May 2019

*Headwaters*

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.

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: Alberta Wilderness Association

The Land Use Planning Hub is an informal network that supports the implementation of Alberta’s regional plans.

Currently on the Land Use Planning Hub

**Flood and drought primer**

Primer for municipalities to consider flood and drought mitigation practices – from the Miistakis Institute. For all municipalities in Alberta, the Action Planning Primer reviews the risk for both floods and droughts. Risk maps are a first step in mitigation planning: How likely is a drought or flood for my municipality?
Updated: Datasets for Alberta Land Use Planning

The foundation to evaluating decisions is information. Here are sources of data from Alberta that are useful for land use planning – for water, land, infrastructure, energy and more.

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

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

Read Jeff Wiehler’s post entitled Preparing for the next regional plans

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

Recommendations Document from the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council

Headwaters

The Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains are the source 90% of the water in Alberta. These headwaters form the foundation of Alberta’s eleven watersheds. Protecting headwaters and the eco-systems around them is essential for protecting our water supply. Additionally, protecting the eco-systems provides natural systems that control down-stream flooding.

A number of Alberta NGOs and WPACs working to bring public awareness to the need to conserve these natural areas in order to preserve our current and future water supply as well as working with government to enact legislation to ensure this protection.

Source: Love Your Headwaters
**Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs)**

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are important stewards of Alberta's major watersheds. These eleven entities 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.

Scholarly Articles: **Headwaters and Watersheds**

Check out these videos and conferences relating to headwaters and watershed management.

**WPAC's Perspective. Presentation by Shannon Frank**

Shannon Frank, executive director at Oldman Watershed Council, talks about the 11 watershed and advisory councils in Alberta. She focuses her discussion on the Oldman Watershed Councils’ work along the eastern slopes, and the education project that focuses on building relationships with Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users and campers.

**Water Summit in the Valley: Innovation and Leadership in Sustainable Water Management**

In October 2014 the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance hosted the annual WPAC Summit. Speakers from across the province came together to present ideas related to innovation and leadership in water management. View the full agenda to see the full details.

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

From March 12-14th, 2013, people involved in water issues in Alberta met in Red Deer to discuss ideas and plans for managing water resources. The conference, jointly hosted by the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Alberta Chapter and Alberta Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (WPACs), emphasized the integrated planning that is necessary for water management in the future.

**Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (WPAC) Summit (2012)**

Milk River played host to Alberta's Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (WPACs) from September 24-27, 2012. The WPAC summit featured speakers and field tours, and provided each group an opportunity to share their region's successes, goals and challenges from the past year and looking to the future.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry: **Sustaining Alberta's Forested Headwaters Science Symposium**, November 26, 2015 (7 presentations)

**Flood resilience and headwaters management** (video: Carolyn Campbell at the Canadian Water Resources Association, Alberta Branch Conference in Calgary Alberta, March 2014)

**Hidden Creek: A Case Study for Headwaters Management** (video: Carolyn Campbell at the CWRA/WPAC Joint Conference in Red Deer, Alberta, March 13-14, 2013)
Spotlighted Organizations

Love Your Headwaters is a community committed to protecting Alberta’s headwaters, spearheaded by Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). Their current priorities include: protecting the Bighorn region, source of nearly 90% of Edmonton’s drinking water, as a Wildland Provincial Park; ensuring sustainable forest management in the 55% of Kananaskis Country that remains unprotected; and promoting sustainable land footprint and recreation management on public lands throughout Alberta’s eastern slopes - particularly the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills.

Dedicated to the conservation of wilderness and the completion of a protected areas network, Alberta Wilderness Association is a voice for the environment. Since 1965, AWA has inspired communities to care for Alberta’s wild spaces through awareness and action.

Survey for forest and conservation practitioners and scientists

Which reforestation practices should be used to adapt to climate change?

Researchers from the University of British Columbia invite forestry and conservation practitioners and scientists to share their views about reforestation strategies to adapt to climate change in Canada’s forests. The questionnaire will require approximately 15 minutes to complete.

15 prizes of $100 will be raffled. Winners will be given the choice of either donating the money to a charity of their choosing or receiving a gift card.

Follow this link to the survey

Une version française est aussi disponible
The **Land-use Knowledge Network** is a repository of a wide variety of resources to support your land use and planning research. Take a look at these items...

### Canada’s Changing Climate Report (2019)
This report is about how and why Canada’s climate has changed and what changes are projected for the future. Led by Environment and Climate Change Canada, it is the first report to be released as part of Canada in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action.

### Water Security of Canadians: Solutions for Canada’s Emerging Water Crisis
This concept note outlines how the federal government can provide leadership and better exercise its jurisdiction to help prevent Canada’s emerging water crisis. It proposes a number of specific and achievable activities that will position Canada as a global leader in water prediction, management and sustainability.

Check out these older resources.

- **Watershed delineation and stream classification for the Northern East Slopes Region including the Foothills Model Forest** (2003)
- **Overview assessment of historic and current land-use activities in selected Foothills Model Forest watersheds** (2002)
- **Proceedings of a workshop to develop a strategic plan for a Watershed Assessment Model** (1994)

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

### EVENTS

**May**

- **SEDA: Intersections for Growth Conference**
  1-2 May, Regina

- **Canadian Water Network: Blue Cities 2019**
  7-8 May, Toronto

**June**

- **Canada’s Oil Sands Innovation Alliance (COSIA): 2019 Oil Sands Innovation Summit**
  3-4 June, Calgary

*Early bird rates available now*
May continued

Register by May 8
AWES: Best Management Practices on Private Forested Lands Workshop
11 May, Manning

Keepers of the Athabasca (KotA): Tailing Ponds and Impacts on Aquifers
14-15 May, Fort McMurray

Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE): Recharge 2019 Conference: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions in Environmental and Energy Education
23-25 May, Canmore

Tamarack Institute: ABCD: Healthy Neighbourhoods, Healthy Cities
28-30 May, Edmonton

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2019 Annual Conference and Trade Show
30 May-2 June, Québec City

June continued

3rd Annual VegFest
15 June, Calgary

September

International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) 32nd Annual Conference: Regulatory Roundup
22-25 September 2019, Calgary

Save the date
AUMA 2019 Convention and AMSC Trade Show
25-27 September, Edmonton

October

Save the date
Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation 2019 Sustainable Communities Conference
1-4 October 2019, St. Johns, NL

Save the date
Recycling Council of Alberta 2019 Conference: Sea Change
2-4 October 2019, Jasper

Save the date
2019 APPI Conference: Celebrate Strength
6-8 October 2019, Fort McMurray

Earlybird rates until 14 June
EcoCity World Summit 2019
7-11 October, Vancouver

Early bird registration available until 31 May 2019
Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA): RemTech 2019
16-18 October 2019, Banff

November

Save the date
ALIDP Conference and Trade Show
6-8 November, Calgary

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH): 2019 National Conference on Ending Homelessness
4-6 November, 2019, Edmonton
If you have an announcement that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter, please email Linda with the details.

**Canada in dire need of revised water policies: USask experts say**
OTTAWA – Water experts from across the country gathered in the nation’s capital for a forum on water security to discuss solutions to make communities and industries more resilient and less vulnerable to climate change.
11 April 2019, University of Saskatchewan News

**Governments of Canada and Alberta reach 10-year housing agreement**
Families, Indigenous communities and vulnerable Canadians in need of an affordable place to call home can count on long-term funding for community housing in Alberta thanks to an agreement signed today by the federal and provincial governments.
15 March 2019, Government of Alberta

**Dene Tha’ First Nation on course for clean water**
In a historic partnership with the Dene Tha’ First Nation, the Alberta government is bringing safe and reliable drinking water to the nation.
14 March 2019, Government of Alberta