



October 2017

Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #13

Flow of the Peace

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Save the Date Oct 27 & 28

On **October 27 and 28th**, the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society is partnering up with Cows & Fish, Grande Prairie County, the Alberta Conservation Association, and the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance to deliver a mini-course that aims to show landowners how to maximize the benefits that their riparian areas provide both to their own operations and to the surrounding watershed. Examples of these benefits include improved water quality, moderation of floods and droughts, erosion reduction, wildlife habitat, forage production for livestock, recreational opportunities, and alternative enterprises.

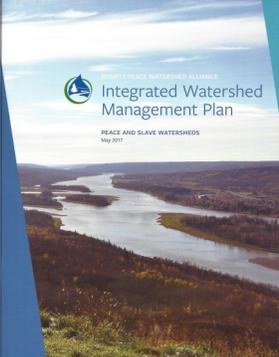
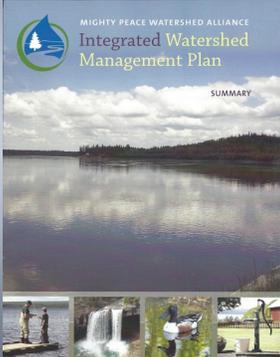
The course will begin with a brief background on riparian areas and their importance within the larger watershed, with focus on how riparian restoration can reduce flooding and droughts, improve water quality and reduce erosion. Participants will then get the chance to visit a riparian area in Grande Prairie County, where they will learn how to conduct a site assessment for determining riparian health and potential to provide functions, goods, and services.

Back in the class, participants will be given maps of their own riparian areas and other tools to help define a vision for their riparian area and a management plan for achieving this vision. Course staff will support this exercise through presentations on potential management practices that landowners may wish to consider, and by providing one-on-one technical assistance and advice to each participating landowner or family unit.

The fee for this course is \$20 per participant. The location of the course will be in Beaverlodge.

For more information and to register, please contact Jill Henry with Grande Prairie County at jhenry@countygp.ab.ca or 780-532-9727.

Check out our DRAFT Integrated Watershed Management Plan! For copies please email Megan Graham at mpwa.admin@telus.net



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



Message from the Chair By Rick Keillor



As winter draws near, and the water flows decrease in the watershed, the work of the MPWA begins to ramp up. Although the staff is busy with administration and on- the- ground projects throughout the summer, fall and winter are when MPWA makes extra effort to engage with residents of the watershed. This fall, we want to get your comments, ideas and critiques of the Draft IWMP that we released at our AGM in May of this year. It is critical to hear from a wide range of interests, regions, and individuals, as this IWMP, when finished, will inform watershed planning moving forward over the next several years. It is important that we get it right.

We hope to hear from you over the next few months as we hold events in various communities, and as always, we are open to discussion one to one at any time.

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



The MPWA continues to work on planning and advisory initiatives that will benefit the Peace & Slave Watersheds. We are moving forward with the final engagement and review process of the Draft IWMP (Intergrated Watershed Management Plan). The goal is to have the plan accepted as the IWMP for these watersheds.

Work has already begun around many of the recommended areas identified as needing work. The projects the MPWA is focusing on this year involve Source Water Protection Planning for the Grimshaw Gravel Aquifer, Riparian Health & Streambank Stabilization, Education regarding Stewardship & Water

Literacy. Please continue to check on our website for resources, updates & information.

New to the Board



Welcome to a new director to MPWA, Darren Calliou from Fishing Lake Metis Settlement. Darren is the representative from Metis Settlement General Council.

He began his career as a labourer, and worked his way to back hoe/grader operator, and eventually becoming foreman for the Fishing Lake Development Corporation which led to becoming a cat operator.

When Darren was 25 years old he married his Wife Lorraine Cardinal and had a family of five children; four girls and one boy and he now has six grandchildren.

Darren and Lorraine had owned and managed a farm of approximately 80 head of cattle in Fishing Lake before going back into the oil field and having a successful business operating a pressure truck for 6 years.

Darren had one term on the Fishing Lake Council as the Secretary/Treasurer from 2007 to 2010. After that Darren then started his own successful company as a owner/operator hauling oil for the Fishing Lake Oil Haul, which his youngest daughter Taylor is now running while he is with the MSGC Executive.

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

On September 8th Northern Sunrise County hosted a field tour of sites from both ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) and the Restoration of the Heart River Watershed Project. Engaged and dedicated landowners provided updates on the work undertaken and ongoing on the properties and how it met multiple objectives. The challenge of appropriate management is meeting the range of diverse objectives and this tour highlighted some success stories and some challenges (read failures), which are important step towards success.



Land owners have a full plate, generally they are expected to provide income from the land through agricultural pursuits and they are also unnamed stewards of the land for society in general. Concerns around biodiversity, soil management, weeds, water management, conservation, etc., all fall in the lap of land managers, which are often the owners and/or producers out on the land. Some of the techniques achieving both of these objectives that were highlighted included capturing runoff to provide water, restoring wetlands and implementing setbacks to prevent erosion.

It was great to see producers using wetlands to filter and improve water quality not just because it provided better water for their livestock but because of the benefits to watershed water quality. Fish will be just as pleased with the increase in water quality as the livestock will be. Careful planning that allows incorporation of wetlands and the benefits that they provide (water quality improvement, reduction of flooding, water storage, weed control, etc) makes efficient use of the landscape and provides outcomes both for the producer and the ecosystem.



One of the challenges was trying to re-establish a riparian zone on part of a field that had been in production. The changes in soil lead to a low survival rate for the plantings and reinforced the need for appropriate site prep when trying to re-establish a shrub or tree dominated plant community on what was previously a field/grassland.

MPWA is proud to be working with partners to accomplish these projects. Thanks to the landowners/producers, AEP Fisheries staff, Cows and Fish, Northern Sunrise County, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association and SARDA.

MPWA Staff



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



Adam Norris, M.Sc., B.i.T.—Watershed Coordinator

Focuses on planning & technical project work



Megan Graham— Education & Outreach Coordinator

Focuses on various educational programs, resources & opportunities

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Watershed Stewardship Day - September 14, 2017

On September 14th MPWA hosted a Watershed Stewardship Day Workshop in Fairview. The workshop had 15 people in attendance with 2 guest speakers.

Our first guest speaker of the day was Jenna Curtis from the Land Stewardship Centre. Her presentation focused on what a Stewardship Group consists of and the steps needed to create one. She also spoke about the grant the Land Stewardship Centre offers to small stewardship groups.

The second speaker of the day was Laura Redmond from the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS). Laura spoke on the Lake Watch Program that ALMS works on throughout Alberta and how smaller Stewardship Groups or Community members can help with the program and bring it to their area. She also spoke about tools used to conduct water quality testing.

MPWA provided the attendees with information on our organization as well as share our Draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

For further information about the workshop please contact our office at (780)324-3355.



Little Green Thumbs

MPWA is pleased to announce that they will be partnering with Saddle Hills County to provide the Little Green Thumbs Program to three schools within their County.



Little Green Thumbs is an indoor gardening program that gives elementary and high school students the opportunity to become food producers right in their own classroom! This hands on, inquiry-based education program helps young people value the health of themselves, the environment and their community.

MPWA is involved with this program as an educational resource for local schools while further broadening the understanding of the importance of our watershed within our community's youth. We will use this opportunity to teach the students about the watershed they live in and show them how everything is connected (air, water, land & biodiversity).

Board Members 2017-2018

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Sylvia Johnson
Provincial -Dan Benson	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Tony Saunders	Metis Settlement General Council -Darren Calliou
Large Urban -Chris Thiessen	Oil & Gas -Robert Thompson	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	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 -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Elaine Garrow	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Dave Hay	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb

* For complete Bio's of each director, please visit our website: www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org