



**NSWA**  
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"Change is the only constant in life."*

It has been another incredible year of progress and change here at the NSWA! We continued to collaborate with our watershed partners and significant progress was made on advancing our technical and policy work. Some highlights of the last year include:

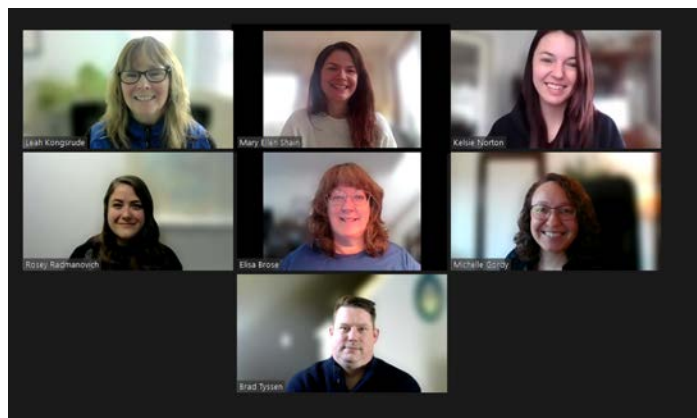
- The [Vermilion River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project](#), which was funded by a \$1.45 million Watershed Restoration and Resiliency grant, was successfully completed and won a 2021 Alberta Emerald Award.
- Staff used the new basin wide riparian intactness and pressure dataset to develop a [North Saskatchewan River Watershed Riparian Conservation and Restoration Strategy](#).
- NSWA is a finalist for the fourth year in a row at the 2022 Alberta Emerald Awards for the [Riparian Web Portal project](#)

NSWA also welcomed two new Watershed Planning Coordinators and will be introducing a new Executive Director at the Annual General Meeting in June. After four wonderful years with NSWA, I have decided to retire but will be working with the new staff to ensure a smooth transition !

***Leah Kongsrude, Executive Director***



## NSWA STAFF



### NSWA Zoom Staff Meeting 2022

Top row, left to right:

**Leah Kongsrude**, Executive Director

**Mary Ellen Shain**, Senior Watershed Planning Coordinator

**Kelsie Norton**, Watershed Planning Coordinator

Middle row, left to right:

**Rosey Radmanovich**, Watershed Planning Coordinator

**Elisa Brose**, Administrative and Key Stakeholder Coordinator

**Michelle Gordy**, Watershed Planning Coordinator

Bottom Row:

**Brad Tyssen**, GIS Specialist



## OUR APPRECIATION

We are grateful to the many supporters of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (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 contributors.

We acknowledge the **Government of Alberta** for providing a multi-year operational grant and important contributions from **EPCOR** and many **municipalities** in our watershed. Our partners contributed \$700,000 of financial support and over \$500,000 of in-kind support to NSWA in 2021-2022.



Counties	Cities and Towns	Villages and Summer Villages
Beaver County Brazeau county Clearwater County Lac Ste Anne County Lamont County Leduc County Parkland County St. Paul County Smoky Lake County Strathcona County Sturgeon County County of Minburn County of Two Hills County of Vermilion River	<u>Cities:</u> Edmonton Fort Saskatchewan St. Albert  <u>Towns:</u> Bruderheim Devon Drayton Valley Gibbons Onoway Rocky Mountain House St. Paul Smoky Lake Vegreville Vermilion	<u>Villages:</u> Innisfree Spring Lake  <u>Summer Villages:</u> Betula Beach Horseshoe Bay Kapasiwin Lakeview Seba Beach Silver Sands South View Sunrise Beach Sunset Point West Cove Yellowstone

## NSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The NSWA is a multi-stakeholder watershed partnership incorporated as a non-profit society in 2000 and designated as a [Water Planning and Advisory Council](#) by the Government of Alberta in 2005.

The work of the NSWA is guided by an [18 member multi-stakeholder Board](#) that provides strategic direction and advice to the organization to achieve its vision and mission. We appreciate our Board member's ongoing dedication and support.

### DIRECTORS 2021-2022

#### Agriculture

Bill Fox, *Alberta Beef Producers*  
Rhonda King, *ALUS Canada*

#### Forestry

Bob Winship (2021), *Weyerhaeuser*  
Ian Kwantes (2022), *Weyerhaeuser*

#### Industry

Dr. Laurie Danielson, *NCIA*

#### Member-at Large/Academia

Dr. Greg Goss, *University of Alberta*  
John Thompson (2021)  
Dr. Stephen Craik (2022)  
Kyle Schole

#### Municipal

Jim Duncan (2021), *Clearwater County*  
Daryl Loughheed (2022), *Clearwater County*  
Bart Guyon, *Brazeau County*  
Jacquie Hansen (2021), *City of St. Albert*  
Mike Killick (2022), *City of St. Albert*  
John McNab (2021), *Parkland County*  
Kristina Kowalski (2022), *Parkland County*

#### NGO

Ken Crutchfield, *Alberta Chapter Wildlife Society*  
Tracy Scott, *Ducks Unlimited*

#### Government Agency

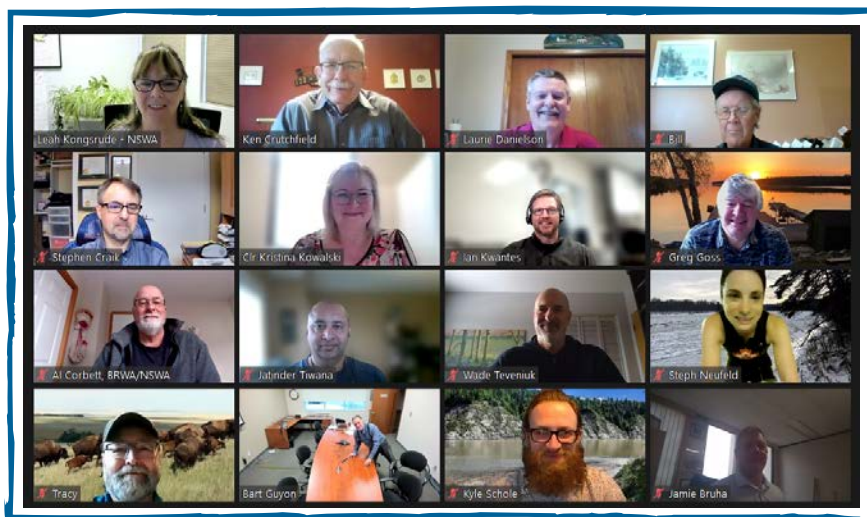
Jamie Bruha, *Alberta Environment and Parks*  
Al Corbett, *Alberta Drainage Council*  
Tony Lemay, *Alberta Energy Regulator*

#### Utility

Aleta Corbett, *TransAlta*  
Stephanie Neufeld, *EPCOR*  
Wade Teveniuk, *Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission*

#### Advisory

Jatinder Tiwana, *City of Edmonton*



Top row, left to right: Leah Kongsrude, Ken Crutchfield, Laurie Danielson, Bill Fox  
Second row, left to right: Steve Craik, Kristina Kowalski, Ian Kwantes, Greg Goss  
Third row, Left to right: Al Corbett, Jatinder Tiwana, Wade Teveniuk, Steph Neufeld  
Bottom row, left to right: Tracy Scott, Bart Guyon, Kyle Schole, Jamie Bruha  
Missing: Aleta Corbett, Tony Lemay, Rhonda King, Mike Killick, Daryl Loughheed  
Photo taken at a Zoom Board Meeting 2022

**Board Directors volunteered over 665 hours  
for an in-kind contribution of over \$56,000  
in 2021-2022**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF NSWA 2000 TO 2022

In the late 1990's, [EPCOR](#), [TransAlta](#), [Trout Unlimited](#), [Agriculture and Agrifood Canada](#) and the [City of Edmonton](#) were all working on initiatives related to the health of the North Saskatchewan River. In 1997 they amalgamated to form the [North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance \(NSWA\)](#). In 2000 NSWA became a registered non-profit society.

The NSWA became the designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the North Saskatchewan River (NSR) in 2005, two years after the Alberta [Water for Life Strategy](#) was adopted by the province.

The NSWA produced the [State of the Watershed](#) report in 2005 and the [Integrated Watershed Management Plan](#) in 2012. In total, NSWA has completed over 60 studies and published the [North Saskatchewan River Watershed Atlas](#) and the book [Living in the Shed](#).

NSWA has provided a forum for sharing knowledge and collaborating on issues affecting the North Saskatchewan River watershed in Alberta for over 20 years.





# NSWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024

The NSWA Board has a 3-Year Strategic Plan that has **four goals to achieve the vision and mission** of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. The goals also align with the mandate of the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils set out by Alberta Environment and Parks.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

**Goal 1:** *The NSWA supports Collaborative Watershed Planning*

**Goal 2:** *The NSWA provides Leadership in Watershed Management*

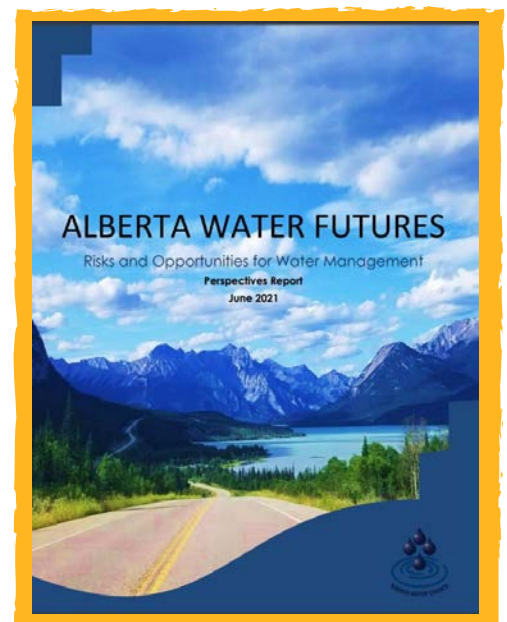
**Goal 3:** *The NSWA promotes Watershed Knowledge Sharing*

**Goal 4:** *The NSWA remains a Functional and Sustainable Organization*

The Strategic Plan was updated in 2021 by the NSWA Board through a series of six online facilitated sessions. The recommendations of the Alberta Water Council's [Water Futures \(2021\)](#) report were used to guide the discussions.

### Three strategic priorities for 2022-2024:

1. **Focus collaborative efforts** on partnerships that can most effectively address the directions and actions of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
2. **Complete a 2025 State of the Watershed report** to provide an update on watershed health and implementation status of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan of the NSWA.
3. **Focus and align communications efforts** on key stakeholders who have the greatest influence on watershed health.





Collaborative partnerships are the core to successful watershed planning for the NSWA. Our strong relationships with **government agencies, municipalities, industry, non-governmental organizations** and **watershed stewardship groups** provide us with the ability to align our work with our key stakeholder's watershed issues and projects.

## COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

HEADWATERS ALLIANCE	STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE	VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE	LAKE PARTNERSHIPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazeau County</li> <li>• Clearwater County</li> <li>• Leduc County</li> <li>• Parkland County</li> <li>• Wetaskiwin County</li> <li>• Town of Devon</li> <li>• Town of Drayton Valley</li> <li>• Town of Rocky Mountain House</li> <li>• EPCOR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lac Ste Anne County</li> <li>• Parkland County</li> <li>• Sturgeon County</li> <li>• City of Edmonton</li> <li>• City of St. Albert</li> <li>• City of Spruce Grove</li> <li>• Town of Gibbons</li> <li>• Town of Morinville</li> <li>• Town of Onoway</li> <li>• Town of Stony Plain</li> <li>• Village of Alberta Beach</li> <li>• Summer Villages of Lac Ste Anne &amp; County East</li> <li>• Alexander First Nation</li> <li>• Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation</li> <li>• Metis Nation of Alberta</li> <li>• Big Lake Environmental Support Society</li> <li>• LILSA - Lake Isle Lac Ste Anne Water Quality Management Society</li> <li>• Wagner Natural Area Society</li> <li>• Alberta Environment and Parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaver County</li> <li>• Lamont County</li> <li>• County of Minburn</li> <li>• County of Two Hills</li> <li>• County of Vermilion River</li> <li>• Town of Two Hills</li> <li>• Town of Vegreville</li> <li>• Town of Vermilion</li> <li>• Village of Holden</li> <li>• Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</li> <li>• Alberta Environment and Parks</li> <li>• Alberta Drainage Council</li> <li>• Alternative Land Use Services Canada (ALUS)</li> <li>• Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>• Holden Drainage District</li> <li>• Lakeland College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkland County</li> <li>• Strathcona County</li> <li>• Antler Lake Stewardship Committee</li> <li>• Hubbles Lake Stewardship Society</li> <li>• Jackfish Lake Management Association</li> <li>• Lake Isle Lac Ste Anne Stewardship Association</li> <li>• Mayatan Lake Management Association</li> <li>• Wabamun Watershed Management Council</li> <li>• Wabamun Watershed Management Plan Implementation Committee</li> <li>• Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Organization</li> <li>• Lakes of Parkland County Group</li> <li>• Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)</li> <li>• Alberta Environment and Parks</li> </ul>

### SUBWATERSHED ALLIANCES:

33 Municipalities  
11 Non-governmental Groups  
5 Government Agencies

*PROVIDED  
OVER 800  
IN-KIND  
HOURS*

# HEADWATERS ALLIANCE

The [Headwaters Alliance](#) is a municipally-led watershed stewardship group that works in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA).

The Headwaters Alliance was formed in 2014 and is guided by a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of technical staff and volunteers. Following the municipal elections, the Headwaters Alliance welcomed **six new councilors** onto our Steering Committee.

The Headwaters Alliance is guided by their [2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#) that has six goals:

1. Organizational Sustainability
2. Well-supported Initiatives
3. Awareness
4. Knowledgeable Stakeholders
5. Adaptive Management
6. Policy and Plan Alignment



**In 2021, the Headwaters Alliance set a Riparian Health Target of 65% High Intactness.**

## RIPARIAN HEALTH ACTION PLAN (RHAP)

The RHAP continues to be the top priority for the Headwaters Alliance. The three phases of the RHAP project include:

**Phase 1:** Assessed the overall **condition of riparian health** in the Modeste and Strawberry sub-watersheds. **Municipal Report Cards** are being presented to elected councils throughout the spring of 2022.

**Phase 2:** Developed a **Riparian Conservation & Restoration Strategy** which set objectives for priority riparian areas. We are now developing **policy advice and tools** to support the advancement.

**Phase 3:** Launched the **Riparian Web-portal** in February 2021.



## NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Headwaters Alliance continues to be a partner in the **Modeste Natural Infrastructure Project**.

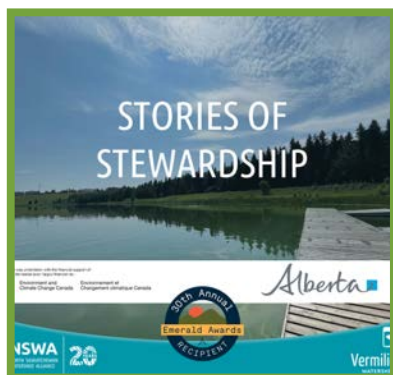
In 2021, the project team released an interim report, **An Economic Framework to Measure Natural Infrastructure Impacts from Watershed Restoration**, available on the NSWA website.

Parkland County is taking the study to the next level and developing a Municipal Hotspot Natural Infrastructure Assessment which will help them to potentially address localized flooding issues with natural infrastructure solutions.



# VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

## STORIES OF STEWARDSHIP



### What does Stewardship mean to landowners in the Vermilion watershed?

The Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA) developed a video highlighting some of the landowners who completed projects as part of the Vermilion River Watershed Restoration Project in the last five years. The [Stories of Stewardship video](#) can be found on NSWA's YouTube webpage.

In November, the VRWA hosted a two hour [Stories of Stewardship webinar](#), featuring landowner stories, and presentations from [Ducks Unlimited Canada](#) and the [Land Stewardship Centre](#) on future conservation opportunities.



Left: Grade 4 students from Two Hills School planting in the EcoBuffer.  
Middle: Two Hills School students, with Teachers, AWES staff Bob Underschultz and Megan Andre, and NSWA staff Danielle Barry standing next to the EcoBuffer sign at Geleta Park in Two Hills.  
Right: EcoBuffer Demonstration site sign.



Left: Jillian, Samantha, and Michelle holding saplings they are about to plant in the EcoBuffer.



Right: Sam and Jill planting wildflowers.

## EDUCATION and OUTREACH

### Finishing the Two Hills Eco-Buffer

In June and October 2021, the VRWA partnered with the [Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society \(AWES\)](#), to complete the planting of wildflowers and replacement trees for their Eco-Buffer demonstration site at Geleta Park in Two Hills which is adjacent to the Vermilion River.

NSWA Summer staff joined in to help plant 60 native wildflower plugs and 200 tree saplings of a variety of native tree species.

In October, students from the [Two Hills School](#), grades 4 and 7, helped with planting and learned more about the importance of watersheds, Eco-Buffers, and pollinators.

Both Eco-buffer demonstration sites have signs that provide the public with information about Eco-buffers, what they are and what they do.

# VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

### Dry Grass Lake Restoration in Lamont County

- Fenced off Dry Grass Lake, an area of 80 hectares (~200 acres).
- Installed rig mats for moving cattle and equipment across pastures and installed a portable solar watering system.
- Conducted a Cows and Fish Riparian Assessment.

### Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village Beaver Management

- Installed a pond leveler and educational signage that explains how landowners can coexist with beavers using the right tools.

### Rat Creek Ranch - Vermilion Landowner Project

- Fenced a portion of Rat Creek using 1000 metres of electric fence and installed an offsite watering system.
- The 50 metre buffer adjacent to the creek can still be used as riparian pasture with sustainably managed grazing outside of sensitive time periods.
- The central watering system will service multiple livestock paddocks including the creek buffer zone.
- The project protects 3.5 hectares (~8.5 acres) of riparian buffer and 1 hectare (~2.6 acres) of creek.

### Protecting Irish Creek from Livestock Impacts – Vermilion Landowner Project

- 500 metres of fencing and an off-stream watering system were installed along a portion of Irish Creek that protected 3.2 hectares (~8 acres) of riparian buffer and 1.4 hectares (~3.5 acres) of creek.

## VRWA WINS AN EMERALD AWARD!



This year, the greatest success for the VRWA and NSWA was receiving an **Alberta Emerald Award** in the Shared Footprints category from the Alberta Emerald Foundation.

This award recognizes the hard work that has been completed over the last five years through the [Vermilion River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project](#). We cannot say thank you enough to the many landowners and partners involved in the project.

We also greatly appreciate the grant funding (2015-2022) from our project funders.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Alberta  
Government

# STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

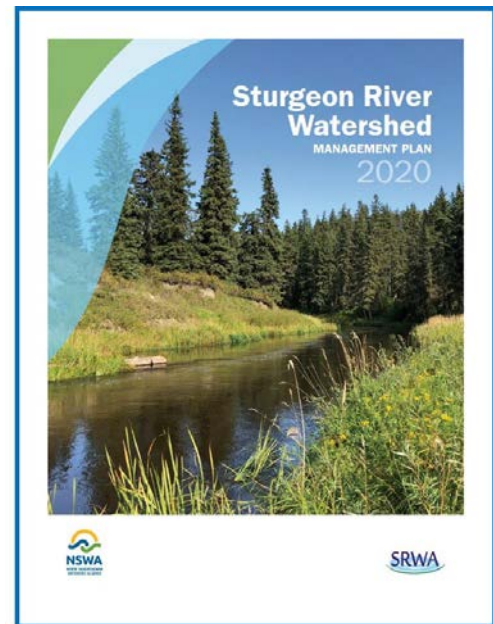
The Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance ([SRWA](#)) includes a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of municipal staff, non-governmental organizations and technical experts.

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The [Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan](#) was completed in 2020 and endorsed by the 12 participating municipalities of the SRWA. The watershed management plan includes **six outcomes**:

1. **Policies and Plans** are well-informed and align to support a healthy watershed.
2. All residents have access to **safe, secure drinking water** supplies, whether they are on public or private systems or draw from surface or groundwater.
3. **Aquatic Ecosystems**, including our rivers, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies, are healthy.
4. The importance of water quantity is recognized and **reliable, quality water supplies** are available for people, livestock and a sustainable economy.
5. **Wise land use** ensures the cumulative effects of growth and development are mitigated, the land is resilient to climate change and individuals and communities are well prepared for flood and drought events.
6. **Residents and stakeholders** support the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan and are willing to participate in local and regional initiatives to improve watershed health.

*The SRWA received a \$200,000 Alberta Community Partnership Grant for implementation of the Watershed Management Plan.*



## SRWA ACTION ITEMS 2020-2023

The SRWA will be focusing on several key action items for the next three years:

- **Riparian Health Strategy** using riparian intactness data from [Riparian Assessment](#) data
- **Wetland Strategy** using provincial and SRWA resources
- **Planning Alignment** for key areas identified by the Technical Advisory Committee such as Environmental Reserve, riparian and wetland conservation and environmental sensitive/risk areas.
- **Planning Overlay Maps** such as flood and groundwater hazard areas and riparian setback
- **Water Quality Monitoring Program**
- **Communications** such as educational forums, SRWA webpage and promotional materials.



# LAKE STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

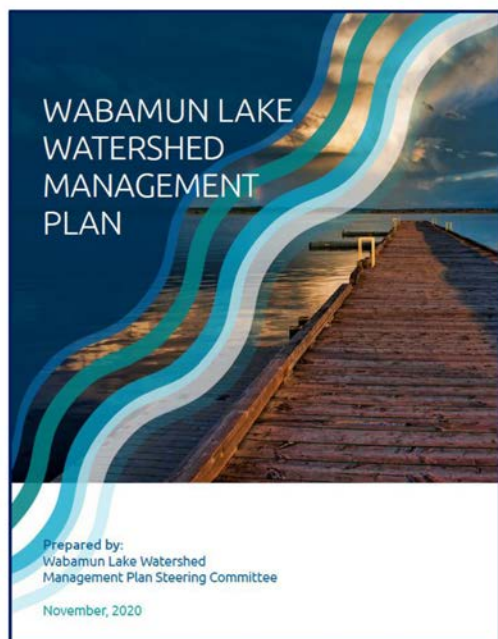
The important partnerships the NSWA has with Watershed Stewardship Groups under the *Water for Life Strategy* is reflected in our work with many lake groups.

## LAKE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

The NSWA along with many partners finalized the development of the [Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan](#) with a Steering Committee consisting of:

- Local Lake Stewardship groups
- Municipalities
- NSWA
- Alberta Environment and Parks

More information can be found on the [Wabamun Watershed Management Council](#) website.

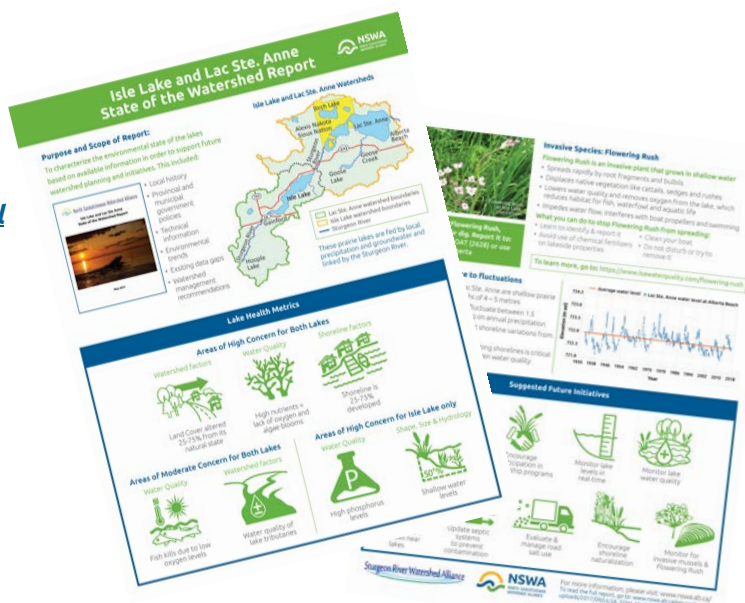


**There are over 680 named lakes in the NSR Watershed**

## LAKE STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

The NSWA works with Alberta Environment and Parks, ALMS and the Land Stewardship Centre to share lake stewardship information and support.

NSWA has also developed lake watershed report summaries for local watershed stewardship groups to use for their communications and education programs.



NSWA summer staff visited several lakes (Hubbles, Wabamun, Lac Ste Anne) in the summer of 2021, taking water and aquatic plant samples to support ALMS projects

## GOAL 2: LEADERSHIP IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The NSWA reviews and prioritizes watershed management projects to maximize partnership opportunities and use of resources. In addition to the three subwatershed Alliances, this includes providing advice on Government of Alberta policy, framework and guidelines projects.

### DESIGNATED INDUSTRIAL ZONE PILOT PROJECT



The [Designated Industrial Zone \(DIZ\)](#) in Alberta's Industrial Heartland will establish a best-in-class regulatory framework that will help attract new investment and create good jobs for Albertans while realizing environmental outcomes.

NSWA is participating in two of the five working groups for the DIZ pilot project including:

- Water quality and quantity outcomes
- Cluster infrastructure which includes coordinated wetlands and storm water management programs

The water quality outcomes are linked closely to the work of the [Industrial Heartland/Capital Region Surface Water Quality Working Group](#) that NSWA has been a member of since 2007.

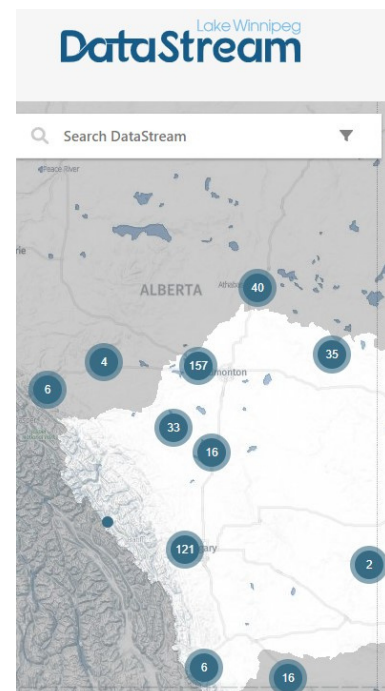
### NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM

The [WaterSHED Monitoring Program](#) is a unique partnership between:

- *Alberta Environment and Parks*
- *EPCOR*
- *North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance*
- *City of Edmonton*

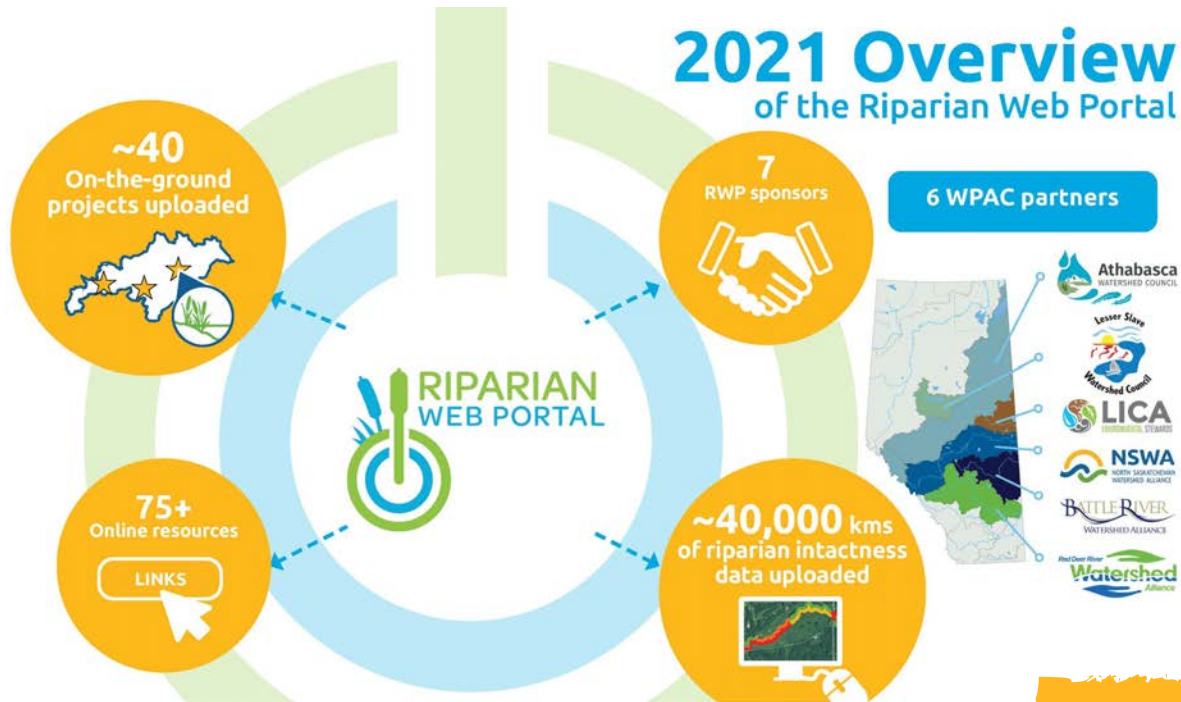
By combining and coordinating resources this collaborative partnership has created the North Saskatchewan River's most comprehensive river monitoring program.

The first [Technical Progress Report](#) for the program was published in 2021. The data from the project is now available publicly on the [DataStream website](#).



Check out the [DAILY PHOTOS](#) from the 19 WaterSHED water quality monitoring stations.

## RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL



The [Riparian Web Portal \(RWP\)](#) was officially launched in 2021. This website encourages Albertans to conserve and improve riparian health today for the benefit of future generations. The Riparian Web Portal:

1. Provides access to riparian data and summary tools
2. Shares examples of on-the-ground restoration and conservation projects
3. Provides links to riparian programs and grants and offers recommendations for best management practices.

### Exciting News!

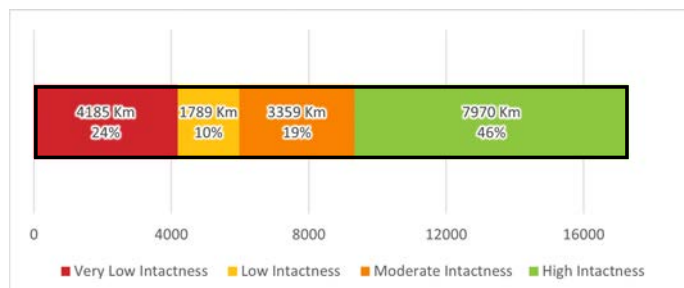
The RWP is a finalist for the 2022 Alberta Emerald Awards!

The NSWA and [Battle River Watershed Alliance](#) developed a workshop series to train “ambassadors” of the Web Portal. As of March 2022, the **workshop series ran 11 times and trained over 250 participants.**

The NSWA and BRWA also developed a **5-part video series on riparian areas**. The videos premiered at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose on April 7, 2022.

## EXPANDED RIPARIAN INTACTNESS STUDY

The NSWA received a \$500,000 grant from the [Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) program to expand the riparian assessment from 3 to 8 of our subwatersheds. This includes over 17,300 km of riparian shoreline assessed and the results reveal that **46% of riparian areas are rated as highly intact.**



As part of the [NSWA Riparian Conservation and Restoration Strategy](#), a **Riparian Health Goal of 65% High Intactness** was adopted.

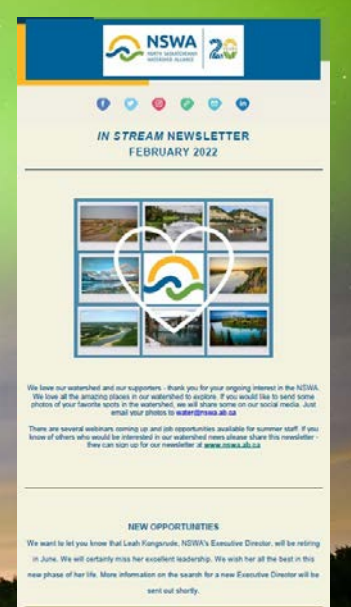
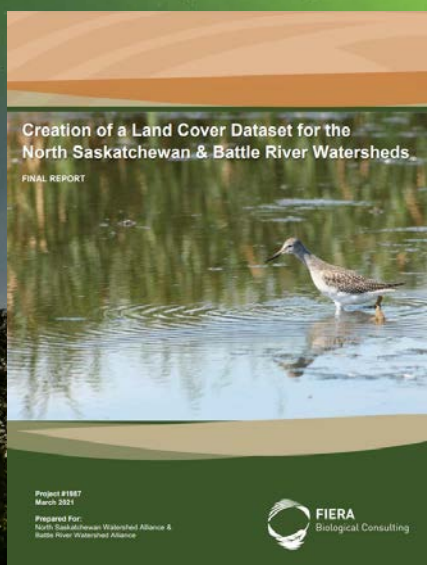
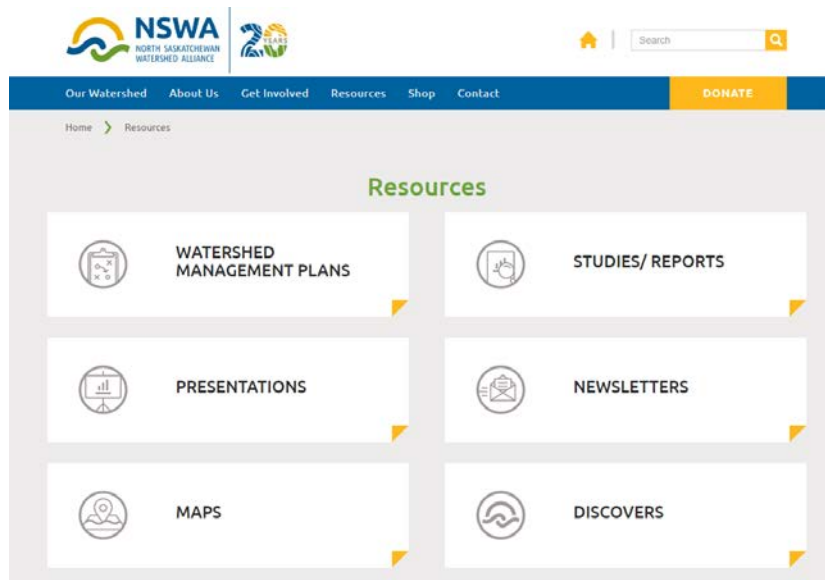


# RESOURCES

The NSWA has a [Resources](#) web page dedicated to sharing over 60 [technical reports and management plans](#), as well as:

- *Presentations from our [Educational Forums](#) and Annual General Meetings*
- *Past [Newsletters](#)*
- *Maps including the [NSWA Atlas](#)*
- *The [Discovers page](#) which includes [watershed educational resources](#)*

The [Atlas of the North Saskatchewan Watershed](#) contains over 25 maps.



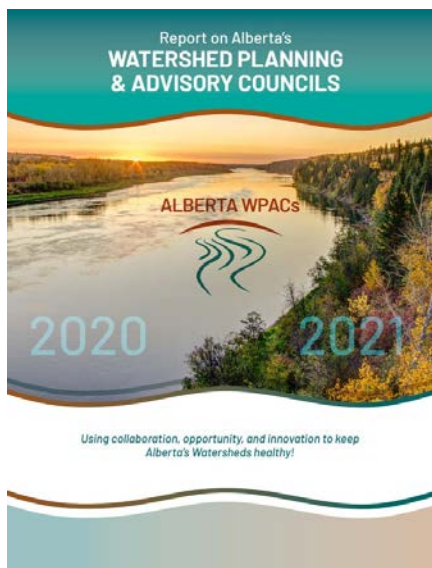
# WATERSHED PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCILS

The NSWA is one of 11 [Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils \(WPACs\)](#) that work across Alberta to support watershed management guided by the provincial [Water for Life Strategy](#). The WPACs have been working collaboratively on several projects to leverage the strengths and expertise of each of our unique groups.

## ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

The WPACs create an [Annual Summary Report](#) that highlights our success stories related to our four key roles:

1. Convener and Collaborator
2. Planning and Policy
3. Monitoring and Reporting
4. Education and Outreach



The WPACs also created a [2-page information sheet and brochure](#) on the roles of WPACs in Alberta that complements the Annual Report.

## ALBERTA WATERSHEDS VIDEOS

The WPACs are creating a series of five animated videos on Alberta watersheds that is supported by a generous \$75,000 Community Investment Grant from Plains Midstream.

## ONLINE WEBINARS

The 11 WPACs collaborated on a lunch hour webinar on [Watershed Planning in Alberta](#) to provide many of our newly elected municipal representatives with information. We had over 50 attendees from across the province.



## WORLD WATER DAY 2022

World Water Day is an international day to recognize the importance of water to all species of our planet. The theme designated by the United Nations for this year was [Groundwater: Making the Invisible, Visible.](#)

The 11 WPACs planned and coordinated a province-wide event for [World Water Day on March 22, 2022](#) that attracted over 175 participants. The event had three speakers who provided their perspectives on groundwater and water resources from a science, Indigenous and cultural perspective.



# GOAL 3: WATERSHED KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The NSWA is a key resource for watershed information on the North Saskatchewan River watershed and focuses its communications efforts on strategic issues with its key stakeholders. We align and compliment the communications efforts of Alberta Environment and Parks, and other watershed organizations to reinforce watershed knowledge and stewardship messages.

## NSWA WEBSITE



Events, reports, presentations and other information are on our website [www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca)

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Our **newsletters** keep over 950 **subscribers** informed of watershed news and upcoming events.



## 2022 NSWA CALENDAR

NSWA published a 2022 calendar with **watershed photos and information**, and distributed it to municipal leaders, MLAs and other partners in the watershed.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: 2760 followers  
Facebook: 997 followers  
LinkedIn: 610 connections  
Instagram: 550 followers

## WATERSHED ADVENTURES

A highlight of our social media feeds were the **'Watershed Adventures'** posts for the 12 subwatersheds in the North Saskatchewan River basin. These posts encouraged people to explore and discover unique features of the entire watershed. These are now featured on our website's subwatershed information pages.





## SUMMER STUDENTS

6 ONLINE FORUMS  
16 SPEAKERS

**300+**  
Participants

**3600 +**  
Social Media  
Followers

**2 MONTHS**  
12 COMMUNITY EVENTS  
6 SUMMER VILLAGES  
5 SUBWATERSHEDS  
5 LAKES  
2 STEWARDSHIP GROUPS



**1**  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
**7** PLAYLISTS  
**23** VIDEOS

**12**  
NEWSLETTERS  
**950**  
SUBSCRIBERS



**NSWA**  
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

**2021-2022**

**100 +**  **Meetings**  
WITH WATERSHED LEADERS

**\$260,000 GRANT**  
FOR 3 YEARS

from Edmonton Community Foundation  
to support NSWA Operations and Staff



**60 +**

Watershed  
Reports on  
NSWA  
Website



**1**

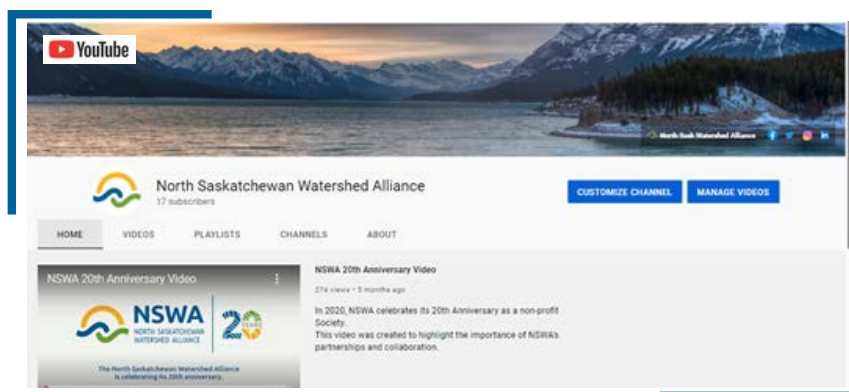
**ALBERTA EMERALD  
AWARD**



## EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

In 2021-2022 NSWA held several online educational forums

- **Watershed Wednesdays** - a series of five lunch hour webinars held on Wednesdays in October, November, December, February and March had over **325 participants**.
- **WPAC World Water Day event** - March 22, 2022 - **195 people** attended this collaborative province wide online event



## NSWA YouTube Channel

You can find recordings of our online forums and our 20th Anniversary video on our [YouTube Channel](#).

**Our 23 videos have had over 1300 views to date!**

## WATERSHED EVENTS

In 2021-2022, with the help of our two summer students, Samantha and Jillian, the NSWA visited Farmers Markets, Family Nature Nights and supported events for our local Watershed Stewardship Groups. They were able to **engaged over 850 people at 16 events** held across the watershed.

The summer students were also able to assist the [Alberta Lake Management Society](#) (ALMS) with weekly water sampling at three lakes in the watershed:

- Lac Ste Anne
- Isle Lake
- Hubbles Lake



NSWA Outreach Tent at Alberta Beach - summer of 2021

## ALBERTA WATERSHED VIDEO SERIES

NSWA received a multi-year \$75,000 Community Investment (CARE) grant from [Plains Midstream Canada](#) to create a series of five videos on watersheds in Alberta. The themes of the videos will include topics such as:

- What is a watershed?
- How is water managed in Alberta?
- What can you do to protect and conserve water?



## GOAL 4: FUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

The NSWA is a registered non-profit society guided by an 18-member multi-stakeholder board and currently has five full time staff. We rely on funding from Alberta Environment and Parks, EPCOR and municipal contributions to fund our core operations. Watershed management specific project work is funded through separate federal and provincial grants, and municipal and watershed stewardship group contributions.

### BOARD GOVERNANCE

The Board continued to work on key strategic directions of the organization through the work of five standing committees:

- *Executive*
- *Communications and Engagement*
- *Finance*
- *Governance*
- *Strategic Planning and Priorities*

A major accomplishment for the Board was the approval of the 2022-2024 NSWA Strategic Plan which identified three key priorities to address in the next three years.

The Board also updated 15 of their 55 Board policies as part of their annual review.

### OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The NSWA receives **core funding** from:

- *An operating grant from the Government of Alberta*
- *A contribution from EPCOR Water Services Canada*
- *Municipal contributions equivalent to \$0.50 per capita*

#### NSWA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2022-2024



Focus collaborative efforts on partnerships that can most effectively address the directions and actions of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan*.

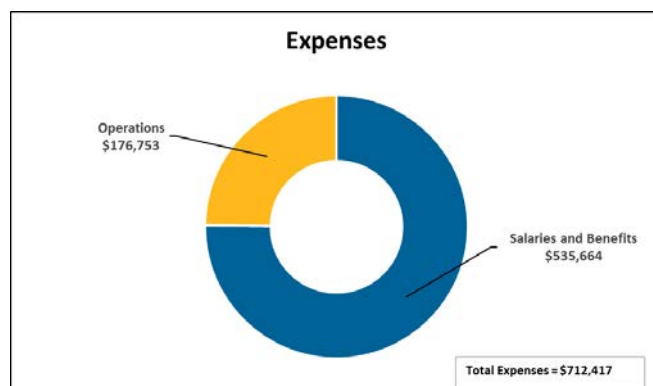
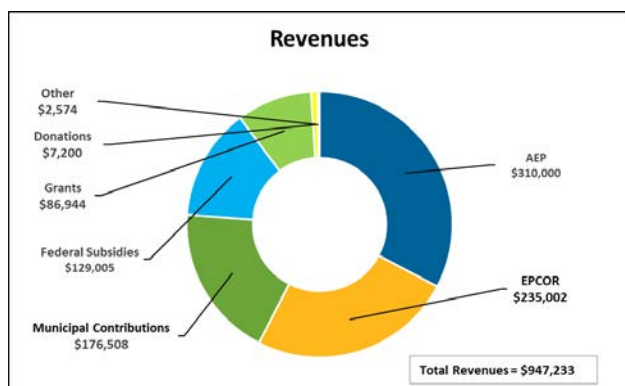


Complete a 2025 State of the Watershed report to provide an update on the watershed health and implementation status of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan* of the the NSWA.



Focus and align communication efforts on key stakeholders who have the greatest influence on watershed health.

***For every \$1.00 NSWA receives in operational funding we have generated over \$3.00 in grant funding.***

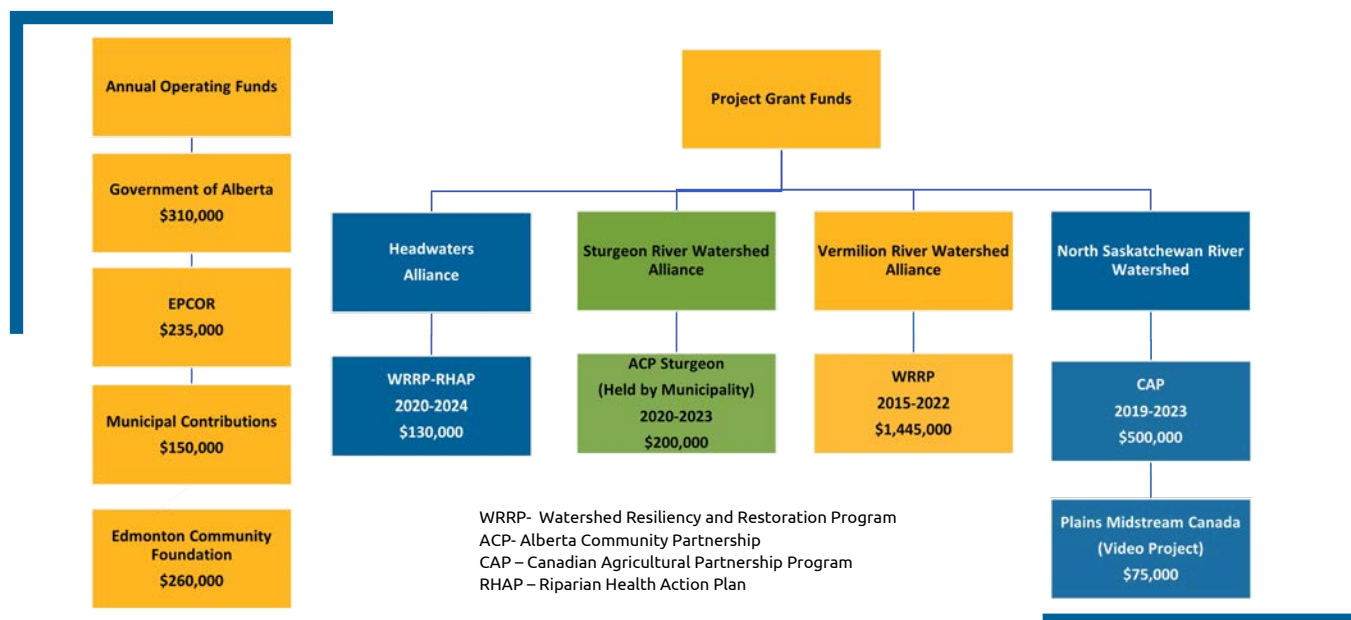




## FUNDING SOURCES

The NSWA applies for grants from **Federal and Provincial government programs** for watershed project specific work such as technical studies and on-the-ground restoration projects. Over **\$3.0 million** worth of grants have been awarded to the NSWA in the last five years.

You can find a full copy of the NSWA 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statement on our website under [Our Society](#)



### PHOTO CREDITS:

Cover Page: *Sunrise near Waskatenau*, Steve Ricketts, Images Alberta

Page 6: *Hay Bales*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Pages 7, 13, 17, 20: *Airscapes*

Page 9, 10: *River Bend*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Page 11: *Sturgeon Bridge*, Karen Albert, Images Alberta

Page 12: *Lac Ste Anne sunset*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Page 15: *Aurora over Chickakoo*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Page 21: *Clifford E. Lee sunset*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Back Cover: *Abraham Lake sunset*, Bill Trout, Images Alberta

Other photos: NSWA



## OUR MISSION

*To protect and improve water quality, water quantity (instream flow) and the health of our watershed by:*

- *Seeking, developing and sharing knowledge;*
- *Facilitating partnerships and collaborative planning; and,*
- *Working in an adaptive management process.*

## OUR VISION

*People working together for a healthy and functioning North Saskatchewan River watershed – today and tomorrow.*

## Keep in Touch!

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