



ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

E-NEWSLETTER

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All living things need water to survive - Water for Life Strategy

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Drips and Drops

New executive director takes over operations for the AWC and CASA

Following a decision to amalgamate staff services for the AWC and CASA, Andre Asselin was appointed executive director of both organizations in July. More details below.

AWC release two new reports

The AWC released two reports, one on lake watershed management and the other on water conservation, efficiency, and productivity. Details below.

New work for the AWC

The AWC board approved new work in two areas. More details below.

AWC and CASA amalgamation

The AWC and CASA staff started sharing office space and support staff in May. More details below.



THE WATERFALL

New executive director takes over operations for the AWC and CASA

The executive committees of the **AWC** and **CASA** appointed Andre Asselin as executive director of both organizations this July. Hiring Andre for this role marked an important step towards amalgamating the administrative operations of both organizations under a

New AWC video!

Check out the latest video production on *Water for Life!* Link can be found below.

Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday 29 March, 2018 in Calgary.

AWC Presentation Opportunity

Would you like to raise awareness in your group or sector about the AWC? Staff would be happy work with you to determine how we can meet your needs. If you are interested in such a presentation, please contact staff or email info@awchome.ca

AWC Newsletter

The AWC's newsletter will arrive at your inbox after each board meeting, providing a quick update for stakeholders. Comments and

more streamlined and cost-efficient model. Andre is a firm believer in the power of collaboration, a key underpinning of both AWC and

CASA. "Albertans must continue working together to ensure our water and air resources are safe and secure for current and future generations. The AWC and CASA are important multi-stakeholder partnerships that bring together the expertise and experience of their diverse members through a consensus-based partnership to achieve those goals," he says. "We will continue providing leadership, expertise and sector knowledge to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations and governments." He believes the values of AWC and CASA – collaboration, fairness, innovation, respect, timeliness, transparency and trust – are critical to ensuring these relationships are effective.



Andre joined the AWC in 2010. He holds a BSc. in environmental and conservation sciences with a specialization in environmental economics and policy, and pursued graduate studies in resource economics, both at the University of Alberta. Andre was an AWC project manager for four years, supporting several project teams, working groups and committees by facilitating the multi-stakeholder consensus decision-making process. As he progressively took on more responsibilities through the role of operations manager in 2014, he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the AWC and supported the executive director in advancing the goals of the organization. Later in 2014, he was entrusted with the responsibilities of senior manager. In January 2017, long-time AWC executive director Gord Edwards retired and Andre was named acting executive director. When he is not working, Andre enjoys cooking and travelling with his wife Sheena.

suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think. Email your feedback to info@awchome.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!



Over the coming months, Andre will continue to oversee amalgamation of AWC and CASA operations. This entails improving operational efficiencies while ensuring both organizations continue to deliver their respective mandates of supporting water and air management in Alberta.

THE CONFLUENCE

AWC releases reports on lake watershed management and on water conservation, efficiency, and productivity

o Advancing Lake Watershed Management in Alberta

Increased recreational demand, urbanization of lakeshores and changing land uses are putting stress on many of Alberta's lakes, affecting lake health as well as recreational experiences. AWC's new report recommends 12 ways in which the Province can improve the way lakes and their watersheds are managed.

"Scientific data and anecdotal evidence have raised awareness about fluctuating water levels, changes in water quality, harmful algal blooms and fish kills, invasive species and climate change," says Stephanie Neufeld, President of the **Alberta Lake Management Society**, which has been involved in monitoring lake health for years. The recommendations support work by non-government organizations, governments and others as they manage lake watersheds through initiatives such as the **Water for Life** strategy and **Our Water, Our Future; A Plan for Action**.

The project also found that coordinating the many planning and decision-making processes that influence the ecological health of a lake watershed is often a challenge,

Photo credits: Dave Rushford, Marie-Claire St-Jacques and Anuja Ramgoolam.

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given the number of players, differing mandates and the various pieces of relevant policy and legislation. The report emphasizes the need for a more holistic approach to planning and management that is backed by sound science and research. "As lake watershed health issues become more prominent, enhanced coordination is needed to ensure that planning and management decisions are implemented," says Richard Casey, Senior Limnologist with Alberta Environment and Parks.



Recommendations to Improve Lake Watershed Management in Alberta

outlines how to improve management in several key areas including science and knowledge, regulatory and voluntary tools for managing the uplands, and improving access to tools and education. These recommendations will support the Government of Alberta's development of a provincial lake policy, foster greater provincial coordination of stakeholders and ultimately lead to improved lake watershed management in Alberta..

The other recent report is the fourth by the AWC in the area of water conservation, efficiency and productivity.

o Alberta's Major Water Users Improve Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity by 32%

Alberta's seven major water-using sectors have improved their water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) by 30% since 2005 according to the new report. This

accomplishment meets the target laid out in the 2003 *Water for Life* strategy. The report highlights specific successes and challenges of each sector and stresses their ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

“The uneven distribution of water supply and demand and the expected variability due to climate change adds to the challenge of managing water in Alberta—more than 80% of the water supply is in northern Alberta while 80% of the demand is in the south,” says Rob Hoffman, Director, Government and Stakeholder Relations with the Canadian



Fuels Association. “This makes water CEP work now more important than ever.” The AWC CEP process was viewed as a success, providing a foundation that guided sectors in meeting or exceeding targets and developing common performance indicators to report progress. It raised the profile of water and the importance of CEP efforts in its management, created awareness of the distinctiveness and role of each sector in

water management and facilitated the sharing of experiences among sectors. “For net water use alone, we saw a 25% reduction over the reporting period and many sectors reported improvements in efficiency and productivity, which enabled us to meet the overall 30% target,” says Richard Phillips, General Manager of the Bow River Irrigation District.

The report, ***Looking Back: Evaluating Sector Improvements in Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity*** outlines four areas for ameliorating water CEP planning, implementation and reporting. Specific timelines are associated with action in each area, with recommendations calling for progress as early as within five years and others being implemented on a continuous basis. The recommendations align with ongoing efforts by the Government of Alberta and the water-using sectors to manage and conserve water and use it as efficiently as possible.

AWC board approves new work in two areas

Following a project selection process in October, the AWC board approved work in areas of multi-year drought resiliency and source water protection. Working groups are expected to scope terms of references for both projects later this year with project teams starting in 2018. More details on these initiatives are coming soon.

WATER PIPES

AWC and CASA Amalgamation

To ensure best use of limited financial resources, the executive committees from the AWC and CASA met several times over the past few months to examine potential synergies and efficiencies between the two organizations. Since then, AWC offices have been reconfigured to enable CASA staff to co-locate in Petroleum Plaza. It was also agreed that the AWC and CASA will operate with an amalgamated administration support team under a single executive director. Both AWC and CASA remain distinct

organizations with existing board and executive committee structures, bylaws and mandates.

The past four months have been a whirlwind of activity for both organizations. Staff have been finalizing and preparing to release reports, meeting with stakeholders and continuously aligning operations for amalgamation. Also, the physical amalgamation entailed rearranging and reorganizing furniture and space to integrate CASA staff.

AWC and CASA project managers are collaborating and sharing experiences to learn about each organization's history, process and projects as they become involved in initiatives related to air and water management policy.



New AWC video!

Check out the Council's latest video production on the *Water for Life* Strategy here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RpbE2F0Dcw>



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