



Working together to ensure and sustain

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



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The report for the Council's most recently completed project is now on the website: The **Riparian Land Conservation and Management Report and Recommendations** was released on March 18, 2014.

Webinars

A series of webinars is planned to increase understanding around projects that have been selected as an area of Council focus or have potential to be selected in the future. More general water management issues will also be webinar topics, as will sector-specific water issues and the processes for making management decisions. See the **Water Pipes** section of this newsletter for details on the upcoming water literacy webinar.

New 2014-2016 Business Plan available

The board approved a new three-year business plan at the October meeting. **The pdf version is available here** and printed copies are available on request.

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THE WATERFALL

Council welcomes a new President

The Alberta Water Council is pleased to announce that Bill Werry, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) will serve as our new President!

Bill was appointed Deputy Minister of ESRD on December 18, 2013. Throughout his 30-year career, Bill has earned a reputation for getting results through his emphasis on the three Cs: cooperation, collaboration and consensus. His personal commitment to building relationships among diverse stakeholders has benefitted a wide range of public and not-for-profit sectors in Alberta and Saskatchewan, including:

- Aboriginal relations
- Advanced education and technology commercialization
- Human services
- Parks
- Recreation
- Sport and culture
- Tourism

A strong advocate of the Alberta Public Service's Vision and Values, Bill is a firm believer in fostering continuous improvement at both institutional and personal levels. He applies that belief to ensure that programs for which he is responsible are not only client

AWC Presentation Opportunity

Would you like to raise awareness in your group or sector about the Council? Staff would be happy to present information about how the Council works, including an update on its projects, and to respond to questions. If you are interested in such a presentation, please contact Council Staff or email info@awchome.ca

Spotlight on Board Members

Check out our board member profile in The Waterfall section. This is a regular feature about a Council director or alternate, along with interesting water news from their sector.

Council's Newsletter

The Council's newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, providing a quick update for board members and other interested stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think. Email your feedback to info@awchome.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

Photo Credits: Susan Sly (Nature Photos), AESRD (The Waterfall Director Feature).

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focused, but also client driven.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister of ESRD, Bill was Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations, and Advanced Education and Technology. He also served as Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, as well as Assistant Deputy Minister for the Parks, Conservation, Recreation and Sport Division in Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

In addition, Bill served as the Executive Director of Resource Consultation and Traditional Use in the Department of Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. He has also been a sessional lecturer at the University of Regina and is a frequent presenter at national, regional and provincial conferences.

Bill has a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from the University of Alberta and a Master of Science degree in Physical Activity Studies from the University of Regina. He and his wife, Joyce, have three children and four grandchildren.

Message from Bill Werry, Council President



I am honoured to be recently appointed as the President of the Alberta Water Council (AWC).

Since its inception in May, 2004, the AWC has served as the provincial vehicle for garnering the interests and input of all key sectors, including industry, governments and non-government organizations (NGOs), with a vested interest in water and water management. This is achieved through the Council's values of collaboration, fairness, innovation, respect, timeliness, transparency and trust. The work of the AWC and its participants spans the breadth of *Water for Life* issues and is targeted towards achieving the strategies' three goals of safe, secure, drinking water; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable supplies for a sustainable economy. Recommendations produced through AWC's Project Teams are both developed and valued by stakeholders and the Government of Alberta as a vehicle to contributing to the achievement of the *Water for Life* goals. *Water for Life* is expected to continue to be the province's guiding water management strategy.

The AWC is identified as a key strategic partnership of the Government of Alberta in the *Water for Life* Strategy, as well as in helping to achieve the ESRD's priority outcomes with respect to water issues and management. Within Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, we are increasingly focused on working together with our stakeholders to ensure that our natural resources are managed in a way which balances environmental, social and economic needs. We strive for excellence in our policies, programs, services and approach to serving Albertans. Innovation and collaboration is required to be responsive and adaptive to evolving and increasingly complex needs and issues facing our province.

I look forward to working with the Council.

THE CONFLUENCE

Aquatic Invasive Species Team completes survey

The Council established the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Project Team in June 2013 to identify gaps and opportunities for improving awareness, communication and



coordination of activities by Alberta stakeholders who are working to prevent and manage the threats of AIS.

This past winter, the team surveyed



stakeholders to develop an understanding of how AIS threats are prevented and managed in Alberta. The survey was distributed to all AWC sectors as well as other organizations and persons that have a role in water management, groups that focus on

water-based recreation, and industries not directly represented on Council. Most of the survey focused on major themes of AIS prevention and management, including:

- Risk Assessment
- Prevention Activities
- Education and Awareness
- Monitoring
- Response plans
- Stakeholder Communication

Approximately 250 responses were collected from a wide variety of individuals and organizations from across the province; all major water basins were represented as well. Among other things, early survey findings showed that:

- Lots of people are involved in AIS prevention, and even more want to be involved going forward.
- There is a lack of materials, resources and knowledge to be better engaged in AIS prevention and management.
- People and groups are ready to help, but are looking for leadership.
- Legislation needs to support effective prevention and management.

The information gathered on AIS prevention and management in the province will help the team develop its recommendations.

Further information on this team's work can be found on the Council's [website](#).

New project team to look at water literacy

In October 2013, the board approved a new project in the area of water literacy based on a statement of opportunity entitled "A Strategic Approach for Water Literacy; Education and Outreach in Alberta". A working group was launched to further scope the project and



develop draft terms of reference, which were approved by the board in March 2014.

The project team will propose a definition for water literacy, compile an inventory of existing programs and products for water literacy in the province, review and evaluate water literacy best practices from other jurisdictions, assess water literacy levels

among Albertans, and recommend ways to improve water literacy in Alberta.

The Terms of Reference can be found on the Council's [website](#). Great job water literacy working group members!

Working Group Members: Tasha Blumenthal, Deanna Cottrell, Amanda Doyle, Vanessa Higgins, Sharina Kennedy, Arin MacFarlane-Dyer, Sharon McKinnon, Kim McLeod, Ron McMullin, Christina Pickles, Harpreet Sandhu.

Project Managers: Meredith Walker and Alesha Hill

WATER PIPES

Registration Opens for Symposium on Water Reuse

Registration has opened for the Symposium **Re-Fresh: The confluence of ideas and opportunities on water reuse**. The two day event will be held in Calgary at the Hotel Arts on June 25 & 26, 2014. This event will bring participants together to share global water reuse knowledge, challenges and solutions to inform the potential development of responsive water reuse policy in Alberta. Speaker highlights include:

- Jay Ingram – Symposium Chair
- Minister Robin Campbell – Opening Address
- Brian Gregg (General Electric, Manager Global Research) – Keynote on Technology and Innovation
- Mark Anielski (Economist and Author) – Keynote on Applying Water Reuse Strategies in Alberta

Many **sponsorship** opportunities are still available for the Symposium. To become a partner in water reuse knowledge visit the sponsorship page on our website. There are only 150 delegate spots and they are going quickly. Don't miss out on this Alberta Water Council event and register [here!](#)

For more information about the symposium check out the event's [website!](#)



Water Literacy Webinar

You are invited to join the Council's webinar on water literacy in Alberta on **Wednesday, April 16, 2014 from 10:00am-10:20am**. Literacy is a word we most often connect with reading, not water! What does water literacy mean and how do we get there? Christina Pickles will share work done by the Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) on what an environmentally literate Albertan looks like and how water literacy fits in this picture. She will also share the value and opportunity presented by the Water Education Community of Practice to coordinate and advance water literacy in Alberta.

Christina is the Program Coordinator for ACEE, a non-profit organization supporting formal and non-formal environmental education for all audiences in Alberta. She has been involved in environmental education and public outreach for 16 years, with Ducks Unlimited, Bow Habitat Station, Alberta Parks, University of Calgary Biogeoscience Institute and Alberta Environment. Christina has worked with audiences of all ages to help them better understand the world around them and the interconnectedness of all things. She leads ACEE's Community of Practice for Environmental Educators program.

Please click on the [registration link](#) to participate in the Council's water literacy webinar.

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