



*"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one."*

*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*

*In this issue:*

- **The Waterfall:** Director Profile on Rob Hoffman, Chemical and Petrochemical Sector
- **The Confluence:** Project updates: Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta, Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought, and the launch of the next *Water for Life* Implementation Review.
- **Water Pipes:** The AWC Recognition Dinner & The Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Water Working Group

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*The Waterfall*



### ***Rob Hoffman***

Canadian Fuels Association; Chemistry Industry Association of Canada  
Chemical and Petrochemical Sector

Four years ago, Rob accepted a position with the Canadian Fuels Association that ultimately led him joining the Alberta Water Council. He currently works as the Director of Government & Stakeholder Relations. Prior to that he spent 30 years with Imperial Oil, taking on numerous positions with the company, including Operations Manager for the Esso branded marina network in BC, Bulk Fuel Dealer Operations in BC and AB, Industrial and Wholesale Customer Supply, Fuels Logistics Manager, and Environmental Services with a focus on brownfield contaminated sites.

Raised in Alberta, Rob has always lived in western Canada, moving around various cities in Alberta and British Columbia. He currently resides in Calgary. He credits joining the Alberta Water Council for him being better informed about the water resources in Alberta, "In my view, most people in Alberta take access to clean and abundant water for granted because our water resources are mostly very well managed. The water management challenges we do have are rarely front page news. It is our job as stakeholder representatives on the AWC to widely share what we learn at the AWC table so that more Albertans can know about the good work being done to keep our water resources clean and accessible, and better understand our challenges."

It's important for industry to play a part in ensuring efficient and responsible water use and management. The Chemical and Petrochemical sector relies on a

continuous and uninterrupted water supply for the cooling and manufacturing process units and is one of seven sectors that account for nearly all of the water use in Alberta.

The advantage of the AWC's multi-stakeholder table is a forum to take on complex challenges that offer diverse perspectives from across Alberta. In the last ten years, there has been less consumption of water per capita in Alberta, and Rob would like to see this continue. He believes that incremental improvements in Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity will continue as technology and efficiency gains continue, and he believes AWC provides a forum to help make that happen.

A multi-stakeholder table like the one available through the AWC provides a range of perspectives to address complex challenges. With the wide range of stakeholder views represented at the table, it's not always possible to achieve consensus, but the history and success of the AWC table will speak for itself. Dozens of important projects have been completed that have informed water policy for Alberta. In Rob's opinion, the most significant accomplishment is providing such a unique forum for all of this to happen.

His advice for people who might be new to the AWC board or project teams is, "Get in there! A wide range of experience, views and perspectives is always welcomed, and you'll get to meet and work with some great people. The networking opportunities are invaluable.... and they often have cookies at the meetings."

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### *The Confluence*



## **Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta**

The Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team kicked off the first

meeting in June of 2018. The team will document existing source water protection (SWP) approaches and provide guidance for protecting public, private, and individual drinking water sources in Alberta.

The Team has five objectives:

1. Synthesize SWP practices, processes, and risks to drinking water sources in Alberta
2. Document complementary source water-related initiatives (i.e., legislation, plans, policies, programs in Alberta and opportunities for integration and collaboration
3. Examine SWP approaches and risk management models in selected jurisdictions
4. Identify successes, gaps, barriers, redundancies, and lessons learned
5. Develop a guidance document highlighting best practices uncovered from objectives 1 to 4

Mike Christensen with Alberta Lake Management Society, and Phil Boehme with Alberta Environment and Parks provided an update on Source Water Protection at the Alberta Water Council Board Meeting, addressing the project's background, five objectives, the current progress and findings, and the next steps.

Over the summer, the project team distributed two online surveys, one for public and private organizations involved in source water protection, and one for individuals who rely on private sources of water. The first received 47 responses, and the second 98.

The surveys revealed the following results:

- Leadership and collaboration are needed for SWP in the province—at this time some municipalities and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are taking the lead on developing SWP plans.
- Integration is needed between the Drinking Water Safety Plans and SWP plans, and other processes (e.g., watershed/regional plans) in Alberta.
- There is inadequate monitoring of the drinking water source, and data about water quality and quantity are not readily available.
- There is a need to create greater awareness of the importance of SWP among the public.

The team is currently undertaking a jurisdictional scan with a consultant that will examine SWP approaches in British Columbia, California, Australia, and Colorado. The next steps required for a Source Water Protection Plan and best practices for

the guidance document are being drafted. The goal to present an update on these items at the next AWC board meeting in February 2019.

The project is expected to be completed in October 2019.

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## Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought

The first meeting of Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought was in June 2018. The team is expected to produce a guide and workshop materials to assist WPACs as they engage municipalities and communities within their watershed to better plan for, mitigate, respond to and recover from multi-year droughts.

Margo Jarvis-Redelback with the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, and Susanna Bruneau with the Battle River Watershed Alliance, co-chairs on the project team, provided the AWC Board of Directors with an update at the November 8th meeting, including progress made on each of the team's three objectives.

**Objective One:** Highlight the importance of multi-year drought management in Alberta by documenting lessons learned from previous droughts and expected changes due to climate change.

- The team completed a literature review and conducted 13 interviews with individuals knowledgeable about multi-year drought. The main outcome from this work was the development of adaption strategies.

**Objective Two:** Compile existing drought management information and resources in Alberta and case studies from selected jurisdictions.

- The team has inventoried existing tools and resources relevant to Alberta, including case studies.

**Objective Three:** Increase awareness of federal, provincial and municipal water management roles, responsibilities and regulations relevant to drought

- Work will continue in the coming months.

Findings from the 13 interviews:

- Drought is a high source of stress for ranchers and farmers who are usually very self-reliant and self-sufficient and not used to asking for help from someone else. Mental health impacts like stress, depression, and suicide are very high on farms.
- Droughts have raised the awareness of the need to conserve water and have contributed to a growing culture of water conservation.
- Storing as much water as possible: good storage and managing under the assumption that drought can happen at any time is what helped some groups get through past droughts.
- Whether it is before, during or after a drought, continuous education is necessary so that people don't forget what to do or panic. Education and communication are key.

The team is currently compiling case studies of how drought is managed in different jurisdictions to include in their final report and building sections of the guide. An update on this work is anticipated at the next AWC board meeting in February 2019.

The project team expects to complete their work by November 2019, with the draft guide and results from the workshop ready in June.



## ***Water for Life* Implementation Review**

The *Water for Life Implementation Review* (WFLIR) is an ongoing effort to steward the Water for Life Strategy by the Alberta Water Council. The previous review was

completed in 2017. Following the development of the new Business Plan and the updates to the strategies associated with the WFLIR, the board agreed by consensus to reconvene the *Water for Life* Implementation Review Committee.

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## *Water Pipes*



Alberta Water Council Recognition Dinner

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, current and retiring AWC directors as of 2018 were invited to attend an annual recognition dinner to thank them for their participation and ongoing work with the Alberta Water Council.

Directors gathered at the McDougall Centre in Calgary for a reception, followed by a meal, and a presentation from Ethan Berman from the University of British Columbia Faculty of Forestry, sharing his work on *SNOWARP: daily estimates of 30-m fractional snow-covered area driven by MODIS and dynamic time warping*.

Retiring directors Al Kemmere and Katherine Sinex were honored for their participation on the Alberta Water Council. We thank Al and Katherine for all of their work and time invested into the Alberta Water Council, and wish them the very best in the future adventures!

An outline of Ethan's work related to SNOWARP can be found by [clicking here](#) or

email Ethan directly by [clicking here](#).

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*The Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta Water Working Group*

Submitted by Paul Jungnitsch

The Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) is a multi-stakeholder partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and environmental non-government organizations, working to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective. AEPA's vision is that

Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance. It's mission is to engage and build knowledge of partner organizations which enable AEPA to provide credible, proactive, and respected input to agri-environmental policy development processes.

AEPA believes that all agricultural stakeholders need to be aware of current water issues in order to take part in, and add their voice to, water policy and planning initiatives that may affect the future of agriculture in Alberta. Since 2008, members of the AEPA Board and its committees have undertaken efforts to educate themselves about water issues and how they might impact agriculture in Alberta.

To aid with this a subgroup dealing specifically with water issues was formed in 2011. The purpose of this Water Working Group (WWG) is to proactively inform, engage, and receive input and feedback of agriculture stakeholders (including the AEPA Board, its members, water and watershed organizations and other with a water mandate) in order to effectively participate in provincial water quality and supply initiatives, and the development of water policies related to agriculture.

At the current time On-Farm Surface Water Management, including drainage, dugouts and wetlands, has been the largest topic of focus. Additional issues have been addressed as they gain importance to the group.

**Water Working Group Members (October 2018)**

- Fiona Briody (Chair) Crop Industry – Crop Sector Working Group
- Deepak Muricken Government – Alberta Environment and Parks
- Don Shepert Crop Industry – Alberta Pulse Growers
- Greg Bowie Livestock Industry – Alberta Beef Producers
- Andrea Kalischuk Government – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Howie Bjorge Environmental – Alternative Land Use Services Canada

- Michael Froese Livestock Industry – Poultry Associations
- Ron Axelson Livestock Industry – Intensive Livestock Working Group
- Tanis Downey Livestock Industry – Diversified Livestock
- Thomas McDade Crop Industry – Potato Growers of Alberta
- Tracy Scott Environmental – Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Paul Jungnitsch AEPA – Project Manager

For more information about AEPA or the WWG please [click here](#).

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### *2019 Board Meeting Dates*

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Edmonton

Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Calgary

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Board Recognition Dinner) - Edmonton

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Edmonton

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