

April 2018

Water and Watersheds

Welcome to the Alberta Land-use Knowledge Network's new monthly newsletter in which we share information and resources about land use planning in Alberta.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you, please consider **subscribing** to our monthly publication.



Land Use Topics

Watershed Stewardship

There are more than 140 watershed stewardship groups in Alberta. They are volunteer-based partnerships that include individuals, organizations, agriculture, industry, municipalities and other forms of local government. Their members are engaged in the environmental stewardship of their watersheds. Alberta Environment and Parks maintain a **Stewardship Directory** to enable stakeholders to find and connect with each other.

The Alberta Stewardship Network offers a publication that outlines a sampling of f5 community stewardship projects in this province. The **Awareness to Action** publication, and other support documents can be found on the **ASN site**.

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

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. Currently there are **11 WPACs in Alberta.**

- Athabasca Watershed Council
- Battle River Watershed Alliance
- Beaver River Watershed Alliance
- Bow River Basin Council
- Lesser Slave Watershed Council
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
- Oldman Watershed Council
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
- South East Alberta Watershed Alliance

Meet the

Alberta Water Council



Established in 2004 and incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 2007, the Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership with 24 Members from governments, industry, and non-government organizations. Its primary task is to monitor and steward implementation of the Alberta's Water for Life strategy and to champion achievement of the strategy's three goals:

- safe, secure drinking water supply
- healthy aquatic ecosystems
- reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

Source: [AWC homepage](#)

Currently, the AWC is preparing two new projects: 1) *source water protection* and 2) *multi-year drought resiliency*. **Check out reports and highlights from their completed projects on their website.**

Alberta Water Council. (2017). **Looking back: Evaluating sector improvements in water conservation, efficiency, and productivity.**

Alberta Water Council. (2017). **Recommendations to improve lake watershed management in Alberta.**

Alberta Water Council. (2017). **Review of Water for Life implementation progress: 2012-2015.**

Alberta Water Council. (2017). **Water conservation, efficiency, and productivity.** YouTube.

Planning Tools

Guide to Watershed Management Planning

The **Guide to Watershed Management Planning in Alberta**, published in 2015, provides advice on the steps to develop and implement a watershed management plan. The guide is based on the iterative process of adaptive management, from planning through to implementation and evaluation, and back to planning.

The Government of Alberta relied on the work of the Alberta Water Council's Recommendations for a *Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta* as the foundation for this planning guide. The planning process should include the development of actions that support the protection, restoration, or maintenance of watersheds without compromising the water needs of the community. This guide is intended to assist WPACs and WSGs in their planning processes and activities.

Resources on LuKN

Watershed Management & Planning

Watershed assessment procedure to address cumulative effects in the eastern slopes of Alberta

This poster outlines the development of a watershed assessment procedure for the eastern slopes of Alberta. The process was developed with the Oldman Watershed Council, using the Oldman River Basin as a study site.

North Saskatchewan Water Alliance Spring April 6, 2017 Forum: Water Quality Management in the North Saskatchewan River Watershed

Check out the videos of six of the eight presentations at this conference.

CWRA/WPAC 2013 Conference: Water and the Environment-Watershed Planning & Management in Alberta

This conference, held March 12 to 14, 2013, in Red Deer was jointly hosted by the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Alberta Chapter and Alberta Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (WPACs). The topics emphasized the integrated planning that is necessary for water management in the future. This link includes 35 video-recorded sessions from this important conference.

Alberta Water Portal Video Series: The Story of Water Management on the Bow River

The Alberta Water Portal has developed a series of ten videos concerning water management on the Bow River. The videos include information about the history of the area, how the irrigation districts were formed, and how they function now and into the future.

Canadian Water Network (2018). **Balancing the books: Financial sustainability for Canadian water systems.**

There are many more items in our database. Please use the following search terms: water, water use, water management, watershed management, wetland mitigation banking,

Events

Click on the titles to learn more.

If you have an event that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter, please email [Linda](#) with the details.

April

Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA): Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) workshop

April 11 Athabasca/Athabasca County (10:00-15:00)

ULI Alberta Fireside Chat: Shaping an Innovative, Catalytic Landscape

April 11 Calgary (5:00-8:00)

Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA): Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) workshop

April 13 Red Deer County (10:00-15:00)

SALTEC: Alberta Wetland Rapid Evaluation Tool-Actual Training Course

Online course launched April 15

Field Training Dates: July 17 Calgary; July 19 Edmonton

fRI Research and CIF: 2018 Forest Forum

Alberta Forests Under Threat: A Call for Action

April 24-25 Edmonton

Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA): Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) workshop

April 13 St. Paul (10:00-15:00)

May

CWN: Blue Cities 2018

May 1-2 Toronto

AUMA: Come Together Alberta Conference

Creating Hope and Taking Action

May 15-17 Edmonton

Tamarack Institute: Adaptive Leadership Masterclass

May 24 Edmonton

May 25 Calgary

ALI: 2018 Land Use Conference

Land, Water, & Society

May 30-31 Edmonton

June

Registration now open

COSIA 2018 Oil Sands Innovation Summit

June 7-8 Calgary

Cities Innovating to Reduce Poverty - A Western Summit

June 12-13 Vancouver

fRI Research Workshop: From Concept to Reality: Creating a Road Map for Ecosystem-Based Management

June 19-20 Edmonton

July

**Alberta Wetland Rapid Evaluation
Tool-Actual Training Course**

Field Training

July 17 Calgary

July 19 Edmonton

September

APPI: Fall Conference

Revitalize

September 30- October 2 Kananaskis

October

Save the Date

Canadian Rural and Remote Housing and Homelessness Symposium 2018

October 24 - 26 Canmore

News

The Government of Alberta is looking for your input on the **North Saskatchewan Regional Plan**. The NS Regional Advisory Committee's **recommendations document** is available now and you can add your voice to the process by completing an **online survey** before *May 4, 2018*.

Check out our resource list related to the **North Saskatchewan Regional Planning** process.

Government Funding for the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

In order to expand on the programs, that fund solar panel installations, energy-efficiency audits and retrofits, and climate change resilience workshops, Alberta Environment and Parks has pledged \$54 million to enable the addition of multi-year programs for small-scale community generation, energy-efficiency upgrades for buildings, solar energy for schools and more.



The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) has rebranded to make it easier for people to comprehend who they are and what they represent. It will provide greater flexibility for marketing and advocacy as they expand their business for the benefit of all their members. Their new name is now the **Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)**.



The Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) announced new funding to help municipalities take action on climate change and resilience. [Read the details.](#)

