



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



Table of Contents

The Waterfall

Exciting features from the Alberta Water Council (AWC) as well as director and alternate profiles.

The Confluence

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

Water Pipes

Your link to Council business.

Drips and Drops

Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday March 19, 2015 in Calgary.



Spotlight on the AWC 10th Anniversary

Last year the AWC celebrated its tenth anniversary! Since its inception, many strides have been made through a myriad of AWC facilitated projects in collaboration with a number of sectors.

Water Reuse Symposium Proceedings available

Proceedings of the symposium *Re-Fresh: The Confluence of Ideas and Opportunities on Water Reuse* are now available online.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Waterfall	<i>AWC celebrates its tenth anniversary</i>
The Confluence	<i>Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team wraps up stakeholder interviews</i> <i>Water Literacy Project Team completes survey</i> <i>New project team will look at lake management in Alberta</i>
Water Pipes	<i>A job well done: Water Reuse Symposium</i>



THE WATERFALL

AWC celebrates its tenth anniversary!

Initially established in 2004 to serve an advisory function to government, the **Alberta Water Council (AWC)** was incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 2007. As a multi-stakeholder partnership, the AWC's primary task continues to be to monitor and steward the implementation of Alberta's **Water for Life** strategy and champion the achievement of the strategy's goals. The AWC's Board of Directors currently consists of twenty five members from government, industry, and non-governmental organizations.

Over the past ten years, AWC has facilitated a number of **water-related initiatives**. Some recent projects include: Riparian Land Conservation and Management, Non-Point Source Pollution, Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity, and the Water Reuse Symposium. Presently, the Council has the following projects underway: Water Literacy, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Lake Management.



Our tenth anniversary marks an important milestone as work on a number of important water-related initiatives have been successfully completed. We have advised the government of

New Project Team launched!

The Lake Management project will kick off in early 2015. We'll keep you up to date as this exciting work proceeds.

AWC Presentation Opportunity

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

Newsletter

This 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!

Photo Credits: Lorie Wagner and Susan Sly.



Forward this message to a friend

Contact Us: 780.644.7380



successfully completed. We have advised the government of Alberta, other stakeholders, and the public on effective water management practices and solutions to water issues and uncovered key priority areas for water research.

At the October 2014 Board of Directors meeting, accomplishments were celebrated by taking a moment to reflect on the past, look at where we are today, and where we would like to be in future. Past and current directors and alternates were recognized for their input and dedication to the AWC and its work. Honourable Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Kyle Fawcett also attended proceedings and provided insight into Alberta's future path towards water resource management and how the AWC will continue to have a significant role in this process.

Looking forward, we will continue to provide leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge to engage and empower water users and managers to achieve the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy and in turn ensure safe, healthy, and abundant water for future generations.

THE CONFLUENCE

Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team wraps up stakeholder interviews

The **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Project Team** was established in October 2013 to identify gaps and opportunities for improving awareness, communication, and coordination of AIS activities in Alberta. An early task for the team was interviewing stakeholders who are involved in AIS prevention and management to obtain in-depth perspectives on the current state of AIS in Alberta.

Over the summer, the team interviewed representatives from provincial, municipal, and federal agencies. These included individuals from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), Fisheries and Wildlife Enforcement, ESRD Fish and Wildlife Policy, and Agriculture and Rural Development's Pest Surveillance, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Agricultural Fieldmen of Rockyview County, the Canadian Border Services Agency, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Early analysis of interview data suggests there is a need to:

- Have more effective AIS legislation or a stand-alone AIS Act
- Define roles and responsibilities of key players
- Improve coordination among various levels of government, local sectors in Alberta, and other jurisdictions
- Invest more funding and resources into AIS enforcement, research, communication, prevent, and management
- Design and implement a province-wide education campaign with consistent messaging

Water Literacy Project Team completes survey

The AWC established the **Water Literacy Project Team** in March 2014 to enhance knowledge and provide recommendations to improve water literacy in Alberta.

The team surveyed stakeholders to take inventory of existing programs and products that relate to water literacy in Alberta and programs that are available to Albertans from other jurisdictions. Their survey was then used to evaluate and identify gaps in current research on ways to assess water literacy levels in Alberta.

The survey was distributed to all AWC sectors and other organizations and persons that have a role in water management, environmental education, communication, and outreach. Most of the survey focused on:

- Existing water education programs in Alberta
- Potential best practices in Alberta and other jurisdictions
- Water literacy assessment research

Over one hundred and twenty responses were collected from a wide variety of individuals and organizations across the province and a few from other jurisdictions. Among other things, early survey findings revealed that:

- There are approximately 150 water programs in Alberta
- Programs covered a wide variety of topics and were intended for a wide variety of audiences
- A lot of programs were created and designed in collaboration with partners
- Successful programs had well trained and engaging staff and were: hands on, interactive, collaborative, fun



and exciting



The team is analyzing survey data and looks forward to bringing more details to the Board of Directors in March 2015.

More details on this team's work can be found on the AWC's [website](#).

New project team will look at lake management in Alberta

The board approved a terms of reference for a new project team on lake management in October 2014. The project team will document and assess the current state of lake management planning and governance in Alberta, identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for improvements in lake management, and develop recommendations to support effective lake management in Alberta, including roles and responsibilities.

The terms of reference can be found on the AWC's [website](#).

[Back to Top](#)

WATER PIPES

A job well done: Water Reuse Symposium

The symposium initiative on water reuse was identified by AWC as priority work in October 2012. The **symposium**, which was held in June 2014, provided a platform that brought together water using sectors to share global water reuse knowledge, challenges, and solutions to inform the potential development of water reuse policy in Alberta.

Symposium evaluations and informal feedback indicated that the event was very successful. Nearly 200 participants heard from 18 speakers over the two days, and the committee secured 22 sponsors, reflecting the widespread interest in the topic. The committee concluded its work with several important observations on water reuse:

- It is worth taking a closer look at water reuse and the associated issues; the symposium just touched the surface of what needs to be done
- The symposium brought together a good cross-section of groups, but greater involvement and participation from the provincial government is needed to take the next steps
- Alberta can learn from other jurisdictions where approaches to water reuse are much further along
- To find good solutions, we need to better understand the environmental, social, and economic values as well as the costs and benefits associated with water reuse.

The AWC was very pleased to host this symposium and hopes this information will be thoughtfully and creatively incorporated into strategies that will move our province towards a more integrated and adaptable water management system that includes water reuse. Proceedings from the symposium can be found [here](#). Excellent work water reuse committee members!

Committee members: *Angela Alambets, Ken Brown, Al Kemmere, Scott Millar, Tara Payment, Edith Phillips, Judy Stewart, Zoe Thomas, and Fayi Zhou.*

Sponsorship Sub-Committee: *Brenda Casella, Al Kemmere, Kelly Rowsell, Judy Stewart, and Fayi Zhou.*

Communications and Promotion Sub-Committee: *Tasha Blumenthal, Joey Hurley, Sharon McKinnon, and Jay White.*

Project Managers: *Alesha Hill, Andre Asselin, Meredith Walker, and Anuja Ramgoolam*





Re-Fresh

The Confluence of Ideas and
Opportunities on Water Reuse
Alberta Water Council Symposium

[Back to Top](#)

Know someone who might be interested in the AWC E-Newsletter?

Forward this message to a friend

www.awchome.ca

Copyright © Alberta Water Council | [Newsletter Design by Primal Tribe](#)

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link:
[Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here to forward this email to a friend](#)

Alberta Water Council
#1400, 9915 - 108 Street
Petroleum Plaza, South Tower
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8
Canada

