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The Waterfall



Director Spotlight Brett Purdy

Government of Alberta & Provincial Authorities - Alberta Innovates, Clean Energy

As far back as Brett can remember he has always enjoyed an active outdoor lifestyle. His earliest memories include fishing for cutthroat trout and hiking in the upper reaches of the Castle and Oldman Rivers with his father. His school years were spent living in the Yukon. Summers consisted mostly of fishing and playing with slingshots, marbles, and riding bikes until the sun went down.

After high school, Brett returned to Alberta and obtained a Ph.D. in Botany, focusing in evolutionary biology and conservation, from the University of Alberta, and a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Calgary.

In 2013 he joined the team at Alberta Innovates, and currently holds the title of Executive Director for Climate Change Innovation and Technology Framework (CCITF) Programs. His work revolves around investing in technology, practices, and knowledge to support climate leadership and reduced greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta. "I get to say my job is focused on helping Alberta become a better place through investments in innovation that support economic diversification, environmental stewardship, climate leadership, and healthy communities. These might seem like aspirational goals, and they are, but they are also fully aligned with and intricately linked to challenges being addressed by the Water Council - monitor and steward implementation of the Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy. "

Within Alberta Innovates he has also held the position of Director for the Integrated Land Management Program, Director of Alberta Innovates flagship Water Innovation Program, and Executive Director for the Water and Land Portfolio. His previous work history and experiences before Alberta Innovates include working with government and academic institutions as a research scientist, collaborating with academia, government, and industry to facilitate implementation of applied research programs and ensure the evolving policy was supported by science.

Working for Alberta Innovates lead to Brett joining the Alberta Water Council (AWC), and he has held membership as a Director or Alternate, for over five years.

He credits both Alberta Innovates and the AWC for expanding his knowledge about water resources and how they are managed within Alberta. "The Water Council is a safe and unique place for stakeholders from multiple sectors across the province that own some piece of the many problems and opportunities faced with water resources and their management to get together and look for solutions."

"While there might be a simple solution to a problem, the problem itself is probably a lot more complex than you think." This is a personal philosophy Brett carries with him, and he believes it also applies to the processes of the AWC, which ensures we as Albertans do not underestimate the complexity of water issues that require solutions. Brett sees the AWC as being well positioned to support a future where Alberta can manage water supplies and watersheds to adapt to climate change, where technology and policy can be developed to support continued improvement in water use Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity and water quality protection.

Besides being a great location to naturally dissect water issues, Brett believes the AWC provides opportunities to meet people, network, and learn from others. The people involved in the AWC represent the foundation in which most of the AWC's work rests upon and the place where consensus decision-making is most important. However, we have a long way to go and there are many concerns to face, "I remain worried that aquatic ecosystem health will be our most difficult challenge and that some problems in this space will not be solved before it is too late."

Brett is married with two adult children and continues to enjoy an active and outdoor adventurous lifestyle. Every now and then he won't say no to single malt scotch.



Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta

At the February 2019 board meeting, Mike Christensen with the Alberta Lake Management Society, and Phil Boehme with Alberta Environment and Parks provided an update on the status of the Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team.

The Team has five objectives:

1. Synthesize Source Water Protection (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

Since the last update at the November board meeting, the team has completed the jurisdictional scan, and their findings will help inform the guidance document in development, as well as the team's final report.

Key conclusions found from the jurisdictional scan include:

- The cost to treat drinking water drives SWP
- Collaboration among stakeholders is important and requires improvement
- Clearly defined leadership, responsibilities, and roles of government and stakeholders are critical
- Financial assistance, technical and personal resources, and centralized tools strongly encourage SWP activities, even when they are voluntary
- Implementation of SWP on private land is challenging but can be overcome by integrating SWP into stewardship initiatives

Once the guidance document is completed it will include both best practices and key factors for success in SWP. The project team expects to complete their work by November 2019, with a guidance document ready by June.



Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought

An update was provided by Margo Jarvis-Redelback (Alberta Irrigation Districts Association) at the February 2019 board meeting on behalf of the project team.

The first three objectives have been completed, and the team is now focused on the completion of Objective Four "Provide guidance on management objectives, potential risks and impacts, triggers and suggested actions for small urban and rural municipalities before, during and after a drought" and Objective Five "Produce a guide and workshop materials to support Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in engaging small urban and rural municipalities."

The drought guide is currently under revisions and edits, with a focus on Module 4 to improve readability and layout.

The Education and Outreach Task Team, a subgroup of the Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Team, has had their first meeting and staff are currently in the process of developing support material for both the draft guide and the pilot workshop.

The project team is aiming to have a pilot workshop in May 2019 to test the guide and receive feedback on the guide and the workshop. Most of the WPAC's expressed interest in participating in the workshop, and an information package was sent to members to provide further information on the purpose of the workshop. The team is in the process of narrowing down options.

The draft guide and workshop results will be presented to the board in June.



Water for Life Implementation Review

One of the Alberta Water Council (AWC)'s primary goals is to periodically review and provide advice on the implementation progress of *Water for Life*. The AWC has achieved this through the work of a standing committee, which convenes every few years to review progress and provide strategic, directional advice to AWC members. Five reviews have been completed to date (available [here](#)), with the last review covering 2012 to 2015.

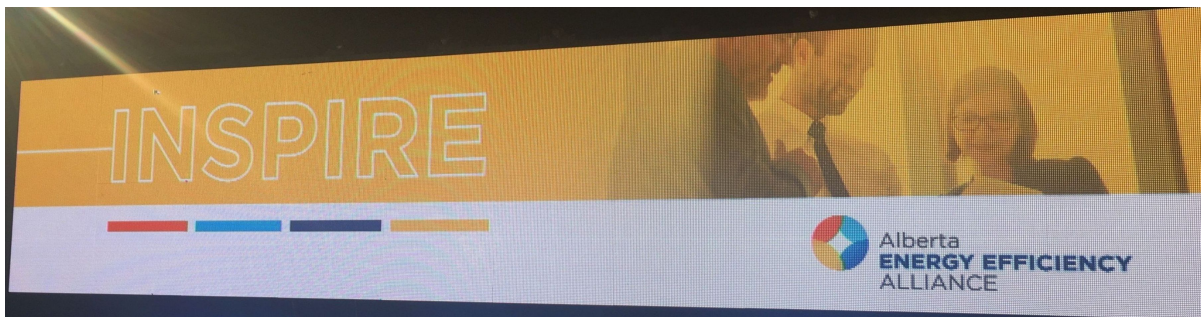
During the last review, the committee noted a need to revisit the approach, particularly how the information is gathered, what advice emerges from the review, and how this advice is incorporated in decision-making. The approach needs to be updated to reflect how *Water for Life* is administered by the Government of Alberta and the roles of new and emerging groups in the water management system. The committee highlighted the importance of developing and monitoring performance metrics for *Water for Life* goals. Echoing this, the AWC significantly updated the three strategies associated with the *Water for Life* implementation review in its 2019–2021 Business Plan to reflect more current needs:

- identify and develop metrics for advancing *Water for Life* goals
- identify gaps in the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy
- prioritize actions and identify roles and responsibilities for achieving the outcomes of *Water for Life*

Membership on the project team has been finalized and the team will be holding their first meeting in the spring.

Water Pipes

Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit 2019



Inspire. Educate. Energize.

Those were the words flashing across the main stage at this years [Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit](#), hosted by [Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance](#) at the newly renamed Edmonton Convention Centre. The three-day event took place from February 25 - 27 and attracted attendees from all across North America, with a pre-summit Industrial workshop starting things off on Monday the 25, and the summit occurring on the 26 and 27.

February 26-27, 2019
The Westin Edmontonenergyefficiencysummit.ca

The AWC and the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) attended the main workshop on the 26th & 27th as a community partner. While most of the attendees were largely part of the Industry sector, there was no trouble linking topics and areas of interest back to current and past projects for both organizations, and the keynote speakers deserve a round of applause for very openly pressing the issue of climate change. Personal favorites included Philippe Dunskey and Corey Diamond, who opened day two and three of the summit. A full list of keynote speakers can be located [here](#).

Corey Diamond, Efficiency Canada. A Vision for Efficiency in Canada. [#EESummit2019](#). We have to stop being happy with getting a little bit better. We have to believe in something big.

Great opening presentation for the day! pic.twitter.com/XsNaeHcGY7

— AB Water Council (@ABWaterCouncil) [February 27, 2019](#)

The Honourable Shannon Phillips and The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi also made guest appearances and addressed attendees on the final day.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi speaking on Energy Efficiency from a national view. [#eesummit2019](#) pic.twitter.com/ipD5DAsmZ3

— AB Water Council (@ABWaterCouncil) [February 27, 2019](#)

Programs for the event were available through their website, or through an app available to download on phones, instead of being printed and handed out. [James Brown's "I Feel Good"](#) was used to announce the start of new sessions and to signal attendees to head to their next room, and it's *really* hard not to smile when you hear that song.

Most of the day was spent in a large room on the lower floor of the Edmonton Convention Centre, with a number of smaller breakout sessions planned in the afternoon. There were topics ranging from "A Vision for Efficiency in Canada" and "Using Technology to Address Low Income Weatherization Needs" to "Managing Sustainability in Indigenous Communities in Alberta" and "Shaping Our Future: Red Deer College's Alternative Energy Initiative." The full program can be viewed [here](#).

First breakout session: Integrating Energy Efficiency into Alberta's Utility System. [#EESummit2019](#) pic.twitter.com/GCbimP2jJW

— AB Water Council (@ABWaterCouncil) [February 26, 2019](#)

The Summit provided ample networking time, with extended breaks on the second day to see the trade show and talk to fellow attendees, as well as an end-of-day reception with a free drink ticket. This was done in response to the requests for more networking opportunities from the previous years' attendees, which shows that the organizers were listening and incorporating feedback as they moved forward into the next year. This year the summit collected feedback through the same app that was used for distributing their programs.

The Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit is focused on growing both the program and the number of attendees each year by ensuring they listen to their participants, and by adapting to what's requested, what's relevant, and keeping one eye on the future.

"Energy efficiency is Canada's most plentiful energy source."
[#EESummit2019](#) [@Efficiency_Cda](#) pic.twitter.com/XqLa0ouVBC

— CASA (@CleanAirSA) [February 27, 2019](#)

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