



ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

E-NEWSLETTER

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Contact Us: 780.644.7380



Working together to ensure and sustain

- ✦ a safe water supply,
- ✦ a healthy environment
- ✦ and a prosperous economy



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Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 24th in Calgary.

Spotlight on Board Members

Watch for "**The Splash**" in future issues, where a selected board member will highlight their sector's interest in water and share what's new and innovative in their water world. If you would like to share some interesting facts about your sector's perspective on water, please contact info@awchome.ca.

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THE WATERFALL

Welcome to the Council's Newsletter



We would like to welcome you to the maiden voyage of the Council's E-Newsletter!

Our newsletter will cruise to your inbox three times per year shortly after each board meeting. It is our hope that this will provide a quick update for our board members and information for other interested stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are encouraged, so please let us know via info@awchome.ca. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

The Splash presents Gord Edwards, Executive Director for the Alberta Water Council



I am pleased to introduce the first issue of the Alberta Water Council's E-Newsletter and give you a snapshot of who we are, what we do and how we do business. However, in future features of "The



Splash”, we will be focussing on getting to know our members, learning about their sector’s interest in water and hear about some of the innovative water-related things their sectors are doing.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 2007, the Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership with 25 members from governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations. The Alberta Water Council brings together the expertise and experience of its members, under a consensus based partnership. All of our members have a vested interest in water and, as members of the Council, they apply their combined knowledge and expertise to issues affecting water in Alberta and recommend the best possible solutions.

The Council’s core businesses are: (1) Steward the Implementation of Water for Life (2) Provide Valued Policy Advice (3) Provide a Forum for Discussion and Resolution of Water Issues.

To support these core businesses, project teams carefully consider a water management issue and report back to the Council with their recommendations and advice. Project teams also operate by consensus and their reports are available to the public following approval by the board.

On behalf of the Alberta Water Council, I invite you to sit back and enjoy the stories of our members, hear about our projects, learn about Council processes and watch for how to become involved in the future!

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THE CONFLUENCE

Making connections - Moving From Words to Actions

Effective communication is necessary in all walks of life, and is a key element in the functioning of the Water for Life partnerships: Alberta Water Council, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and Watershed Stewardship Groups. This project team is working to improve coordination and communication between and among those partnerships so they can identify and more effectively address shared strategic priorities.

Project team members are working diligently to produce recommendations that will be tested with key stakeholders in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Taking an innovative approach to crack the non-point source pollution nut

This project team, established in June 2010 is the first of its kind to use a multi-stakeholder approach to develop provincial policy recommendations for addressing non-point source pollution. Historically, each industry has attempted to tackle the concerns on their own, but this project proposes a more holistic approach that may offer opportunities and solutions never considered in past management strategies. Developing a process that includes all of the major land and water users is an important first step to developing new ways to deal with non-point source contamination.

The project team members have decided to use a research approach and are looking into management practices for the project, in addition to taking a focus on the holistic and connected relationship between sectors, land use and non-point source pollution. The team has created a working definition of non-point source pollution in order to assist in scoping the project, and they will continue their work in the new-year where key elements of the project will be underway in partnership with a consultant.



Meeting their commitments, the seven major water using sectors continue developing sector plans

The seven major water-using sectors are contributing to the achievement of the Water for Life strategy's goals by developing water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) sector plans through their various sector associations. This important voluntary commitment by these sectors highlights the progressive shift of how Alberta's largest water using sectors both use and view water as they work cooperatively with Government of Alberta, non-government organizations and other government agencies in developing their plans.

These CEP plans and targets are being developed at the sector level, while implementing the plans will occur on a company by company, or community by community basis. At this time, two sectors have presented their sector plans to the Council and are now implementing. The Alberta Irrigation Projects Association has completed a CEP plan for the irrigation sector and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association has finished a plan for urban municipalities. Other sectors are continuing to make progress on their plans and it is also expected that another two sectors will complete their plans early in the new-year.

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WATER PIPES

Crop Sector Working Group Joins Council

The Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) is the Council's newest member, formally approved at the October 2010 Board meeting. The CSWG is an inclusive partnership of Alberta crop sector organizations committed to addressing and aligning agriculture and environmental policies and priorities in the province. The overarching goal for the Crop Sector Working Group is to develop crop-sector policies to guide appropriate land/water management practices and to advocate for specific actions. Water issues have been identified as a strategic priority for the CSWG and membership on the Council is welcomed as a key partnership in building understanding between stakeholders and working towards the *Water for Life* goals.

Neil Boyd, a Commissioner-at-Large with the Alberta Pulse Growers is the director and Sharon McKinnon, Policy Program Coordinator, with CSWG is the alternate. They join the Industry broad category and bring the number of Council Members to 25. Welcome to the Council!



Launch of a new Riparian Land Conservation and Management Policy Working Group

Riparian land systems have long been recognized as important components of a functioning healthy aquatic ecosystem and indicative of a watershed health. Riparian lands are among the

most productive and valuable of all landscape types in terms of species richness and ecological functions. Not only do they provide diverse and unique habitat for numerous species of wildlife, they are directly indicative of aquatic ecosystem health.

The quantity and health of riparian lands has declined dramatically in many areas of Alberta since the early 1900's. At the October 2010 Board meeting, members acknowledged this as a priority area needing further investigation and work, thus launching a working group to further scope the issues around riparian land management to determine whether the Council should undertake a project. The working group members are currently scoping the issues and will report back to the Board at the March 2011 meeting.



Great Contributors the the Council Move On

Each fall, the Council celebrates and recognizes directors and alternates that have stepped down from the Board over the course of the past year. Their hard work and dedication helped to make the Council a success and we thank them.

Special thanks is extended for the incredible contributions to the folks who were involved from the beginning, going back to August 2004 when the Council held its first meeting to determine what the Council could be and what it should be doing. We gratefully acknowledge the following long-standing, committed members of the Council who stepped down this year:

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Mike Kelly, TransAlta Corporation |
| Larry Nolan, Livestock Industry |
| Ron Pearson, Trout Unlimited Canada |
| Kevin Stashin, Devon Canada |
| Judy Smith, Shell Canada Ltd. |



We also acknowledge the significant contributions by other members who left this past year:

| |
|--|
| Barry Anderson, City of Edmonton |
| Wendy Boje, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development |
| David Breakwell, Alberta Energy |
| Jerry Cunningham, Métis Settlements General Council |
| Dave Kay - Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| Dug Major, WPAC Collective |
| Dwight Oliver, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties |
| David Rushford, Cenovus Energy Inc. |
| Lindsay Telfer, Sierra Club of Canada, Prairie Chapter |

We hope that you all keep in touch and continue to encourage our work from wherever you are!

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