



Working together to ensure and sustain
 > a safe water supply,
 > a healthy environment
 > and a prosperous economy



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Find out about the great work project teams and working groups are doing

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Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday June 13, 2013 in Edmonton.

New AWC Website!

Check out our new and improved website at www.awchome.ca.

New work for the Council

The project on Safeguarding Alberta's Water Supplies and Ecosystems from Aquatic Invasive Species is beginning this month as a working group develops terms of reference. Watch for more information on this exciting work in the next issue!

AWC Presentation Opportunity

Would you like to raise awareness in your group or sector about the Council? Staff would be happy to present information about how the Council works, including an update on its projects, and to respond to questions. If you are interested in such a presentation, please contact Council Staff or email info@awchome.ca



THE CONFLUENCE

Non-Point Source Pollution Team completes its final report

The Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) Project Team presented its final report and recommendations to Council at the March board meeting. The team was established to "Provide recommendations on how to better manage the total non-point source contaminant loading in our watersheds to achieve Water for Life goals." To accomplish



this goal, the team commissioned two major reports: a) a Phase I assessment of the current "state of" NPS knowledge, and b) a Phase II examination of the policy, practices and regulatory tools for dealing with NPS. Both reports can be found on the Council's [website](#). The team's analysis of these reports and its own research findings led to its five recommendations for improving NPS management in Alberta.

This report is the first of its kind to use a multi-stakeholder, watershed-based approach to develop provincial policy recommendations for addressing NPS. The cumulative effects of NPS in conjunction with point source pollution and the contribution of natural processes to water quality in a watershed are not well understood at this time.

Tracking the Implementation of the Council's Recommendations

The Implementation Tracking System of Council Recommendations is a simple tool to allow the Board and others to easily assess the implementation progress of Council recommendations. As a first year pilot, progress was reported to Council on a semi-annual basis, but the Board decided at the March meeting to move to an annual reporting cycle. The Council's tracking reports can be found [online](#).

Celebrating Another Council Success

The Water For Life Implementation Review Committee held their celebration dinner recently. The Committee members are pictured below.



Council's Newsletter

The Council's newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, providing a quick update for board members and other interested stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think. Email your feedback to info@awchome.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

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processes to water quality in a watershed are not from unaddressed issues. Historically, each sector has attempted to tackle NPSP concerns independently rather than taking a more integrated, holistic approach at the watershed level.

The NPSP recommendations focus on building a solid foundation of scientific knowledge to manage NPSP at its core. To manage NPSP, knowledge and tools are needed to determine how much there is (quantification), where it is coming from (research), if it is a problem (evaluation) and what we can do about it (mitigation).

Looking at what is known about NPSP in Alberta and in other jurisdictions, a roadmap for future direction can be developed. Many existing water quality, land-use and water management initiatives underway in the province align well with NPSP work; such as the move to Cumulative Effects Management, regional land and watershed plans, water quality management frameworks, and various monitoring and modeling initiatives. Raising awareness of the need to integrate NPSP management into these initiatives is an essential first step.

The report also highlights that no one agency or sector can manage NPSP on its own. Fortunately, a framework for collaboration already exists in Alberta through the *Water for Life* Strategy. Engaging governments, sectors, and watershed partnerships through existing *Water for Life* activities will speed the development of an effective NPSP



management framework for the province. This improved connectivity of policy and planning at multiple scales will lead to better decisions in the management of NPSP and ultimately, improved water quality management in Alberta. The NPSP project report and recommendations will be posted shortly to the Council's website at www.awchome.ca. Way to go NPSP team members!

Team Members:

Ron Axelson, Yin Deong, John Englert, Andrea Kalischuk, Bernd Manz, Sharon McKinnon, Ron McMullin, Stephanie Neufeld, Dwight Oliver, Lynn Robb, Tracy Scott, Jason Unger, Martin VanOlst, Jay White

Project Managers:

Meredith Walker, Alesha Hill, Petra Rowell

Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Team wraps up

After several years of work the Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Project Team has completed its tasks and developed three consensus recommendations. This team was established as a forum for sectors to exchange ideas and discuss experiences and challenges in developing their voluntary CEP plans. As



sectors prepared their plans, the team provided multi-stakeholder advice on how to address challenges, and considered whether adjustments were needed to improve the process for developing possible future sector plans. Bringing together the seven major water-using sectors and other stakeholders in support of a common goal is a remarkable accomplishment. The following sectors, under the guidance and leadership of the organizations noted, completed CEP plans as part this project's work:

- Forestry – Alberta Forest Products Association
- Irrigation – Alberta Irrigation Products Association

- Urban Municipalities – Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
- Chemical – Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
- Petrochemical – Canadian Fuels Association
- Oil and Gas and Oil Sands Mining – Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and the Oil Sands Developers Group
- Power Generation – ATCO Power, Capital Power and TransAlta

The report from the CEP team noted some gaps and potential improvements with respect to the framework and process used to develop CEP plans, and provided observations to enhance future CEP plans. This report also features brief highlights of individual sector CEP plans; the full plans can be found on the Council's [website](#). Finally, the report makes recommendations regarding the timing and content of sector plan progress reports to ensure that progress is noted on both CEP sector plan goals and objectives as well as on the goals of the *Water for Life* strategy. The team agreed that protecting the health of aquatic ecosystems is important and believes that many of the CEP opportunities being implemented by sectors will support this goal, although precise measurement may not be possible at present.



Although team members held diverse views on some of the topics it considered, robust and focused discussions enabled them to reach consensus on the recommendations. The team presented its work to Council at the March Board meeting and the report will be posted shortly to the Council's website at www.awchome.ca. Congratulations to CEP team members!

Team Members:

Maureen Bell, Tasha Blumenthal, Rachel Bocock, Scott Hillier, Ron McMullin, Valerie Moore, Keith Murray, Jennifer Nitschelm, Sarah Pearce, Kelly Scott, Al Schulz, John Skowronski, Judy Stewart.

Project Managers:

Andre Asselin, Alesha Hill

Riparian Team making good progress



At its March meeting, the Board approved the riparian team's ecological definition of the term *riparian lands*. This ecological definition can be used across sectors to clearly identify and gain agreement on what comprises riparian lands. The team is working on its final report and 13 potential recommendations to improve riparian land conservation and management in the province, and expects to circulate a package for sector

engagement later this spring.

The team also commissioned a consultant's report entitled Current state of riparian lands in Alberta, and the management and stewardship "best practices" (policy, practices and procedures) in Alberta and other jurisdictions; this report can be found on the Council's [website](#).

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Symposium Committee on Exploring Water Re-use for Household Municipal and Industrial Applications kicks off its work

This initiative originated from a statement of opportunity brought forward by the Government of Alberta at the October 2012 board meeting, at which time the Board established a steering committee to further define the scope of the symposium on water re-use.



The steering committee has focussed on determining the purpose, intent, and target audience for the event. After considering several options, the committee decided that an event of around 200 people and two days would be appropriate. The symposium will take place in the spring of 2014 and will be located in a major center. The committee is now identifying themes and potential topics to begin shaping a program. Watch

for more information about the symposium in the next issue!

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