

**Athabasca Watershed Council
March 15 Board Meeting**

Interim Executive Director's Report

Good morning everyone. My sincerest apologies for not being with you today. Unfortunately, I had a previous commitment that I could not change, however, I very much look forward to meeting you all in person at the May 10-11 board meeting in Whitecourt.

I'm sure Brian and the rest of Executive will provide a better update on activities than I can as I am still getting caught up with processes and projects. But from my perspective, please know that for the month of March, staff priorities are to get the SOW report printed (should be ready this Friday – thanks Marie!) and launched via three open houses (March 20-Edson, March 21-Westlock and March 28-Fort McMurray). Please know that we will continue to promote the SOW at events and through social media throughout the spring and summer. So if you have an event or area you'd like to see something done, please come and talk to myself or Marie. Please know that through SOW events, we are also doing a soft launch on the IWMP, asking open house participants what issues a plan should address, and how they would like to be engaged in development of an IWMP. This information will help the IWMP committee with their next step, to draft an IWMP Terms of Reference.

Our second priority for March is to assist the Executive and Committees with all year-end grant and reporting requirements. Once year-end is out of the way, we look forward to implementing the strategic plan the Board has recently developed and approved. Looking at the 2018-19 workplan, there is much to do (see project table below)! Some of this work will be done by staff – much will be done by committees. I'm hoping this will be a major focus of our May board meeting. Until then, I will try and catch up to committee chairs in the next few weeks, to ensure we know who is leading which project, and to discuss how staff can help Executive and committees with this work. Having met Marie and Bruce, I know that the AWC-WPAC office is well-situated and eager to provide strong support to the Board and its committees going forward.

I hope you have a engaging and productive meeting over the next two days. I'm very much looking forward to catching up with each of you in the near future, and gaining a better understanding of how I can help the AWC-WPAC with achieving its goals.

Warm regards,
Petra Rowell,
Interim Executive Director

