



October 2013

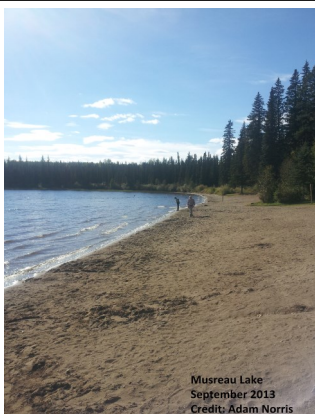
Diverse, Responsible & Connected

Issue #6

*Flow of the Peace
"Current Eddies"*



Southview Lookout
September 19, 2013
Credit: Adam Norris



Musreau Lake
September 2013
Credit: Adam Norris

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Newsletter produced with support from ESRD

Save the Date
March 21, 2014 AGM
Peace River

Alberta WPAC Summit

VISION
The Peace is a healthy, sustainable watershed that supports our social, environmental and economic objectives.

MISSION
To promote watershed excellence, the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance will monitor cumulative effects from land use practices, industry and other activities in the watershed and work to address issues through science, education, communication, policy and by supporting watershed stewardship.

The annual Alberta WPAC Summit was held in Cold Lake September 23– 26 and hosted by Beaver River Watershed Alliance. Here are 3 things that I learned at the Summit.

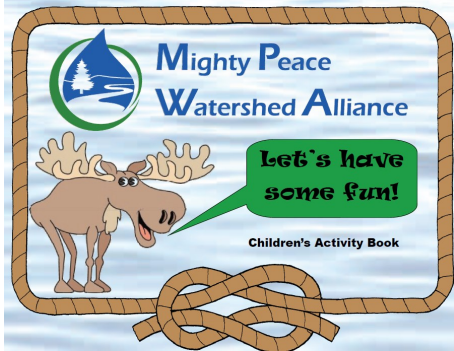
1. Dr. Masaki Hayashi in his presentation, "Sustainable groundwater management from the watershed perspective" had some invaluable input and expertise for watershed groups. He drove home the understanding that any drastic distinction between groundwater and surface water is potentially misleading. The many ways in which these two pools of water interact demonstrate their inter-connectedness. For instance, the level of water in streams can be changed by the amount of water that plants along the shores are taking up for photosynthesis.
2. There was a presentation from Kate Wilson of AESRD on invasive plants that I found fascinating. She listed the species of greatest concern for Alberta and talked about the potential impacts of those species on our watersheds, as well as some of the measures being taken to prevent their spread. In the case of invasives and their cost to society, the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" becomes an understatement.
3. Of course the tour and visit to the (Cold) lake were highlights. The opportunity to see how processes, both those of man and ecosystem, are operating in the watershed is invaluable. It is also these on-site visits that allow for the development of personal attachment - something essential for humans to have if we are to appropriately manage our effects upon the watershed.

By Adam Norris

What Flows

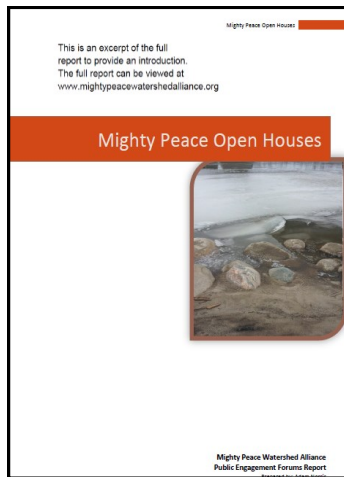
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Publications



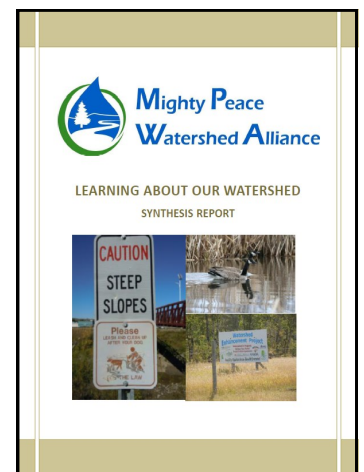
Children's Activity book - This booklet includes coloring pictures and games for kids to do. There is a page for them to draw a picture about their favorite activity to do in the watershed. Kids can then send the picture to us to be posted on our website: www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org.

This is our annual report, it includes what the MPWA does, and who is a part of organization and the goals and highlights from the previous year. It can be found on our website: www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org



This is a compilation of the 22 open house events that happened in 21 communities across the watershed. This is a summary of the concerns and priorities of the users of the watershed and it can be found on our website.

This is the "Issue Scoping and Project Synthesis Report". This summarizes three main topics: drinking water, aquatic ecosystems and water supply in the Peace River Watershed. It can be found on our website as well.



Membership Information

Any person or organization may become a Member in the appropriate class by meeting the category requirements listed below and filling out a membership form. All Memberships must be ratified by the Board of Directors or designate. The Member will then be entered in the Register of Members.

All members are entitled to receive all MPWA publications and can put forth information or express concerns in writing to the Board of Directors. Currently, there is no membership fee, although donations are always appreciated. Membership categories include:

Resident Individual (voting member) – an individual who lives (has a primary residence) in the Alberta portion of the Peace watershed.

Resident Organization (voting member) – an organization that carries out its work or has business interests/assets in the Alberta portion of the Peace watershed.

Non-resident Individual (non-voting member) – an individual who does not live (does not have a primary residence) in the Alberta portion of the Peace watershed.

Non-resident Organization (non-voting member) – an organization that does not work or have business interests/ assets in the Alberta portion of the Peace watershed



Highway 40
September 19, 2013
Credit: Adam Norris

Watershed Coordinator Adam Norris

State Of The Watershed (SOW)

The MPWA is starting on a ***State of the Watershed Report*** for the Peace Watershed. This report will provide a snapshot of the current conditions in the Peace Watershed. It will not attempt to cover everything, but to review what is known about our watershed and what that means for those who live, work and play in the watershed. This report will have a brief history and information regarding current situation about the Peace Watershed as a whole and then evaluate the six sub-watersheds, which are the Slave River, Lower Peace, Wabasca, Central Peace, Upper Peace and Smoky/Wapiti.

The ***State of the Watershed Report*** will use indicators to discuss the health of the watershed. An indicator can be thought of in terms of going to the doctor. If you go to the doctor and there is concern about your heart, your blood pressure will be measured. So blood pressure acts as an indicator for the health of your heart (and arteries). In a similar way, MPWA might measure the amount of phosphorous in the water to act as indicator for the health of our water and watershed. Indicators tell us about the condition but do not provide solutions.

The ***State of the Watershed Report*** (SOW) will not be providing solutions (ie. making management recommendations) but will be a tool for doing so. Periodically developing a SOW Report helps provide a sense of how the watershed is changing. This SOW is an important step towards doing a management plan because it will provide an understanding and a basis upon which to develop the plan. Continuing with the doctor visit analogy where blood pressure is used as an indicator for the health of your heart, this does not provide a solution or anything to address the problem. That is the next step. The doctor might provide you with options to improve your health, such as a prescription that you need to fill, instructions about diet and exercise, or in a worst case scenario an appointment with a surgeon. So as far as the watershed work is concerned, after the SOW report (the check-up at the doctor's) is completed, MPWA will work on the management plan (the prescription), for our watershed.



Wapiti River Water Management Plan

The Wapiti River Water Management Plan is an AESRD led initiative to develop a plan to manage the water resources of the Wapiti River. This is important on several fronts including the residents, the industries, the ecosystem, the recreationalists and tourists. The Steering Committee working on this plan is a group of interested stakeholders from the region and has been working together now for over a year. Some studies have been done and some are continuing as you read this, so that the needed information is available in the decision-making process.

The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is pleased to participate in this process and is committed to similar processes throughout the watershed. As a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based, not-for-profit organization we work to bring people together, develop policy and planning and encourage stewardship of the watershed. Our role in this process is unique because we are not there representing government or first nations, environmental groups or industry, but the common ground of all of these groups. We strive through our board and the broad representation it has, our engagement in processes like the Wapiti River Water Management Plan, open houses, community events and interaction with stewardship groups to put your voice on the table. Obviously, we cannot replace you or fully represent your needs and wants, but we take all we hear and put that forward in our work.

Please contact us when there are concerns, thoughts, suggestions, praise and so on for any watershed related issues. Your input is what drives the direction and efforts of MPWA and in the partnerships we engage in like the Wapiti River Water Management Plan. When you contact us please remember that we represent the common ground, the consensus, of all groups. So although we value your input immensely, the position and the focus of the MPWA will always involve finding common ground between what you entrust us with and that of all others living, working and playing in the Peace Watershed.

From the Executive Director's Desk! By Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier

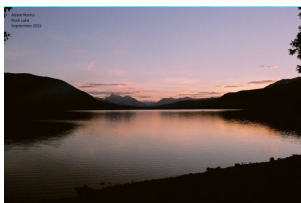
What Makes An Effective WPAC?

A WPAC (Watershed Planning and Advisory Council) requires many components that will help make it vital and effective. The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is the 11th WPAC in the Province of Alberta.



1. An overlying goal – The WPAC falls under the Government of Alberta’s initiative of WATER FOR LIFE and its goals of ensuring safe secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable water supplies for sustainable economy
2. A geographic scope to work within – for the MPWA that is the Peace and Slave River portions of Alberta (with consideration of the Peace Athabasca Delta, Transboundary issues and concerns from BC and into NT and SK). This is approximately 30% of the geographic area of Alberta.
3. A water source to be considered – The MPWA is concerned with all the water sources (rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, ground water) of the Peace and Slave River basin. Our work revolves around the water and the watershed (all that happens on the land that will have an effect on water).
4. Committed and concerned stakeholders – The MPWA is a multi-stakeholder, consensus decision making, not-for-profit organization that includes many voices around the board table. The broad categories are Non-government organizations, Industry, Aboriginal Communities, and Government (local to Provincial). The Alliance has visited many communities and organizations around the Peace in an effort to share what our goals are and gather the necessary information needed to do our work. We encourage the public to engage with our organization to help us achieve a full picture of the watershed, its issues, concerns, and celebrations. If there is interest to be on the board, the elections are in March for a 2 year term.
5. Science and Research are critical – the MPWA has endeavored to collect data regarding the watershed both scientific and traditional knowledge. If you know of resources that would be helpful to our work, please be sure to connect with us.
6. Consideration of current and future needs and uses of water in the basin – MPWA works towards engaging the stakeholders and public to assess these needs and uses.
7. Appropriate resources – funding, research, directors, etc.

These are a few of the components needed to have an effective WPAC. As the MPWA progresses, the public idea, opinions and resources remain to be essential to gaining a full picture and more complete assessment of the watershed.



Diverse, Responsible & Connected!

*Diverse group of people representing diverse interests.
 *Responsible for bringing those interests together.
 *Connected to all stakeholders across the watershed area.



Board Members

Government	Industry	Non-Governmental Organizations	Aboriginal Communities
Federal-Transboundary Relations -Abdi Siad-Omar	Agriculture -Shelleen Gerbig	Conservation/Environment -Bob Cameron	Métis Nation of Alberta -Willard Roe
Provincial -John Zylstra	Forestry -Ian Daisley	Watershed Stewardship -Norm Duval	Metis Settlement General Council -Alden Armstrong
Large Urban -Dan Wong	Oil & Gas -Wayne Kooy	Research/Education -Jean-Marie Sobze	Upper Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Small Urban -Geoff Milligan	Utilities -Ashley Parker	Public Member-at- Large (2) -Richard Keillor -Jaime Rich	Middle Watershed First Nation -Vacant
Rural Municipality -Sharon Nelson	Mining -Vacant	Tourism/Fisheries/ Recreation -Vacant	Lower Watershed First Nation -Jim Webb