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IN STREAM Newsletter

February 2019



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

NSWA Groundwater Forum - February 27th 2019

Check out the [forum agenda](#) and join us at Clymont Community Hall in Parkland County for nine engaging speakers and numerous information displays. Lunch is provided and there are lots of opportunities for **watershed knowledge sharing**. Please register by February 21.

[REGISTER on EVENTBRITE](#)

**Vision and
Mission**

4 Goals

18 Objectives

57 Actions

The NSWA Board includes 18 directors that represent the many stakeholder groups across the watershed. The Board provides guidance and direction to the NSWA organization through bylaws, policies and strategic plans. The NSWA 2019-2021 Strategic Plan was recently approved by the Board and includes four goals:

- 1: The NSWA supports Collaborative Watershed Planning**
- 2: The NSWA provides Leadership in Watershed Management**
- 3: The NSWA promotes Watershed Knowledge Sharing**
- 4: The NSWA is a Functional and Sustainable Organization**

The Strategic Plan supports the vision and mission of the NSWA and recommends objectives and actions needed to move the organization forward.

NSWA supports **collaborative watershed planning** through three sub-watershed partnerships in the watershed:

- Headwaters Alliance
- Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
- Vermillion River Watershed Alliance

These municipality lead partnerships address watershed management at a local scale and have received over \$2 million in grant funding to complete watershed studies, develop watershed management plans and conduct on the ground restoration work. The following updates are examples of how these sub-watershed partnerships are demonstrating **leadership in watershed management**.



Headwaters Alliance News



Photo credit: Images Alberta [Ice Bubbles](#)- Abraham lake

The Headwaters Alliance met this winter to update its strategic plan and priorities and will be focusing on three main priorities for 2019:

- Creating communication tools to emphasize the importance of watershed management (including a repeat of a one-day canoe tour for elected officials, municipal staff and other partners in August)
- Applying for awards to celebrate the success of the innovative Riparian Assessment studies completed in 2018.
- Applying for grants to help build policy tools and municipal alignment around riparian health protection.

The Riparian Assessment studies completed by the Headwaters Alliance have provided the foundation for a new research project called the Modeste Natural Infrastructure Project (MNIP). The project will evaluate the financial benefits of conserving and enhancing natural infrastructure, such as riparian areas, on agricultural lands. The MNIP received \$720,000 grant funding from the Alberta Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program. The project kicked off with a researcher's exchange forum held on February 5 which was facilitated by the NSWA. Participants from Alberta InnoTech, ALUS Canada, University of Guelph, NSWA, Parkland County and other stakeholders discussed the goals of the MNIP project and shared opportunities for collaboration.

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance



Photo Credit - Images Alberta Canada Geese take Flight

The Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) was established in 2014 and includes stakeholders from 12 municipalities as well as Alberta Environment and Parks and non-government organizations. In the last four years the SRWA has received grant funding of over \$500,000 to conduct watershed studies that helped fill the data gaps identified in the State of the Sturgeon River Watershed (2012). Watershed studies completed include:

- Assessment of Existing Water Supply and Demand for the Sturgeon River Basin
- Summary of Groundwater Conditions in the Sturgeon River Basin
- River Flows, Lake Levels, Groundwater Levels and Climate Patterns in the Sturgeon River Watershed
- Isle Lake and Lac Ste Anne State of the Watershed Report
- Riparian Assessment of the Sturgeon River Watershed
- Sturgeon River Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment
- Natural Area Mapping for the Sturgeon River Watershed

These studies will provide the foundation for the development of a Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan scheduled to be completed in 2019.

Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)

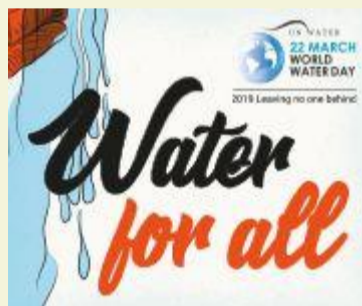


Photo credit : M. Erickson - NSWA - Vermilion subwatershed

The Vermillion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA) completed their [Watershed Management Plan](#) in 2012 and have been focussing their work on the restoration of wetlands and riparian areas in the watershed that is supported with grant funds of over \$1.5 million.

The community driven success of the VRWA will be highlighted in a presentation by Mara Erickson, the NSWA Watershed Planner who supports the work of the VRWA, at the [Prairie Conservation & Endangered Species Conference](#) being held in Winnipeg this month.

The VRWA also benefited from the support of a summer intern from Lakeland College, Grace Turner, who did her capstone project on restoration in the Vermilion watershed. Grace will be presenting the results of her capstone project at the 1st annual [Conference on Environmental Management](#) being held at Lakeland College in Vermilion on February 26.



WORLD WATER DAY #YEG

Another opportunity for **watershed knowledge sharing** is the Edmonton World Water Day #YEG.

March 22 is an international day designated by the UN to bring awareness to the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This year's YEG event will be held at the NAIT Shaw Theater in Edmonton on Friday March 22 from 5 to 9 pm. The 2019 theme is "Water for All" with an emphasis on global water issues and First Nations water rights. Join us to hear engaging speakers, see displays and enjoy networking opportunities. Seating is free but limited, so register early.

The keynote speaker is Caleb Behn, a Eh-Cho Dene and Dunne Za/Cree from the Treaty 8 Territory of northeastern British Columbia. Driven by a responsibility to protect the land and water, he entered law school and focused on environmental sustainability. He is a Special Advisor - Water- for the Assembly of First Nations.

[WWD YEG REGISTRATION](#)



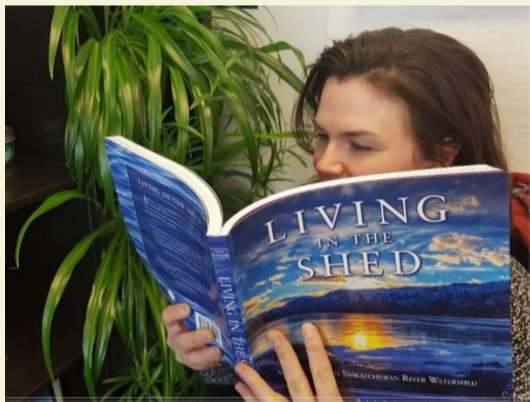
Part of meeting the NSWA goal of being a **functional and sustainable organization** is keeping in touch with our membership.

Don't forget to renew your membership before March 31, 2019 to be eligible to vote at the NSWA Annual General Meeting. It is easy to renew – just go to the [Get Involved page](#) on the NSWA website or click on the link below.

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

JOIN OUR TEAM
We're Hiring!

NSWA has applied for grant funding to hire two Watershed Outreach Assistants for this summer (May – August). The Assistants will be **sharing watershed knowledge** at events and locations throughout the North Saskatchewan River watershed. Check out our [website](#) for more information on the positions.



Copies of *Living in the Shed* are available at our [SHOP](#).

If you wish to make a charitable donation to support the work of the NSWA, the [DONATE](#) page has more information.

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