

# NSWA 2023-2024 Operational Plan

Final 29 March 2023

## Strategic Goal #1: The NSWA supports collaborative partnerships

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
<b>Primary</b>	Headwaters Alliance (HA)	Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
		Plan and deliver a Headwaters tour
	Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)	Complete Sturgeon basin water quality trend analysis
		Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
	Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)	Transition from VRWA Society
		Develop strategic plan and priorities
		Pursue targeted project funding
		Develop a youth-focused watershed science activity book
	WaterSHED Monitoring Program	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation
		Deliver communications targeting general awareness, stakeholder and academic use of data
	Designated Industrial Zone	Support IH-DIZ Water Task Team
Contribute to Aquatic Ecosystem Health Study Sub-task Team and LSPC Model Update		
Contribute to LSPC Model Update Sub-task Team		
Lake Stewardship Groups	Support the Wabamun Watershed Management Council	
NSR Basin Science and Knowledge Mobilization Steering Committee	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation	
<b>Developing</b>	Indigenous Engagement	Establish Program funding
		Develop and present youth water day sessions
		Explore and deliver an Elder sharing circle
		Deliver Chief and Council presentations
		Advance internal NSWA learning
	Edmonton Creeks Initiative	Establish and operate a project governance group
Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)	Develop working relationship	
Beaverhills Subwatershed	Explore developing a strategic plan for the HUC 6 Beaverhills watershed	
<b>Supporting</b>	Applied and Academic Research Projects	Support Dr. Patrick Hanington (UofA) - Alberta Innovates - "Early detection and rapid response to aquatic invasive species and species at risk using environmental (e)DNA and metabarcoding"
		Support Dr. Anas Usoof - MITACs Postdoc collaboration with UofA - "Are human land uses impacting stream ecosystems in central Alberta?"
		Support Dr. William Zhang (UofA) - NSERC - "Monitoring and Modelling Water Quality under Ice Affected Conditions in Rivers"
	Beaver Hills Biosphere	Participate on Science Committee
	CABIN Eastern Slopes Collaborative Working Group	Participate in meetings, provide training, assist/support funding applications
	fRI Research Water and Fish Program	Participate on Activity Team
	<i>Water for Life</i> partnerships	Contribute to WPAC Collective activities as appropriate
		Contribute to Alberta Water Council activities as appropriate

## Strategic Goal #2: The NSWA is a leader in watershed planning

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
<b>Primary</b>	NSRB Wetland Strategy	Develop and socialize the draft strategy
		Finalize and approve the strategy
		Develop implementation plan for the wetland strategy
		Develop the wetland data initiative to advance wetland-specific spatial products
		Grant management and reporting (WRRP Wetlands Grant)
	Regional Lakes Stewardship	Support the Lake Stewardship Community of Practice
		Select and restore a lakeshore site
	Riparian Health Action Plan	Develop a Best Management Practices Guide (2 reports and 3-part summer workshop series)
		Develop a setback calculator
		Deliver Riparian Web Portal Outreach- Riparian 101 and 102 Training Series
		Maintain the Riparian Web Portal
		Develop a Phase 2 Riparian Roadmap
		Develop landowner profiles for existing riparian assessments
		Finalize the Riparian Policy Report (Environmental Law Centre)
		Grant management and reporting (WRRP)
	State of the Watershed	Establish indicators and assessment methods
		Supervise MITACS intern and tasks related to SoW
Data analysis and visualization		
Engage stakeholders and partners in SoW development		
<b>Developing</b>	Natural Assets Roadmap	Develop partnerships and working relationships
		Roadmap development
		Grant application and management
	NSR Heritage River Designation	Support designation process
	NSRB Hydrologic Modelling and Scenarios (WaterSMART)	Establish stakeholder committee to support scenario planning
		Grant and funding management
	Riparian Health Action Plan	Develop a Phase 2 Riparian Roadmap
	Phase 2 Grant Application	

### Strategic Goal #3: The NSWA promotes watershed knowledge sharing

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
<b>Primary</b>	NSRB Flyover Video	Develop video concept and implementation plan
		Organize and coordinate video development with partners (e.g., EPCOR)
	WaterSHED Knowledge Mobilization	Develop knowledge mobilization plan
		Implement the knowledge mobilization plan
	Alberta Watersheds: Educational Videos for All	Finalizing scripts/storyboards
		Finalize and approve video set
		Communications & Advertising for final videos
		Committee meetings & celebration event
	Community engagement	Engage and direct summer students
		Collaborate on select events with other WPACs
		Arrange community engagement events
	Expanding influence	Develop social media content and expand SM following
		Develop engaging newsletter content and grow newsletter subscriptions
Deliver relevant and interesting webinar and in-person forums		
Geospatial data and visualization	Develop geospatial products	
Information provision	Maintain NSWA website and content	
	Develop mapping products for NSWA and partners	
	Enhance graphic design and presentation where appropriate	
<b>Developing</b>	Expand ability to influence	Develop Youth Water Council concept and seek funding
	Information provision	Community information sessions to engage new audiences (e.g., cultural groups)

### Strategic Goal #4: The NSWA remains a functional and sustainable organization

Level	Operational Objective	Actions
<b>Primary</b>	NSWA Board and Society Governance	Administer the NSWA Board
		Deliver the NSWA AGM and Annual Report
		Administer the Executive Committee
		Administer the Finance Committee
		Administer the Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee
		Administer the Communications and Engagement Committee
	NSWA Operations	Guide and direct staff and project work
Overall NSWA and project budgeting and grant tracking		
<b>Developing</b>	NSWA Website	NSWA Website redevelopment
	NSWA Time sheets	Implement a new time management approach