

Watershed Management Plan for the Gregoire Lake Watershed



Project overview and
preliminary engagement
July 2018

For our discussion today

- Introduce the project
- Communicate project plans and discuss how you can be involved, and what to expect as the project proceeds
- Potentially identify additional resources, partnerships, and collaborations

Watershed Management Plan for the Gregoire Lake Watershed

A joint proposal to the Fort McMurray #468 First Nation (FMFN468) Industry Relations Corporation (IRC) to develop the Gregoire Lake Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

The WMP for the Gregoire Lake Watershed (the project) will:

- Characterize the state of the watershed and existing issues;
- Identify mitigation measures and management guidelines to improve the state of the watershed and its natural resources, and establish protection measures, where necessary, to ensure the ecological integrity of the watershed;
- Support and strengthen environmental stewardship by the FMFN468 community;
- Further implement the FMFN468 Comprehensive Community Plan; and,
- Provide an opportunity to provide input to and work with DFO on fisheries habitat compensation projects in the watershed

Phase 1: Prepare

Preliminary mapping and data compilation
Project kick-off workshop
Initial community and stakeholder engagement

Phase 2: Review

Technical assessment, literature review and gap analysis
Data gaps workshop
Initial inputs to DFO re: fisheries habitat compensation potentials

Phase 3: Collect & Confirm

Field investigations and data collection
Water walk and focus group with FMFN468 Knowledge Holders and youth
Data analysis workshop
Additional inputs to DFO re: fisheries habitat compensation potentials
Reporting back to community
Development of goals, objectives and priorities

Phase 4: Plan

Planning and implementation workshops
Develop draft watershed management plan
Present the draft plan
Finalize the plan

Aspects of the technical assessment

Phase 2 includes a thorough literature review by all consultant groups of all available background information and data compiled during Phase 1.

This will form the foundation of the technical assessment of the watershed, which will provide an overview of the current knowledge base and condition of the watershed and identify problematic areas and/or areas of concern (e.g., hydrologic connectivity or effects on the lake).

Category	Aspect	Lead Consultant
General Description of Watershed		WaterSMART
Legislative & Planning Framework		Dillon
Watershed Characteristics: Human and Stakeholder Impacts	Surface water management	WaterSMART
	Air quality (if required)	WaterSMART
	Water supply and wastewater systems	WaterSMART with inputs from McElhanney
	Natural land cover	WaterSMART
	Land uses	WaterSMART with inputs from Dillon
	Sociocultural resources	Dillon
Watershed Characteristics: Hydrology	General hydrology and drainage features	WaterSMART
	Groundwater resources and aquifers	McElhanney
	Surface water quality and quantity	WaterSMART with inputs from McElhanney
	Climate change	WaterSMART to lead and provide inputs to McElhanney for local flood model impacts
	Water supply and wastewater systems	WaterSMART with inputs from McElhanney
	Surface water management	WaterSMART
Watershed Characteristics: Ecology and Feedbacks (Human & Ecohydrological)	Geography, soils and topography	McElhanney with inputs from WaterSMART
	Aquatic habitat and resources	McElhanney
	Terrestrial habitat and resources	McElhanney
	Riparian and wetland habitats and resources	McElhanney
	Human feedbacks	McElhanney

Project objectives

The process of developing the watershed management plan will:

- Improve FMFN468's understanding of the watershed and how it functions;
- Provide clear objectives and policies of how to manage the watershed sustainably and in an integrated manner;
- Clearly specify community and environmental outcomes;
- Enable decision making that is based on the best available information;
- Recommend management and implementation measures that are adequately resourced; and
- Be well integrated with other regional and resource-based plans.

Purpose of engagement for this work

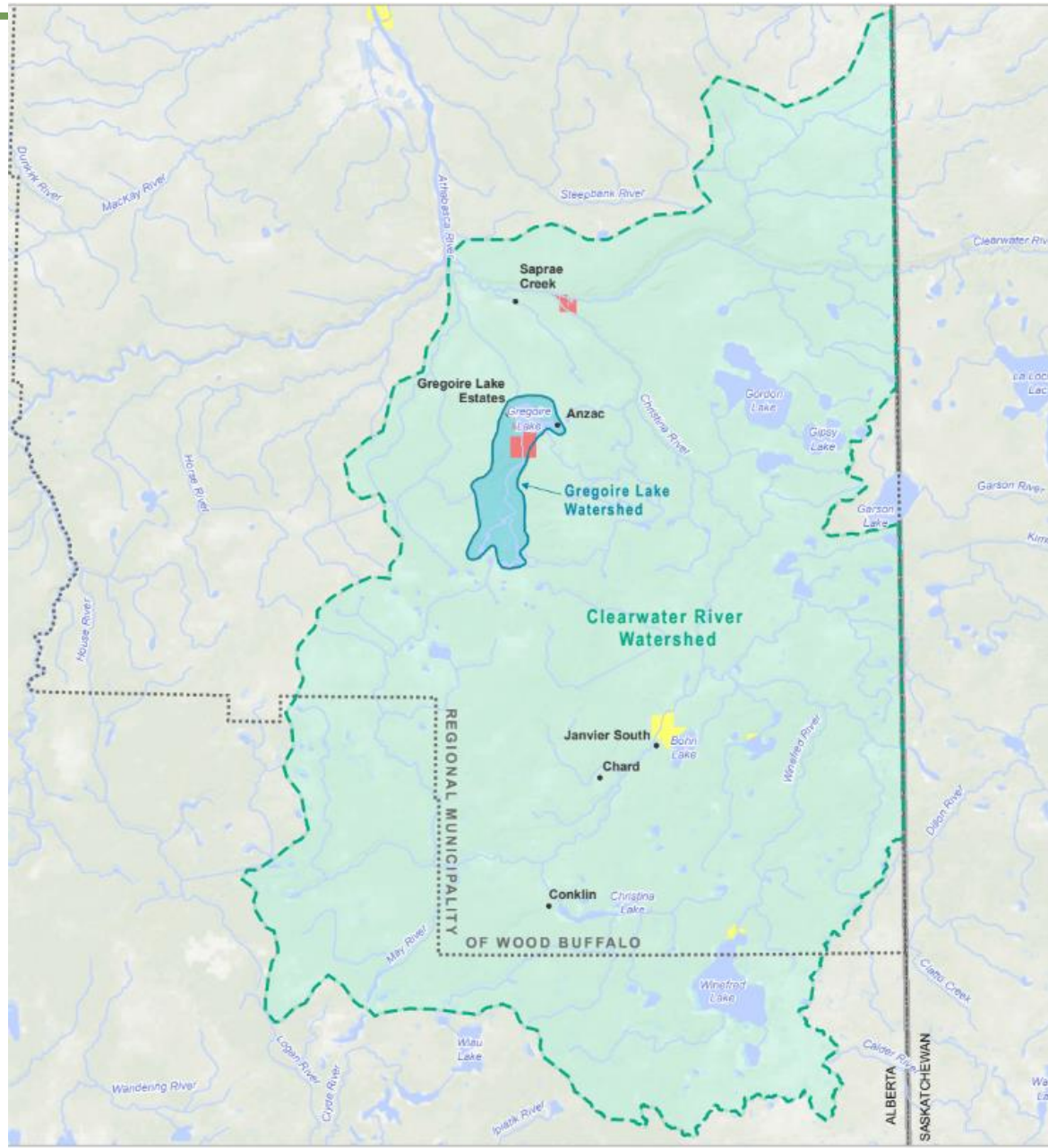
- Introduce the project and share information on the watershed management planning process with stakeholders through introductory meetings;
- Communicate project plans and intent to stakeholders in the region, discuss how stakeholders can be involved, and what they can expect as the project proceeds and afterwards; and
- Look for opportunities to identify additional resources, and form relationships, partnerships, and collaborations.

Stakeholders that might be involved

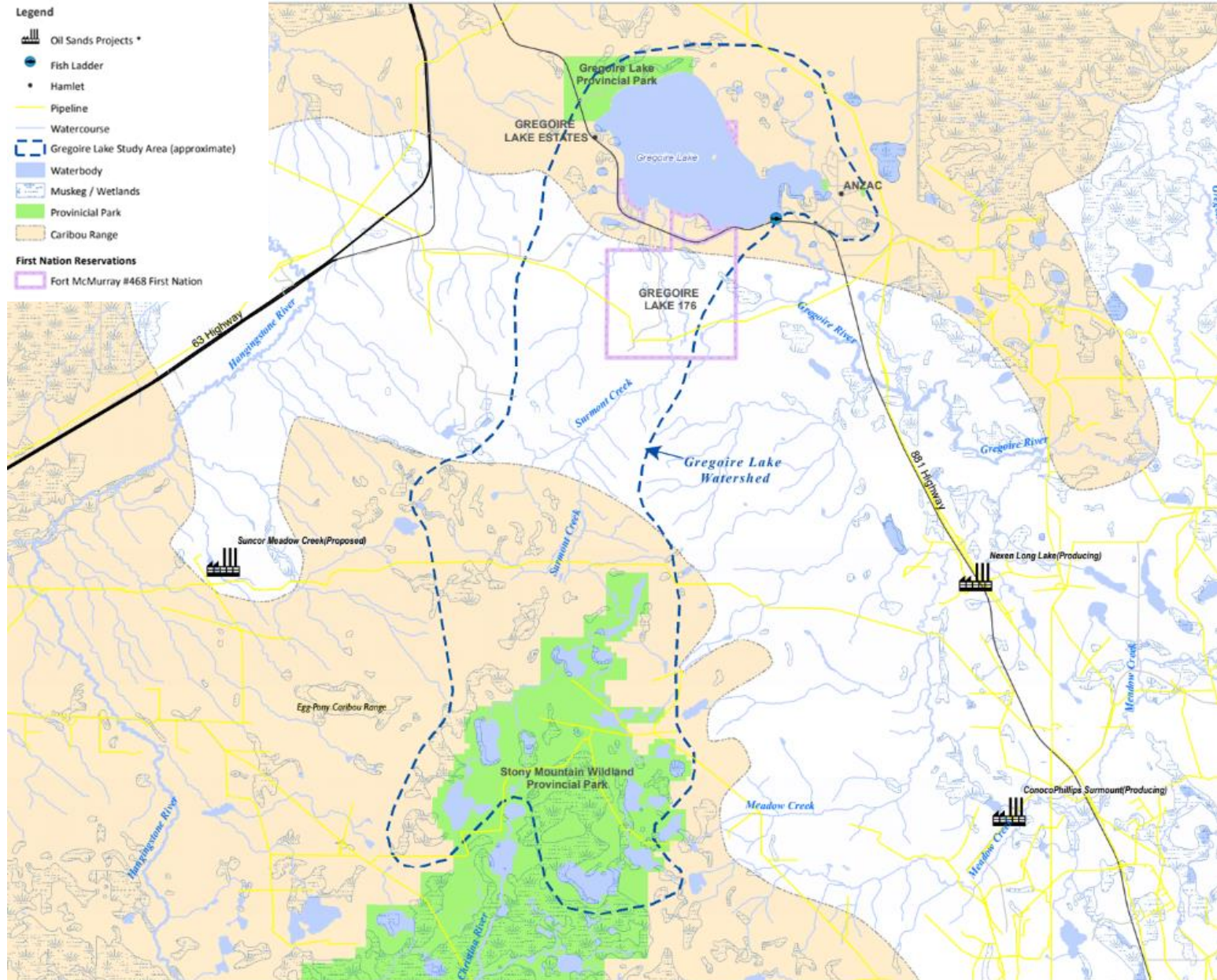
Expected participants will be representatives from groups such as the

- FMFN Community/IRC reps
- Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC)
- Government of Alberta (i.e., Alberta Environment and Parks and/or Alberta Energy Regulator)
- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB)
- Government of Canada (i.e., Fisheries and Ocean Canada and/or Environment Canada)
- Nearby oil sands operators
- Environmental Non-Government Organizations (e.g., AWA, DU)

Scope: Gregoire Lake Watershed



Scope: Gregoire Lake Watershed



Your interest in this work...

Are you/your organization interested in being engaged in this work?

What would be your level of engagement you would be interested in?

- Be informed on the work and future updates?
- Be more directly involved in the project?
 - Attend a workshop in September or October in Fort McMurray with the FMFN community members and stakeholders in the watershed.
 - workshop would be to report back on findings of the technical assessment and gap analysis, and to look for opportunities to form relationships, partnerships, and collaborations
 - Support development and implementation of that plan

Water: the key to our sustainable future



For more information:

WaterSMART Solutions Ltd.

www.albertawatersmart.com

Email:

mike.nemeth@albertawatersmart.com