

December 2009

Headwaters Edition — It all begins in the Canadian Rockies

RDRWA General Information Meeting - Watershed Health - Looking At The Big Picture & Planning Our Future

There was a great turn-out for the Information meeting held at Bowden Lions Club, on November 25th. Almost 60 people attended from different groups, representing a large area of the Watershed. Tom Daniels opened the meeting and introduced Councilor Earl Wilson, who greeted everyone on behalf of the Town of Bowden.

Vicki Burns, from the Community Foundations of Canada, gave a talk about the Lake Winnipeg Basin, which prompted questions from the audience on how processes adopted there can be put into practice in our Watershed.

Bob Halliday from R. Halliday and Associates: Partners for Saskatchewan River also gave a presentation concerning the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report, followed by Beverly Anderson (RDRWA Director), who gave a report on the State of The Red Deer River Watershed. Again, there were a number of questions from the audience, regarding the two reports. After lunch, Dr Mike Sullivan, from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, gave a great presentation on Cumulative effects, which really showed what can happen to our Watersheds, and it provoked some great interaction with the audience.

Lisa Fox, a WPAC rep on Land Use Framework (LUF), from the Southern Region Advisory Committee, gave an update on the Southern Region LUF. Marilou Montemayor (RDRWA), gave a presentation about Beneficial Management Practices for the Red Deer River Watershed, it was a review of literature compiled from BMPs from 4 different countries, that could be applicable to our Watershed. Beverly Anderson (RDRWA), gave the final presentation regarding the Initiation of the Integrated Management Plan for the Red Deer River Watershed.

Tom Daniels (RDRWA Chair), thanked all the guest speakers for attending and presented them with a small gift from the RDRWA to show our appreciation.



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Seasons Greetings!

Annual WPAC Summit 2009

Norsemen Inn, Camrose, Alberta, October 26-28, 2009

Watershed leaders from around the province gathered in Camrose at the annual Watershed Planning & Advisory Council (WPAC) Summit. Hosted by the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA), the Summit featured a variety of speakers including Alberta Environment Minister, Rob Renner, and Alberta Environment Assistant Deputy Minister, Rob Penny.

Participants were welcomed by the Reeve of Camrose County during the dinner/reception on 26th October. He spoke about various environmental initiatives that were started in the area such as environmental farm planning and off-site watering, as well as concerns on water quality of Dried Meat Lake which is the water supply source for the City of Camrose. Also, Peter Boxall, University of Alberta, talked about policy implementation instruments for environmental goods and services. Market based instruments (MBIs) could be options to consider besides the routine command and control instruments which are usually costly, or voluntary mechanisms (education & stewardship) which run the risk of low participation. From a study in Manitoba, examples were shown on cost-effective Beneficial Management Practices for farmers.

On 27th October, all WPACS presented updates on their watersheds that included the Beaver River, North Saskatchewan, Lesser Slave Lake, Red Deer River, South East Alberta, and Battle River Watershed Alliances, and Oldman Watershed Council, Bow River Basin Council, and Milk River watershed Council Canada. Major topics were: groundwater quality particularly uranium levels—Beaver; decreasing lake water levels and excessive sediment deposition on the lake outflow—Lesser Slave Lake; the use of ALCES modeling and the Vermillion River Watershed Management Project—N.Saskatchewan; state of the watershed, data gaps and start of IWMP—Red Deer River; Water management planning process—Oldman; Urban and Stormwater management—Bow; Online interactive state of the watershed reporting—South East Alberta; and watershed management Plan—Milk River. There were also updates on the activities of the Alberta Water Council and the Alberta Water Research Institute (AWRI). AWRI



funds studies related to water policy in Alberta. There was a facilitated discussion on WPAC's and the *Land Use Framework*; participants were asked to write their suggestions on this topic.

The evening highlight was enjoying Scottish Culture complete with Scotch, bagpipes, guys kilt, books/maps, and ceremonial cups. (See photo below).



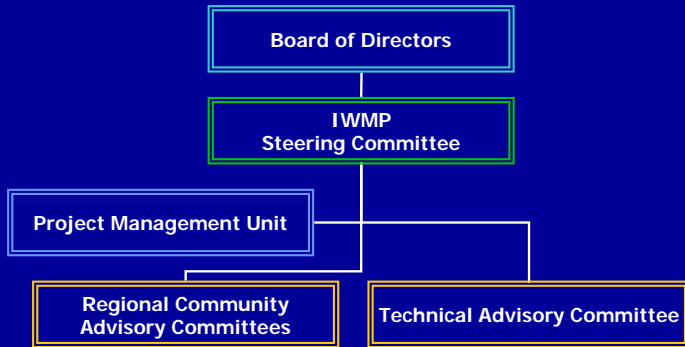
On October 28th there were presentations on various topics including: volunteer recruitment and membership retention, building partnerships, funding sources and fundraising, public participation planning approach, and update in cumulative effects management system.

The summit was graced by the attendance of the Minister for Environment, Hon. Rob Renner on 27th October. The summit was concluded on 28th October by the closing speech of the Assistant Deputy Minister Environmental Management, Alberta Environment, Rob Penny. The accomplishments and the role of WPACS were acknowledged and praised. WPAC's were assured of continued support from the provincial government albeit with reduction in grants with the current global economic hardship.

RDRWA starts Integrated Watershed Management Plan

Having completed the State of the Watershed Report in April 2009, the RDRWA is initiating its next major project, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) for the Red Deer River watershed. A major step towards the development of the IWMP is the development of its Terms of Reference which is currently being undertaken. The organizational structure for the project and the respective responsibilities of each organizational component are in the process of being developed.

IWMP Committee Structure



The IWMP Steering Committee (SC) will be composed of RDRWA Board of Director members representing watershed interests. The SC will guide and oversee the Integrated Watershed Management (IWMP) project as outlined in the IWMP Project Terms of Reference. The SC is responsible for the project and is accountable to the RDRWA Board of Directors.

The Project Management Unit, responsible for the operation and management of the project, including scope, time and cost, will provide support to the Steering Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and the 3 Regional Community Advisory Committees. The Technical Advisory Committee will be composed of resource experts to provide the Steering Committee and the Community Advisory Committees with advice.

The Red Deer River watershed will be divided into 3 major regions: Headwaters, Parkland, and Grasslands. These regions will incorporate all of the 15 sub-watersheds as identified in the State of the Watershed Report:

Headwaters Region: Panther, James, Raven, Little Red Deer

Parkland Region: Medicine, Blindman, Waskasoo, Buffalo, Three Hills, Kneehill, Rosebud

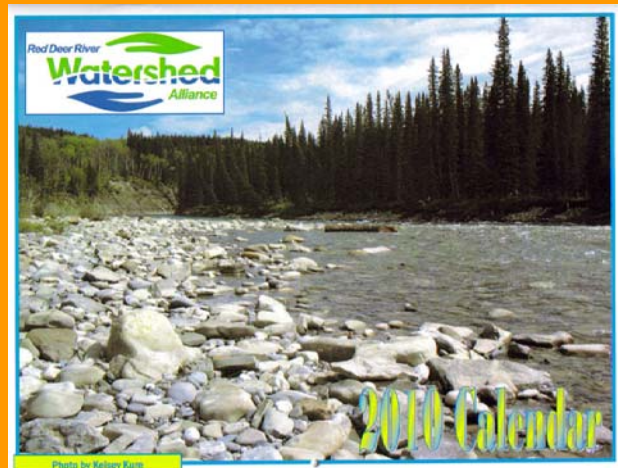
Grasslands Region: Michichi, Berry, Matzhiwin, Alkali

For each region, a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be established which will provide stakeholder input into the process and will be instrumental in seeing the implementation of the plan.

2010 RDRWA Calendar - "Experience the Watershed Year - Round"

The 2010 Red Deer River Watershed Calendar is now available at the cost of \$10. The calendar is printed on recycled paper and is made up of photographs taken in and around the Red Deer River Watershed by our members. The December photograph is the winning picture from our photograph competition, taken by Glenn Mainland.

If you would like a copy of the 2010 Calendar, please contact the RDRWA office at [403-340-7379](tel:403-340-7379) or contact us by email at info@rdrwa.ca. We can then arrange for payment and delivery of the Calendar. It would make a great gift for Christmas.



Upcoming Events

- **CSHS Kananaskis Short Course on Principles Of Hydrology:** March 2-11, 2010, Barrier Lake Station, Kananaskis Valley, Alberta. The course is available for credit from the University of Saskatchewan as Geography 827. Online registration at https://www.cwra.orroom.g/branches/cshs/Principles_of_Hydrology_Workshop.aspx. There is for 40 Students. For further information, please contact Dr. Christopher Spence at chris.spence@ec.gc.ca
- **Water for Life 2010 Conference:** March 25th, 2010, Great Hall, Rozsa Centre, University Of Calgary. 9:00am to 4:00pm. The conference aims at bringing the subject of water issues to the frontline and to provide a space for discussions and debates by policy makers, water managers, academics, students and the general public. It will focus on Alberta water management, progress and challenges, and the implications of water issues around the world. For more information load the following link http://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/faculty/centres/cpia/water_for_life_2010
- **Medicine River Watershed Society Annual "Open House":** January 18th 2010, Gilby Community Centre (1.5 miles west of Highway #766 on Highway #12). There is a small trade show component to this evening event which also features a hearty Alberta beef on a bun, social time and speakers. There will also be a silent auction, with all proceeds going to the ongoing stewardship work of the Medicine River Watershed Society. For more information please contact [Gary Lewis](mailto:Gary.Lewis@clearwater.ab.ca), at Clearwater County, www.county.clearwater.ab.ca

The RDRWA Communication & Education Sub-Committee Needs New Members

There are a few openings on the RDRWA Communication & Education Sub-Committee.

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE WORK OF THE RDRWA

Do You have A Background In Communication/Education Work?

OR... Would You just like to join Our Committee because you have a passion for Watershed Issues and would like a say on how we get our messages out

IF SO WE WELCOME YOU

For More Information, please contact the RDRWA

info@rdrwa.ca



Holiday Greetings!

Thank you for supporting the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance.

We wish you a happy holiday season and all the best in 2010!

Executive Director, Staff and Board of Directors

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance