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THE WATERFALL

Profile of Tracy Scott, Wetlands Conservation Sector

Tracy has been involved with AWC since its inception. His primary involvement occurred when the Council developed recommendations for a provincial wetland policy in 2005. He served as an alternate on the wetlands team while also participating on several other AWC teams.

As an "aggie" with a long-standing career in conservation with **Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)**, his expertise is focused on the role of wetlands and on managing water quality, flood and

drought attenuation and other ecosystem services in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Tracy delivered DUC conservation programs for the first several years of his career before assuming leadership of watershed management programs over the last seven years. He leads DUC's policy files with an emphasis on integrating wetlands into provincial priorities such as the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, the **Land-use Framework**, **Alberta Wetland Policy** and the **Alberta Climate Leadership Plan**.

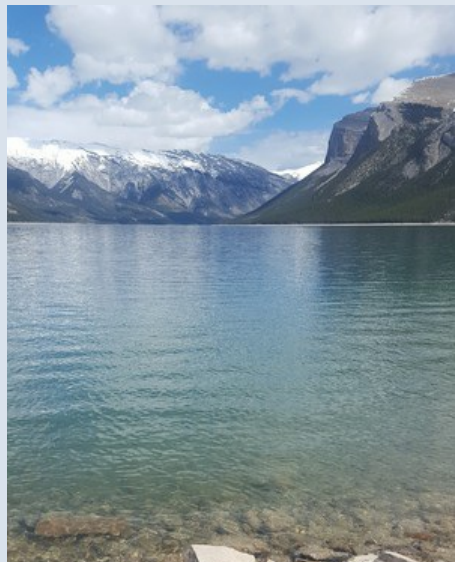


In Tracy's view, every aspect of the AWC's mandate overlaps with DUC's core business of wetlands, boreal forest and perennial grassland conservation. DUC is one of Alberta's leading orga

nizations in conserving and restoring natural green infrastructure on the landscape that benefits Albertans. These areas contribute directly to the goals of **Water for Life** and play a central role in source water protection, flood and drought attenuation and groundwater recharge, all of which reflect AWC's priorities for responsible water management.

He believes that consensus decision making often takes more time but the end result tends to be a decision that is more broadly supported. The AWC multi-stakeholder platform provides an opportunity for contributing to water management in our province. Source water protection is one challenge identified by the Wetlands Conservation Sector that the AWC has helped address with its contribution to the Alberta Wetland Policy. Tracy thinks that the Council's most significant accomplishment to date is bringing leaders in water management together to address priority provincial water management issues. Prior to the formation of the AWC there was no formal forum for stakeholders to provide provincial water policy advice.

In the next 20 years, Tracy hopes to see greater public participation in managing this precious and finite resource.



THE CONFLUENCE



Drips and Drops

Lake Watershed Management Project Team report approved!

The AWC board approved this team's report and 12 recommendations to advance lake watershed management in the province. More details below.

Evaluating Water CEP Project Team report gets the thumbs up!

The AWC board approved this report and four recommendations to improve water CEP planning, implementation and reporting in Alberta. Details below.

Changes for the AWC

The AWC and the Clean Air Strategic Alliance started sharing office space in May 2017 with an amalgamated support staff. Details below.

Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday 26 October, 2017 in Edmonton.

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

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Lake Watershed Management Project Team report approved!

In early 2015, the AWC established a **Lake Watershed Management Project Team** to document and assess the state of lake watershed management planning and governance in Alberta; identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for improvements; and develop recommendations to support lake watershed management. The team documented the state of lake watershed management by compiling lists of key players, legislation and policies, tools and resources and completed or ongoing lake planning initiatives. In partnership with the Alberta Lake Management Society, the team held a workshop in 2015 to validate preliminary findings and explore solutions to challenges identified. At the March 2017 AWC board meeting, draft recommendations were presented in following areas:

- setting strategic directions for a provincial lake policy
- investing in science and knowledge
- prioritizing management needs
- undertaking lake watershed management planning
- ensuring that there are regulatory and voluntary tools to manage the uplands
- improving access to tools and education

The AWC approved the team's final report and recommendations. This report will be published and released in 2017.



Evaluating Water CEP Project Team report gets the thumbs up!

In 2016, the **Evaluating Water CEP Project Team** was established to report on the contributions of water-using sectors towards achieving *Water for Life* goals, the 30% CEP target and CEP desired outcomes. In 2015, sectors provided progress reports to the AWC. Presentations included key successes and challenges in implementing CEP activities and achieving targets set out in sector plans. The following aspects were documented by each sector:

- sector-specific context and criteria for success in CEP
- implementation successes and barriers
- contributions to the three goals of *Water for Life*, the 30% target and CEP desired outcome

In some cases, sectors also relied on additional information from **Alberta's Water Use Reporting System (WURS)** to supplement their reports. After reviewing individual sector reports, the team evaluated the AWC CEP process, which

involved developing evaluation criteria, assessing the process and identifying strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement. Based on its key findings, the team presented its final report with four recommendations to the AWC board, emphasizing a need to:

- continue reporting CEP trends and progress through the AWC at five-year intervals using specific performance indicators and baseline data
- resolve existing challenges with the WURS to improve data collection, management and reporting tools to track CEP trends and report progress
- raise awareness of the responsibility for reporting water use and encourage reporting where appropriate among sectors
- continue working to make the Alberta WURS publicly accessible

The AWC approved the team's final report and recommendations. This report will be published and released in 2017.



WATER PIPES

Resilient and Valid--but opportunities remain to improve the *Water for Life* strategy

A review report by the AWC released in May 2017 highlights recent successes in provincial water management. "Despite many changes and challenges over the years, *Water for Life* remains a valid, resilient and widely-accepted framework for managing Alberta's water resources," says Andre Asselin, Acting Executive Director of the AWC.

The AWC's 12 recommendations support work by the Government of Alberta, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups across the province. "Population growth, economic development and climate change mean it is more important than ever to continue managing our water resources responsibly. Our quality of life depends on water, and Albertans have a responsibility to contribute to its sustainable management," says Gordon Thompson, Technical Program Coordinator with the [North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance](#) and a member of the review committee.

While progress has been made in areas such as partnerships and water conservation, there is still room for improvement to ensure safe, secure drinking water supplies and healthy aquatic ecosystems. Kristen Lorenz, Director of Farm Water Supply with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, notes that, "*Water for Life* does not have as high a profile as it once did; more work to promote the strategy is needed to keep governments, partners and the public engaged in water management decisions and activities."

The report, [Review of Water for Life Implementation Progress: 2012-2015](#), outlines 12 improvements for ameliorating water management under **the three goals and three key directions of Water for Life**. Specific timelines are associated with action in each area, with some recommendations calling for progress within five years, and others extending to ten years or being implemented annually on a continuous basis.





Changes at the AWC office

To ensure best use of limited financial resources, the executive committees from AWC and the **Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA)** have met several times over the past few months to examine potential synergies and efficiencies between the two similar organizations. Two significant changes were approved:

- the AWC offices would be reconfigured to enable CASA staff to co-locate in Petroleum Plaza, and
- since the AWC and CASA are both small not-for-profit organizations that will be sharing office space, it was agreed that they would operate with one amalgamated administration support team under a single executive director.

Both AWC and CASA will remain distinct organizations with existing board and executive committee structures, bylaws and mandates. Following an open competition, the executive director position is expected to be filled shortly.



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