



Wabamun Lake: People, Plans and Possibilities!

March 24, 2020



Agenda

1. People
2. Plans
3. Possibilities

First People

- *“Ahai Mneh is a significant pre-contact archaeological site ...west of Edmonton on Lake Wabamun...”* (Hallson 2017)
- The lake was once called White Whale Lake for the large whitefish caught in its waters.
- In 1892, Paul First Nation settled on the shores of Wabamun Lake. <http://www.paulfirstnation.com/history>
- Treaty 6, Region 4 of Metis Nation of Alberta



Figure 1. Location of Ahai Mneh (FiPp-33) compared to Edmonton and Lake Wabamun.

Table 1. Identified projectile point styles excavated from Ahai Mneh (FiPp-33) and their radiocarbon ages, in radiocarbon years before present (RCYBP). Dates from Bubel, McMurchy, and ...

Period (age in RCYBP)	Projectile Point Style/Complex	Age (RCYBP)
Early Prehistoric (11 200 – 7500)	Agate Basin	10 200 – 8 000
	Scottsbluff	9000 – 8 000
	Lusk	8300 – 7 500
Middle Prehistoric (7500 – 1350)	Oxbow	4500 – 4 000
	McKean	4200 – 3 500
	Hanna	3900 – 3 500

localhistorytongueincheek1

- ▼ *Trails and Roads in the Tri-Lakes Area
 - *Railways
 - *Transportation Methods
- *A Timeline - In Process
- ▼ *B. DISTRICTS, VILLAGES and POINTS OF INTEREST
 - *Hopkins Methodist Church - Smithfield-1908-07
 - *St. Josephs Roman Catholic - 1933
 - *United Church, Wabamun - 1934-2006
 - *Wabamun Anglican Mission - 1912-67
 - *White Whale Methodist Mission-1892
- *Cal Power/TAU/News Stories
- *Darwell/Lac Ste. Anne Cemetery
- *Dominion Land Grants - maps
- ▼ *Duffield-1911
 - *Francy/Duncan
 - *Lent/Woollard
 - *Paul's Band
- *Early Subdivisions on Wabamun Lake
 - *East Pit Lake
 - *Falls School-1915-1954
 - *Fishing
 - *Fraser Kerr
 - *Kapasiwin-1913
- ▼ *Lac Ste. Anne District

*Wabamun Village - 1912



Wabamun, 1915

Village of Wabamun - Incorporated July 18, 1912

Wabamun began as a group of log buildings in 1903 at the "top of the bay" (NW 7-53-3-W5), in what is now Wabamun Lake Provincia GTP Railway (1907-11). Parts of the village were put on runners and moved across the ice in 1910-11 to SE11-53-4-W5, on the Grant

Timeline:

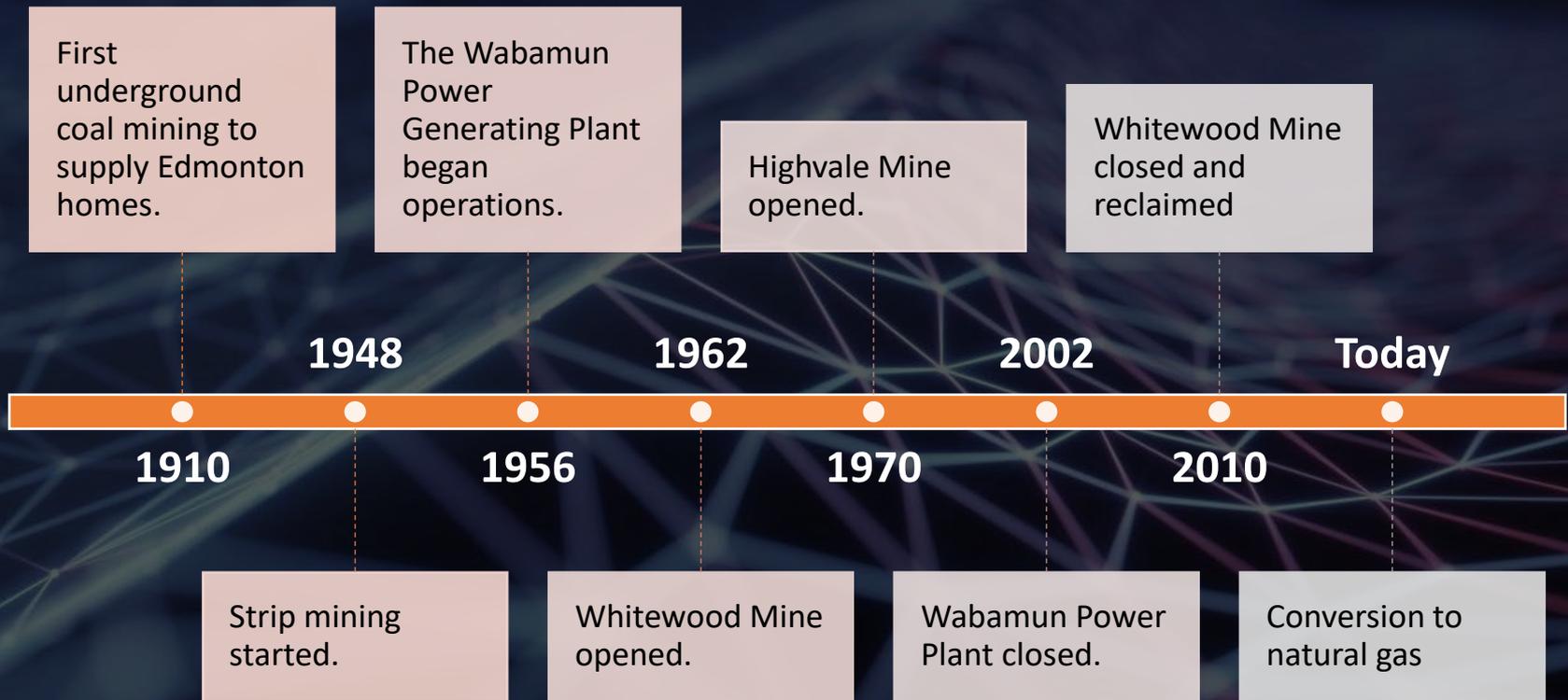
- 1901: Census shows Olivier Desjarlais family on SE 11-53-4-W5.
- 1904: CH Dunn has possession of SE 11.
- 1907: CH Dunn sells SE 11 to Grand Trunk Pacific Railway for \$5,000.00.
- August 1909: Rail steel is laid through Wabamun.
- 1910: Carl Fogelstrom erects first building in Wabamun.



Early Tourists

- Captain John Palliser passed by "White Lake" in the 1860s.
- The village of Wabamun was established in 1912 GTP Railway
- Lakeview on Moonlight Bay and at Kapasiwin were the first two summer villages in Alberta.
- Trains brought tourists on the weekends, and visitors were accommodated at a large hotel.

Early Industry





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Fun Fishing Facts:

- Commercial whitefish fishery important for many decades
- Average annual whitefish harvest in the 1960s - 1980s was 50,459 kg but as high as 210,000 kg and low as 7,500 kg
- Walleye died out about 1912 but were reintroduced in the 1980s
- Today, recreational winter fishing (white fish and perch) is more popular than summer fishing (pike and walleye)
- mean catch rate in 1986 was 0.55 fish per hour
- Pike grow slower here than in other nearby lakes



People Today

- 5 summer villages (235 permanent residents ~ 10% of summer influx)
- Parkland County with 27 lakeshore subdivisions and hamlets of Wabamun, Fallis (pop 1,040; 33,000)
- Paul First Nation (1,100)
- 1.4M+ people next door in Greater Edmonton Metro Area
 - 2 formal and 18 informal boat launches / 232 vehicle-boat units at a time
 - 6-16 ha per boat = 470 – 1254 boats on the lake
 - 5 sailing clubs, 4 outdoor Ed camps
 - About 850 campsites between PP and RV resorts
 - 25,000-day use parties and 7500 occupied campsite nights annually at Wabamun Provincial Park

Too much love?

- Threat of Invasive species
- Blue green algal blooms
- Nutrient overload from:
 - residential development
 - recreational activities
 - loss of riparian filter function
 - agricultural intensification
- Cumulative effects of development and climate change
- Fragmented governance and gaps in effective policy, legislation, etc.



People – Takeaway Message?

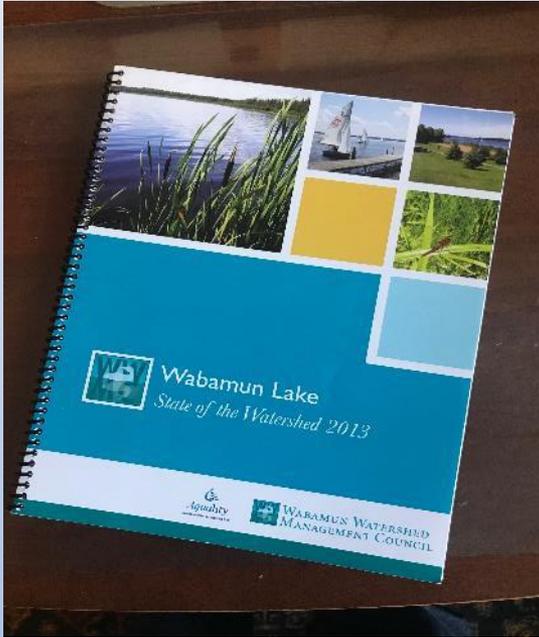
Wabamun Lake has provided more than a century of cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits

We have systems and resources to manage the fishery, coal, agriculture, growth and development all around it.

What is the system and where are the resources to manage the lake?

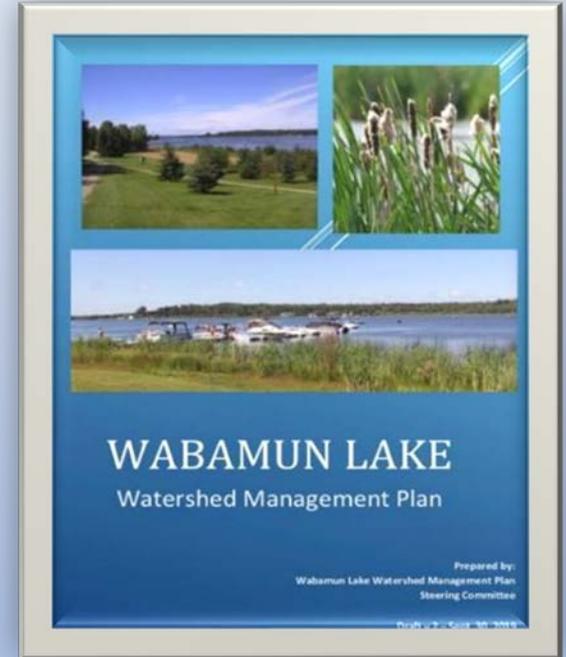
Tragedy of the Commons?

Building a Watershed Management Plan



State of the Watershed Report
2013
Funding through the Land
Stewardship Centre

- ✓ Many years in the making
- ✓ Produced State of the Watershed report
- ✓ Additional Data collection
- ✓ Developed Steering Committee
- ✓ Determined vision, objectives
- ✓ Consulted with Stakeholders
- ✓ Wrote Report
- ✓ Community engagement and Feedback
 - Finalize Plan
 - Living Document



WMP 2020 Developed with
support of the North
Saskatchewan Watershed
Alliance



What is a
Watershed
Management
Plan?

A roadmap that guides stakeholders as they collaborate to achieve a shared vision

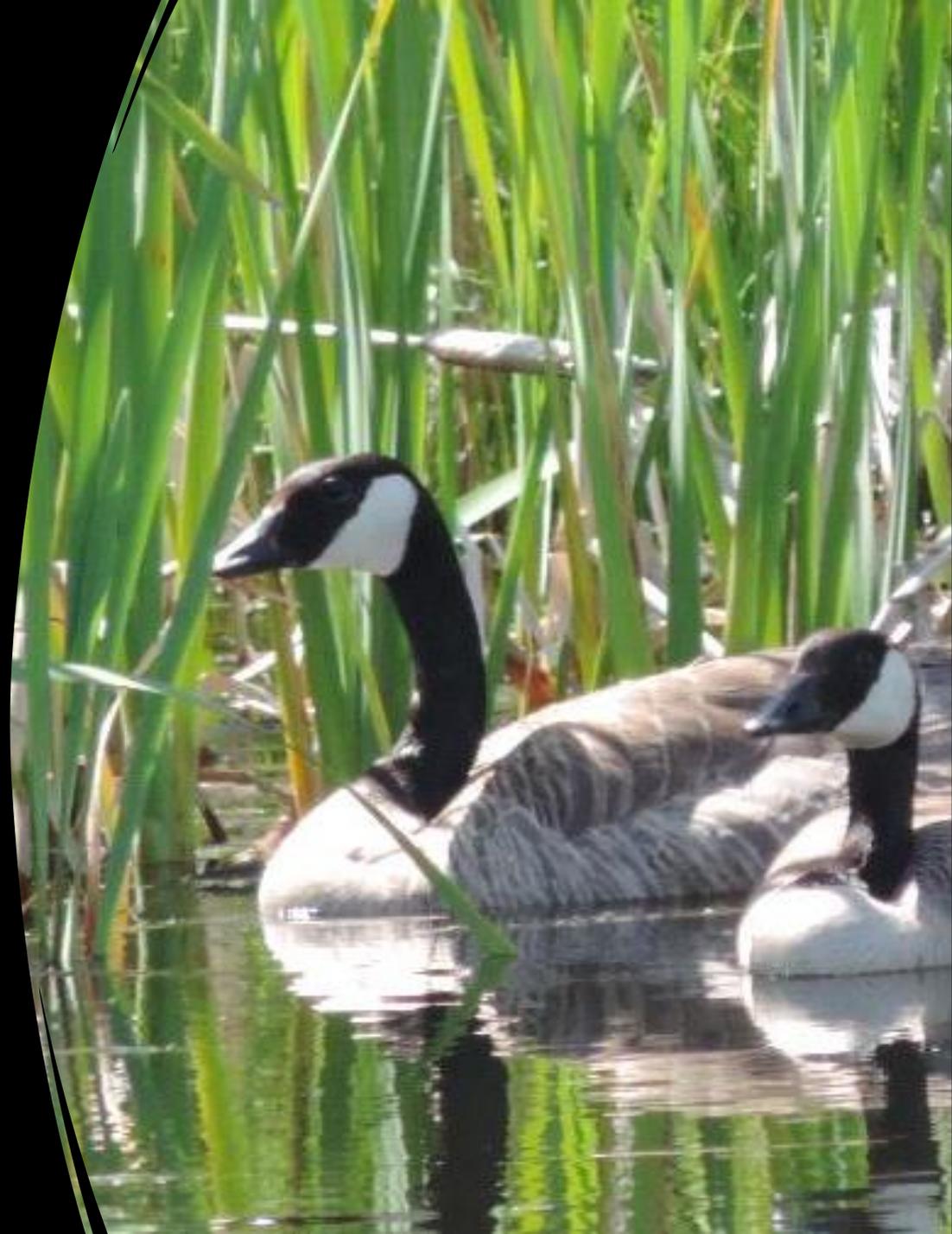


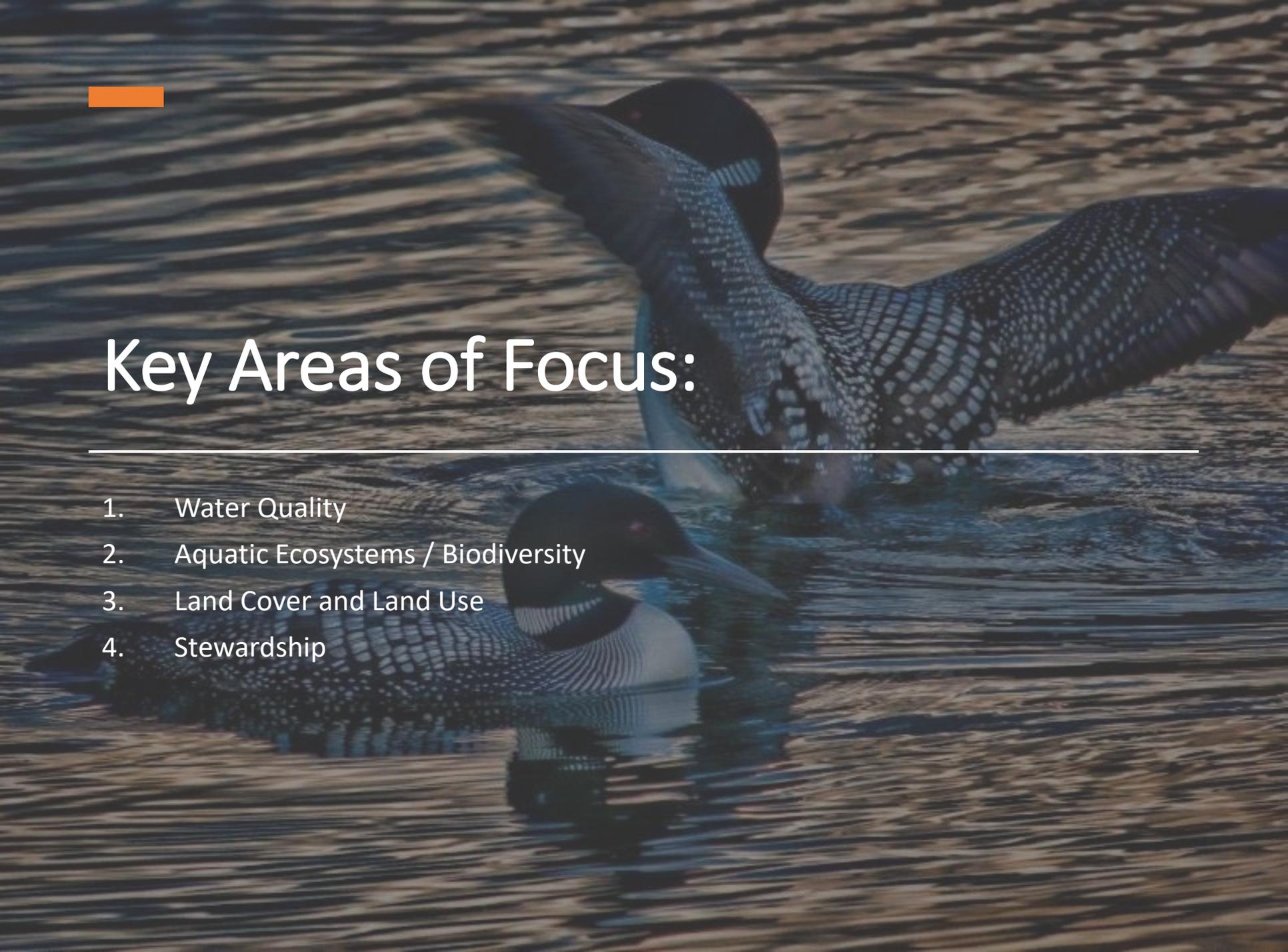
What's our shared vision?

The Wabamun Lake watershed is a healthy ecosystem with a robust economy and a thriving community that demonstrates its collective responsibility to be the best stewards of the lake environment, for current and future generations.

How Will We Achieve our Vision?

- What issues/ info gaps are standing in the way?
- What solutions/ opportunities are available to us?
- **Goals** (where do we want to be)
 - **Strategies** (how will we get there)
 - **Actions** (what needs to be done)
 - Who will do it
 - Resources needs
 - Performance Measures



A photograph of two loons on a body of water. One loon is in the foreground, swimming towards the right. Another loon is in the background, with its wings fully spread, as if landing or taking off. The water is dark with some ripples. In the top left corner, there is a small orange rectangular graphic.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. Water Quality
2. Aquatic Ecosystems / Biodiversity
3. Land Cover and Land Use
4. Stewardship

Goal #1: Good Water Quality

Actions

- *Develop a water quality monitoring, evaluation and reporting program*
- *Educate residents and users about water levels and flood plain maps*
- *Host working well workshops and encourage domestic well testing*



Goal #2: Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems & Biodiversity

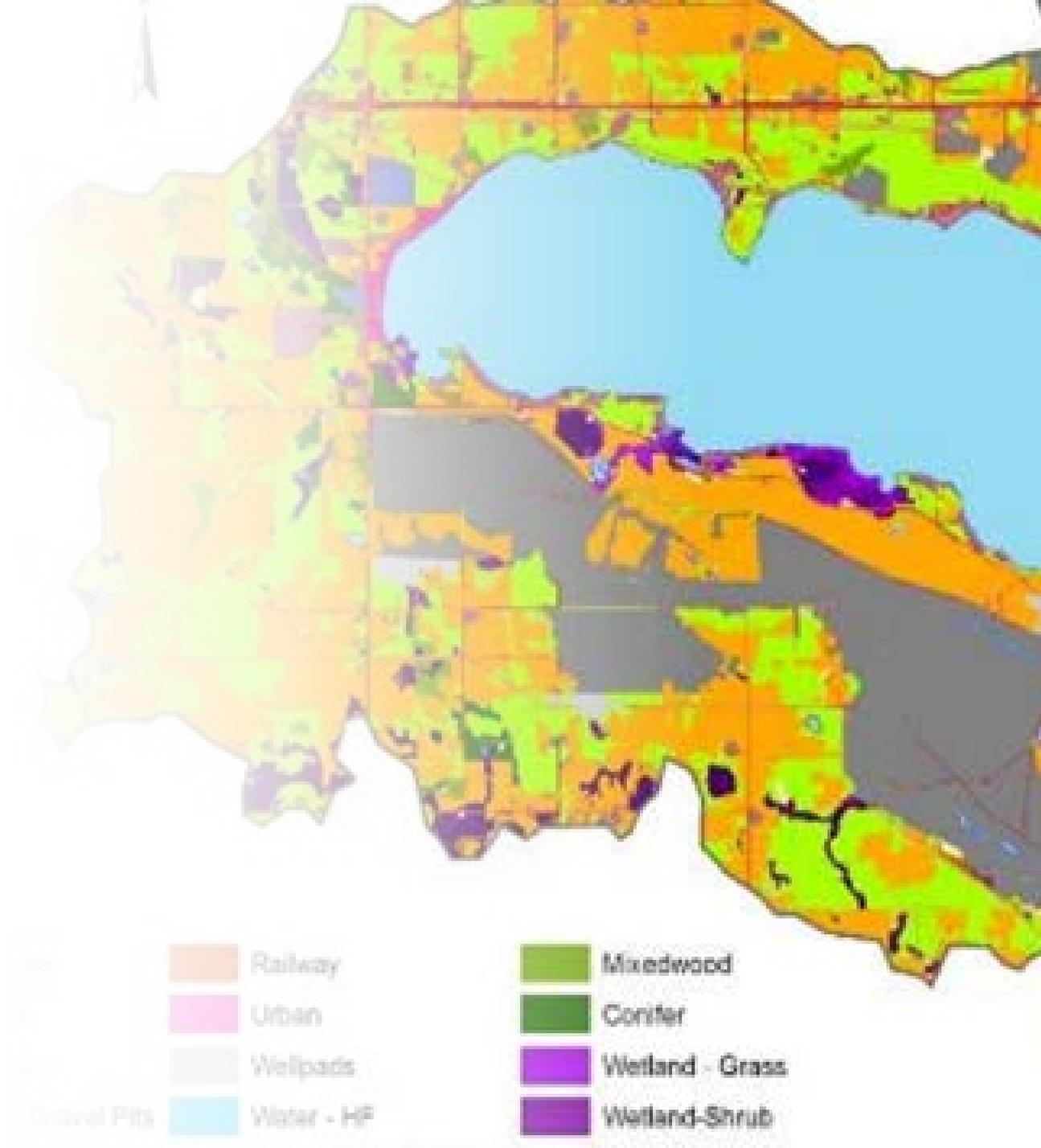
- **Actions:**
 - Riparian and wetland restoration and conservation
 - Biodiversity monitoring/ species at risk management
 - Invasive species prevention through education, monitoring and mitigation



Goal #3: Wise Land Use

Actions

- Encourage municipalities to incorporate watershed principles into statutory documents
- Conserve sensitive areas through districting, reserve dedications, development setbacks, etc.
- Continue to build the WWMC website and find other innovative ways to share information (webinars, factsheets, etc.) with land and water managers
- Model reclamation scenarios



Goal #4: Engaged Stewards

- **Actions**
- Develop and implement an education and outreach plan
- Provide stewards with the tools and resources they need
- Get neighbors to mentor neighbors



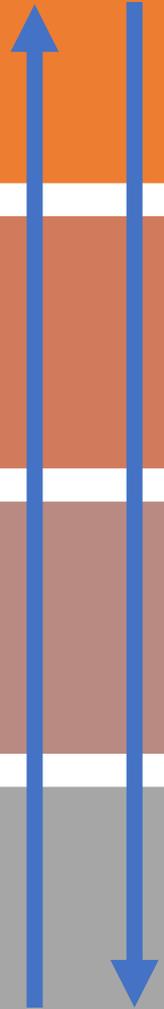
Possibilities?

Policy

Planning

Practice

Partnerships



Who is ensuring policies are aligned for integrating land and water management?

- Are federal, provincial and municipal policies consistent in protecting watershed health?
 - Wetland and fish habitat no net loss policies versus reality on the ground
 - Promoting tourism and recreation and boat sales versus lack of information about boating density/capacity, enforcement of boating regulations, risk of invasive species
 - Greywater and Septic bylaws, building codes consistent with water conservation, re-use?
 - Development rules, stormwater management, impervious surfaces, vegetative cover
 - Flood plain, littoral zone, riparian rules
- Level playing field for regulators, industries, developers, etc.
- **Need a policy champion!**

What's the plan?



What will the GOA's North Sask Regional Plan say about lake health, managing recreation pressure?

How will the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan provide recreational opportunities for 1.4M people?

What will Parkland County's Area Structure Plans for reclaimed mine lands/Wabamun Hamlet look like?

What does new development or re-development look like in the Summer Villages?

Who is coordinating plans such that the cumulative effects on the lake (a Crown asset) are mitigated?

Need a planning champion!

Best Practices



Boaters, Fishers, Bird watchers – no footprint left behind

Cabin Owners – living by the water resources (60+% willing to minimize shoreline disturbance, avoid use of fertilizers, use phosphate-free soaps, etc.)

Lakeshore communities, County – development processes, engineering standards, low impact design principles

Industry – beyond regulatory minimums

Agriculture – connect with programs like ALUS, Green Acreages, Environmental Farm Plans, etc.

Need a Best Practices Guru!



Partnerships are Key



North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
One of 11 Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils



Watershed Stewardship Group



Next Steps

- WMP Steering Committee meeting March 30, 2021
- Approve WMP
- Start implementing actions – any actions!
- Continue to understand people and leverage policies, plans, practices and partnerships.



Thank you!

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