

Annual General Meeting Package

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

25 June 2025



Photo Credit: Allan Guzak



Territorial Acknowledgement

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance acknowledges that the traditional land on which our watershed resides is in Treaty 6 Territory, Treaty 8 Territory, and the Métis Homeland.

We deeply respect and wish to honour the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak/Cree, Denesuliné/Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakotalsga/Nakota Sioux, and the Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples.

We further acknowledge this territory as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.



NSWA VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, 25 June 2025
VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83020889869>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:30 – 10:30	Opening blessing - land acknowledgement - welcome	<i>Cindy de Bruijn, Secretary</i>
	Society Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acceptance of Agenda- Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes	<i>Steph Neufeld, Chair</i>
	2024 - 2025 Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acceptance of Annual Report	<i>Scott Millar, Executive Director</i>
	2024 - 2025 Audited Financial Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acceptance of 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statement- Appointment of Auditor for 2025-2026	<i>Adam Polzen, Treasurer</i>
	2025 - 2026 Operating Plan and Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acceptance of 2025-2026 Operating Plan & Budget	<i>Scott Millar, Executive Director</i>
10:30 – 10:40	BREAK (10 min)	
10:40 – 11:15	2025 - 2026 Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nominees- Election of Directors- Board and Staff Recognition	<i>Kyle Schole, Vice-Chair</i>
12:00	Closing Remarks and Adjournment of AGM	<i>Steph Neufeld, Chair</i>

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (Board Directors Only)

A separate meeting link will be provided

12:00 – 13:00	2024-2025 Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Election of Officers- Board Committees	<i>NSWA Board</i>
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Minutes of NSWA 2024 Annual General Meeting

June 26, 2024, at 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

The Lodge at the Snow Valley Ski Club (13204 Rainbow Valley Rd NW, Edmonton)

Opening Prayer & Smudge

- NSWA Chair Stephanie Neufeld made welcoming remarks to attendees. She acknowledged the lands within the North Saskatchewan Watershed and welcomed Elder Leo Bruno who led a smudge ceremony and teaching to open the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a good way.

Society Business

- NSWA Vice Chair Kyle Schole called the meeting to order and informed the membership that all motions today would be approved with a majority vote.
 - Schole spoke on NSWA's purpose and the role of members and the Board of Directors.
- Chair Neufeld motioned to accept the Agenda for the NSWA AGM (June 26, 2024) and motioned to approve the Minutes of NSWA's previous AGM (June 28, 2023).

Kristina Kowalski moved that the Agenda for the 26 June 2024 NSWA Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented, seconded by Adam Polzen. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

Ian Kwantes moved that the Minutes of the 28 June 2023 NSWA Annual General Meeting be approved, seconded by Steve Craik. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

2023-2024 NSWA Annual Report

- NSWA Executive Director Scott Millar introduced the NSWA staff and reviewed NSWA's Annual Report for 2023-2024. Millar thanked the NSWA Board, Executive, and staff for their contributions.
- A question was asked about the Transboundary Water Agreement. Scott noted this has been in place for a while, and the public can view monitoring data published on the rivers.alberta.ca website.
- Acceptance of the 2023-2024 NSWA Annual Report.

Miles Wowk moved that the 2023-2024 NSWA Annual Report be accepted as information, seconded by Tony Lemay. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

2023-2024 NSWA Audited Financial Statement

- NSWA Treasurer Adam Polzen presented the Audited Financial Statement for 2023-2024 and opened the floor for any questions.
- Acceptance of the 2023-2024 NSWA Audited Financial Statement.

Tracy Scott moved that the 2023-2024 NSWA Audited Financial Statement be accepted as information, seconded by Gennifer Mehlhaff. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

DRAFT

Appointment of Financial Auditor for 2024-2025

- Treasurer Polzen asked for recommendations for a financial auditor for NSW's upcoming year.
 - Approval of the Appointment of Auditor for 2024-2025.

Adam Polzen moved that Lim and Associates be appointed as the NSW financial auditor for 2024-2025, seconded by Stephanie Neufeld. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

2024-2025 NSW Operating Plan & Budget

- Executive Director Millar presented the 2024-2025 NSW Operating Plan and Budget and revealed NSW's new website that was developed as part of the Digital Watershed Project.
- A question was asked about how we track and allocate in-kind revenues. Scott explained in-kind contributions are related to the time people spend towards NSW from outside the organization, with the amount varying between projects.

Kyle Schole moved that the 2024-2025 NSW Operating Plan and Budget be accepted as information, seconded by Kristina Kowalski. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

2024-2025 NSW Board of Directors and Election of Directors

- Vice Chair Schole facilitated the nominations for the newly elected Directors. For the upcoming year, the NSW Board of Directors has a number of open positions in the municipal, industry, non-governmental organizations, and academia/member-at-large sectors.
- Vice Chair Schole acknowledged two advisory positions joining the Board this year. First is Elder Leo Bruno who will become an Indigenous Director for NSW once the proposed bylaw amendments have been confirmed, and second is Sharon Shuya who will represent the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board.
- Acclamation of returning Directors with no opposition to their respective sector seats.

Stephanie Neufeld moved Ian Kwantes with Weyerhaeuser Canada, Tracy Scott with Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Rhonda King with ALUS Canada be acclaimed for the NSW Board of Directors, seconded by Rick Wallace. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

- This year we have two municipal and one academic seat up for election.
- For the two municipal seats, I am pleased to announce that we have 7 nominees, including:
 - Incumbent Reeve Bart Guyon, of Brazeau County
 - Councilor Kevin Wirsta, of the County of St. Paul
 - Mayor Ray Hutscal, of the Summer Village of Ross Haven
 - Mayor Karl Hauch, of the Town of Bruderheim
 - **Councilor Robert Pulyk, of the Town of Vermilion**
 - Mayor Darryl Hostyn, of the Town of Thorsby
 - **Councilor Corey-Ann Hartwick, of Strathcona County**
- For the single academic seat, we have 3 nominees, including:
 - **Dr. Nicole Nadorozny, of Lakeland College**
 - Dr. Brian Smerdon, of the University of Alberta
 - Debbie Webb, of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

- The election was conducted electronically, with a run-off held between municipal nominees Mayor Darryl Hostyn of the Town of Thorsby and Councilor Robert Pulyk of the Town of Vermilion.
- Acclamation of Directors to seats up for election with multiple nominees.

Bylaw Amendments

- Vice Chair Schole proposed the two bylaw updates. These included:
 - Updating the membership provisions to streamline the renewal process; and
 - Updating the Board composition to add one additional municipal Board seat, and four additional seats to provide for inclusion of Indigenous Directors.
- Voting was conducted electronically.

Recognition of Leaving Directors

- Vice Chair Schole recognized the leaving Board members Wade Teveniuk (3 years), Councilors Mike Killick and Shelley Biermanski (3 years), and Dr. Laurie Danielson (15 years) and thanked them for their years of service to NSWA's Board of Directors.

Recognition of Long Service

- Vice Chair Schole acknowledged the long service of several Board members:
 - Jatinder Tiwana, Advisor, City of Edmonton – 5 years
 - Jamie Bruha, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – 9 years
 - Tony Lemay, Alberta Energy Regulator – 9 years
 - Al Corbett, Alberta Irrigation and Drainage Council – 11 years
 - Steve Craik, Member at Large – 12 years
 - Tracy Scott, Ducks Unlimited Canada – 14 years
 - Bill Fox, Lifelong Member – 22 years
- Vice Chair Schole recognized two NSWA staff members for their long service:
 - Mary Ellen Shain, Senior Watershed Planning Coordinator – 10 years
 - Michelle Gordy, Senior Watershed Planning Coordinator – 5 years

Voting Results

- Vice Chair Schole acknowledged the Bylaw amendments have been passed and thanked all the Director nominees before welcoming Councilor Corey-Ann Hartwick of Strathcona County, Councilor Robert Pulyk of the Town of Vermilion, and Dr. Nicole Nadorozny of Lakeland College to the NSWA Board of Directors.

Adam Polzen moved that Councilor Corey-Ann Hartwick of Strathcona County, Councilor Robert Pulyk of the Town of Vermilion, and Dr. Nicole Nadorozny of Lakeland College be elected to the NSWA Board of Directors, seconded by Tony Lemay. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

Closing Remarks & Adjournment

- Chair Neufeld thanked all those in attendance.

Kristina Kowalski moved that the 26 June 2024 NSWA Annual General Meeting be adjourned, seconded by Kyle Schole. No dissenting votes.

CARRIED

DRAFT

Guest Speakers

- Azure Johnson from Samson Cree Nation spoke on teepee teachings and shared governance.
- Executive Director Millar presented on the NSW Youth Water Council and the innovative comic book project the 2024 cohort completed.
- Chair Neufeld thanked all those in attendance.

DRAFT

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



NSWA

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



VISION

People working together to improve the health and sustainability of the North Saskatchewan River watershed today and into the future.

MISSION

To protect and improve watershed health, water quality, and water quantity by:

- seeking, developing, and sharing knowledge;
- facilitating partnerships and collaborative planning;
- working in an adaptive management process; and,
- striving to advance the practice of watershed stewardship.



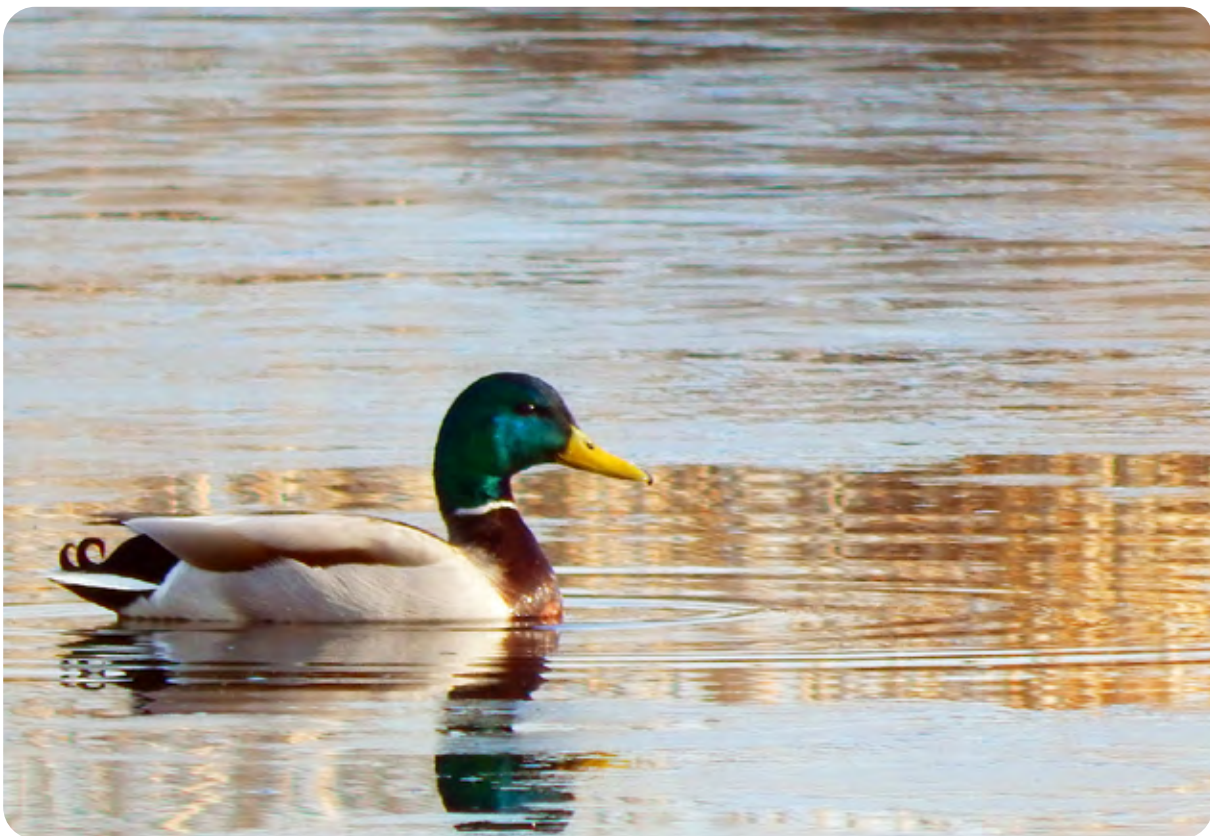
PHOTO CREDITS IN THIS REPORT

Cover - Ryan Northcott
Page 3- Ryan Northcott
Page 5- Stephanie Neufeld, Ryan Northcott
Page 12- U of A Water Engineering School (bottom right), Maricor Arlos
Page 21 all photos- Ryan Northcott
Back Cover- Ryan Northcott

All other photos without photo credits were taken by NSWA staff.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



This past year, the NSWA continued to demonstrate the value of collaborative watershed management across our diverse region. As Chair, I am proud of the Board's strong governance, strategic oversight, and commitment to supporting a thriving watershed. We welcomed new partners, strengthened relationships with municipalities and Indigenous communities, and provided leadership on key water issues.

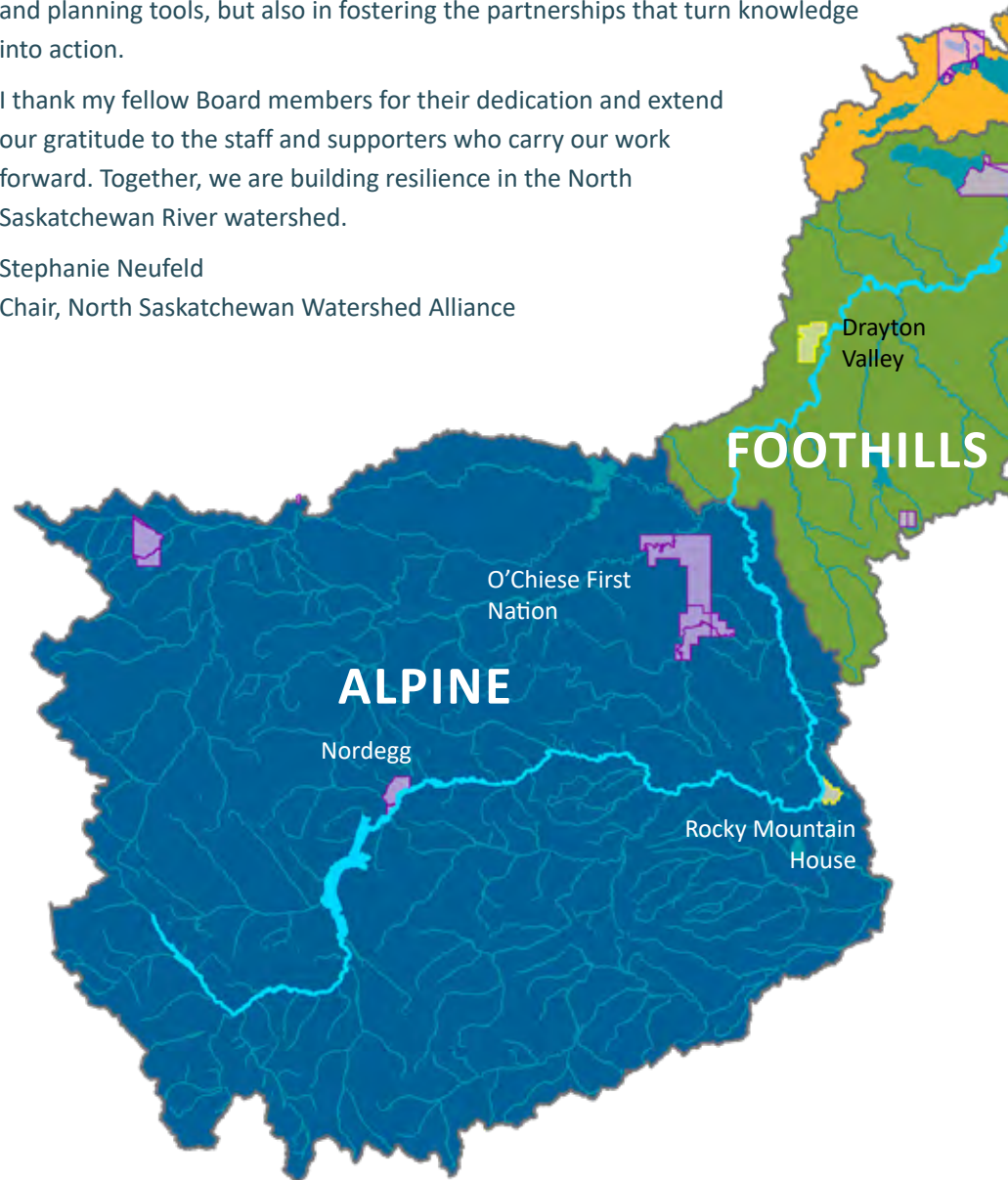
The work of the NSWA remains essential, not only in producing trusted science and planning tools, but also in fostering the partnerships that turn knowledge into action.

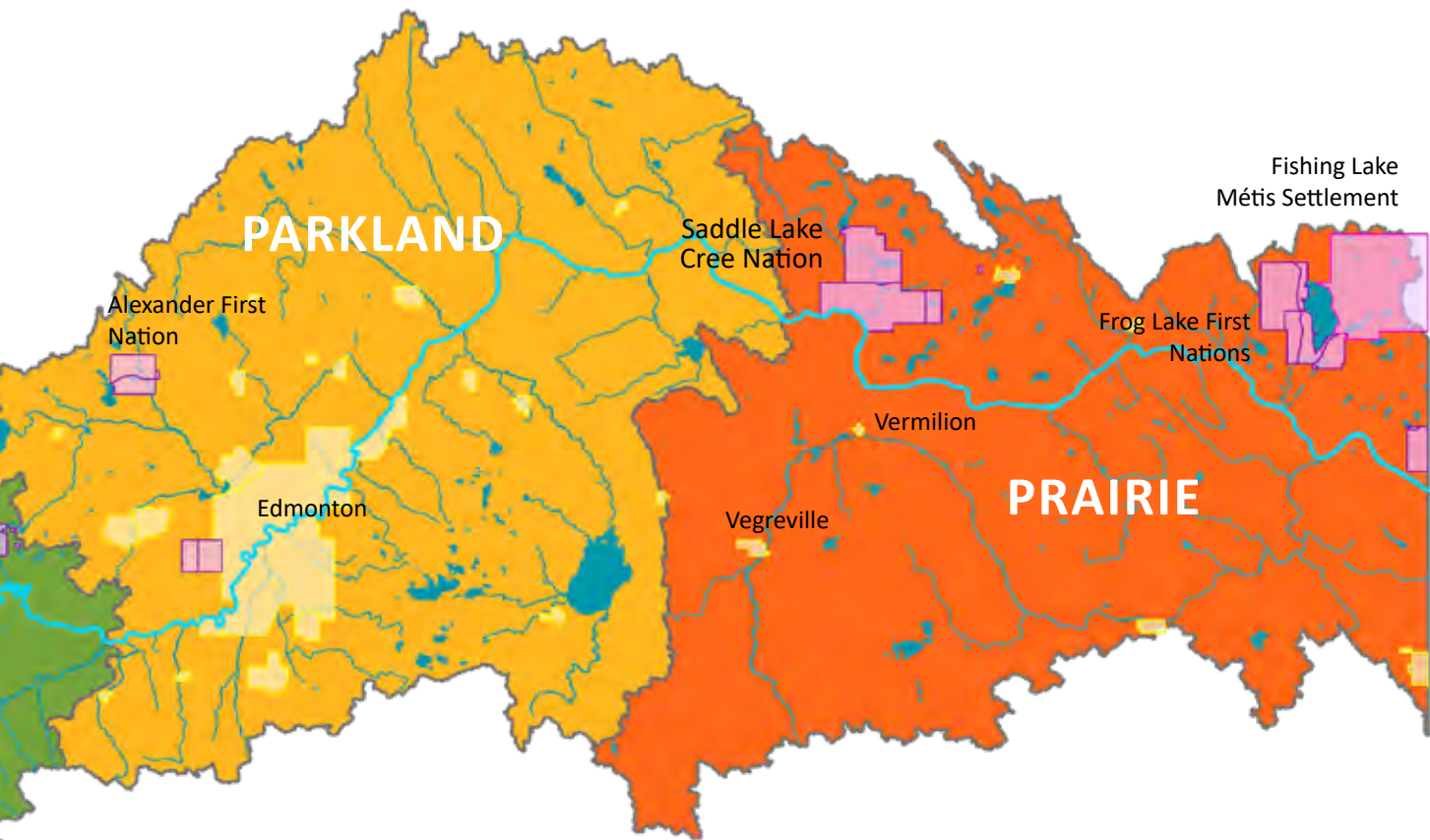
I thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and extend our gratitude to the staff and supporters who carry our work forward. Together, we are building resilience in the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

Stephanie Neufeld
Chair, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

ABOUT THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

The North Saskatchewan River watershed covers about 57,000 square kilometers in Alberta, starting in the Rockies and flowing east through Edmonton and other communities to the Saskatchewan border. It's home to a mix of ecosystems and supports a wide variety of plants and animals. As a key water source for people, farms, industry, and wildlife, this complex system requires a well-rounded approach to stewardship, management, conservation, and protection.





NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The NSWA team made significant strides this year in advancing watershed planning, coordination, and engagement. We launched several impactful projects, contributed to regional initiatives, and expanded our outreach programming.

One significant highlight is our ongoing effort to expand youth leadership with programming like our Youth Water Council, a creative and inspiring journey that culminated in a Council-led comic book. We also launched innovative data tools and continued our role as a trusted source of watershed knowledge.

These achievements are possible thanks to the commitment of our partners, funders, and the dedication of our staff. As we look ahead to our 25th anniversary in 2025, we remain focused on building collaborative solutions that protect and enhance the health of the watershed for generations to come.

Scott Millar

Executive Director, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance



ABOUT THE NSWA

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to promoting the health and sustainability of the North Saskatchewan River and its watershed. Under the *Alberta Water for Life* strategy, the NSWA carries the responsibility of developing and then encouraging voluntary implementation of an integrated watershed management plan. Implemented through collaboration and community engagement, the plan sets out the actions needed to protect and enhance the quality of water and the health of aquatic ecosystems within the watershed, while also supporting the social and economic well-being of the region.

NSWA STAFF



Back row, left to right: Amanda Hardman, Mary Ellen Shain, Scott Millar, Heather Marshall, Caitlin Hilsen-Ashford

Front row, left to right: Ellen Cust, Emily Specht, Kelsie Norton, Lauren Comba, Kaila Belovich, Michelle Gordy

Missing: Jillian Peterson

Strategic Goals



Collaboration:
Preferred partner in watershed management



Stewardship:
Leader in watershed stewardship



Knowledge:
Resource for watershed information and education



Management:
Sustainable and well managed organization



BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2024-2025

CHAIR

Stephanie Neufeld

EPCOR
Utilities Sector

VICE CHAIR

Kyle Schole

Member at Large

TREASURER

Adam Polzen

Industry
Pembina Pipeline

SECRETARY

Cindy de Bruijn

Utility
ARROW Utilities

DIRECTORS

Jamie Bruha

Provincial Government
Alberta Environment and
Protected Areas

Bill Fox

Agriculture
Alberta Beef Producers -
Lifetime Director

Alan Corbett

Government Agency
Alberta Drainage Council

Patrick Howe

Industry
Northeast Capital
Industrial Association

Ian Kwantes

Industry
Canadian Timberlands
Weyerhaeuser Company

Tony Lemay

Provincial Government
Alberta Energy Regulator
Alberta Geological Survey

Tracy Scott

Non-governmental
Organization
Ducks Unlimited

Sally Kucher Johnson

Municipal
Parkland County

Elder Leo Bruno Sr.

Municipal
Clearwater County

Corey-Ann Hartwick

Municipal
Strathcona County

Dr. Nicole Nadorozny

Academia
Lakeland College

Robert Pulyk

Municipal
Town of Vermilion

Gennifer Mehlhaff

Indigenous
Samson Cree Nation

Dr. Stephen Craik

Member at Large

Rhonda King

Non-governmental
Organization
ALUS Canada

Miles Wowk

Agriculture
Alberta Beef Producers

Jatinder Tiwana

Advisory Position
City of Edmonton

Rick Wallace

Utility
TransAlta Corporation

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

We are grateful to the many supporters of the NSWA. We would not be able to facilitate partnerships, complete studies, or share knowledge in our watershed without the time and resources provided by our generous contributors.

We acknowledge the Government of Alberta for providing a multi-year operational grant and important contributions from EPCOR and 39 municipalities in our watershed.



Funders by Project

**“A River Runs Through Us” NSR
Documentary Film:** EPCOR

**Building Drought Resilience with First
Nations of Treaty 6:** Climate West

Regional Lake Stewardship Project:
Pembina Pipeline

**NSR Water Management Roadmap
Project:** Prairies Economic
Development Canada, Alberta
Innovates, Government of Alberta,
Results Driven Agricultural Research,
City of Edmonton, Cenovus, EPCOR,
Keyera, Edmonton Metro Region
Board, ATCO, City of Spruce Grove

State of the Watershed Report: NSWA

Urban Creeks Collaborative: EPCOR

Youth Water Council: Enbridge,
Sherritt International, Imperial Oil,
TransAlta, and TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation

Counties

Beaver County
Clearwater County
Minburn County
County of St. Paul
County of Vermillion River
Lac Ste Anne County
Lamont County
Leduc County
Smoky Lake County
Strathcona County
Sturgeon County

Cities

Edmonton (through EPCOR)
Fort Saskatchewan
St. Albert

Towns

Bruderheim
Calmar
Devon
Drayton Valley
Elk Point
Gibbons
Lamont
Onoway
Redwater
Rocky Mountain House
Smoky Lake
St. Paul
Tofield
Two Hills
Vegreville

Villages

Alberta Beach
Chipman
Innisfree
Spring Lake

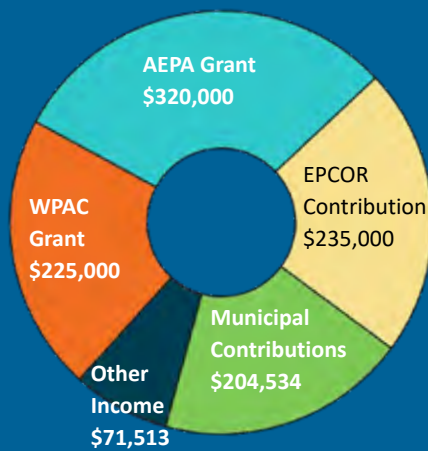
Summer Villages

Horseshoe Bay
Silver Sands
South View
Sunrise Beach
West Cove
Yellowstone

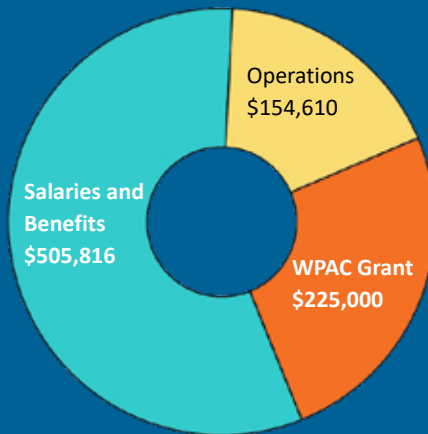
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operational Funding

The NSWA receives core operational funding from:



Operational Revenue



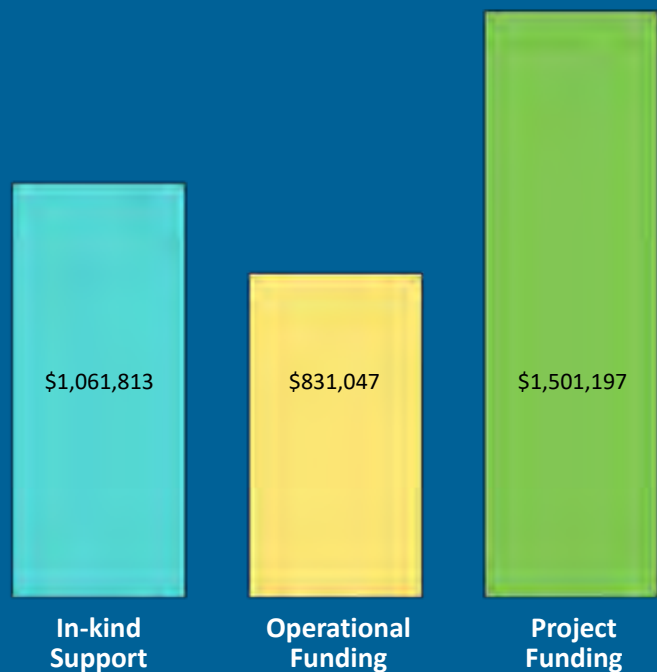
Operational Expenses

- An operating grant from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
- A contribution from EPCOR Water Services Canada
- Municipal contributions equivalent to \$0.60 per capita

Project Funding

The NSWA seeks grants and other types of project funding from federal, provincial, and private funders for watershed project specific works such as technical studies, education and outreach projects, technology development, and on-the-ground restoration activities.

The [NSWA 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statement](#) can be found [here](#).



STATE OF THE WATERSHED

The NSWA is responsible for assessing and reporting on watershed health through a *State of the Watershed* Report. This report offers a baseline, highlights data gaps, supports action, and serves as an educational tool. The last assessment was in 2005, using the data and methods available at the time. Since then, both the data and the needs of the watershed have changed significantly.



The Freshwater Health Index

NSWA is currently updating the State of the Watershed using the Freshwater Health Index (FHI)—a science-based tool developed by Conservation International. This is the first time FHI is being used in North America, and it's being tailored to fit Alberta.

The FHI looks at three areas: Ecosystem Vitality, Ecosystem Services, and Governance & Stakeholders, scoring each from 0 to 100. These scores help identify where management or restoration is needed. Because it brings in multiple perspectives, the FHI supports Alberta's *Water for Life* approach and helps ensure results are useful for local decision-makers.



Bringing FHI to the North Saskatchewan Watershed

The NSWA began to adapt and implement the FHI in early 2023. Key steps in this process were:

- Adapted the FHI indicators to better reflect available data for the watershed.
- Hosted workshops for input and feedback on problem areas across disciplines, backgrounds, and sectors.
- Worked with other WPACs to facilitate repeatable, transparent results across Alberta watersheds.
- Developed a web-based *State of the Watershed* report.
- Consulted with technical experts on all indices and data to ensure they reflect the indicator accurately.



LAKE STEWARDSHIP

Regional Lake Stewardship Project

The Regional Lake Stewardship project, supported by Pembina Pipeline, aims to coordinate lake stewardship activities across lake groups and enable lake shoreline restoration activities in key locations. Learn more about these [stewardship projects here](#).

In 2024, the project undertook two shoreland enhancement projects, which included:

- Bringing 30 students from the New Humble Community School to plant more than 400 native plants along the shore of Wizard Lake, in partnership with the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Society and Leduc County.
- Assembling community members, joined by MLA Shane Getson, to naturalize a runoff channel and day use area on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne, in partnership with the Summer Village of Yellowstone and the Lake Isle and Lac Ste. Anne Stewardship Society.



eDNA Monitoring

The NSWA partnered with Dr. Patrick Hanington from the University of Alberta's School of Public Health to conduct environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring throughout the watershed. With support from Smoky Lake County and the Government of Alberta, the NSWA hosted two field technicians who collected 108 samples across the watershed's four reaches. Additionally, the technicians collaborated with Whitefish First Nation and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to support monitoring and broader terrestrial and aquatic health assessments.

Preliminary results show no new invasive species have been detected, and Whirling Disease—first found in the watershed's headwaters in 2018—has not shown signs of expanding its range.



Collaborations

The NSWA co-hosted a Lake Stewardship Community of Practice Forum alongside the Alberta Lake Management Society at Snow Valley Lodge in May 2024. Learn more about the [Community of Practice](#).

The NSWA hosted an Invasive Plants and Beaver Coexistence Workshop at Elk Island National Park that included presentations from Parks staff, NSWA, and Cows and Fish, as well as a guided walk to various sites within the park.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Sharing knowledge and reaching out to the watershed's diverse community is important to the NSWA. This year, the NSWA participated in a variety of events with municipal partners, local watershed stewardship groups, and other organizations. Highlights included Open Farm Days, Alberta Métis Fest, the TELUS World of Science Virtual Youth Climate Summit, the c5 summer kick-off community event, and the St. Albert Clean & Green River fest!

Field Workshops & Training

NSWA joined University of Alberta Engineering students at the faculty's inaugural Engineering Water School. NSWA hosted the watershed management and water quality learning portion of the field school at the Cline River WaterSHED Monitoring station.

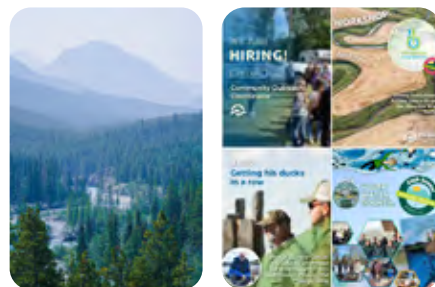
Students learned how WaterSHED's one-of-a-kind tributary monitoring network informs regional planning, how parameters are assessed, and did some hands-on water quality testing at the river bank!

TransAlta provided a tour of the Bighorn Dam facility. Students learned how the North Saskatchewan River's flows are managed and got an inside look at the dam's hydroelectric power generation.



SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB COMMUNICATIONS

Social media continues to evolve as an important way for the NSWA to connect with people from across the watershed and share educational information. NSWA's Summer Photo contest had photographers sharing their favourite views of the watershed on social media. The winning shot, "Summer Smoke" shows a smoky wildfire haze unfurling in the Abraham Lake area. The photographer, Harmony Medland-Wolgemuth won a six glaciers helicopter tour for her efforts!



Monthly Instream Newsletter

The NSWA monthly newsletter keeps 1130 subscribers informed about our latest project updates, partner events, watershed news, and ways to get involved! Throughout 2024-2025, blogs featured topics on wildfire research, climate change, drought, and Indigenous perspectives on water. Join our mailing list and become an NSWA member on our website!



5,960 followers



1,130 subscribers



409 attendees



2,850 people reached



New NSWA Website

NSWA unveiled a brand-new website in June 2024, developed by local Edmonton web designer, Box Clever. The new site makes watershed learning accessible and features some new pages, such as an event calendar, blog posts, and resources that can be searched by job or interests.

The Canadian Heritage River StoryMap

The NSWA created a new [StoryMap](#) for the North Saskatchewan River's Canadian Heritage River designation. Meander through history, explore Indigenous heritage, and learn about the unique ecological features of kisiskâciwani-sîpiy/ Omaka-ty!

Watershed Wednesday Webinars

This year's six Watershed Wednesday Webinars featured guest speakers showcasing local initiatives, research, and projects happening in our watershed. The sessions covered topics such as resilient agriculture, Indigenous environmental monitoring, natural infrastructure, and urban creek daylighting initiatives. Watch them on [NSWA's YouTube channel](#).







STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE (SRWA)

The SRWA continues to implement the 2020 Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan and conducted a 2024 SR WMP Evaluation Report.

- The Alliance proposed a three-year water quality evaluation and infrastructure planning project for SRWA and received \$200,000 through the Alberta Community Partnership Grant – Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream to support the project.
- The project involves an analysis of existing water quality data to identify hot spots and explores nature-based solutions for high and medium-risk areas identified in the 2018 Watercourse Crossing Assessment.
- Parkland County is the project's municipal managing partner — along with other Alliance members' ongoing support.



VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE (VRWA)

- The VRWA remains committed to the Vermilion River Watershed Management Plan and is seeking specific on-the-ground projects and funding to improve its watershed's health.
- In collaboration with Lakeland College, the VRWA is developing an activity book designed for children aged 10–12. This interactive resource helps young readers explore their local watershed while introducing sustainability, watershed health, and ecological connectivity in a fun, engaging way.
- The VRWA supported outreach and education activities such as the annual Bugging Out Down by the River event (with the Town of Vermilion Library) as well as County of Vermilion River's Wetland Adventure Days.



URBAN CREEKS COLLABORATIVE

- In 2024, the Collaborative began developing educational and engagement materials to raise awareness about local creeks, the pressures they face, and the actions individuals and communities can take to improve urban creek watershed health.
- An interactive digital tool is being developed, featuring maps, data, and historical context for each urban creek watershed. The tool will be available through the NSWA website in 2025.
- The Collaborative has begun envisioning an Urban Creeks Strategy with the goal to co-develop a shared vision for returning natural hydrology to urban creek watersheds.

INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND- DESIGNATED INDUSTRIAL ZONE (IH-DIZ) WORKING GROUP

The NSWA is a partner in the IH-DIZ Water Task Team that is working to streamline regulatory processes and meet economic and environmental goals. The group had three key areas of focus over the past year:

- **Aquatic Ecosystem Health (AEH) Study:** This study intends to assess river health using water quality, macroinvertebrates, algae biomass, and sediment with the results being used to inform development of the long-term monitoring program.
- **IH-DIZ LSPC Model Update:** The updated model will be used to assess the potential impact that landscape changes and other pressures will have on water quality downstream of the DIZ.
- **Wetland Waterbody Characterization Study:** Working closely with Alberta Industrial Heartland Association on the 'Waterbody Characterization and Policy in the IH-DIZ' study, with the goal to optimize wetland regulations, policies, and practices within the IH-DIZ.



BUILDING RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT IN THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED

The spring and summer of 2024 brought concerning drought conditions across Alberta. While the North Saskatchewan River fared better than our southern neighbours, parts of our watershed experienced extremely dry soils and low tributary flows. Local farmers, who mostly depend on rainfall rather than irrigation, were especially impacted.

Although drought is a natural and recurring part of our watershed's history, it is still essential for communities to prepare for future droughts.



How the NSWA supported drought resilience efforts:

- Co-hosted two Building Drought Resiliency workshops, featuring the Drought Toolkit by the Alberta Water Council
- Presented at key events, including the AB Municipalities Climate COP Conference
- Hosted Watershed Wednesday sessions on drought modeling and water shortage planning
- Featured Dr. Gina Ziervogel, author of Day Zero, in a special webinar on Cape Town's 2015–2018 drought
- Provided regular drought updates through media interviews, our website, and newsletters

Partnering with Treaty Six First Nations on Drought Resilience

In 2024, the NSWA began an important partnership with the Emergency Management Department of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations to better understand and respond to First Nations' needs around drought resilience. Existing drought planning tools in Alberta are designed for municipalities and often don't reflect the realities of First Nation communities.

Highlights from Phase 1: Needs Assessment

- Secured funding support from ClimateWest
- Hosted two workshops (Nov 2024 and Apr 2025) to hear directly from Nations
- Co-drafted a Needs Assessment with our Indigenous Liaison, Azure Johnson, and the Confederacy of Treaty 6
- Engaged 12 of 16 Confederacy member Nations

This project is an important step toward equitable access to drought planning tools, while also advancing reconciliation, self-determination, and long-term climate resilience. Phase 1 wraps up in June 2025 and Phase 2 launches next year.

THE RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL

The Riparian Web Portal (RWP) continues to evolve as an important resource for riparian health and watershed improvement across Alberta and beyond. Since its launch in 2021, the RWP has served as a centralized hub for data, tools, and best practices, which in turn supports landowners, municipalities, stewardship groups, and decision-makers in their efforts to understand, protect, and restore riparian areas.

In 2024, we made significant strides in expanding the portal's reach and visibility, supporting more communities in making informed, data-driven decisions for riparian health, which included:

- Secured funding through the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Fund to hire a full-time Portal Coordinator who will lead technical upgrades, provide training, and build long-term support for users.
- Completed our 3rd Annual RWP Student Competition, engaging 30 Lakeland College students in science communication.
- Collaborated with over 15 organizations to upload project examples and showcase on-the-ground success stories, including the major milestone of the first on-the-ground project from outside Alberta (located in British Columbia) to be uploaded to the Portal.
- Supported three WPACs in integrating new riparian assessment data for priority sub-basins.



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT MODEL & ROADMAP PROJECT



In 2024, the NSWA began a project to collaboratively develop a roadmap for sustainable water management in the North Saskatchewan River Basin, balancing future water availability and water use demands. Stakeholders and rightsholders are developing a hydrological model of the watershed that includes current water use and management, and forecasts potential future water availability due to growth and changing climate. From this foundation, the project will define a 'roadmap' of potential improvements to water management in the basin.

Thanks to funding from 11 partners across federal, provincial, municipal, and industrial sectors, this project is now well underway. The Roadmap lays the groundwork for a coordinated, informed, and proactive approach to water management in the basin. The collaborative working group consists of over 30 members representing industry, government, agriculture, Indigenous communities, and non-governmental organisations which met 10 times in 2024.

YOUTH WATER COUNCIL

NSWA's Youth Water Council (YWC) places youth at the forefront of water conservation and watershed management. Throughout the school year, students from across the watershed come together through collaborative workshops, bi-weekly virtual learning sessions, and a weekend camp. They learn from environmental professionals and one another before co-creating their own Innovative Project.

The 2024 council's project, *River Time Vortex Extravaganza – A Watershed Time Travel Story*, is an educational comic book about watershed health. With the help of NSWA, the council distributed the comic to schools and libraries throughout the watershed in the hopes that it would teach kids about the importance of protecting their natural environment. Following positive reception, an additional 9000 copies of the comic were printed for the RiverWatch Institute's EcoFloats! See the [YWC 2024 webpage](#) and a [digital version of the comic here](#).

In session: The 2025 council features 12 high school students who share a common passion for their local environment. They are currently working on their own project, Education Kits for classrooms.



2025 students from left to right: Gurmehar, Paras, Humza, Samantha, Joanna, Abi, Ilinca, Cynthia, Aven, Tanya, Josie



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US: THE STORY OF THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

Written & Directed by: Ryan Northcott (Panoramic Media), Steph Neufeld (EPCOR), & Kaila Belovich (NSWA)

The NSWA has been working with Panoramic Media and EPCOR to develop a 7-part documentary featuring the North Saskatchewan River. Filming, interviews, and scripting progressed throughout 2024, and the film is anticipated to premiere in Edmonton in mid-July 2025.



Teaser

From the glacial past to the present day, the North Saskatchewan River has shaped the land and the lives of those who rely on its waters. This documentary traces the river's geological origins, explores the delicate balance of its ecosystems, and examines the ways in which human activity has influenced its health. Through the voices of scientists, stewardship groups, Indigenous peoples, and local communities, the film uncovers the evolving relationship between people, the North Saskatchewan River, and its watershed.

This documentary is presented by EPCOR—the water utility provider for Edmonton and surrounding regions—and NSWA. Their shared belief is that education is key to stewardship. By watching the film and discovering more about the North Saskatchewan River, we hope to enhance your connection with the river, and inspire you to conserve the river for generations to come.



Carving its way through rugged landscapes and historic communities, the North Saskatchewan River is more than just a waterway, it's a lifeline, shaping industries, ecosystems, and cultural identities across time immemorial.

CONTACT US

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NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (the Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO)

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

(continues)

**Operates through Cheng S. Lim Professional Corporation.*

Suite 101, 14805 - 119 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5L 2N9 P. 780.484.8803 F. 780.761.0688 E. info@limcpas.com

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (*continued*)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Lim & Associates

Edmonton , AB

June 2, 2025

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	Watershed Grants and Natural Assets <i>Schedule 1</i>	Pembina Regional Lake	Watershed Roadmap Project <i>Schedule 2 and 3</i>	Alberta Community Partnership	Collaborative Projects <i>Schedule 4</i>	General Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
REVENUES								
Contributions - municipal funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,521	\$ 439,534	\$ 484,055	\$ 467,804
Contributions - grants	70,189	-	877,687	42,006	89,436	320,000	1,399,318	601,722
Contributions - In kind <i>(Note 11)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,061,813	1,061,813	683,497
Donations	-	26,763	-	-	54,111	7,480	88,354	61,623
Donations - WPAC	-	-	-	-	-	250,000	250,000	-
Interest income	4,445	944	-	439	5,657	38,028	49,513	54,642
Reimbursements	-	-	285,000	-	-	1,005	286,005	118,163
	74,634	27,707	1,162,687	42,445	193,725	2,117,860	3,619,058	1,987,451
OPERATING EXPENSES								
Accounting and legal fees	5,281	1,370	4,811	563	5,607	40,063	57,695	62,681
Amortization	-	-	-	-	-	10,778	10,778	11,663
Communications and promotions	900	528	-	70	26,036	13,245	40,779	53,549
Donations - WPAC	-	-	-	-	-	225,000	225,000	-
Fieldwork and assessment	-	-	-	1,894	2,818	136	4,848	-
In-kind expenses <i>(Note 11)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,061,813	1,061,813	683,497
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	4,150	4,150	3,897
Meetings and conventions	599	3,869	-	-	10,133	11,270	25,871	12,717
Office expenses	4,490	-	4,843	1,414	565	24,857	36,169	37,140
Promotional publications	-	-	-	-	-	2,394	2,394	256
Printing and reproduction	-	-	-	-	7,852	-	7,852	-
Rent and utilities	-	-	-	-	-	33,937	33,937	29,877
Restoration work	-	9,230	-	-	-	231	9,461	1,415
Salaries and benefits	37,997	10,985	72,763	34,190	75,932	505,816	737,683	867,754
Technical and consulting fees	29,882	-	1,079,094	-	46,950	1,246	1,157,172	176,529
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	-	2,390	2,390	7,776
Travel and accommodation	2,234	1,725	1,176	4,314	4,037	9,862	23,348	14,061
Website costs	-	-	-	-	13,795	51	13,846	30,211
	81,383	27,707	1,162,687	42,445	193,725	1,947,239	3,455,186	1,993,023
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(6,749)	-	-	-	-	170,621	163,872	(5,572)
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)								
Internal grants <i>(Note 7)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	(75,000)	(75,000)	-
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ (6,749)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,621	\$ 88,872	\$ (5,572)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended March 31, 2025

	Watershed Grants and Natural Assets	Pembina Regional Lake	Watershed Roadmap Project	Alberta Community Partnership	Collaborative Projects	General Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 473,954	\$ 473,954	\$ 379,526
Excess of revenues over operating expenses	(6,749)	-	-	-	-	95,621	88,872	(5,572)
Interfund transfer - Internally restricted	6,749	-	-	-	-	(106,749)	(100,000)	100,000
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462,826	\$ 462,826	\$ 473,954

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025

	Watershed Grants and Natural Assets	Pembina Regional Lake	Watershed Roadmap Project	Alberta Community Partnership	Collaborative Projects	General Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
ASSETS								
CURRENT								
Cash	\$ 120,411	\$ 32,769	\$ 195,567	\$ -	\$ 174,126	\$ 576,502	\$ 1,099,375	\$ 1,490,395
Short term investments	-	-	-	-	-	605,000	605,000	505,000
Contributions receivable	3,402	-	-	-	7,832	62,358	73,592	184,892
Interfund receivable	6,748	-	-	-	-	3,984	10,732	50,191
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-	15,140	15,140	2,871
Goods and services tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-	11,033	11,033	7,172
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	-	-	2,919	2,919	2,919
	130,561	32,769	195,567	-	181,958	1,276,936	1,817,791	2,243,440
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Net of accumulated amortization) (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	18,751	18,751	14,035
	\$ 130,561	\$ 32,769	\$ 195,567	\$ -	\$ 181,958	\$ 1,295,687	\$ 1,836,542	\$ 2,257,475
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES								
CURRENT								
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,859	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,714	\$ 197,573	\$ 122,503
Fund held in trust - CWRA	-	-	-	-	-	3,149	3,149	6,054
Fund held in trust - VRWA	-	-	-	-	-	7,465	7,465	-
Employee deductions payable	-	-	-	-	-	16,798	16,798	17,814
Deferred contributions - externally restricted (Note 6)	63,454	32,769	45,741	-	181,941	141,987	465,892	1,052,785
Interfund payable	-	-	3,967	-	17	6,748	10,732	50,191
Deferred contributions - internally restricted (Note 7)	67,107	-	-	-	-	-	67,107	29,174
	130,561	32,769	195,567	-	181,958	227,861	768,716	1,278,521
FUND BALANCES								
Internally restricted (Note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	605,000	605,000	505,000
Fund balances	-	-	-	-	-	462,826	462,826	473,954
	-	-	-	-	-	1,067,826	1,067,826	978,954
	\$ 130,561	\$ 32,769	\$ 195,567	\$ -	\$ 181,958	\$ 1,295,687	\$ 1,836,542	\$ 2,257,475

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Chair


Treasurer

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over operating expenses	\$ 88,872	\$ (5,572)
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	10,778	11,663
	<u>99,650</u>	<u>6,091</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Contributions receivable	111,300	(70,170)
GST rebates receivable	(3,861)	(3,467)
Interest receivable	(12,269)	505
Interfund receivable	39,459	-
Prepaid expenses	-	400
Accounts payable	75,068	78,883
Interfund payable	(39,459)	-
Fund held in trust - CWRA	(2,905)	-
Fund held in trust - VRWA	7,465	-
Employee deductions payable	(1,016)	(3,685)
Deferred contributions - externally restricted	(586,891)	543,316
Deferred contributions - internally restricted	37,933	(53,413)
	<u>(375,176)</u>	<u>492,369</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>(275,526)</u>	<u>498,460</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	(15,493)	(3,520)
Proceeds on disposal of short term investments	505,000	605,000
Purchase of short term investments	(605,000)	(505,000)
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	<u>(115,493)</u>	<u>96,480</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	(391,019)	594,940
Cash - beginning of year	<u>1,490,395</u>	<u>895,455</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,099,376	\$ 1,490,395
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	<u>\$ 1,099,376</u>	<u>\$ 1,490,395</u>

See notes to financial statements

Lim & Associates, Chartered Professional Accountants

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (the "Society") is a not-for-profit society, incorporated in 2000 under the Societies Act of Alberta and registered as a charity on September 11, 2015 under the Income Tax Act. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Society operates to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem functioning in the North Saskatchewan River Watershed within Alberta. The Society is governed and guided by the Board of Directors elected by members within the watershed. The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director and staff.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

Fund accounting

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund accounts for the Society's operating and administrative activities and surplus or deficiency of revenues over expenditures from any completed project(s). This fund reports the contributions for general purposes.

All other funds are externally restricted for the activities that are indicated by the fund description.

The Restricted Fund is internally restricted for the purposes described in Note 7.

The Society may refund the Restricted Funds surplus from completed projects to the funder(s) at the end of the grant agreements.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of cash on hand and bank balances, net of cheques issued and outstanding at the reporting date.

Short term investments

Short term investments are comprised of guaranteed investment certificates with maturity dates of less than one year.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	55% declining balance method
Furniture and fixtures	20% declining balance method

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

The Society regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

On July 1, 2019 the Society adopted the new accounting standard ASNPO 4433 - Tangible capital assets held by not-for-profit organizations. This standard is applied on a prospective basis. As a result of the implementation of this new standard, the society has updated their policy as it relates to the impairment of tangible capital assets as follows:

When conditions indicate a tangible capital asset is impaired, the carrying value of the tangible capital asset is written down to the asset's fair value or replacement cost. The write down of the tangible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of operations. A write-down shall not be reversed.

Revenue recognition

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

The Society recognizes revenues when they are earned, specifically when all the following conditions are met:

- services are provided or products are delivered to customers
- there is clear evidence that an arrangement exists
- amounts are fixed or can be determined
- the ability to collect is reasonably assured.

Donated services and materials

Volunteers contribute time each year to aid the Society in carrying out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value of contributed services and meetings, the financial value of contributed services and meetings are recognized as an estimation in the financial statements.

Contributions in-kind are recognized only to the extent that they would have been purchased in the normal course of operations and their fair value is reasonably determinable. The continued operation of the organization is depending on the continued support of members, volunteers and board of directors.

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Financial instruments

Measurement of Financial Instrument

Financial instruments are financial assets or liabilities of the Society where, in general, the Society has the right to receive cash or another financial asset from another party or the Society has the obligation to pay another party cash or other financial assets.

The Society initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The Society subsequently measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, short term investments, and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost are tested for impairment, at the end of each year, to determine whether there are indicators that the asset may be impaired. The amount of the write-down, if any, is recognized in operations. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The reversal may be recorded provided it is no greater than the amount that had been previously reported as a reduction in the asset and it does not exceed original cost. The amount of the reversal is recognized in operations.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

3. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash	\$ -	\$ 370,000
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 5.22% per annum to 5.32% per annum maturing between October 2024 and November 2024.	-	135,000
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 3.51% per annum to 4.38% per annum maturing between July 2025 and November 2025.	605,000	-
	-	-
	-	-
	\$ 605,000	\$ 505,000

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>2025 Net book value</u>	<u>2024 Net book value</u>
Computer equipment	\$ 73,990	\$ 57,987	\$ 16,003	\$ 10,599
Furniture and fixtures	21,573	18,825	2,748	3,435
	\$ 95,563	\$ 76,812	\$ 18,751	\$ 14,034

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

5. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Society receives substantial revenues from the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton and is financially dependent on the governments for funding.

	Type	Project fundings	Start Date	End Date
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	General Fund	\$ 1,290,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2027
Environmental Damages Fund	Restricted Fund	330,180	01/04/2024	31/03/2026
EPCOR	General Fund	236,250	01/04/2024	31/03/2025
Watershed Roadmap Project	Restricted Fund	1,245,000	01/12/2023	31/03/2025
Drought Resilience	Restricted Fund	49,320	11/06/2024	30/06/2025
Wetland Strategies	Restricted Fund	109,000	31/03/2022	31/03/2026
Digital Watershed Project	Restricted Fund	57,725	01/05/2023	30/06/2024
Youth Water Council	Restricted Fun	62,750	01/01/2025	31/12/2025
Riparian Web Portal	Restricted Fun	229,600	12/03/2025	31/03/2029
Total		\$ 3,609,825		

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS -EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED

Deferred contributions represent unspent externally restricted contributions for the projects and unrestricted contributions for the NSWA's operations. The changes in the deferred contributions balances are summarized for 2024 - 2025 as follows:

	23-24 Deferred Revenue	24-25 Revenue Collected	24-25 Revenue Recognized	25-26 Deferred Revenue
Alberta Community Partnership	112,400	\$ -	\$ (112,400)	-
Digital Watershed Project	24,898	-	(24,898)	-
Educational Videos for All	15	-	(15)	-
EPCOR	-	235,000	(235,000)	-
Municipal contributions	153,096	141,987	(153,096)	141,987
Pembina Regional Lake	59,532	32,769	(59,532)	32,769
Riparian Web-Portal	73,703	73,092	(73,703)	73,092
Watershed Communication	-	73,490	-	73,490
Watershed Roadmap Project	497,261	45,740	(497,261)	45,740
Wetland Strategies	93,175	63,455	(93,175)	63,455
Youth Water Council	38,705	35,361	(38,705)	35,361
Total	\$ 1,052,785	\$ 700,894	\$ (1,287,785)	\$ 465,894

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - INTERNALLY RESTRICTED

Deferred contributions represent unspent internally restricted contributions for the NSWA's project. The changes in the deferred contributions balances are summarized for 2024 - 2025 as follows:

	23-24 Deferred Revenue	24-25 Revenue Collected	24-25 Revenue Recognized	25-26 Deferred Revenue
State of the Watershed	\$ 29,174	\$ 75,000	\$ (37,067)	\$ 67,107

8. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MAJOR SOURCES

Contributions from major sources recognized as revenues are as follow:

	2025	2024
Restricted funds		
Alberta Community Partnership	-	112,400
Alberta Innovative Grant	75,000	-
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	250,000	-
Cenovus Energy	85,741	-
City of Edmonton	99,357	-
Collaborative Projects	-	210,641
Heritage Interns Grant	40,000	-
Prairie Economic Development	285,000	-
Results Driven Agriculture Research	175,000	-
Riparian Health Action Plan	-	9,316
Watershed Roadmap Project -other	90,963	574,216
Wetland Strategy	-	93,175
Restricted funds	1,101,061	999,748
General funds		
Alberta Environment and Parks	320,000	330,000
EPCOR	236,250	235,000
Edmonton Community Foundation	-	29,174
Municipal contributions	202,783	203,567
General funds	759,033	797,741
Total contributions from major sources	\$ 1,860,094	\$ 1,797,489

9. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND

	2025	2024
Operating Reserve Fund	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000
Society Dissolution Reserve Fund	205,000	205,000
	\$ 605,000	\$ 505,000

(continues)

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

9. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND *(continued)*

2025 **2024**

The Operating Reserve Fund is internally restricted and designated by the Board for costs associated with managing annual operating budget surpluses and deficits and providing funding to support special projects or new opportunity initiatives.

The Society Dissolution Reserve Fund is internally restricted and designated by the Board for costs associated with winding down if the society is dissolved or emergencies.

10. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Society has long term leases with respect to its rent premises and computer equipment. The premises lease contains renewal options and provides for payment of utilities, property taxes and maintenance costs. Future minimum lease payments as at March 31, 2025, are as follows:

	Premises	Equipment	Total
2026	\$ 32,464	\$ 5,644	\$ 38,108

11. CONTRIBUTED SERVICES IN-KIND

EPCOR provided the in-kind contribution of staff time in equivalent to 50 cents per capita based on City of Edmonton water and wastewater customer population to support the Society and its efforts to develop and implement watershed planning for the North Saskatchewan River.

Throughout the year, the Society coordinated and engaged in multiple Board and Steering Committee meetings, making substantial contributions to various projects.

	2025	2024
EPCOR	302,565	286,753
	302,565	286,753
Board meetings - NSWA	69,330	58,435
Documentary	10,180	-
Drought Resiliency	27,255	-
Headwaters Alliance	-	2,295
Lake Watershed Stewardship Groups	214,214	68,342
Riparian Health Action Plan	85,425	98,884
State of the Watershed	4,123	65,303
Sturgeon River Watershed SC and TAC	105,235	63,537
Urban Creeks	3,655	-
Vermilion River Watershed Management Project	6,439	21,250
Watershed Roadmap	151,725	-
Wetland Strategy	1,118	-
Youth Water Council	80,549	18,698
	759,248	396,744
Total contributed services In-Kind	\$ 1,061,813	\$ 683,497

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Society's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2025.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. Cash and short term investments are in place with major financial institution. Accounts receivable consists of receivable from municipalities and accrued interest on investments. The Society does not believe it is subject to any significant concentration of credit risk.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Society is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its members and other related sources, long-term debt and accounts payable. It is the Society's opinion that there is no significant liquidity risk as of March 31, 2025.

(c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Program manages exposure through its normal operating activities. The Society is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its floating interest bearing assets. The Society minimizes the risk by investing in guaranteed investment certificates bearing interest from 3.51% to 4.38% per annum. The guaranteed investment certificates are in place with a major financial institution.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Watershed Grants and Natural Assets

(Schedule 1)

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	State of the Watershed	Wetland Strategies	Natural Assets	2025	2024
REVENUES					
Contributions - grants	\$ 37,067	\$ 29,721	\$ 3,403	\$ 70,191	\$ 74,770
Interest income	2,072	2,371	-	4,443	4,675
	39,139	32,092	3,403	74,634	79,445
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Accounting and legal fees	1,221	1,310	2,751	5,282	2,958
Communications and promotions	-	900	-	900	4,623
Meetings and conventions	599	-	-	599	2,284
Office expenses	241	-	4,249	4,490	129
Salaries and benefits	34,844	-	3,153	37,997	66,896
Technical and consulting fees	-	29,882	-	29,882	-
Travel and accommodation	2,234	-	-	2,234	2,555
	39,139	32,092	10,153	81,384	79,445
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (6,750)	\$ (6,750)	\$ -

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Watershed Roadmap Project
Year Ended March 31, 2025

(Schedule 2)

	Watershed Roadmap General	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	Alberta Innovates	ATCO	City of Edmonton	2025	2024
REVENUES							
Contributions - grants	\$ 4,896	\$ 250,000	\$ 176,626	\$ 27,591	\$ 99,357	\$ 558,470	\$ 51,530
OPERATING EXPENSES							
Accounting and legal fees	4,798	-	-	-	-	4,798	2,513
Office expenses	44	-	-	-	4,799	4,843	-
Salaries and benefits	-	14,406	4,918	-	14,235	33,559	643
Technical and consulting fees	-	235,594	171,708	27,591	80,323	515,216	48,374
Travel and accommodation	54	-	-	-	-	54	-
	4,896	250,000	176,626	27,591	99,357	558,470	51,530
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Watershed Roadmap Project
Year Ended March 31, 2025

(Schedule 3)

	Keyera 2025	Prairies Canada 2025	Cenovus Energy 2025	Research Driven Agriculture 2025	EPCOR 2025	2025 2025	2024 2024
REVENUES							
Contributions - grants	\$ 23,141	\$ -	\$ 85,741	\$ 175,000	\$ 35,336	\$ 319,218	\$ 1,800
Reimbursements	-	285,000	-	-	-	285,000	23,611
	23,141	285,000	85,741	175,000	35,336	604,218	25,411
OPERATING EXPENSES							
Accounting and legal fees	13	-	-	-	-	13	-
Salaries and benefits	-	20,171	-	19,034	-	39,205	-
Technical and consulting fees	22,217	264,829	85,741	155,756	35,336	563,879	25,411
Travel and accommodation	911	-	-	210	-	1,121	-
	23,141	285,000	85,741	175,000	35,336	604,218	25,411
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Collaborative Projects

(Schedule 4)

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	Web Portal Project 2025	Watershed Communication 2025	Digital Watershed Project 2025	Youth Water Council 2025	Drought Resilience 2025	2025 2025	2024 2024
REVENUES							
Contributions - municipal funding	\$ 5,611	\$ 38,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,521	\$ 28,236
Contributions - grants	-	-	24,915	18,705	45,816	89,436	43,622
Donations	-	-	-	54,111	-	54,111	34,509
Interest income	1,880	2,659	147	858	113	5,657	7,595
	7,491	41,569	25,062	73,674	45,929	193,725	113,962
OPERATING EXPENSES							
Accounting and legal fees	1,303	1,296	502	1,788	718	5,607	3,125
Communications and promotions	504	570	2,700	20,134	2,128	26,036	37,059
Fieldwork and assessment	-	2,818	-	-	-	2,818	-
Meetings and conventions	304	125	-	3,291	6,413	10,133	42
Office expenses	-	403	-	162	-	565	3,458
Printing and reproduction	-	-	-	7,466	386	7,852	-
Salaries and benefits	2,584	16,073	9,708	39,070	8,497	75,932	22,056
Technical and consulting fees	-	19,950	-	-	27,000	46,950	20,643
Travel and accommodation	1,153	334	-	1,763	787	4,037	748
Website costs	1,643	-	12,152	-	-	13,795	26,831
	7,491	41,569	25,062	73,674	45,929	193,725	113,962
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

NSWA 2025-2026 Budget
26 March 2025

PURPOSE or ISSUE

Approve the 2025-2026 NSWA Operating Budget

DECISIONS

1. Motion to "Approve the NSWA 2025-2026 operating budget as presented."
 - Budget approved at NSWA Board Meeting #173 on 26 March 2025. Motion made by Tracy Scott, seconded by Rhonda King, no dissenting votes.

PROPOSED 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

- The following operational budget is proposed for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

NSWA 2025-2026 BUDGET SUMMARY	
REVENUES	
AEP	\$ 320,000
EPCOR	\$ 235,000
Municipal	\$ 200,000
Reserve Fund	\$ 40,000
Maternity Fund	\$ 30,000
Other (interest, donations)	\$ 35,000
Project grant offsets	\$ 288,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,148,000
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 597,000
Salaries supported by grants	\$ 288,000
Reserve Fund Contribution	\$ 20,000
Operations	\$ 243,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,148,000
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -

Reserve Funds	Budget
OPERATIONAL RESERVE	\$ 400,000
DISSOLUTION RESERVE	\$ 265,000
MATERNITY RESERVE	\$ 10,000

- Assumptions:
 - Key grants (AEPA, EPCOR), municipal contributions, interest, and donations essentially unchanged (+\$1,000 from the previous year).
 - Due to the previous year's surplus of \$120,000 (est.), reserve funds will be used to supplement revenue for salary and maternity costs.

- Project grant offset (operational costs covered by project grants) estimated at \$288,000.
 - Totals approximately 32% of annual salary costs.
- 6% increase in salaries and benefits.
- \$20,000 will be contributed to reserve funds (dissolution and maternity).
- Staff compliment would increase with the addition of project funded staff.
- One maternity leave and replacement budgeted.
- One new technician budgeted.
- New expenses added to operations include:
 - conference attendance,
 - Board member expenses,
 - ESRI hosting credits (for State of Watershed),
 - maternity leave GIC allocation, and
 - dissolution GIC fund top up.

BACKGROUND

- The current NSWA staff complement includes:
 - Senior Watershed Coordinators (2)
 - Watershed Coordinators (1)
 - Watershed Planning Technician (2)
 - Communications manager (1)
 - Communications and Graphics Specialist (1) – part-time contract
 - Executive Director (1)
- Additional staff joining
 - Community and Partnership Lead – fill an organizational need and maternity backfill.
 - Riparian coordinator – project-funded position focusing on riparian web portal.
 - Natural assets coordinator – project-funded position focusing on natural asset project.
- In 2024-2025, Policy C.3.4 Society Dissolution Fund was updated from requiring \$205,000 to needing \$270,000.
- In 2024-2025, the maternity policy was updated requiring a reserve fund of \$30,000 for potential maternity leaves.
 - Due to a pending maternity leave, the maternity reserve will be used in the first year.

ATTACHMENTS

- Detailed budget.

APPROVAL

- Finance Committee (14 March 2026) recommended Option 2 with adjusted presentation.

NSWA BUDGET (2025-2026)

Revenue		2024-2025	2025-2026	Notes
4100	Contributions Municipal	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	To supplement salaries For maternity leave
4200	Contributions Grants			
4210	Alberta Environment and Parks	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	
4215	EPCOR	\$ 235,000	\$ 235,000	
4225	Transfer from Operational Reserve	\$ 75,000	\$ 40,000	
	Transfer from Maternity Reserve		\$ 30,000	
4400	Interest Operational	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000	
4420	Interest GIC Reserve	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	
4425	Interest GIC Future Op	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	
4500	Publication Sales	\$ -	\$ -	
4700	Donations	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000	
	Anticipated Project Offsets	\$ 216,000	\$ 288,000	
TOTAL Revenue		\$ 1,080,000	\$ 1,148,000	

Expense		2024-2025	2025-2026	Notes
5100	Professional Fees	\$ 66,000	\$ 61,000	Reduced to reflect actual costs
5120	Amortization	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	
5130	Bank Charges	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
5140	Meetings and Conventions	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,500	
5170	Communications	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,500	
5180	Educational Forums	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
5200	Fieldwork and Assessment	\$ -	\$ -	
5320	Insurance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
5600	Computers and Office Supplies	\$ 54,610	\$ 47,900	
5650	Printing and Publications	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
5652	Publications COG	\$ -	\$ -	
5655	Publications Commissions	\$ -	\$ -	
6100	Rent and Utilities	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000	
6200	Restoration Work GST	\$ -	\$ -	
6300	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 563,390		Using \$40,000 operational reserve Using \$30,000 maternity reserve
	<i>Salaries</i>		\$ 596,600	
	<i>Training</i>		\$ 5,000	
	<i>Maternity Leave</i>		\$ 30,000	
	<i>Maternity fund contribution</i>		\$ 10,000	
	Anticipated Project Offsets	\$ 216,000	\$ 288,000	
6320	Technical Consulting GST	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
6350	Telephone and Internet	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,000	
6400	Travel and Accomodation	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
6700	Website	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
	State of the Watershed Project	\$ 75,000		
	Dissolution Fund Top Up		\$ 10,000	
TOTAL Expense		\$ 1,080,000	\$ 1,148,000	

Surplus / Deficit	\$ -	\$ -	
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2025-2026 NSWA Operational Plan

26 March 2025

PURPOSE or ISSUE

Present the 2025-2026 Operational Plan as information to the Board.

The 2025-2026 NSWA Operational Plan was accepted as information at the NSWA Board Meeting #173 on 26 March 2025. Motion made by Adam Polzen, seconded by Corey-Ann Hartwick. No dissenting votes.

KEY POINTS

- Organized around the NSWA four strategic goals.

BACKGROUND

- Each year the NSWA prepares an operational plan to describe known projects and activities that are undertaken to advance toward the goals outlined in the NSWA Strategic Plan.
- The plan is organized around the NSWA four strategic goals and their strategies.
- New operational projects can be added or existing projects/activities adjusted to reflect changing requirements or funding opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS

- NSWA Operational Plan for 2025-2026

NSWA 2025-2026 Operational Plan

Draft 19 March 2025

1. STEWARDSHIP: The NSWA is a leader in watershed stewardship.

Level	Strategy	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary Work	Accessible Data and Tools	Riparian Health Action Plan	Hire and onboard a WRRP funded Riparian Coordinator position
			Expand reach and use of Riparian Web Portal
			Riparian Web Portal Outreach- Riparian 101 and 102 Training Series
			Riparian Web Portal- Ongoing management and maintenance
		WaterSHED Program	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation
		Whitemud/Blackmud Natural Assets Program	Hire and onboard a Natural Assets project coordinator position
			Whitemud/Blackmud NA Inventory
			Natural Assets Steering Committee
	Integrated Watershed Management	NSR Water Management Roadmap	Grant Application and Management
			Grant management
			Project and funding oversight
			Stakeholder Committee "convener"
			Technical input to working group and collaborative modelling
			Water management roadmap development
			Watershed stakeholder and Indigenous engagement contractor
		NSRB Wetland Strategy Implementation	Grant Management and Reporting- WRRP Wetlands Grant
	On-the-Ground Projects	Regional Lakes Stewardship	Wetlands hydrological assesment (WaterSmart)
			Restoration sites
	Research and Innovation Partnerships	NSR Basin Science and Knowledge Mobilization Steering Committee	Lake outreach events and lake stewardship support
	State of the Watershed	NSRB State of the Watershed	Support ongoing planning, monitoring and implementation
		Vermilion River State of the Watershed	Data analysis and visualization
		Increase awareness of FHI methods	Data analysis and visualization (Pending Ecotrust funding)
Developing	Integrated Watershed Management	NSR Water Management Roadmap	Publishing, workshops (Pending Ecotrust funding)
Marginal or Supporting	Accessible Data and Tools	CABIN Eastern Slopes Collaborative Working Group	Ongoing support and maintenance of the model, Roadmap, and implementation planning
	On-the-Ground Projects	ALUS PAC	Participate in meetings, provide training, assist/support funding applications
	Research and Innovation Partnerships	Alberta Lake Management Sampling Support	Member of the PAC
		Applied and Academic Research Projects	Connect with ALMS, coordinate sampling with summer students
			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"
		fRI Research Water and Fish Program	Dr. William Zhang (UofA) - NSERC - "Monitoring and Modelling Water Quality under Ice Affected Conditions in Rivers"

2. KNOWLEDGE: The NSWA is a key resource for watershed information and education.

Level	Strategy	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary Work	Public	NSRB Documentary Video	Plan and develop video
			Video completion and editing
			Documentary release and circulation
		Community engagement	Arrange Community events
			Summer Students supporting engagement
		Information provision	Graphic design and presentation
	Youth	Youth Water Council	Website content development and presentation
			State of the Watershed web content
			Organize and deliver Youth Water Council program (year 2)
		Agriculture and Industry	Designated Industrial Zone
Planning, logistics, and fundraising for year 3.			
Contribute to Aquatic Ecosystem Health Study Sub-task Team and LSPC Model Update			
Indigenous knowledge	Drought Resilience Needs Assessment	Contribute to LSPC Model Update Sub-task Team	
		Industrial Heartland - DIZ Water Task Team	
	Municipal	WaterSHED Knowledge Mobilization	Drought Guide Needs Assessment with Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations
			Implement knowledge mobilization
Developing	Public	Information provision	Community information sessions to engage new audiences (e.g., cultural groups)
	Indigenous knowledge	Drought Resilience Needs Assessment	Plan for and seek grant funding Drought Guide Phase 2 (in collaboration with Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations

NSWA 2025-2026 Operational Plan

Draft 19 March 2025

3. COLLABORATION: The NSWA is the preferred partner for water and aquatic ecosystem management.

Level	Strategy	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary Work	Sub-watershed Leadership	Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)	Coordinate SRWA Steering and Technical Committees
		Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)	Develop strategic plan and priorities to guide project planning and grants
			Pursue targeted project funding for the activity book project
			Advance completion of the activity book project
		Urban Creeks Collaborative	Begin development of a Urban Creeks Strategy
			Develop 2-pagers for key urban creek topics
		Headwaters Alliance (HA)	Reinvigorate the partnership, Ongoing information, project updates, and opportunities to provide input
		Lake Stewardship Groups	Lake Isle
			Lakes Community of Practice
			Wabamun Lake
		NSR Heritage River Designation	River Manager reporting (annual and decadal)
		Regional Lakes Stewardship	Community of Practice
	Government Partnerships	SRWA Water Quality and Infrastructure Project (ACP)	Grant Management with Parkland
			Infrastructure element of ACP project
			Water quality element of ACP project
Marginal or Supporting	Government Partnerships	Water for Life partnerships	Alberta Water Council
			WPAC Collective
		Joint WPAC Engagement	Connect with other WPACs including World Water Day event
	Sub-watershed Leadership	Beaverhills Biosphere	Participate on Science Committee
			Supporting Biosphere in water management planning

4. MANAGEMENT: The NSWA is a sustainable and well managed organization.

Level	Strategy	Operational Objective	Actions
Primary Work	Management	NSWA Board and Society Governance	Administer the NSWA Board
			Administer the NSWA Board Committees
			Deliver the NSWA AGM and Annual Report
		NSWA Operations	Guide and direct staff and project work
			Overall NSWA and project budgeting and grant tracking
Developing	Governance	Board and staff Indigenous literacy	Staff and NSWA board internal learnings
		Funding diversification	Begin to explore sponsorship or other corporate giving mechanisms

Election of Board of Directors

1 June 2025

PURPOSE OR ISSUE

Provide key information on NSWA Board nominations and elections.

2025 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- There are twelve (12) Directors whose term ends in 2025 (Figure 1).
 - o Government Agency: 1 seat
 - o Municipal: 3 seats
 - o Indigenous: 3 seats
 - o Agriculture: 1 seat
 - o Industry: 1 seat
 - o Non-governmental Organization: 1 seat
 - o Member-at-Large: 2 seats
- Six (6) nominees have been identified (four (4) returning Directors and two (2) new individuals).
 - o **Candidate profiles are attached.**
- Six Board seats will be filled via acclamation, pending membership approval at the AGM.
- Remaining seats will be vacant with effort to find nominees continuing.

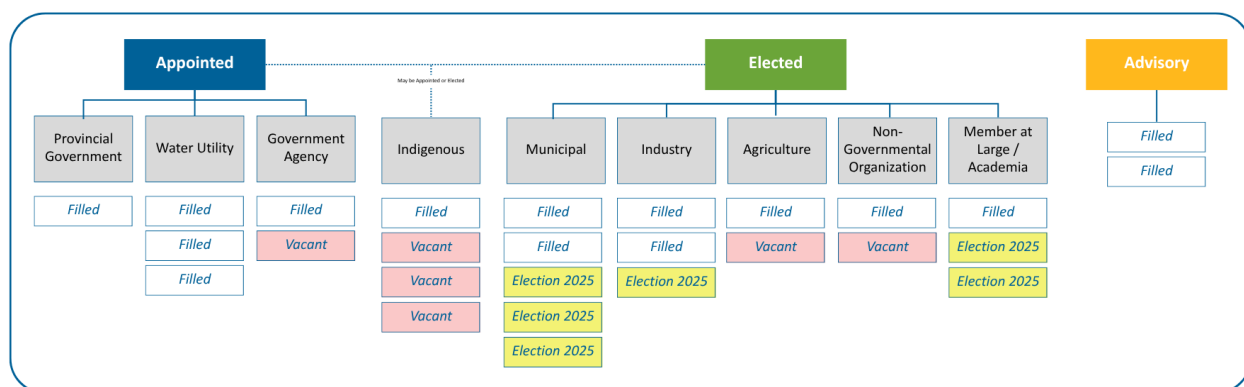


Figure 1 NSWA Board structure schematic

BACKGROUND - NSWA BOARD

- The Board of Directors includes 10-24 members elected or appointed to represent a variety of sectors and regions throughout the watershed.
 - o Appointed representatives include organizations deemed critical to the NSWA and include the provincial government, government agencies, and water utilities.
 - o Elected Board representatives are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and include municipal governments, agriculture, industry, non-government organizations, member-at-large, and academia.
 - o The Board may include non-voting advisory positions.
- When a Board Director seat is vacant, the Board establishes a Nominations Committee to seek representation from the sector whose seat is vacant.
 - o A call for nominations is sent out six weeks prior to the AGM and interested NSWA members can submit a candidate statement four weeks prior to the AGM.

Darryl Hostyn

*Mayor, Town of Thorsby
Municipal Sector Seat*



Darryl Hostyn, Mayor of Thorsby, Alberta, has dedicated his career to municipal leadership, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability. A lifelong resident, he has deep roots in the town, with his family playing a significant role in its history. Before entering public service, he built a career in the oil and gas sector, working for over 20 years as an HSE Manager, addressing occupational health and safety, workers' compensation concerns, and environmental impacts from oil and gas well drilling. As Mayor, Hostyn has focused on strengthening water security, improving infrastructure, and fostering collaborative governance that have led to regional partnerships, including water service initiatives with the County of Wetaskiwin.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

As someone deeply connected to my community and its history, I understand how vital water is to our resilience and prosperity. During my time as Mayor of Thorsby, I've made water security a priority—leading initiatives that improve infrastructure and build regional partnerships, like our collaboration with Wetaskiwin County on shared water services. I see the NSWA Board as a platform where I can further support practical, cooperative approaches to protecting our watershed while ensuring municipalities have a strong voice at the table.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

My background bridges the municipal and industrial sectors, with over 20 years in oil and gas as an HSE Manager and now as an elected official. This gives me insight into both operational and policy-level environmental issues. I bring experience in regulatory compliance, infrastructure planning, and inter-municipal collaboration. On the Board, I aim to help advance strategic, community-aligned solutions for water management and contribute to building strong relationships among stakeholders.

Sally Kucher-Johnson

*Councillor, Parkland Count
Municipal Sector Seat*



Sally Kucher-Johnson is a Councillor for Parkland County, representing Division 1, an area between Devon and Spruce Grove. A longtime resident living near the North Saskatchewan River in Parkland County, she has served in public leadership roles for over a decade, including eight years as a School Board Trustee. Her passion for community development, inclusive governance, and environmental stewardship is reflected in her work as a Board Member of the River Valley Alliance, where she helps advance initiatives to protect and enhance natural landscapes.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

Clean, dependable water is something we can't take for granted. Through my work as a Councillor and as a member of the River Valley Alliance, I've developed a strong appreciation for how interwoven our communities are with the health of the watershed. I want to bring that perspective to the NSWA Board, helping to align local priorities with regional conservation efforts and ensuring rural voices are heard in water policy decisions.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

Over a decade in public leadership, including my time as a School Trustee and now a Councillor, has taught me the value of inclusive, transparent governance. I work closely with residents on planning and development issues, many of which intersect with land and water stewardship. On the Board, I hope to champion integrated planning, advocate for greater municipal engagement, and support efforts that promote both environmental responsibility and community well-being.

W.L (Bill) McElhanney, K.C.

Partner, Ackroyd LLP
Member-at-Large Seat



W.L. (Bill) McElhanney, K.C., is a senior lawyer at Ackroyd LLP, specializing in Indigenous law, environmental law, regulatory matters, and natural resource management. With over 40 years of legal experience, he has acted as general counsel for Alberta Métis Settlements, advising on land protection, governance structures, and resource co-management. McElhanney has appeared before all levels of the Alberta Court and various provincial, territorial, and national administrative boards, advocating for surface rights, expropriation, and environmental stewardship. His expertise in policy development, Indigenous rights, and regulatory law makes him a strong advocate for responsible watershed management.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

The North Saskatchewan River Basin faces complex challenges that demand sound legal foundations and thoughtful policy. My interest in joining the NSWA Board is rooted in a lifelong legal career devoted to Indigenous law, land stewardship, and environmental regulation. I want to use this experience to help the Alliance navigate regulatory landscapes and support inclusive, sustainable governance across the watershed.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

I've spent more than 40 years advising governments, Indigenous communities, and regulators on land use, co-management, and environmental policy. My work involves everything from courtroom advocacy to crafting governance structures that protect natural resources. I would bring to the Board a deep understanding of legal and regulatory frameworks and a commitment to ensuring that all communities, including Indigenous Peoples, have a role in shaping the future of the watershed.

Gennifer Mehlhaff

*Deputy Reeve and Councillor, Clearwater County
Municipal Sector Seat*



Gennifer Mehlhaff is a Councillor for Clearwater County, representing Division 1, and currently serves as Deputy Reeve. She has lived in Clearwater County for over 20 years and has been actively involved in municipal governance, land use planning, and environmental stewardship. Mehlhaff sits on multiple boards, including the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) Board of Directors and the Headwaters Partnership Steering Committee, where she contributes to watershed protection and sustainable resource management. Her leadership in regional collaboration and policy development makes her a strong advocate for responsible environmental governance.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

Clearwater County sits at the source of the North Saskatchewan River, and I take seriously our responsibility to protect these headwaters. Through my involvement with the NSWA and the Headwaters Partnership, I've seen how regional collaboration can lead to meaningful action. I want to continue this work, supporting integrated planning that respects both environmental values and the needs of rural communities.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

With two decades in Clearwater County and deep experience in local governance, I bring a strong understanding of how municipal decision-making intersects with watershed health. I currently serve on the NSWA Board and the Headwaters Partnership Steering Committee, where I've helped develop policies that balance land use and conservation. My focus on community engagement and inter-municipal cooperation will continue to guide my contributions to the Board.

Adam Polzen

*Senior Advisor, Environment, Pembina Pipelines
Industry Sector Seat*



Adam Polzen is a Senior Advisor, Environment at Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Treasurer of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) Board. With extensive experience in environmental management, regulatory compliance, and sustainable resource development, he has worked to balance energy infrastructure development with environmental protection. His expertise in policy implementation, risk management, and collaborative governance makes him a strong advocate for responsible watershed management.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

Being part of the NSWA Board has given me a chance to help shape watershed strategies that reflect both environmental and industry perspectives. As Treasurer, I've supported the organization's financial resilience while contributing to its long-term vision. I'm seeking to continue in this role to further strengthen industry collaboration and ensure responsible, balanced approaches to watershed management.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

At Pembina Pipeline, I work at the interface of regulatory compliance, environmental planning, and corporate responsibility. I understand the importance of integrating sustainability into industrial operations, and I've helped do so through partnerships and risk management. I hope to continue supporting the NSWA through fiscal oversight, while promoting constructive dialogue between sectors to foster practical, science-informed solutions.

Kyle Schole

Senior Planner, Land Management, Sturgeon County
Member-at-Large Seat



Kyle Schole is a municipal planner for Sturgeon County, specializing in land use planning, environmental policy, and regional development. With a strong background in policy analysis and stakeholder engagement, he has played a key role in shaping sustainable growth strategies and advancing watershed management initiatives. Schole was instrumental in the successful designation of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River, working alongside municipalities, Indigenous leaders, recreation, and environmental organizations to secure this recognition. His expertise in municipal governance, collaborative planning, and environmental stewardship makes him a valuable advocate for responsible resource stewardship.

Why are you seeking a position on the NSWA Board?

My work in municipal planning has shown me just how critical watershed health is to sustainable development. I'm seeking to continue my involvement as a Board member with the NSWA to help shape policies that reflect this connection, ensuring that land use, infrastructure, and environmental goals are addressed together. And even more so, I am keen to pursue and contribute to the successful implementation of watershed and land-scape scale projects. Indeed, having led the successful designation of the North Saskatchewan as a Canadian Heritage River, I know what's possible when diverse partners come together.

Outline your experience and the contributions you hope to make to the NSWA Board.

As a planner and current Vice-Chair of the NSWA Board, I aim to bring a collaborative mindset and a strong background in policy development. Furthermore, I also have a variety of other board experience (such as fund development) with the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Historical Board, and Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue. I've worked closely with Indigenous communities, municipalities, and advocacy groups to support projects that link environmental protection with regional growth. I want to continue helping the NSWA lead in integrated planning, stakeholder engagement, government relations and watershed advocacy so that future development remains rooted in environmental sustainability.

Board and Staff Recognition

3 June 2025

PURPOSE OR ISSUE

Provide long service and retirement recognition for Board members and staff.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Directors retiring from the Board in 2025
 - o Tracy Scott (2003 to 2014, 2021 –2025) 15 years
 - o Steve Craik (2012) 13 years
 - o Al Corbett (2013)..... 12 years
- Long service recognition – Board Directors
 - o Bill Fox (2002) – Lifetime Member 23 years
 - o Tony LeMay (2015) 10 years
 - o Jamie Bruha (2015) 10 years
 - o Jatinder Tiwana (2019) 6 years
 - o Kyle Schole (2021)..... 4 years
 - o Ian Kwantes 4 years

NSWA STAFF

- Staff service as of 2025.
 - o Mary Ellen Shain (2014)..... 11 years
 - o Ellen Cust (2017) 8 years
 - o Michelle Gordy (2018) 7 years
 - o Heather Marshall (2019) 6 years
 - o Kelsie Norton (2022)..... 3 years
 - o Scott Millar (2022) 3 years
 - o Jill Peterson (2022) 3 years
 - o Kaila Belovich (2022)..... 3 years