

Alberta Land-use Knowledge Network

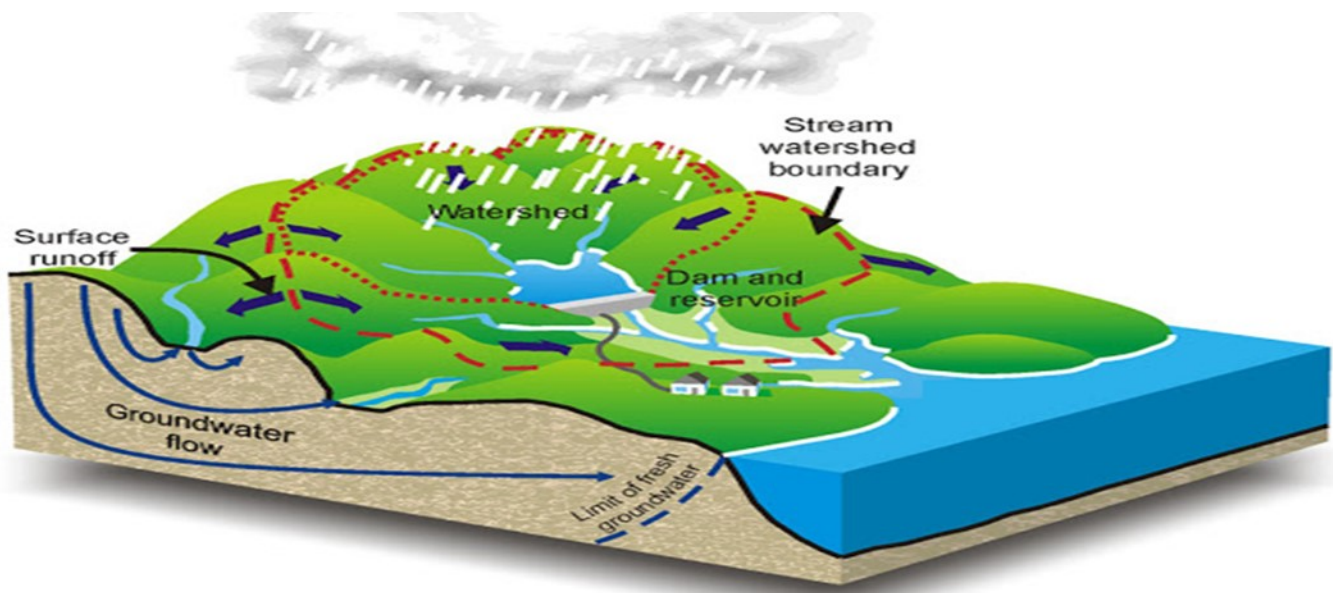


March 2020

Alberta Watersheds

The **Land-use Knowledge Network** was launched in 2011 and the **Land Use Planning Hub** in 2018. These two tools continue to grow and support research-based land use decision making throughout the province. If this newsletter was forwarded to you, please consider **subscribing** to our monthly publication.

Review **past issues** of our newsletter



Source: **SEAWA**

A watershed is an area of land that catches precipitation and drains into a larger body of water such as a marsh, stream, river, or lake. Watersheds can range in size from a few hectares to thousands of square kilometres. Within the complex living system of a watershed, everything is connected. Thinking of a watershed as a giant sponge helps explain the connections between all parts of the watershed. As precipitation falls, it is stored in the watershed's land and water bodies and slowly released through shallow water discharge into the river.

Source: **RDRWA**

New on the Land Use Planning Hub

The **Land Use Planning Hub** is an informal network that supports the implementation of Alberta's regional plans. It is regularly updated with news, resources, and information on regional planning in Alberta. It was launched in 2018 as a complement to the **Land-use Knowledge Network**. Check out the resources and join the conversation.

For more information about the Land Use Planning Hub, contact the website's coordinator, **Jeff Wiehler**.



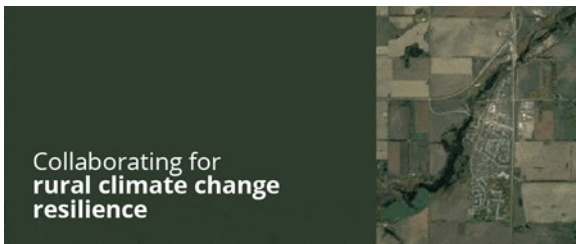
The Connection Between Regional Planning and Watersheds

Watersheds are often used as an “ecosystem proxy” for land use decisions, in order to divide landscapes into definable regions. Here are some resources for watershed planning that aligns with land use planning.



Alberta Wetlands 101 (Online Course)

The goal of the free e-course, **Alberta Wetlands 101**, is to help professionals, citizens and land owners understand the complexity of wetlands and learn how the provinces supports the ongoing management of wetlands.



A Rural Approach to Municipal Climate Resilience

Three Alberta rural municipalities are collaborating to understand the risks and opportunities of climate change on their communities.



National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association

Supporting and promoting the best practices in First Nation land management



Municipal Wetlands and Land Use Planning

In Alberta, around 20 per cent of the land is covered in a wetland. But when balancing competing uses of land, wetlands tend to go to the bottom of the list.



An Ongoing Request for Feedback

We would appreciate your input on what we can do to provide the tools and resources on topics that align with your 2020 land use planning priorities. Please complete our **two-question poll** so we can customize our planning resources to fit your needs.



Resources

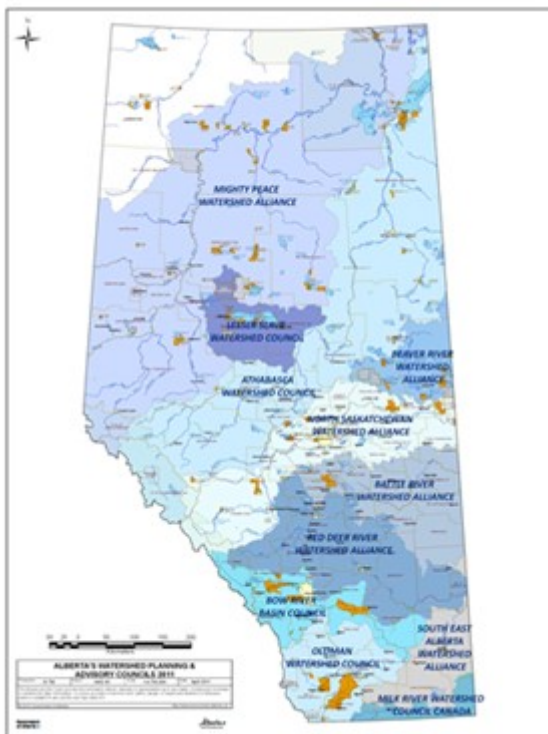
The **Land-use Knowledge Network** is a repository of a wide variety of resources to support your land use and planning research. Check out these items...



Water for Life: Strategy and Action Plan: Water for Life is the overarching government-wide strategy for water in Alberta.

Guide to Watershed Management Planning in Alberta

Handbook for State of the Watershed Reporting: A Guide for Developing State of the Watershed Reports in Alberta



Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are important stewards of Alberta's major watersheds. They are independent, non-profit organizations that are designated by Alberta Environment and Parks to report on the health of our watersheds, lead collaborative planning, and facilitate education and stewardship activities.

WPACs engage representatives of key stakeholders in the river basin area, including municipal, provincial, and federal governments; industrial sectors; conservation groups; aboriginal communities; academia; and the public. In their work, they seek consensus on land and water resource management strategies that support the achievement of shared environmental, social, and economic outcomes for the watershed.

Within Alberta there are currently eleven WPACs representing the major river basins:



The **Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC)** is working to build relationships, share information, and inform the planning and policy decisions that affect the Athabasca River watershed. Check out our partner page on the AWC.

State of the Athabasca Watershed: Summary Report

Save the Date
AWC Annual General Meeting
30 May 2020, Jasper



The **Battle River Watershed Alliance** (BRWA) is developing a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Alberta portions of the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds. The purpose of this **watershed management plan** is to develop recommendations for policy directions and management practices that lead to the long-term sustainability of our watersheds.

Water Management Plan for the Battle River Watershed (2014)



LICA is one of eleven Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) in Alberta. We are the WPAC for the **Beaver River Watershed**. WPACs are designated by the Government of Alberta to carry out planning and education functions through the Water for Life Strategy (2003).

A cornerstone initiative of the BRWA is the 2013 **State of the Beaver River Watershed Summary Report**.



The **Bow River Basin Council** (BRBC) is a collaborative and multi-stakeholder, charitable organization that is dedicated to conducting activities and programs that encourage and advance the enjoyment, learning, and protection of the waters of the Bow River Basin.

Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (2012)



The **Lesser Slave Watershed Council** (LSWC) is a non-profit dedicated to the promotion of long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the Lesser Slave watershed for all its citizens. We are led by an elected board of directors of people representing various industries, First Nations, and Metis communities within our watershed.

Integrated Watershed Management Plan



The **Milk River Watershed Council Canada** (MRWCC) oversees a unique watershed located in the most southern part of Alberta. It is unique, known not just for its dry climate, extraordinary landscapes and diverse plant and wildlife communities but also for the direction in which the Milk River flows. The Milk River is the only watershed in Alberta that drains south to the Gulf of Mexico. Alberta shares the Milk River watershed with the province of Saskatchewan and the State of Montana

4th Annual Community Appreciation Forum

19 March, Milk River Civic Centre

The Milk River Transboundary State of the Watershed Report - 2nd Edition



The **Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance** (MPWA) is the official Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the Peace/Slave River Basin. It is a multi-sector, not-for-profit society committed to planning for an ecologically healthy watershed while ensuring environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Save the Date

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Annual General Meeting
29 May 2020, Peace River

Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2018)

State of the Watershed (2015)



North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a not-for-profit organization that collaborates with a diverse range of stakeholders to find practical solutions to watershed issues. The NSWA brings stakeholders from different sectors together to collaborate on issues affecting the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

World Water Day

19 March 2020, NAIT Shaw Theatre Edmonton

RSVP by 10 June

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) AGM and 20 Year Anniversary Celebration

17 June 2020, Edmonton

NSR Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)



The **Oldman Watershed Council** (OWC) is a not-for-profit organization in Southern Alberta, Canada. We are one of 11 Watershed Advisory and Planning Councils in Alberta, mandated by the provincial government to provide an independent voice for watershed management and health under the Province's Water for Life strategy.

Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin



The **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance** (RDRWA) is a multi-sector, non-profit organization that promotes the good use and proper management of water within the Red Deer River watershed.

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance Spring Forum: **Grassroots and Muddy Boots -Watershed Stewardship in Action**

25 March, 2020, Blackfalds



The **South East Alberta Watershed Alliance** (SEAWA) brings together diverse partners to educate the public, to support knowledge development, and to develop and facilitate the implementation of management plans for the sustainable use of the South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin and the Pakowki Lake watershed.

"Water for Life" Tools for Watershed Management (video: Brian Free, 2013)

Headwaters and Watersheds (scholarly references)



In late 2019, the Government of Alberta passed **Bill 25: Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act**, which included several amendments to the **Municipal Government Act** (MGA), including significant changes to the *Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework* (ICF) and the Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) process. The RMA has produced a **summary of all changes** made to the MGA through Bill 25.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Workbook. Version 2 (2020)

Events

If you have an event, announcement, or new report that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter, please email **Linda** with the details.

March

Call for proposals deadline 12 March 2020

Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Annual Conference: Beyond Success: Growth by Failure
20-22 September, 2020, Lethbridge

Tamarack Institute Webinar: **Applying ABCD in an Urban Indigenous Context**
12 March, 2020, online

Recycling Council of Alberta: **Waste to Energy Symposium**
12 March, 2020, St. Albert

Early-bird registration deadline is February 14

RMA 2020 Spring Convention & Tradeshow
16-18 March, 2020, Edmonton

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance Spring Forum: **Grassroots and Muddy Boots -Watershed Stewardship in Action**

25 March, 2020, Blackfalds

April

Watershed 101 Webinar

15 April 2020, online

2020 Community Planning Association of Alberta Annual Planning Conference

27-29 April, 2020, Red Deer

May

Postponed from 5 Feb

U of A: Municipal Planning & Biodiversity Conservation

6 May, 2020, Camrose

Earlybird deadline: 31 March 2020

Canadian Water Network: Blue Cities 2020

7-8 May, 2020, Toronto, Ontario

Alberta Land Institute: Land Use 2020: A Place for Biodiversity Offsets

26-28 May, 2020, Banff

Save the Date

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Annual General Meeting

29 May 2020, Peace River

Save the Date

AWC Annual General Meeting

30 May 2020, Jasper

June

Tamarack Institute: Celebrating Neighbours: Measuring the Impact of ABCD

9-11 June, London, Ontario

RSVP by 10 June

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) AGM and 20 Year Anniversary Celebration

17 June 2020, Edmonton

August

Save the date

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) Summit 2020

11-14 August

September

Save the Date

Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Annual Conference: Beyond Success: Growth by Failure

20-22 September, 2020, Lethbridge

Save the Date

Western Canada Water Conference and Exhibition 2020

22-25 September, Regina, Saskatchewan

Save the Date

Western Canada Water Conference and Exhibition 2020

22-25 September, Regina, Saskatchewan

October

Save the Date

Alberta Ecotrust Environmental Gathering: Lead Boldly

1-2 October, 2020, Edmonton

Save the Date

FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference

20-22 October, 2020, St. John's, NL

November

Save the Date

RMA 2020 Fall Convention & Tradeshow

2-5 November, 2020, Edmonton

Funding Opportunities

Check out the list of funding opportunities curated by the **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance**

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre: The **Alberta Funding Guide** provides information about available funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects available to municipalities in Alberta. This guide was created in collaboration with the Community Energy Association

Working With Nature: Using Natural Infrastructure to Mitigate Flood and Drought Risk

The Working With Nature (WWN) Toolkit can help municipalities catalogue their natural infrastructure and develop a prioritized plan for better using it to mitigate flood and drought risk.

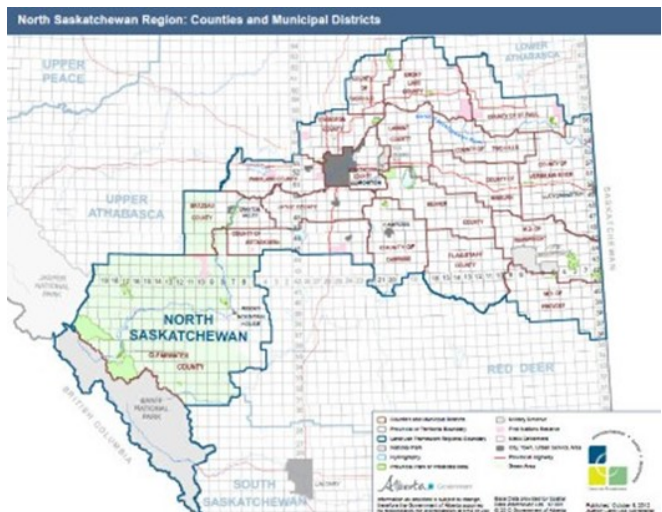
The WWN Toolkit provides the materials and directions for a municipality to self-navigate through workshops, worksheets, and ultimately a living workbook. In the process, a municipality will address Goals and Principles, Risks and Hazards, Natural Infrastructure, Actions, and Policy Development.

The Toolkit allows municipalities to go as deep or as shallow as resources permit, and includes instructions, suggested workshop agendas, pre-made worksheets, an Action prioritization tool, and the 'living' WWN Workbook. All materials are made for MSWord and MExcel, so no specialized software is needed.

North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP)

The North Saskatchewan Region contains a diverse landscape encompassing Rocky Mountain, rolling foothill and prairie parkland ecosystems. The North Saskatchewan Region includes headwaters forests that provide clean water to downstream communities, mountains foothills, and parkland that support a diversity of habitats that provide homes for species at risk and serves as a major source of recreation and tourism.

The North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council





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