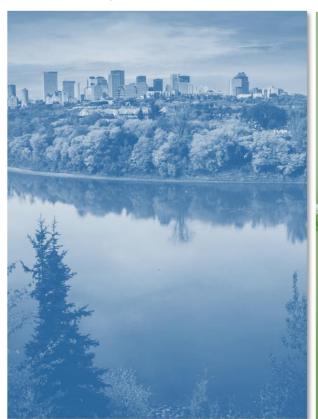
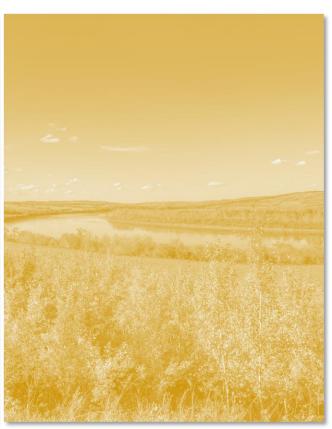
# Watershed Planning in Alberta



Watershed Wednesday
March 2, 2022







### WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE



### WHAT IS A TREATY?

A treaty is a binding agreement between sovereign states that outlines each party's rights, benefits and obligations.

Across Canada, there are 11 numbered treaties between the Crown and First

Nation, with Tractice, 7, and 8 encomparing more of Albura.
The own signatory group had Gelinfun passons for enesting into these agreements.
The initiab Crown, and last the Canadam government, wanted land for agriculture,
seedamme, and resource development, so Crown representatives signate dreated
in order to erransfer land this from the indigenous people to the British Crown,
provisions for which had been see our in the Royal Proclamation of 120.

provisions for which had been see out in the Boyal Proclamation of 1783.

For indigenous people, resides were built on an assumption of respectful,
co-operative and bilacient relationship, and their provisions were supercode to last
20 long as the mon thines, the graze grows "The Parts Nealman the institution provides
known as Alberta were concerned about the spread of disease, such as smalptor,
and the distanced disappearance of the bison, Tamis food source. They believe
that signing the creates would ensure the survival of their people.
All results included the surrendoming of large practice of fails to the Crown, with

and the same statement is sufficient to a support the order of the same statement is sufficient to a support to the order of the same statement is the same statement of the sam

With the signing of treaties, many aspects of First Nations life, such as the nomatic following of buildle herds, were changed forever. First Nations lost the power to determine their own future and to have an equal tole in building

Today First Nations people view the treaties as a sacred covenant that applies to all the land in the creasy area, no Just reserve land "We are all creasy people,"

Treaty 6 was signed at Fore Carlton and Fore Piet in Saskaschewan by representatives of the Crown and leaders of the Croe, Saulteaux, Nakota, Dené, Assimboine and O'ffree people. The treaty boundaries ensend across central portions of present-day Alberta and Sasifacthowan.

Treasy 7 was an agreement between Queen Victoria and several - mainly Blackfoot - First Nations in southern Alberta. The treaty was signed at Blackfoot Crossing on the Siksika Nation.

### TREATY 8 - 1899

Treaty 8 was signed between Queen Victoria and various First Nations, including the Woodland Cree, Dunne-za (or Beaver) and Denesuline (Chipewyan) in northern Alberta and those in northeastern British Co-

lumbia, northwestern Sasketchewan and southern Northwest Turrisories.

Many First Nations were missed during the count for Treaty 8, which led eo several land claims. Approximately 13 land claims have been seeded and ewo are sell ongoing — the Lubicon Lake Nation and Bigstone Cree Nation.

The advent of the fur trade in west central North America during the are arreast et tile for til elle in vest contrat syntha Amelica Gutting slite iske commercia soccompanied by a growing number of offspring of Plins Nasions women and European for enders. As numbers ef shis population exabilished distinct communities supporter since nices of Plins Visions and Europeans and married among chanselves, a new aboriginal people energied—the Melhi people—which their own unique chartery endations, language (Michill), way of blie, collective consciousness and madonhood.

The Consider Convincion Acr 1982 recognizes the Méds as one of three distinct aboriginal groups in Canada.



### EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION



The Alberta Teachers' Association is committed to supporting teachare in many education through the Wilking Together Education for Reconcilization Professional Learning Broject. For enter information about Treasy 7, Treasy 7, Treasy 8, Meless of mist people, or the ser-vices and resources are allative through Walking Together, pieces visits www.seckers.ab.c.> For Members > Professional Development >



- Please keep your microphone muted and video off during the presentations
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the chat
- Questions will be addressed at the end of each presentation
- Poll Questions





nswa.ab.ca



**February 2** – *Climate Change and Wetlands* 

March 2 – Introduction to Watershed Management

**April 13** – *Invasive Species Updates* 





### Watershed Gift Basket!





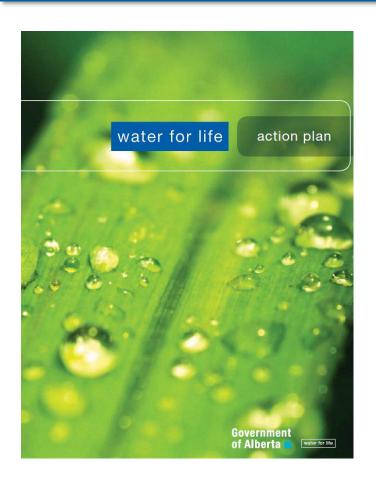
## Watershed Planning in Alberta

- Alberta's Water for Life Strategy
- Key Watershed Partnerships
- Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils
- Watershed Planning Framework
- Examples of watershed projects across Alberta





## Alberta's Water for Life Strategy

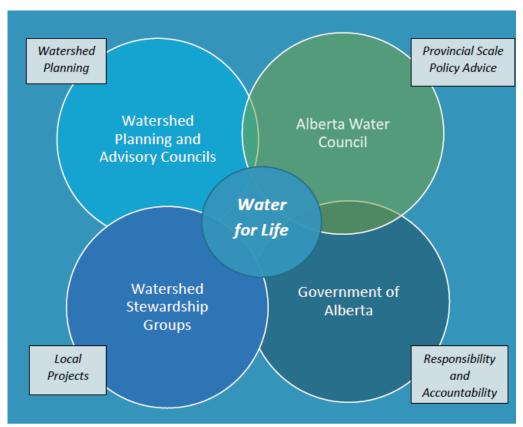


### Water for Life Strategy

- Safe, secure drinking water supplies
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy



### Water for Life Partnerships



### Key Partnerships

- Government of Alberta
- Alberta Water Council
- Water Planning and Advisory Councils
- Watershed Stewardship
   Groups

www.alberta.ca/watershedmanagement-overview.aspx



"Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are important stewards of Alberta's major watersheds.

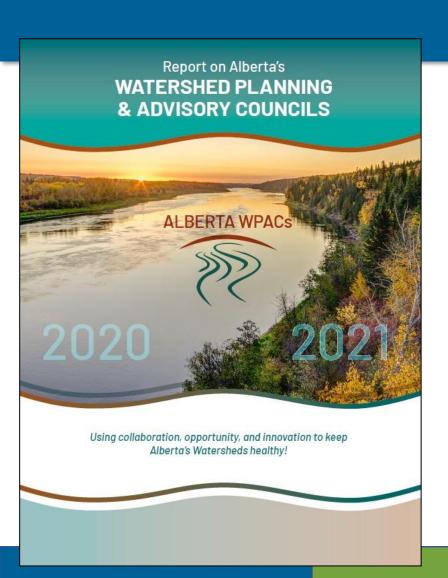
They are independent, non-profit organizations that are designated by Alberta Environment and Parks to report on the health of our watersheds, lead collaborative planning, and facilitate education and stewardship activities."

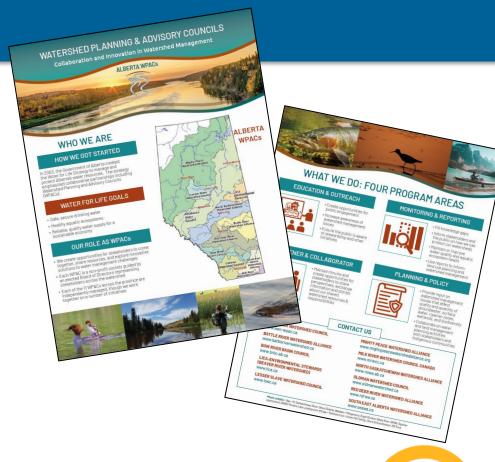
Alberta Environment and Parks

<u>www.alberta.ca/watershed-</u> planning-and-advisory-councils.aspx



## 2020-2021 Report and Brochure





www.nswa.ab.ca/aboutus/watershed-planning-advisorycouncils/

## WPACs – Organizations

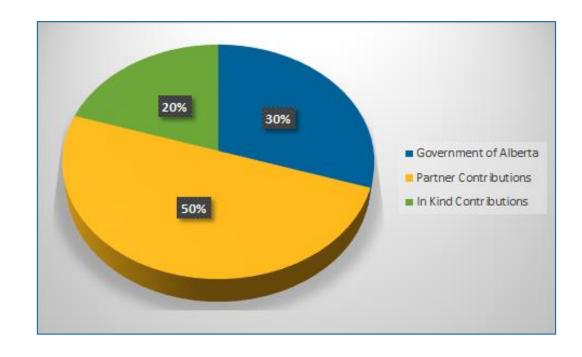
- All non-profit societies
- 40+ staff
- Multisector boards with over 150 volunteer directors
- Over 450 organizational and 2300 individual society members





### WPACs – Financial Support

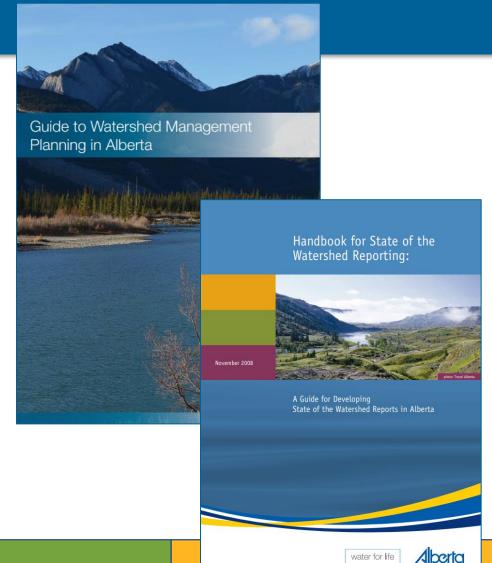
- ~\$3.0 million provided by Government of Alberta
- ~\$2.0 million provided by in kind support
- ~\$4.0 million raised in grants and contributions that is injected into the provincial economy



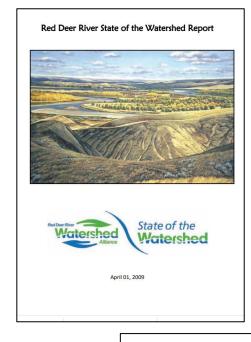


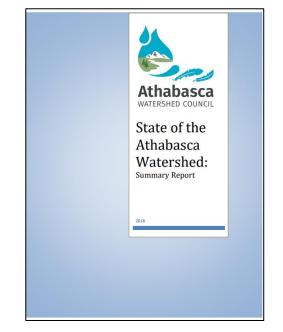
# Watershed Planning Framework

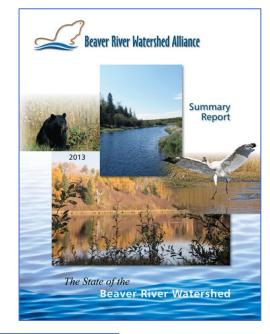


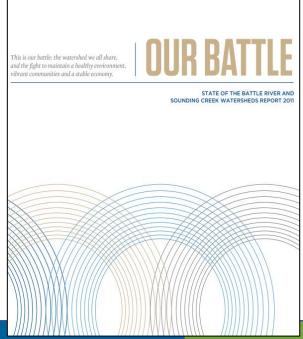


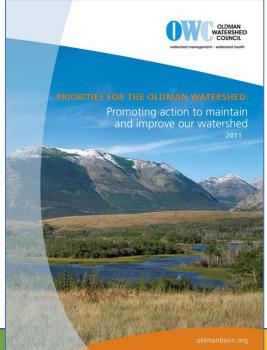
www.alberta.ca/watershed-resources.aspx



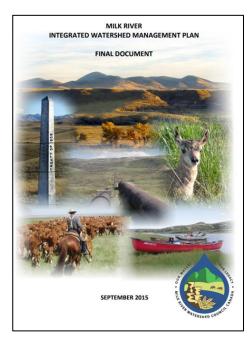


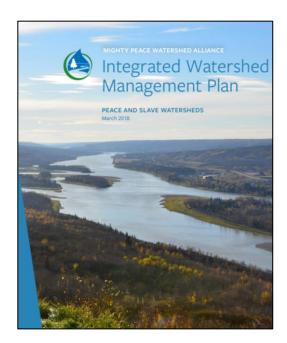


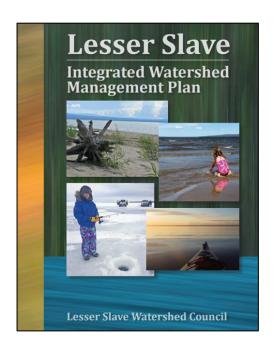








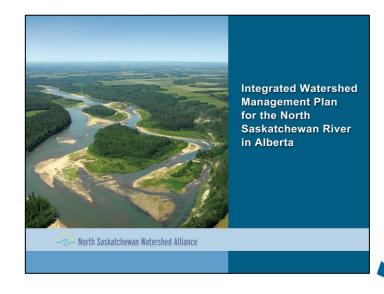






The Upper Bow River Basin Past, Present, Future

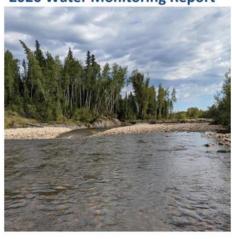
Upper Bow River Basin Cumulative Effects Study May 2011



## Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



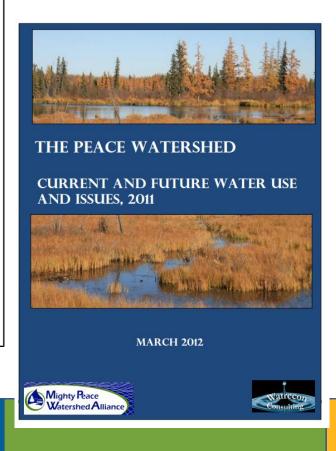
Lesser Slave Watershed 2020 Water Monitoring Report



Prepared for: Lesser Slave Watershed Council

Prepared by: Palliser Environmental Services Ltd.

April 15, 2021





Water Quality of Seven Persons Creek at Two Riparian Restoration Sites

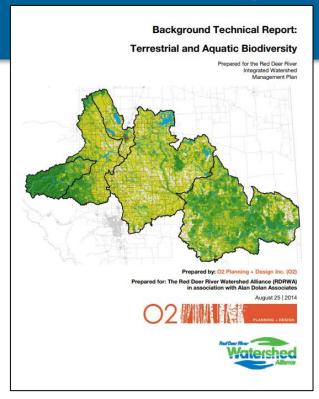
Spring-Summer 2018

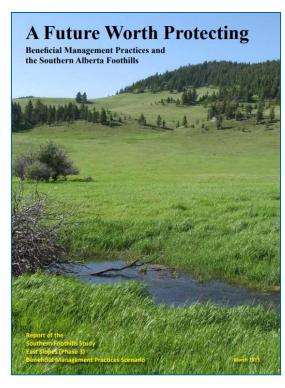
March 2021

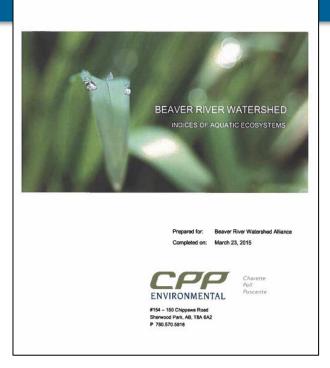
South East Alberta Watershed Alliance Rm 41, 419 – 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A0G9 www.seawa.ca executive@seawa.ca 403-580-8980



## Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting









## Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



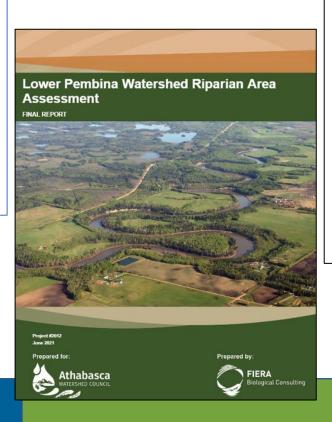
The 2013 Great Alberta Flood: Actions to Mitigate, Manage and Control Future Floods



Final Version



info@albertawatersmart.co
WaterSMART Solutions Ltd.
#200, 3512 - 33 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta T2L 2A6



Summary of Groundwater Conditions in the Sturgeon River Basin



Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuar

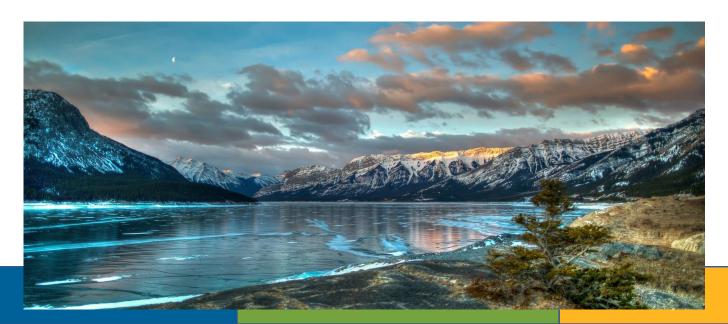
By: Alex Oiffer, M.Sc., P.Geol.

January 2019



### WPACs – Key Responsibilities

- ✓ Conveners and Collaborators
- ✓ Monitoring and Reporting
- ✓ Policy and Planning
- ✓ Education and Outreach





Maintain forums and create opportunities for all to share perspectives, exchange information and stories about our shared watershed resources and responsibilities.



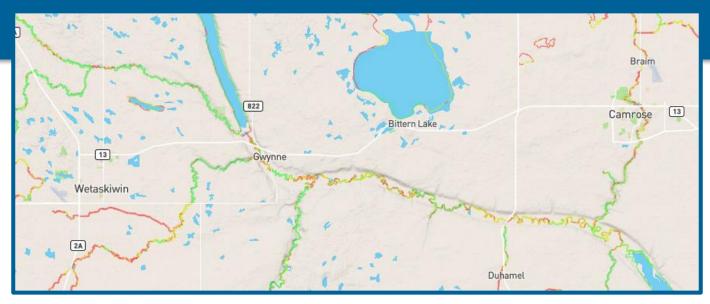


- Living Lakes Canada
- 3-year pilot
- Aquatic monitoring program
- Community needs and resources
- Uses national CABIN sampling protocols
- 7 WPAC partners









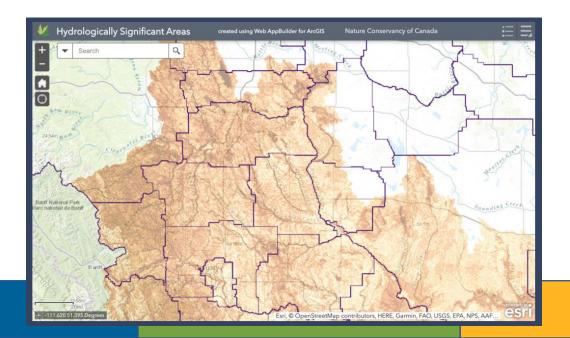


- Broad scale satellite assessment of riparian areas
- 25,000 km of shoreline
- Publicly accessible data
- 6 WPACs



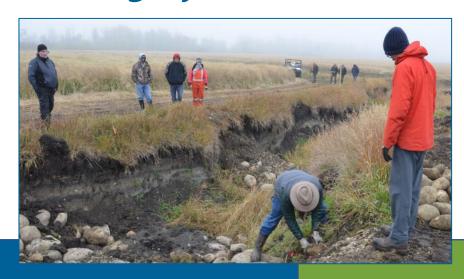
### Mapping of Hydrologically Significant Areas

- Red Deer Watershed Alliance and Nature Conservancy of Alberta
- Builds on work done in Oldman and Bow watersheds





- South East Watershed Alliance Riparian Restoration Project
- Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council Swan River Watershed Initiative
- Mighty Peace Restoration Project Group





To fill knowledge gaps, WPACs undertake a variety of activities to collect data and information. This information is often utilized in state of the watershed reports, which in turn inform land and watershed management plans and support work by WPAC partners.





# **Lesser Slave Lake Water Quality Monitoring Project**

- 5-year study
- 16 sites along five rivers
  - Swan
  - Driftpile
  - East Prairie
  - West Prairie
  - South Heart

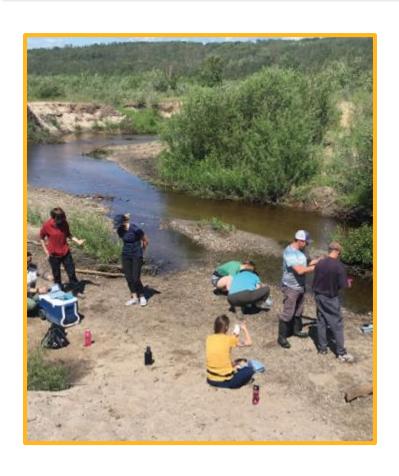




- 19 water quality monitoring stations on major tributaries of the North Saskatchewan River
- Study tributary inputs on water quality and impacts to drinking water







# Community-based Water Quality Monitoring within the LICA region

- Partnership with Alberta Lake Management Society
- 5 Lakes sampled in 2021
  - Jessie
  - Marie
  - Minnie
  - Moose
  - Skeleton

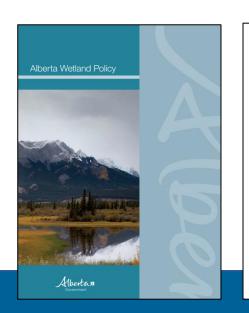




As knowledge-builders, WPACs can provide input and insight on watershed management issues through participation in water use management and planning activities with stakeholders. They can also lend this expertise to other regional, municipal and resource planning initiatives. Additionally, WPACs can provide a regional multistakeholder perspective to federal, provincial and municipal policy.

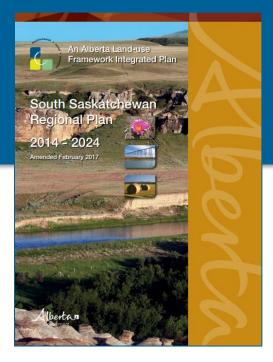
### **Government of Alberta Advice**

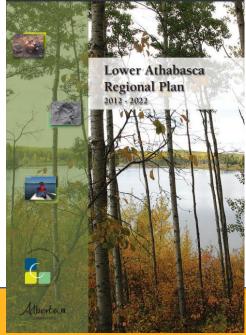
- Regional Land Use Plans
- Wetland Policy
- Coal Policy
- Aquatic Invasive Species





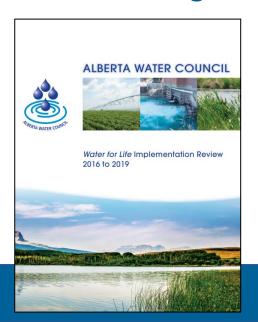
Alberta

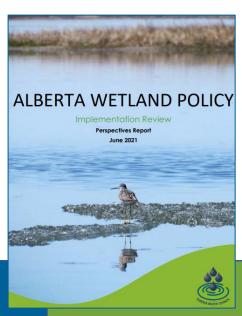


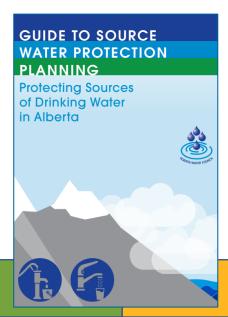


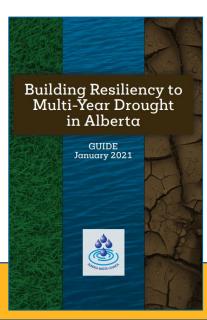
### **Alberta Water Council projects**

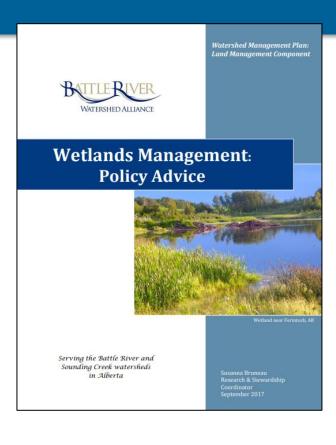
- Water for Life Implementation Reviews
- Wetland Policy Implementation
- Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta
- Building Resilience to Multi-Year Drought

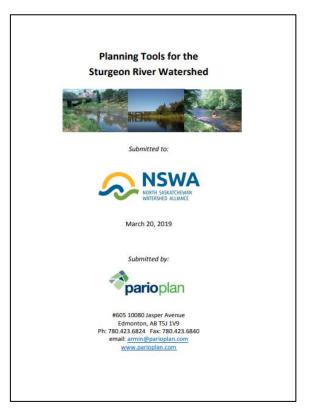


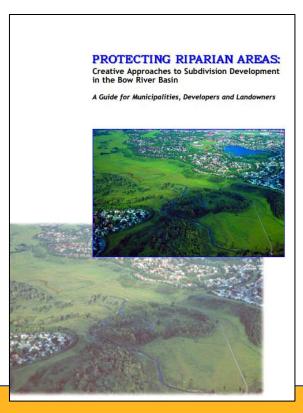


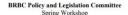












Gravel Pit Impacts on Watershed Resilience- Approval Processes Friday, March 12, 2021

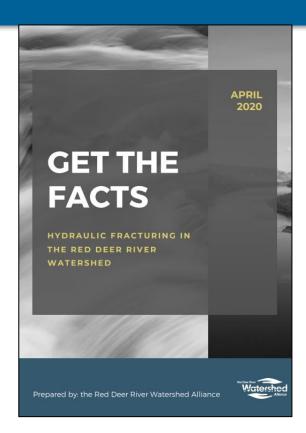


### Summary

The Policy and Legislation spring workshop about Gravel Pit Impacts on Watershed Resilience – the Approval Process was well attended by over 75 participants.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Shirley Pickering welcomed everyone to the TEAMS call, and explained that the morning would introduce participants to the provincial and municipal gravel pit approvals processes from an operator's perspective. Shirley said that another workshop in April would address the science regarding impacts of gravel operations on watershed resilience. She invited all participants to join the second workshop and top ask as many questions of the presenters as possible.

Shirley's welcome was followed up by an overview of the issues and structure of the workshop by the Chair of the Policy and Legislation Committee. At this juncture, participants were invited to listen to the presentations by representatives from Alberta Environment and Parks, Regulatory Approvals, and from the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association and ask their questions through chat. At the end of the workshop, time permitting the questions would be posed to the presenters. If time ran out, we would circulate the questions to presenters and invite them to provide their responses after the workshop. The municipal approval process would be covered off briefly by the workshop Chair because the intended speaker was unavailable. Participants



### IMPLICATIONS OF THE 1976 COAL POLICY BEING RESCINDED

In May of 2020, the provincial government rescinded the 1976 Coal Policy—a protective policy put in place by the government of Peter Lougheed which determined where open-pit coal mines were permitted and where they were not desirable. By rescinding this policy, the government opened up <u>category 2 lands</u> to coal exploration and potentially open-pit mining. Previously, these activities were generally not permitted. Other lands, including those designated as category 1, are still protected by a government order. Open-pit mining was already allowed on category 3 and 4 lands, but subject to assurances that the environment would be protected and reclaimed.

The proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Project is on category 4 lands, and as such, it is allowed to proceed through the application process. That means that —even if the 1976 Coal Policy was still in place—the project would be able to continue through the regulatory review process. Montem Resources' proposed reactivation of the old Tent Mountain mine is also on category 4 lands. Similarly, it is unaffected by the 1976 Coal Policy and can proceed through the permitting process. What this means, is that—regardless of the Coal Policy being in place or not—there could be two open-pit coal mines in Crowsnest Pass in the near future (contingent on regulators approving necessary permits and licenses).



WPACs excel in creating opportunities for public engagement, increasing awareness of watershed management issues, and ensuring the public is knowledgeable about what they can do as good stewards of the water resource.





- Red Deer Documentary Series
- Mighty Peace Streambank Restoration Project







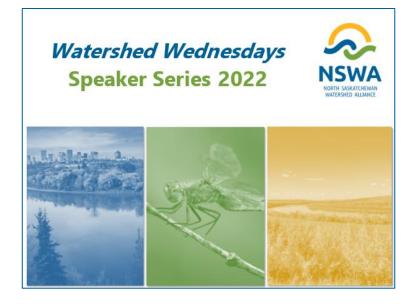
- SEAWA Riparian Educational Tours
- LICA Keep our Lake Blue Campaign







- NSWA Watershed Wednesday Webinar Series
- Bow and SAIT Water Re-Use project forum



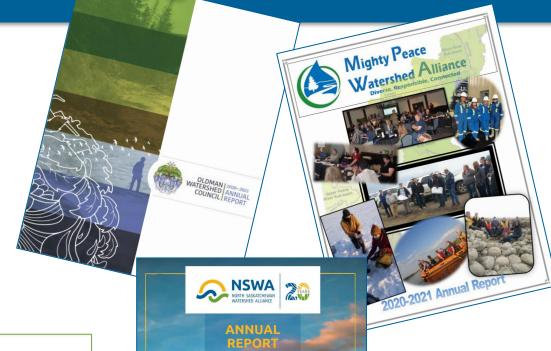


Integrated Water Management



- Websites
- Annual Reports





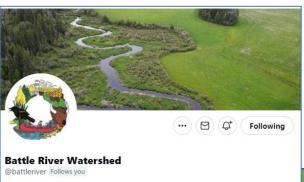






- Newsletters
- Social Media









the BRBC Board of Directors

Riparian Web Portal



The following areas of focus were identified as new or ongoing priorities. First, we plan to enhance our digital presence by updating and re-designing the website, improving our digital presence, and building up the IRBC's Farand. Second, we will undertake an updated State of the Watershed assessment for the Both of the Watershed assessment for the Both of the Watershed assessment for completely online within a George of the Watershed assessment for the Both of the Watershed assessment for the Watershed assessme

THIS ISSUE

The #BattleRiverWatershed Alliance seeks to protect and restore the health of the Battle River and Sounding Creek environment, communities, and economies,

### WPACs – Key Responsibilities





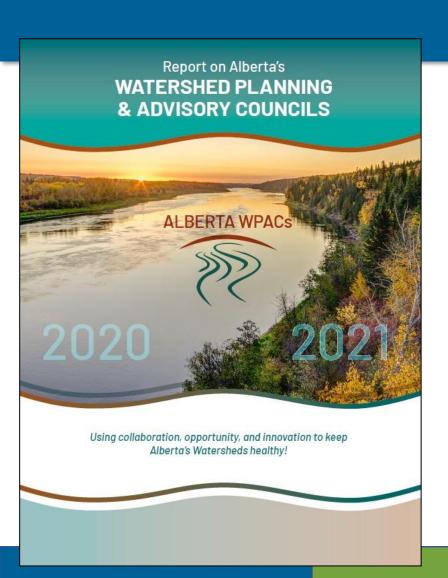


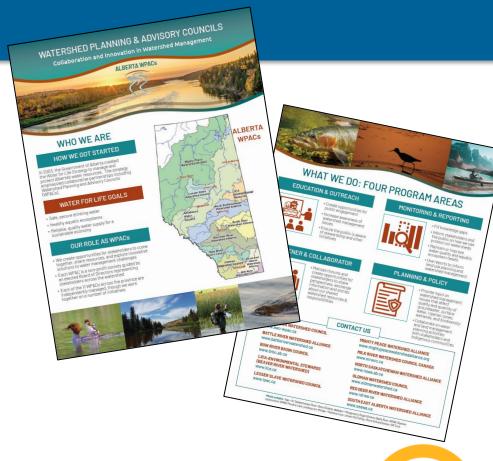


- ✓ Conveners and Collaborators
- ✓ Monitoring and Reporting
- ✓ Policy and Planning
- ✓ Education and Outreach



## 2020-2021 Report and Brochure





www.nswa.ab.ca/aboutus/watershed-planning-advisorycouncils/

# Thank you!



