



## IN STREAM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

### JULY is LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

*"In recognition of the tremendous environmental, social and economic value Alberta's lakes provide to our province, I'm proud to declare July 2021 Lakes Appreciation Month in Alberta."*

**Jason Nixon, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks**



July is **Lakes Appreciation Month** in Alberta! We love our lakes! Summer means exploring - and there are over 464 large (>30 hectares) lakes in our watershed and hundreds more smaller lakes.

Jill and Sam, our Outreach Assistants, have been doing some sampling with Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) at Hubbles Lake and Lac Ste Anne and have been out to Lake Wabamun and Wizard Lake as well. They also participated in the LaFarge kestrel banding biodiversity program. Watch for the NSWA tent this summer and stop by to say 'hi'.

NSWA has many **State of the Watershed Reports** for lakes in our watershed (Mayatan, Hubbles, Antler, Jackfish, Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne) as well as **Watershed Management Plans** for Mayatan and Wabamun Lakes. Check out these resources [HERE](#).

As the weather warms up, we hope you can enjoy some adventures in our watershed. Our book ***Living in the Shed*** has some great ideas for places to explore. Follow our social media this summer for ideas for **Watershed Adventures**.

[Lakes Appreciation Month](#)

## Provide your input on the proposed North Saskatchewan Region Surface Water Quality Framework

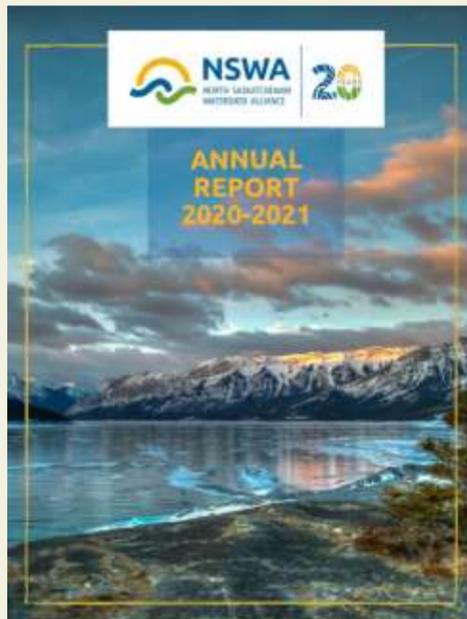


The Alberta government is gathering input on a proposed surface water quality management framework for the North Saskatchewan River. The water quality framework will identify clear objectives for managing surface water quality in the North Saskatchewan River and consider the impacts of all development activities in the watershed on water quality.

For more details on the proposed framework and the recommended indicators go to the [Get Involved](#) section of the public engagement page. Use the link below to provide your input through the online survey until **September 17, 2021**.

[NSR Water Framework Survey](#)

## NSWA's AGM and Annual Report



Over 50 people attended NSWA's **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** that was held on June 23, 2021. Despite the challenges faced due to COVID in 2020-2021, the NSWA was successful on many fronts. Highlights of the past year included:

- The work of the NSWA, Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA) and partners were recognized with an [Alberta Emerald Award](#)
- The **Riparian Health Action Plan** work now includes eight of the twelve subwatersheds in the North Saskatchewan watershed
- A new provincial wide **Riparian Web Portal** is being developed by the NSWA that will provide public access to riparian data, information resources and links to completed riparian projects across the province
- Completion of the [Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan](#) (2020) which outlines six key outcomes and over 40 action items to improve the health of the Sturgeon River subwatershed.
- Over five years' worth of riparian and wetland restoration work in the Vermilion River area has completed and the success of this project celebrated with [Stories of Stewardship](#) publications, webinars and video.
- Regular **educational forums** were held weekly in November 2020 (*Knowledge in Know-vember*) as well as monthly forums in February, March and April 2021 (*Watershed Wednesdays*)

- Continued support of **Watershed Stewardship groups** through completion of watershed management plans such as the **Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan** and collaborating on webinars and reports for many other lakes

Our 2021-2021 Annual Report and other information can be found on our website:

[View the 2020-2021 Annual Report](#)

## WELCOME TO NSWA's NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the AGM we welcomed several new Board members:

**Jim Duncan** - Clearwater County  
**Dr. Greg Goss** - University of Alberta (Academia)  
**Bart Guyon** - Brazeau County  
**Jacque Hansen** - City of St. Albert  
**Rhonda King** - ALUS Canada (Agriculture)  
**Ian Kwantes** - Pembina Timberlands Weyerhaeuser Company (Forestry)  
**Kyle Schole** - County of Smoky Lake (Member at Large)  
**Tracy Scott** - Ducks Unlimited (NGO)  
**Wade Teneviuk** - Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission (Utility)

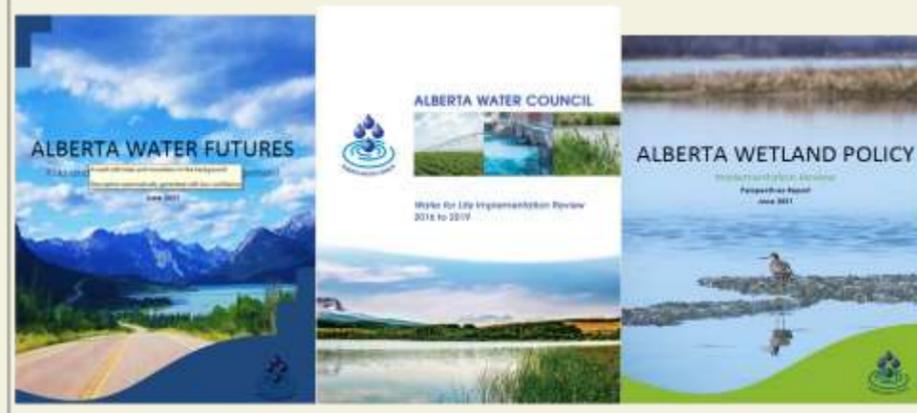
Thank you for your willingness to serve on the NSWA Board.

## ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES BEACH MONITORING



Alberta Health Services monitors popular swimming beaches for bacteria and blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). You can check for advisories on a lake you may be visiting on the [AHS website](#).

## NEW ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL REPORTS



The **Alberta Water Council (AWC)** has released several new studies of interest. The **Water for Life Implementation Review** was released earlier this month. The Council made 15 recommendations to improve Water for Life implementation, as well as water and watershed management in Alberta.

The newly released **Alberta Water Futures Report** examines the strengths and shortcomings of the current water management system, describes the top risks in the short and longer term (10-year horizon) that may prevent the system from responding appropriately, and characterizes cross-sector perspectives on the readiness of the water management system to adapt or respond these risks.

As well, the **Wetland Policy Implementation Review** has been released. It shares potential performance measures for the goal, outcomes, and strategic directions of the Alberta Wetland

Policy and the challenges and opportunities experienced by sectors in the implementation of the policy.

These reports are now posted on the AWC website.

[AWC REPORTS](#)



The **Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA), NSWA and partners** were honored to be the recipients of an Alberta Emerald Award!

The **Vermilion River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project** is a multi-year riparian and wetland restoration and enhancement project in the Vermilion River subwatershed. NSWA, many partner organizations and landowners who completed restoration projects were all essential to the success of this project.

The VRWA [website](#) has more information on restoration projects and reports.

Thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation for this special award.

The poster for Riparian Web Portal Training features a background image of a river flowing through a landscape with a network of white lines overlaid. The logo for the Riparian Web Portal is centered, consisting of a green circle with a white power button symbol inside, and the text "RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL" below it. The main title "RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING" is in large white letters on a green background. Below the title, the text reads: "Planners and Project Managers in government, agriculture, & ENGO; Get the background and skills you need to use the data and contribute your riparian projects to this exciting new resource." Two workshop options are listed: "101: Dive into the Riparian Data: Our Intactness Project" and "102: Where Data Meets Action: Riparian Web Portal". The dates and times for each are provided. At the bottom, it states: "All Workshops are offered at no cost, via Zoom. Attendees must complete the 101 workshop before 102. Register at [battleriverwatershed.eventbrite.com](http://battleriverwatershed.eventbrite.com)"

The results of our Riparian Intactness Project will soon be made public on our **Riparian Web Portal**. **Planners and Project Managers, in all levels of government, agriculture, and ENGOs are invited to get backstage access by signing up for these trainings:**

**101: Dive into the Riparian Data: Our Intactness Project**

In this 1.5 hour workshop, you will learn the Why and How of the Riparian Intactness Assessment project, how it applies to your work, and how it can improve the health of our watersheds.

**102: Where Data Meets Action: Riparian Web Portal\***

In this 2 hour workshop, you will be given login access and be trained on how to use the riparian data to better your work, and contribute your projects to the data set.

*\*The 101 Workshop is a prerequisite for the 102.*

All training is being offered online and at no cost. Space is limited and only a few more workshop dates are available.

Register now on Eventbrite

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

**Are you a local landowner, concerned citizen, or nature lover?**

Check out the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance's monthly blog which features stories and projects relating to healthy water and landscapes.



**JULY BLOG:**  
*Partner Series: Getting to Know Nicole Nadorozny - Practicum Coordinator, Lakeland College*

To learn more, go to:  
<https://vrwa.ca/blog/>



This month the VRWA blog features Nicole Nadorozny, Practicum Coordinator at Lakeland College.

The full article can be viewed on the [VRWA website](#).

## OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The Beaverhills Biosphere has a webinar on Invasive Plants. Check out their [website](#) for information and registration.

The [Canadian Conservation and Land Management website](#) is a forum for sharing information and lessons learned about boreal caribou conservation, wetland best practices, land restoration and land reclamation.

Interested in some family fun? Check out the [Nature Alberta Family Fun nights](#). NSWA will be helping out on August 4th at Jackie Parker Park in Southeast Edmonton. you can also sign up to be a volunteer!

The [Environmental Law Centre](#) recently published their written submission for public consultation on the Alberta Coal Mining Policy. You can find it [here](#).

The [Alberta Emerald Foundation](#) has a great series of environmental podcasts, videos, documentaries and speakers on their website.

The [Land Use Framework](#) has resources on many topics including four webinars on conservation easements. Explore their [website](#) for more information.

[ALUS Canada](#) is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the delivery of the ALUS program across the country. ALUS helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties. There are many ALUS programs in the watershed including those in the [County of Two Hills](#)., [Parkland County](#) and the [County of Vermilion River](#).

Check out the [NSWA DISCOVERS](#) section on our website with watershed resources and activities for adults and children. There are many activities to encourage watershed learning for your family.



## SUPPORT THE WORK OF NSWA

NSWA is a registered charity. For information on supporting our watershed projects go to our [DONATE](#) webpage.



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