



# North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

**Annual Report  
March 31, 2006**



**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Century Place, 9803 – 102A Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 3A3**  
**Phone: 780-496-5577 Fax: 780-496-5648**  
**[www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca)**



# Table of Contents

<b>Vision (2004 – 2007 Strategic Plan)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Mission (2004 – 2007 Strategic Plan)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Organizational Goals</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Financial Overview</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>highlights for the Year Ended March 31, 2006</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>NSWA Projects</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Canadian Heritage Rivers ( <i>detail</i> ) .....	6
State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report ( <i>detail</i> ).....	6
Integrated Watershed Management Plan ( <i>detail</i> ).....	7
Municipal Resource Guide for Watershed Health ( <i>detail</i> ) .....	8
Other NSWA Activities and Initiatives .....	8
Working Groups.....	8
Website Development (www.nswa.ab.ca) .....	9
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Integrated Communication/Education Plan April 2005 – March 2006.....	9
Resource (Library and others) Development.....	9
November 2005 Watershed Planning and Implementation: From Paper to Practice Conference ( <i>detail</i> ).....	9
North Saskatchewan Watershed Ecotour.....	9
Community Events Attended .....	10
<b>NSWA Membership</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>NSWA Board of Directors 2005/2006</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>NSWA Staff</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>The Year Ahead</b> ... ..	<b>12</b>
<b>Supporting Documents</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix A – NSWA Member List March 31, 2006</b> .....	<b>13</b>
RESEARCH/EDUCATION .....	13
CULTURE/RECREATION/TOURISM.....	14
AGRICULTURE.....	14
INDIGENOUS .....	14
INDUSTRY.....	14
GOVERNMENT.....	15
<b>Provincial</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Counties & MD;s.....	16

**North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society**  
**Annual Report March 31, 2006**

**VISION (2004 – 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN)**

A watershed where ecological integrity is the foundation for environmental, cultural, social and economic decision-making. Actions taken and policies implemented will result in the wise use and management of the North Saskatchewan Watershed in Alberta.

**MISSION (2004 – 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN)**

To protect and improve water quality, quantity and the health of our watershed by: seeking, developing and sharing knowledge; optimizing communication and partnerships and by fostering an understanding of the relationship between societal needs and watershed function through an adaptive planning process.

**BACKGROUND**

The NSWA, founded in 1999, focuses attention on the North Saskatchewan River watershed within Alberta, an area of approximately 80,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Our members emphasize a watershed approach to address the cumulative effects of land use activities on water quality and quantity.

The NSWA uses an inclusive, transparent process to involve as many stakeholder groups as possible. Our members cooperate on projects, activities and working groups to bring about positive environmental changes within the watershed. We work to coordinate watershed-related projects and raise public awareness within the watershed community about the value of watershed protection. Our meetings provide an opportunity for members to share information and build relationships and partnerships. We also review government and industry actions and policies and recommend best management practices to achieve quality water resources.

**ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS**

The NSWA's Strategic Plan outlines the following goals that guide our strategies and actions for achievement:

To promote and encourage collaborative decision-making and planning

To raise awareness, share information and promote watershed-related activities (existing and new) to our members and the wider community

To improve water quality by enhancing ecological function throughout the watershed

To foster wise use and integrated management of land and water resources throughout the North Saskatchewan River watershed

Ensure the sustainability of the NSWA as the key watershed planning and advisory organization for the North Saskatchewan Watershed

Our goals are achieved by our project and working group activities, and by partnering with like-minded organizations on specific initiatives. The profile of the NSWA continues to be raised through targeted media activities, specific outreach activities and through conference and workshop participation.

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Audited financial statement will become available when audit is complete.

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Key documents were drafted including a Communications Plan by the Education and Communications Working Group.

### **April 21, 2005** - State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report Released

In its first comprehensive watershed-wide review, the North Saskatchewan River watershed has received a “generally fair” grade of health. The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) released their State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report 2005 – A Foundation for Collaborative Watershed Management on April 21, 2005, noting several areas for improvement, along with 18 recommendations to address these needs. The 15 criteria used in their assessment were selected and ranked by NSWA members, which include environmental and recreation organizations, First Nations groups, oil and gas companies, agriculture, health authorities, local residents and key government offices. The report is available on the NSWA website.

**May 11, 2005** - The NSWA announced the beginning of an important new initiative, designed to develop an integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) for the North Saskatchewan Watershed. The goal of this five-year initiative is to produce a plan that will protect, maintain and restore a healthy watershed. The NSWA wants to develop a plan that balances environmental needs with social and economic needs. NSWA publicly launched the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) in May 2005. It was a colourful event with the historical announcement brought upriver to Hawerluk Park in Edmonton by NSWA members, staff and board members dressed as voyageurs, paddling a voyageur canoe. This was followed by a series of community cafés in the watershed – Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton, Smoky Lake and Innisfree, where stakeholder input was collected and will be considered in the preparation of the IWMP. A summary report is available on the NSWA website.

NSWA staff attended **Earth Day 2005**; **River Day 2005**; Environmental Advocate training forum in **June 2005**; Environment Week, web management courses in **April, May and June 2005** and a series of media related workshops in **February 2006**; the Provincial Environmental Education Summit in Edmonton in **October 2005** and in Calgary in **March 2006**; the Edmonton Environmental Strategic Plan stakeholder forum, a variety of Social Marketing seminars, and made presentations to many organizations and community groups in the watershed.

**June 7, 2005** - NSWA Received an Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence. The Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence was founded in the fall of 1991 to recognize outstanding initiatives and leadership in the face of many environmental challenges. The Emerald Awards were created by the Foundation to celebrate these achievements. The 2005 awards were presented at the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, Calgary.

**September 2005** - NSWA Received Minister’s Municipal Excellence Award (partnership category). NSWA received this award for their partnership in the Beaver Hills Initiative. Located in central Alberta (immediately east of Edmonton), the Beaver Hills/Cooking Lake Moraine is an upland, mixed-wood forest habitat that supports diverse wildlife and vegetation. In 2000, Elk Island National Park called attention to the increased recreational demands and urban development threatening the Beaver Hills ecosystem. Driven by the need to preserve the natural habitat, Strathcona County, Beaver County, Leduc County and Lamont County joined forces with 15 provincial, federal and non-government organizations, including the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance to develop a strategy for managing its use.

**November, 2005** - NSWA with the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin held a conference entitled *Watershed Planning and Implementation – From Paper to Practice*. At the conference, on **November 3, 2005**, NSWA member Petro-Canada was recognized for its collaborative initiative of utilizing city wastewater for industrial purposes to decrease the direct withdrawal of water from the North Saskatchewan River through construction of a recycled water line. The Partners for the

Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB) at its joint conference with the NSWA presented the award. The Fred Heal Conservation Award is given annually to recognize a community, organization or business that has taken direct initiative in preserving and/or enhancing the health of the Saskatchewan River Basin.

**In the fall of 2005** the NSWA participated in the initial Provincial Summit on Environmental Education in Edmonton and in the follow up meeting in Calgary in March 2006.

The NSWA maintained and strengthened partnerships with watershed organizations from other basins (such as the Bow River Basin Council, The Oldman Watershed Council and the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority)

Through the WPAC seat on the Alberta Water Council, the NSWA continued to provide input and advice at the provincial level to the Government of Alberta.

The NSWA Board of Directors held a retreat in **February 2006**.

**On March 11, 2006** NSWA moved into a newly renovated office space provided by the City of Edmonton on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Century Place. This replaces our old, much smaller space on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. We now have three workstations, storage space and manager's office all in one area.

The new NSWA website was launched at the **March 22, 2006** member meeting. Staff and members of the education/communication working group will manage of this website as soon as software and training are in place.

The North Saskatchewan River Heritage River Study (*required for the first stage of the Canadian Heritage River process*) was completed and accepted by the Canadian Heritage River Board in Inuvik in **August 2005**. The North Saskatchewan River Heritage River Nomination Document (*required for the second stage of the Heritage River process*) was completed in **March 2006** for presentation to the Canadian Heritage River Board in Kananaskis in **May 2006** and organization began for the Heritage River celebration in Rocky Mountain House in **May 2006**.

The NSWA continued as an active member of the Battle River Stakeholder Advisory Group of the Battle River Watershed Management Planning Process and of the Beaverhills Initiative.

We continued to support and promote Trout Unlimited's Yellow Fish Road program in the City of Edmonton.

## **NSWA PROJECTS**

The following are detailed reports about NSWA projects undertaken during 2005/2006 – the first and second stage of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Systems process for attaining Canadian Heritage River designation for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta, the State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, the Municipal Resource Guide for Watershed Health and the Watershed Ecotour.

These projects resulted from collaboration between NSWA members and many different partners. They were initiated because of their potential to unite members and bring about change in the watershed.

In-kind contributions to all NSWA projects from Trout Unlimited Canada and The City of Edmonton continued throughout 2005/2006. These contributions are invaluable as they provide payroll and benefits administration, office space and office and computer support for all our projects.

Alberta Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada and PFRA also provided in-kind support in project activities during the past fiscal year. Alberta Beef and EPCOR continue their support of projects and special events.

Our voluntary Board of Directors and project steering committees also provide in-kind support of time and expertise, on which the NSWA is dependent. We are grateful to have these dedicated individuals serving on our Board and project steering committees.

### **Canadian Heritage Rivers** (*detail*)

In May 2001, the NSWA was commissioned by Alberta Community Development's Parks and Protected Areas Division to prepare a background study on the heritage values of the North Saskatchewan River. Because NSWA staff gathered historical and cultural information for the River Guide, the projects became linked and research efforts were expanded to compile additional information for the Heritage Rivers Background Study.

The initial draft study was completed on March 31, 2002. After a lengthy review by Alberta Community Development, the Background Study underwent several revisions to increase its usefulness in preparing the Nomination Document (the next step in the designation process).

To raise national awareness about the NSWA and the North Saskatchewan's value as a Canadian Heritage River, the Draft Background Study was presented as a paper at the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference in June, in Guelph, Ontario. The final Background Study was presented to and accepted by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in August of 2005.

The Draft Nomination Document for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta was completed in March 2006 and presented to Alberta Community Development and reviewed by members of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Board. In this document, the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta is nominated for its Cultural Heritage Value. The next step is presentation to the CHRS Board at their annual meeting in Kananaskis May 17, 2006.

The final step in the designation process is to complete a management plan that describes how the cultural values of the river will be preserved and promoted. This plan will be completed in conjunction with the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, which is in its initial stages.

#### *Funding Partners:*

Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Community Development, the Canadian Heritage River System, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada – CHRS, EPCOR Water Services and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

### **State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report** (*detail*)

The State of the North Saskatchewan Report is key to the NSWA's long-term goals. It is intended to provide a sound scientific base for decision-makers in our watershed. The report was released and distributed in 2005. The goals of the report are to: raise awareness among stakeholders and citizens of the current condition of the watershed and the value of watershed protection, encourage studies in areas of the watershed that are poorly understood, make recommendations for sustainable management of the watershed, form the basis for an Integrated Watershed Management Plan under the *Alberta Water Act*

The State of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Report compiled information about current land use, water and ecological conditions within the North Saskatchewan Watershed in a GIS database format. The public was consulted to help identify emerging issues and knowledge gaps and make recommendations for the wise use and management of the watershed.

The work undertaken in 2005 included:

- draft report review
- report hard copy and CD design
- report release and distribution

*Funding Partners:*

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Ecotrust, Alberta Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, EPCOR Water Services, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, The Northeast Capital Industrial Association, and Mountain Equipment Co-Op

**Integrated Watershed Management Plan (*detail*)**

The goal of the North Saskatchewan Integrated Watershed Management Plan is to provide a plan to protect, maintain and restore a healthy, natural watershed system where economic and social needs will be in balance with the ecological needs of the watershed. This includes the protection of the aquatic environment and its associated necessary flow needs.

The IWMP will address surface water, groundwater, and existing and proposed land use, social, cultural and economic issues. Land use issues affecting water will be identified and sub-basin recommendations made.

The plan will be prepared in consultation with NSWA members and stakeholders, and will ensure that stakeholders are provided the opportunity to form and participate in the planning process. The plan will also incorporate existing regional strategies and related plans.

The IWMP was officially launched with a media event staged on the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton on May 11, 2005.

The draft IWMP Terms of Reference was reviewed by the newly formed (as of January 2005) IWMP Steering Committee. The draft IWMP Terms of Reference was approved by Alberta Environment in April 2005 for those components under their jurisdiction and finalized by the IWMP Steering Committee in May 2005. The IWMP Terms of Reference provides specific details on the approach to be undertaken during the planning process and is intended to be consistent with:

The Vision and Goals of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance  
Province of Alberta's *Water Act*  
Province of Alberta's 'Framework for Water Management Planning'  
*Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*  
Other pertinent provincial and federal legislation

The IWMP Steering Committee met for the first time in January 2005 and held 9 meetings in the period ending March 31, 2006. Members of this committee are NSWA members and are representative of the following sectors: Oil and Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Rural Municipal, Urban Municipal, Alberta Environment, AAFC-PFRA, Métis Nation, First Nations, Tourism and Recreation, Education/Research, Public Health, Wastewater/Water Utility, Provincial Government, Largest Allocation, Non-government Conservation and Community Watershed Group.

The IWMP Steering Committee hosted four public and stakeholder Community Watershed Cafes to share information about the NSWA, the State of the Watershed Report and gather issues to address in the IWMP. A Summary report is available on the NSWA website. A project newsletter – fall 2005 – was developed, distributed and posted on the NSWA website.

An In-stream Flow Needs Scoping Study has begun with a preliminary desktop review of existing data by Alberta Environment fueling discussion amongst stakeholders about the availability of surface water in the North Saskatchewan River in summer months. This work is necessary for the determination of in-stream flow needs and water conservation objectives. The IWMP Steering Committee is working on setting a process for determining the other research needs for the IWMP and on approving the Terms of Reference for the Regional Advisory Committees.

Early In 2006, the NSWA added to their capacity to manage the IWMP with the hiring of Caroline Burgess who started full-time at the NSWA in mid-March 2006.

*Funding Partners to Date:*

Agriculture & Agri-food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Alberta Environment, EPCOR Water Services, Ducks Unlimited Canada

### **Municipal Resource Guide for Watershed Health (detail)**

In 2004, NSWA members decided that municipalities, which play an important role in watershed health, needed a resource guide to help them make decisions that affect the watershed. The municipal resource guide project started in November of 2004.

The purpose of the Municipal Guide is to provide a guide for municipal decision-makers that will: examine the benefits of watershed health from a municipal government perspective and the possible roles municipalities can play in protecting the North Saskatchewan Watershed, and provide information and resources on how municipal decision-makers can best manage for a healthy watershed.

The guide includes information about the value of healthy watersheds, insight on how municipal decisions affect the watershed, legislation that applies to watershed health, tools for watershed management, best practice options, the importance of and opportunities for cooperation and collaboration and information about groups active in the watershed and programs available to municipalities. Municipal success stories are also highlighted throughout the guide.

The project was lead by a Steering Committee representing municipalities (urban and rural) and agency staff who work closely with municipalities. Input from municipalities in the watershed was considered in the development of the guide through workshops and other municipal outreach initiatives.

The Municipal Guide was completed in March 2006, released on the NSWA website in June 2006 and hard copies will be mailed to municipalities in the North Saskatchewan River watershed at the end of June 2006. Giselle Beaudry, who coordinated this project and authored the Guide, has moved on to a position with Alberta Environment Waste Management Branch. NSWA staff will promote and distribute the guide and follow up with municipalities that received the guide.

*Funding Partners:*

Alberta Environment, Alberta Municipal Affairs, City of Edmonton, EPCOR Water Services, EcoTrust, Woodlot Association of Alberta, Model Forest Network, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

### **Other NSWA Activities and Initiatives**

#### ***Working Groups***

The **Water Working Group** met 4 times over the past fiscal year and provided input to a draft Terms of Reference for this group. A number of working group tasks have been rolled into the In-stream Flow Needs (IFN) Scoping Study currently underway for the IWMP and thus the role and mandate of this group is currently under review. Some of the members of the water working group have been absorbed into the IFN Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The **Watershed Stewardship Working Group** was largely inactive in the past fiscal year. This working group forum may or may not continue to meet in the year ahead depending on interest of WSG members of the NSWA.

**Communication and Education Working Group** tackled several tasks this fiscal year:

***Website Development ([www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca))***

A website review begun in 2004-5 by management was completed and revised by the Education and Communications Working Group as part of the Communications Plan. Website redesign and update was completed over the fall 2005 and the new, improved website made its debut at the March 22, 2006 member meeting.

New to the site are: update to reflect WPAC status, SOW release and IWMP process, Board Member bios, online version of River Study and Municipal Guide, online membership form, a photo gallery, as well as a Media Room and Learning Zone, which are still under construction. NSWA staff and an NSWA member volunteer have taken training in order that NSWA will be able to do most website updates in house. Software for this initiative has been ordered from the City of Edmonton and will be installed soon.

***North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Integrated Communication/Education Plan April 2005 – March 2006***

Completed and used as a reference for yearly activities and initiatives. The 200 – 2007 Plan will be completed by the end of June, 2006.

***Resource (Library and others) Development***

The size of the NSWA's resource library increased with the purchase and donation of new books, videos, and CD's. The library is kept updated and the reference list maintained. This list is available to all members upon request.

Newspaper articles pertaining to water and watershed issues continue to be collected and filed. NSWA publications are available to our members in electronic or hard copy format. Our 2 watershed educational models with riparian and groundwater adaptations have been borrowed steadily over the last year. These were used for NSWA events and by education and stewardship members for use at open houses, schools and community events.

***November 2005 Watershed Planning and Implementation: From Paper to Practice Conference (detail)***

NSWA together with Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin put on a conference November 2-4 in Sherwood Park. (see *appendix B*)

*Funding Partners:* Alberta Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Petro-Canada, The Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Alberta Community Development, Alberta Environment, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, City of Edmonton, Drainage Services, Strathcona County, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA, Komex International Ltd., AMEC Earth & Environmental, County of Smoky Lake, EBA Engineering Consultants, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Aquality Environmental.

***North Saskatchewan Watershed Ecotour***

In the fall of 2005 Inside Education and the NSWA partnered to deliver a North Saskatchewan Watershed Ecotour to Alberta teachers. The Ecotour included a field portion and an 'in class' portion. NSWA members who gave in-class presentations: Billie Milholland, Giselle Beaudry.

The NSWA received funds from the Alberta Beef Producers to participate in this educational initiative. Inside Education has expanded the program to include other provincial watersheds. Funding partners for this initiative also included Alberta Environment, the NSWA and Inside Education.

### ***Community Events Attended***

(AESA Conference, Earth Day, River Day, various Environment Week events, Sandy Lake Canada Day Celebration, community presentations, loan of watershed models for community events etc.)

### **NSWA MEMBERSHIP**

Every effort is made to involve as many stakeholder groups as possible in the NSWA. We believe that our membership should include the active participation of all user groups across the North Saskatchewan Watershed.

There are two categories of NSWA members: those who actively participate in committee, working groups and want to receive regular updates, and those who wish to be periodically kept informed about NSWA activities and participate when they are able.

The total membership at March 31, 2006 was 175 organizations and 32 citizen members. The NSWA grew by 21 members this past year and continues to grow. Some organizations have more than one representative, so our mailing lists contain over 260 individuals.

#### *Member Meetings:*

The fifth Annual General Meeting was held on June 28, 2005 in Rocky Mountain House to foster communication, education and to share NSWA accomplishments with our members and the public. The fall member's forum took the form of a watershed conference (see: *Watershed Planning and Implementation: From Paper to Practice Conference November 2005*). Spring 2006 Member meeting was held at the Gold Bar Centre for Excellence on World Water Day, March 22, 2006.

The NSWA attended meetings, workshops and open houses hosted by our member organizations and their affiliates to provide project updates, to distribute our products and promote the NSWA and our vision. Some examples: Inside Education Water Institute, Edmonton Rotary Club, Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton Historical Society, Lamont Community group, BHI, NCIA, Alberta Chamber of Resources, Vegreville Chamber of Commerce.

#### *Member Recruitment (Outreach):*

21 new members joined the NSWA in 2005-6

Membership categories seeing the most growth include citizen members, industry and NGO's  
The NSWA continues to develop and maintain a database of interested and active stakeholder groups to track the participation of our members

Throughout 2005-6, NSWA staff met with and made presentations to various groups about the NSWA's goals and activities and at several provincial and national conferences about specific NSWA projects

#### *Member Communications:*

Members were kept informed of ongoing activities and news via email and regular mailings and newsletters

The Manager and Steering Committee spent time in dialogue with many established and new members cultivating relationships and raising the profile of the organization

The NSWA wrote articles for several publications, including member organizations' newsletters

#### *Member Benefits:*

Establishing partnerships between diverse stakeholder groups, including agriculture, industry, municipalities, First Nations, and NGOs

Using resources collectively to avoid duplication and expand the capacity of the NSWA and its members

Coordinating programs to raise public awareness and encourage widespread participation of stakeholders and communication between stakeholders

Increasing the information available about groundwater protection, cumulative use management, and best management practices  
 Improving the understanding of aquatic and riparian ecology and the link between human land use, ecosystem functioning and water quality  
 Improving the understanding of the watershed's interconnectedness  
 Developing long-term sustainable use and management plans for water and land resources  
 Envisioning environmentally sustainable solutions to watershed issues  
 Enhancing water quality and quantity to meet human and ecological needs  
 Preserving and enhancing aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, ecosystems and the hydrologic cycle  
 Making increased resources, information, and support available to small groups and rural water users

*Intangible benefits:*

The NSWA is a working model of an integrated watershed approach to sustainable resource use and management. This is a relatively new concept and involves voluntary commitment from the watershed community and government. The community drives this process, and all members contribute as equal partners.

The success of this model will serve to:

*Motivate and stimulate others* to embrace a cooperative, non-jurisdictional approach to water and environmental protection

*Demonstrate* how local cooperation and action can have far-reaching impacts

*Illustrate the connection* between land use and water quality

*Create a sense of ownership and empowerment* in communities throughout the watershed

**NSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005/2006**

Board members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and normally commit to two years of service from the date of the AGM. The executive officers for 2005/2006 are listed below.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
President	Frank Vagi	Petro- Canada
Vice-Pres	Tracy Scott	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Treasurer	Douwe Vanderwel	City of Edmonton
Secretary	Andrew Schoepf	Alberta Environment
Director	Ernie Ewaschuk	Land Stewardship Centre of Canada
Director	Bill Fox	Alberta Beef Producers
Director	Les Gammie	EPCOR Water Services
Director	Kim Nielsen/Pat Alexander	Clearwater County
Director	Jamie Wuite	Alberta Agriculture
Director	Candace Vanin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA
Director	Celeste Nicholson	Northeast Water Management Coalition
Director	Jim Bague	Town of Rocky Mountain House

The NSWA Board met monthly. All NSWA declared members are welcome to run for a position on the Board of Directors at the NSWA's Annual General Meeting normally held in June of each year.

The NSWA thanks those organizations for allowing their staff to participate as members of our Board of Directors. The NSWA gratefully acknowledges the value of our Board members' time. The success of our organization is directly related to the time these individuals commit to the NSWA mission, and the expertise and dedication they bring to the NSWA.

## **NSWA STAFF**

This year has seen many changes to the NSWA staff. Janine Bihun, who provided administrative assistance left the organization at the end of August 2005 and has not been replaced. Sharon Willianen, who was NSWA's Manager, left the organization in February 2006 for a position with Alberta Environment and has not yet been replaced. Efforts to hire a NSWA Manager have continued since January 2006. Caroline Burgess was hired in March 2006 to coordinate the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. Giselle Beaudry, Coordinator for the Municipal Resource Guide left the organization in June 2006 for a position with Alberta Environment and has not been replaced. Billie Milholland continues in the role as Education and Communication Coordinator.

The NSWA Manager vacancy in particular has presented a number of challenges to the organization that have been addressed by NSWA Board members and staff. During this period, the NSWA Board has hired casual, contract staff to perform specific administrative duties. The NSWA Board and staff will continue to take steps to provide an adequate level of service to the membership.

## **THE YEAR AHEAD...**

In 2006 - 2007, the NSWA looks forward to continuing to work on our major projects: the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, the Municipal Resource Guide, and the Canadian Heritage Rivers designation. The year ahead will include the release and distribution of the Municipal Guide, and working toward designation of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River by the National Canadian Heritage Rivers System Board. For the IWMP, we will be engaging stakeholders in Regional Advisory Committees and finalizing the research agenda for the IWMP. Under *Water for Life*, the NSWA looks forward to the continued support of Alberta Environment and the other Government of Alberta partners who support the water strategy and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils under their partnership framework. We also look forward to engaging the support of industry, federal government departments and municipalities for the IWMP initiative.

The year ahead will see the addition of a new NSWA Manager; staff support personnel and a Vermilion Watershed Coordinator.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are available upon request

2004 – 2007 Strategic Plan

NSWA Bylaws

Member Terms of Reference

Board of Directors Terms of Reference

Manager Terms of Reference

State of the North Saskatchewan Report

North Saskatchewan River in Alberta – Integrated Watershed Management Plan Terms of Reference

Canadian Heritage Rivers Background Study and Nomination Documents

Municipal Resource Guide

**NSWA MEMBERSHIP March 2006**

**NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Alberta Conservation Association  
Alberta Ecotrust  
Alberta Lake Management Society  
Alberta League for Environmentally Responsible Tourism (ALERT)  
Bow River Basin Council  
Bow River Project  
Butte Action Committee for the Environment  
Capital Health Authority  
Cows & Fish Program  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
East Central Regional Health Authority  
Energy Efficiency Association  
Environmental Law Centre  
Environmental Resource Centre  
Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
Fort Air Partnership  
Lakeland Regional Health Authority  
Land Stewardship Centre of Canada  
Legacy Lands Conservation Society  
Northeast Alberta Water Management Coalition  
Northwest Alliance Conservation Initiative  
Parkland Residents Association  
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin  
Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development  
Rocky & Nordegg Cooperative Fisheries Inventory Program  
Rocky Riparian Group  
Rossdale Community League  
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Sierra Club, Prairie Chapter  
Sombrilla  
The Living by Water Project  
TOPSOIL  
Toxics Watch Society of Alberta  
Tri-town Environmental Society  
Trout Unlimited Canada  
Vermilion River Naturalist Club

**RESEARCH/EDUCATION**

Edmonton Catholic Schools  
Edmonton Science Outreach Network  
Foothills Model Forest  
Inside Education  
Riverwatch  
SEEDS Foundation (Society, Environment and Energy Development Studies)  
The King's University College

University of Alberta, Kinsella Research Station  
University of Alberta, Renewable Resources Department  
Water Institute for Semi-arid Ecosystems  
YoWoChAs

### **CULTURE/RECREATION/TOURISM**

Alberta Fish & Game Association  
Alberta Recreation Canoe Association  
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
Alberta Trailnet Society  
Avatar Productions  
Banff National Park  
Dickson Fish & Game Association  
Edmonton & District Historical Society  
Elk Island National Park  
Garbaganza  
Kalyna Country  
Midwest Tourism  
Northeast Edmonton Heritage Conservation Initiative  
Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club  
River Valley Alliance  
Riverland Recreational Trail Society  
The Great Canadian Adventure Company  
The Iron Horse Trail  
Thorsby Fish & Game Association  
Voyageur Ventures

### **AGRICULTURE**

Alberta Beef Producers  
Canadian National Committee for Irrigation Drainage  
Grey Wooded Forage Association  
Intensive Livestock Working Group  
Restorative Ecological Agriculture Projects Society  
St. Mary's Irrigation District  
St. Paul Grazing Reserve

### **INDIGENOUS**

Asokan Project  
Enoch First Nation  
First Nations Alberta Technical Services Advisory Group  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
Paul First Nation  
Saddle Lake Tribal Administration

### **INDUSTRY**

Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission  
Alberta's Industrial Heartland  
AMEC Earth & Environmental Ltd.  
Aquality Environmental Consulting  
Aquascience  
Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd

Dillon Consulting Ltd.  
EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.  
ECL Environmental Services Limited  
EduTransfer Design Association Inc.  
Elk Point Chamber of Commerce  
EnviroMak  
EPCOR Water Services  
Golder and Associates  
Komex International  
Noble Resource Management Ltd.  
Northeast Capital Industrial Association  
Nova Chemicals Corporation  
Parkland Stone Landscaping  
Petro-Canada  
Shell Canada Ltd.  
Stantec Consulting Ltd  
Strathcona Industrial Association  
Sunpine Forest Products  
The Canadian Salt Company Limited  
Top Draw  
TransAlta Utilities  
UMA Engineering  
Weyerhaeuser

## **GOVERNMENT**

### FEDERAL

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada; Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration  
Canadian Heritage Parks Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Department of Indian & Northern Affairs

### PROVINCIAL

Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development  
Alberta Community Development  
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
Alberta Environment  
Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture  
Alberta Health and Wellness  
Alberta Municipal Affairs  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Special Areas

### MUNICIPAL

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
City of Camrose  
City of Edmonton, Community Services  
City of Edmonton, Drainage Services  
City of Edmonton, Planning & Development  
City of Fort Saskatchewan  
City of Leduc, Environmental Advisory Board  
City of Lloydminster

City of Spruce Grove  
City of St. Albert  
North West Alliance Conservation Initiative  
Town of Bruderheim  
Town of Devon  
Town of Drayton Valley  
Town of Elk Point  
Town of Gibbons  
Town of Rocky Mountain House  
Town of Smoky Lake  
Town of Tofield  
Village of Marwayne

Counties & MD;s

Beaver  
Camrose  
Clearwater  
Flagstaff  
Lac Ste Anne  
Lacombe  
Lamont  
Leduc  
Minburn #27  
Paintearth #18  
Parkland  
Red Deer  
Smoky Lake  
St. Paul #19  
Strathcona  
Engineering & Environmental Planning  
Environmental Operations  
Sturgeon  
Special Areas  
Two Hills #21  
Vermilion River #24  
Wetaskiwin #10  
M. D. Brazeau  
M.D. of Wainwright No. 61

**CITIZEN MEMBERS**

33 citizen members

**WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GROUPS**

Battle Lake Watershed Enhancement Association  
Beaverhill Watershed Initiative  
Big Lake Environment Support Society  
Bonnie Lake Sustainability Association  
Devon Watershed Alliance  
Friends of Lily Lake  
Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society  
Rocky Riparian Group  
Vermilion Watershed Initiative & Wizard Lake Watershed Group