



July 2018 | ISSUE 20

Water is life, and clean water means health- Audrey Hepburn

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Exciting features from the **Alberta Water Council (AWC)** as well as director and alternate profiles.

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Find out about the great work project teams and working groups are doing!

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Your link to AWC business.

Drips and Drops

AWC board gets down to business planning

The Council's board members rolled up their sleeves and participated in a two-day business planning workshop in June. Details below.

Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Project Team kicks off

Work on drought resiliency started this spring. More details below.

Protecting Sources of Drinking Water Project Team gets the ball rolling

A project team looking at ways to protect drinking water sources in the province started their work this May. More details below.

2017 Annual Report Released

The AWC released its annual report, summarising activities for the calendar year 2017.

Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday 8 November, 2018 in Calgary.

AWC Presentation Opportunity

Would you like to raise awareness in your group or sector about the AWC? Staff would be happy to present information about the Council or updates on its projects. If you are interested in such a presentation, please contact staff or email info@awc-casa.ca.

AWC Newsletter

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

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THE WATERFALL



AWC Board gets down to business planning

At its inception in 2004, the goal of the AWC was to provide policy advice to governments, industry, and non-government organizations in support of the goals and key directions of **Water for Life**. Since 2006, the Council has operated under the guidance of a formal business plan which is regularly updated every three years.

The AWC is renewing its business plan that will cover the period 2019–2021. To help this with process, the Council distributed a survey among its Members this spring. This feedback was used to inform discussion at a two-day business planning workshop. The revised business plan reaffirms the direction for the AWC as: advancing the outcomes of *Water for Life*, providing values policy advice, tools, and resources and serving as a collaborative forum for discussing water management challenges and opportunities. As the document is in draft stage and being finalized by Council, a final version will be released once approved.

More information about this can be found [here](#).

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

Photo credits: Andre Asselin, Anuja Ramgoolam.

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THE CONFLUENCE

Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Project Team kicks off

The project will highlight the importance of multi-year drought management in Alberta, compile existing drought management information and resources in the province, and facilitate the delivery of customizable information to support small urban and rural municipalities before, during, and after a drought. This team is expected to produce a guide and workshop materials to assist Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in engaging municipalities and communities in their watershed to better plan for mitigate, respond to, and recover from multi-year droughts.



The project team held its first meeting in June and began documenting lessons learned from previous droughts and expected changes due to climate change and compiling existing drought management information and resources in Alberta. The team hope to undertake several targeted interviews this summer about lessons learned from past droughts in the province.

More information about the team can be found [here](#).

Protecting Sources of Drinking Water Project Team gets the

ball rolling

This team is expected to document existing source water protection (SWP) approaches and provide guidance for protecting public, private, and individual drinking water sources in Alberta. The team hopes to synthesize SWP practices, processes, and risks to drinking water sources in Alberta, examine SWP approaches and risk management models in selected jurisdictions, and develop a guidance document that highlights best practices in SWP. This project will advance outcomes of *Water for Life* and *Our Water, Our Future: A Plan for Action*.



The project team held its first meeting in May and began compiling source water protection approaches in Alberta. The team hopes to disseminate a survey to gather more information from key groups and individuals about their approaches to protecting drinking water sources, risks, challenges, successes, and lessons learned.

More information about this team can be found [here](#).

WATER PIPES

2017 Annual Report Released

The year 2017 marked the AWC's 13th year of supporting *Water for Life* and providing advice on water management solutions. The AWC completed three key projects last year; evaluating water conservation, efficiency, and productivity (CEP) in Alberta's seven major water-using sectors; assessing the state of lake watershed management in the province; and undertaking the fifth review of *Water for Life's* implementation progress.

The Evaluating Water CEP Project Team reviewed the contributions of Alberta's seven major water-using sectors to CEP goals and evaluated the overall AWC CEP process. Analysis revealed that sectors improved their water use efficiency and productivity by 32% since 2005 meeting the *Water for Life* target of 30%.

The Lake Watershed Management Project Team assessed the state of lake management in Alberta and developed recommendations to improve it. The team discovered that coordinating planning and decision-making processes that

influence the health of lake watersheds is often a challenge, given the number of players, differing mandates and the various pieces of relevant policy and legislation. The report emphasized a need for holistic management backed by science and research. Twelve recommendations in areas of policy, science and knowledge, planning, tools, and education were made by the team.

The *Water for Life* implementation review put forward 12 recommendations for improving the strategy's ability to achieve its goals and key directions. Some included a need to develop, implement, and track performance metrics for actions, better promote the strategy to key groups, and focus on goals that are lagging in progress such as work to ensure healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The 2017 Annual Report can be found [here](#).



Special Areas Water Supply Project Study Underway

After several years, terms of referens for a proposes Alberta Transportation Special Areas Study on water supply is finally underway. This project's goal is to mitigate drought during the hot summer months and was though of in response to the expanding irrigation in Lethbridge and Brooks in the 1930's.

"We are looking at all the environmental, historical, and finalizing some preliminary engineering details on the project so we will put all of that together, and by fall we will have a completed Environmental Impact Assessment. Depending on the outcome of that, we will decide on whether or not we want to move that project forward."

A summary of the system found on the Government of Alberta website explains that this is a multi-purpose water supply project that would divert water from the Red Deer River to East Central Alberta including the Special Areas. It would take residency in the County of Stettler, County of Paintearth, and Special Areas 2, 3, and 4.

For more information on this study visit [here](#).

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