

**Report to the Board – WPAC – Summit  
Peace River June 19 – 22, 2018  
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The Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance is the largest watershed in the province (established in 2011) and the Peace River is the longest river (2000 km long). The watershed has numerous challenges including but not limited to; water literacy, wetland loss, water quality and quantity issues with wells going deeper and deeper, hydraulic fracking, flow regime, transportation (ice bridges and ferries), the Dunvegan Bridge (only suspension Bridge in Alberta which was built in the 60's, a perceived abundance of water, limited population and appropriate funding for monitoring, infrastructure (few corridors) and bridges due to unstable banks. The Peace country has many resources (oil, gas, agriculture, industry etc) but getting to it is difficult.

On a very exciting note, they will be hosting the World Jet Boat Competitions in 2019!

WPAC Updates

All of the WPAC's had a few minutes to give quick updates as to what they had accomplished in the past two years and what they were working on. I urge you to go to their websites to see the great work going on in the province.

The Peace: An intertwining of social and transportation history of a mighty river – Laura Gloor

Laura gave a presentation with historic photos of the Peace River showing the historic use ranging from recreational, transportation and industrial use. The presentation was very good showing the beginning of the settling of the area and the importance of the river.

The Alberta-Northwest Territories Bilateral Water Management Agreement – Megan Beveridge

This is the agreement for the MacKenzie River Basin. This basin (of which the Athabasca River basin is a part of) is of global significance as it covers 20% of Canada. The vision: "The waters of NWT will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time"

This agreement between NWT, Yukon, Saskatchewan, BC and Alberta is almost finalized with all parties.



Forest Management and Watershed Planning – Gord Whitmore

Gord is the representative from Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. He provided us with a talk on their provincial plans for the removal of trees. They update their annual plans yearly but also have a 10 year and 20 year plan to assure sustainable use of the Woodlands.

Toward water security and climate change adaption through source water protection planning: Stories from the Canadian Prairie – Bob Patrick

Bob gave an overview on a source water protection plan and spoke on examples of how these plans can be developed, implemented and integrated with the other plans of a community. After

Walkerton in 2000, 93 recommendations came out of the report. New York saved billions by going to a source water protection plan.

Bob has worked with First Nations in the development of their plans.

Likelihood X impact = risk

Use a multi-barrier approach rather than just treatment!

#### Southshore Wastewater Reclamation Project – Jeff Fisher

This was a large project that had started over 10 years ago and was recently completed on the Slave Lake Southshore at Canyon Creek, Alberta. Details were given on the project from funding, stakeholder, land owner engagement, design, to the building and construction of the Wastewater Management Water Reclamation Facility and all the connections to the home owners properties. He noted various challenges but overall the facility is operating well and is considered a success story.

#### South Saskatchewan Water Management Plan Review – Mike Murray

Mike gave an overview on the 10 year review process of the plan. They have implemented a Water Conservation Water Management Plan as the tributaries are stressed. There are no new surface water licenses, 10% holdback may be applied to the transfer of a license, there are many irrigation water saving strategies and conservation strategies being implemented. Their WPAC has this as part of their mission.

#### Collaborative watershed management in the Heart River Watershed

This is a success story in that they have been measuring the following:

- Number of Riparian Revegetation sites
- Farm Water Planning – increase in water retention and increase in distribution of nutrients
- Number of culvert improvements with reduction in sediment loading and mitigation of fish barriers
- Increase in bank stabilization (reduce bank erosion)
- Increase in off site watering points for livestock management
- Cropper setbacks – number of hectares put back into native vegetation and increase in the cows and fish scores

ALUS (see their website [www.alus.ca](http://www.alus.ca)) helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties.

ALUS provides per-acre annual payments to ALUS participants to recognize their dedication to managing and maintaining all the ALUS projects on their land.

#### Tracking Changes – Neil Spicer

[www.trackingchange.ca](http://www.trackingchange.ca) This talk focused on the water security levels for indigenous Groups in Canada. Looking at Governance, Livelihood, Wellbeing, Fish and Water through multiple scales asking questions such as:

Is there enough food (fish)?

Can we eat it?

Is there good water?

#### Source Water Protection plans and drinking water safety plans – What are they? – Donald Reid and Phil Boehme

Source water protection is more cost effective than trying to purify it after it has been contaminated.

Source water protection plans are mandatory in Ontario but not in Alberta.

Myth - Source water is pristine

A team effort is better

A very small amount of contamination can be a very big danger

Water utilities have the Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP)

Barriers include: Capacity, communications, lack of expertise, lack of mapping, access and sharing of data

Data from US shows that cost savings are evident when the source water is protected

Hazard and Analysis and Critical Control (HACCP)

The World Health Organization - The Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ) promote the protection of public health by advocating for the development of locally relevant standards and regulations (health based targets), adoption of preventive risk management approaches covering catchment to consumer (Water Safety Plans) and independent surveillance to ensure that Water Safety Plans are being implemented and effective and that national standards are being met.

Water and Human Survival – Governance is the Key!

Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP) AEP has a very good section on their website.

#### WPAC Manager's Meeting

Andre Asselin from Alberta Water Council gave an update and provided the information on how AWC/WPAC collaboration can look like.

Updates on the AEP Grant allocation and reporting were made from each WPAC.

WPAC's and SOW reporting was discussed.

WPAC Planning and IWMP's status were discussed.

Policies, Contracts and OH&S compliance was discussed.

Mark gave an update on the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Grant Program.

Discussion on the 2020 WPAC – Summit – Can Athabasca Watershed Council be the host? Hopefully upon board approval!