



## IN STREAM NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

### CHANGE IS IN THE AIR



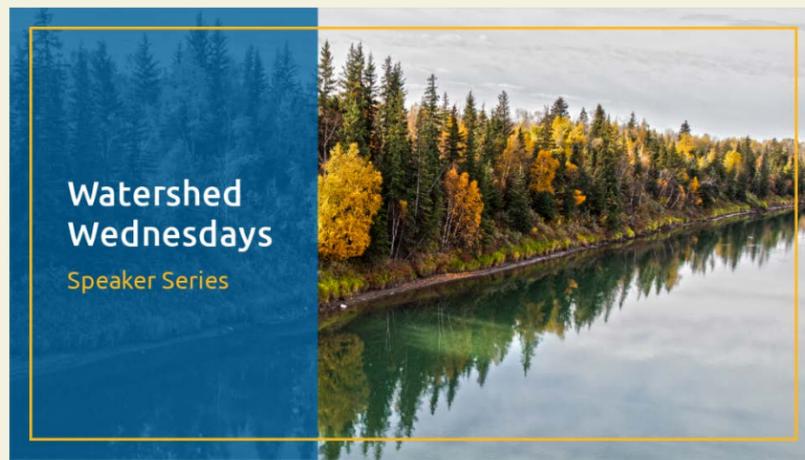
As seasons change, the watershed has a different beauty, and it is a great time of year to explore and enjoy the changing scenery. Follow our social media this month for information on the importance of riparian areas to watershed health, and the upcoming NSWA Watershed Wednesday lunchtime webinars.

### Welcome to All Newly Elected Officials!



NSWA welcomes the new councillors, Reeves and mayors elected in the watershed. We look forward to new opportunities to collaborate and work together on watershed projects in your communities. We wish you all the best in this next term.

## WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS RETURN



Join NSWA for **Watershed Wednesdays** this fall - an online speaker series, the first Wednesday of each month (noon to 1 pm) on a variety of watershed topics:

### October 6 - WETLANDS

Presentations on Strathcona County's Wetland Projects and the Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation Review are now posted on our [website](#).

### November 3 - AQUATIC HEALTH

- *Using parasites as a surrogate for host biodiversity in reclaimed wetlands* -Brooke McPhail, PhD candidate, University of Alberta
- *Using Watershed geospatial data to guide Aquatic Ecosystem Health sampling in the North Saskatchewan River basin* - Craig Emmerton, Alberta Environment and Parks

### December 1 - WATER QUALITY - speakers to be announced

These webinars will be held online using Zoom. Register now to get more information and reminders for the series. The Zoom link will be sent the day before the webinar. We look forward to meeting with you.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

### 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.



**OCTOBER'S BLOG:**  
*XStream Science at New Myrnam School with Battle River Watershed Alliance*

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



Check out the latest VRWA blog about **XStream Science**

NSWA joined the **New Myrnam School** and the **Battle River Watershed Alliance** for an XStream Science event along the Vermilion River earlier this month. Read more about the program in the latest VRWA blog.

[VRWA Blog](#)

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## RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING



### RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING

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.

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

Thurs. November 25th, 1:30pm

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

Friday November 26th, 1:30pm

All Workshops are offered at no cost, via Zoom.  
Attendees must complete the 101 workshop before 102.

**Register at [battle river watershed.eventbrite.com](https://battle river watershed.eventbrite.com)**

Do you want to learn more about the new **Riparian Web Portal** and how to use it? Join the NSW and the Battle River Watershed Alliance to learn more about this exciting new website. Training events are scheduled in November.

[REGISTER](#)

## STORIES OF STEWARDSHIP



**Tuesday November 30 2021**

**3:30-5pm**

**Zoom Webinar**

An event to celebrate landowner  
restoration projects and stewardship  
activities in the Vermilion River Watershed

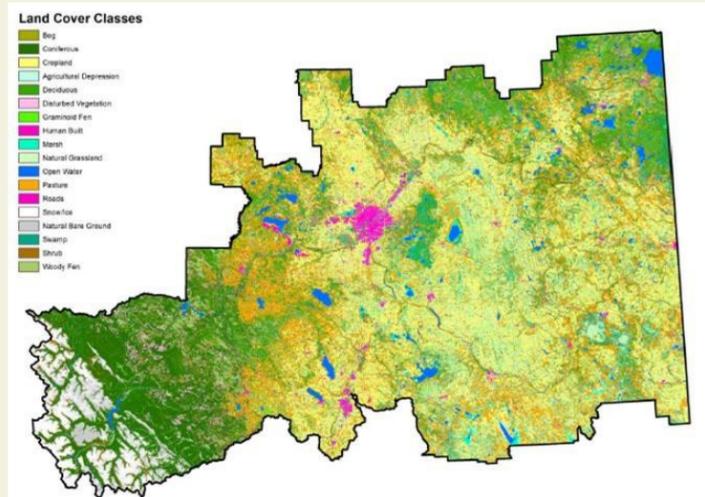
SEE LINK TO REGISTER ON  
EVENTBRITE



Join the NSW and the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance to celebrate the restoration and stewardship activities in the Vermilion River watershed over these past few years. These activities were part of the project that received an Emerald Award this year in the Shared Footprints Category. Register for the event on Eventbrite.

[REGISTER](#)

## LAND COVER DATASET AVAILABLE



Good news! The 2018 Land cover dataset commissioned by the NSWA is now available on the Government of Alberta Open Data website and freely available for download.

Many people asked about this dataset created in the NSWA Riparian Intactness project, and now this foundational dataset is available for your use! The 18-class, 6-meter resolution dataset covers the North Saskatchewan River and Battle River watersheds. In addition, a more detailed dataset is available for a 50-meter buffer along creeks and lakes in the watershed.

You can find the datasets on the Government of Alberta Website: <https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/> by searching **Wall to Wall Land Cover and Shoreline Buffer Landcover**. You can find supplementary descriptions about the dataset and the methods used on the NSWA website here:

### DATASET INFORMATION

## MEET OUR NSWA BOARD MEMBERS



**Kyle Schole** joined the NSWA Board as a Member-at-Large in summer 2021. He is a municipal planner with [Smoky Lake County](#) and the [Town of Smoky Lake](#), which are both a two-day canoe ride northeast of Edmonton, down the NSR. Previously, Kyle studied Political Science at the University of Calgary, and grew up on a family cow/calf ranch in Westlock County. He has also worked as a kayak guide on Canada's west coast, and interned in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Ottawa.

Excitingly, the Town of Smoky Lake and Smoky Lake County have embarked on an Economic Development Strategy in partnership with the [Métis Nation of Alberta \(MNA\)](#), centered around growing the cultural, agri-food, and heritage tourism of the Victoria District.

Smoky Lake County is also [spearheading an initiative](#) to see 717km of the North Saskatchewan River across Alberta



### Favorite place in the watershed:

*"There are so many incredible, scenic, diverse places to explore across the watershed; from the Sask. Glacier, to Rocky Mountain House, to River Valley Alliance trails of the Capital Region, to the crossing at Highway 17 and beyond into the Province of Saskatchewan! ...Perhaps most of all, the picturesque [Métis Crossing](#), situated on historic River Lots, and including the new Cultural Gathering Center and Lodge, where visitors can learn about the Métis, and 'paddle into the past' in a voyageur canoe."*

### Favorite NSWA memory:

*"I am relatively new to this board, but I am really enjoying interacting with other members and NSWA staff, learning about their work, vision, and connections to our shared watershed."*

recognized under the honorary [Canadian Heritage Rivers System \(CHRS\)](#), which has to-date been endorsed by dozens of directly river-adjacent municipalities, Indigenous organizations, utilities, businesses, and Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks (AEP) Jason Nixon. Indeed, the NSR Heritage River Initiative is creating a plethora of opportunities to develop and share knowledge, facilitate partnerships and collaborative planning, and increase the public's understanding of this exceptional river.

**Quote:**

*“Alberta Watershed Advisory and Planning Councils (WPACs) are experiencing something of a renewed significance for stewardship and water policy in Alberta, in-part by coordinating and encouraging collaboration among volunteers, members, and organizations. NSWA can, should, and will be at the leading edge of this evolution.”*

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## OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The **Environmental Law Center** is hosting a webinar Reimagining Rivers: Animals as Legal Beings - for more information and to register check their [website](#)

Check out the new video [Running Dry: Alberta's Shrinking Rivers](#) by the Livingstone Landowners Group.

There are several [Working Well](#) workshops across the province this fall. Check out the poster link for more information.

The **Government of Alberta** has posted new **flood study update** notices for the North Saskatchewan River Hazard Study and the St. Albert Flood Hazard Study. The updated information can be found at the link [here](#).

People from local government, researchers, policy makers and educators rely on [Municipal Natural Assets Initiative](#) to keep up-to-date on the latest in measuring, managing and valuing of natural assets. Subscribe to their newsletter for more information.

The **Land Stewardship Center** has published a new online [Stewardship Directory](#) as well as a new [Green Communities Guide](#). Check them out on their website as well as many other resources.

**Ducks Unlimited** has published a new **Alberta Wetland Classification Field Guide**. You can [download](#) an updated copy or purchase a copy [here](#).

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

The NSWA accepts donations through the **ATB Cares** program which matches 15% of every dollar donated to a Alberta-based charities through their [ATB Cares Web Portal](#). It is easy to use and automatically issues a charitable tax receipt for donations \$10 and over.

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



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