreational water safety plan for lakes throughout the province. They also spoke about lead in drinking water, reclaimed water and responses to drinking water quality.

The second speaker was the Town of Grande Cache. Currently they are the only town in the Mighty Peace Watershed that has created a Source Water Protection Plan. The town sent three councillors; Mary Nelson, Johannes Zwart, and Yvonne Rempel who worked with the town and council through the whole process of the SWPP. They shared the steps and processes they needed to take create their Source Water Protection Plan and also the challenges they faced while creating it.

The final speaker of the afternoon was our Chairman Alden Armstrong who spoke briefly about Aboriginal's Perspective on Water.

In total there were 38 people who attended the workshop.

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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**Newsletter produced with support from AEP,
Alberta Government**



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 Integrated Watershed Management Plan is progressing well and I must first thank all those who have contributed to our working groups and those who have provided us input through our engagement sessions. Please check out our website for a listing of the working groups and some of our engagement events

(<https://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org/projects/integrated-watershed-management-plan/>).

To this point, that which we have been discussing with all and sundry is still quite high level but very important. First of all we are looking for agreement on where we are heading, that is to say what do we want our common water resources to look like today and into the future.

Generally, this follows the 3 goals of Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy, which are: 1) safe, secure drinking water, 2) healthy aquatic ecosystems and 3) reliable supplies for a sustainable economy. Safe, secure drinking water continues to rank as the highest priority as agreed upon by the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Board of Directors. There has been a consistency, not a total uniformity, but a consistency among the Board of Directors, the 4 working groups that were struck, and also the stakeholder engagement sessions about the high level goals for our watershed.

Developing an agreed upon set of agreed upon outcomes or goals for our watershed allows us to start figuring out how to get there. This becomes more challenging because now trade-offs are on the table and we have to consider what compromises need to be made to achieve our goals. Of course, we have started with the low hanging fruit and the first strategies we work upon are those which everyone agrees upon and there is very little in terms of trade-offs. Some of the strategies that fall into this category include better sharing of information, cross-pollination of Beneficial Management Practices and working to fill data gaps. May 2017 will see the release of our DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan and the strategies and management recommendations provided in this document will include both the low-hanging fruit and more challenging recommendations. The more challenging recommendations involve potential trade-offs and we will only moving forward to engage upon those recommendations where the affected sectors have indicated that the trade-off is something that they would be willing to consider. Agreement here is critical before we make recommendations in our final Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Engagement is something that we have been working on already and we will really focus on starting May with the release of our DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan. This release is a DRAFT, so please expect it to change with feedback that we receive. Furthermore we expect it to evolve as ongoing work is plugged into the framework of the plan. For instance, when local source water protection plans are completed, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan will incorporate and use the recommendations found therein for that location. The management recommendations are often still at a high level and so when more concrete objectives or recommendations can be developed and agreed upon then these also will be incorporated into the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

So please come talk to us, make your suggestions on how our water should be managed and help us develop and promote watershed management that benefits you.



Seven Generation Energy Tour

On September 28th, 2016 the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance was given an opportunity to go for a tour of some of the Seven Generations Energy Ltd. Facilities outside of Grande Prairie.

The tour was organized by the Oil & Gas Representative Natalia Rossiter – Thornton who works at Seven Generation Energy. Three board members from the Mighty Peace were able to attend the tour as well as one staff member.

Throughout the day MPWA was taken to tour a gas plant, a rig on one of Seven Generations pad sites, a fracking operation as well as a helicopter tour.



PCBFA—Annual General Meeting

Save the Date! PCBFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is taking place on the evening of Friday, February 24th at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview. You definitely don't want to miss this year's AGM!

We will be having Nuffield Scholar, Léona Dargis as our keynote speaker; Lawrence Rowley from Leader Tours presenting and available to answer all the questions you may have about our upcoming New Zealand Ag Tour; our Research Coordinator, Akim, presenting on a PCBFA project research update; and our Agri-Environmental Coordinator, Jen, debuting the Whole Farm Water Planning video series! On top of all of that, there will be door prizes, a bull sale corner, and a free GP Brewing Co tasting! There will be a delicious supper served as well, with opportunity to engage and network with other producers throughout the entire evening!

For addition information please call Jen Allen at (780)835-6799

PCBFA
PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION
2017

Annual General Meeting

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
DUNVEGAN MOTOR INN, FAIRVIEW, AB

4:30PM REGISTRATION
5:00PM BUSINESS MEETING
6:00PM SUPPER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LÉONA DARGIS

\$55/Person, or \$75/Farm Unit
Includes 2017 PCBFA Membership

Please RSVP to Jen at 780-835-6799 ext. 3 or jen@pcbfa.ca

A block of rooms has been held at Dunvegan Motor Inn & Suites
Please call 780-835-5100 to book a room

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	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 - Vern Lymburner)	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)