



Working together to ensure and sustain

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



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Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC Board Meeting will be held Thursday October 20th in Calgary.

2010 Annual Report

Reflecting on the work of the Council during the past year, the 2010 Annual Report has been released and posted on the Council's website.

2010-2013 Business Plan

The Council's 2010-2013 Business Plan was approved at the March 2011 meeting and will guide the Council's work until the end of 2013. The document can be found on the Council's website.

Spotlight on Board Members

Check out our board member profile in *The*



THE WATERFALL

A Director Profile of Jay White - Lake Environment Conservation Sector

Jay White is a member of the Alberta Water Council's Executive Committee representing the NGO sector. Before the Council was established, he was invited by former Environment Minister Lorne Taylor to attend the Minister's Forum on Water, and was then nominated by the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) to sit on the Council. Jay has been involved with several project teams, and says he really enjoys the Council's work. "Working in a consensus process is a fascinating and challenging experience. As a group, you almost always come up with new and creative approaches to address an issue."

Jay works with Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. and is a member of the Alberta Society of

waterfall section. This is a regular feature about a Council director or alternate, along with interesting water news from their sector.

Welcome to the 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!

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Professional Biologists. Jay's career is a good fit with his volunteer work with ALMS as well as the Council, and he often shares his experiences of working with Watershed Stewardship Groups and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils with Council and the Executive.

As a member of ALMS since 1996, Jay has held various positions on the ALMS Executive including a term as President from 2001-2005. During his time with ALMS he has helped plan several annual workshops as well as two workshops for the North American Lake Management Society, one in Banff



in 1998 and one in Lake Louise in 2008. "I've met so many wonderful and dedicated people through my work with ALMS; it's been a great opportunity to network with other professionals and to encourage the next generation to get involved," he says. ALMS and its members have been most active in the Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems portion of *Water for Life*, and although they are a small organization they have had membership on many project teams and working groups that have required an NGO presence.

Over the years Jay has personally been involved with a number of project teams and committees, including Wetlands Policy, Communications Committee, Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health, and Non-Point Source Pollution Project Team. He advises anyone participating on a Council team or working group to come with an open mind, be prepared to listen, be prepared to learn, put aside an adequate amount of time to be involved, communicate back to your sector, and do your homework! Jay recently completed the Certificate Program in Consensus Decision Making put on by the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society, along with three other AWC project managers. "I would highly recommend that course to AWC members and all working group and project team members to help them fully understand the consensus decision-making process of the Council."

Jay notes that making the transition to an arm's length organization was likely the Council's biggest milestone. He also regards the recommendations for a draft Wetland Policy, the Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project, and the Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health project as other Council successes.

Looking into the future, Jay hopes that the public will become more aware of and engaged in water management. "I'd also like to see us eliminate uses of water that significantly impair or contaminate this crucial resource. Wetlands and riparian areas play an essential role in purifying and providing clean water. Everyone needs to be more aware of this important role and what they can do to help protect these valuable ecosystems."

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THE CONFLUENCE

That's a wrap - Moving from Words to Actions

One of the keys to the success of the *Water for Life* (WFL) strategy is the strength of the partnerships working to achieve its goals. As part of the Council's Moving from Words to Actions project team, the three partnerships - Watershed Stewardship Groups, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs), and the Alberta Water Council - spent the last year looking at ways to make their work and interaction more effective.



Project team members stepped back from day-to-day business to study the overarching WFL communication system. Good communication is the foundation for timely and effective sharing of information. It also improves understanding, enables partners to identify opportunities for collaboration

to address shared priorities, and can showcase successful collaborative efforts. The team focused on four areas to determine where improved communications are needed to better achieve the outcomes of *WFL*:

- The “*WFL* Partnership System”
- Current methods of communication
- Key areas for collaboration
- *WFL* implementation challenges

The team then identified gaps and opportunities in the system and developed recommendations to address those key areas. The 15 recommendations are directed to the three *WFL* partners plus the Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) and the Government of Alberta (GoA). The consensus recommendations will support enhanced coordination and communication among the partnerships as well as with the GoA.

The team presented its work to Council at the June Board meeting and the Board accepted the report and all recommendations. The final report will be circulated once design and layout is complete to the GoA, all WPACs, the ASN, all Council board members, and will be posted to the Council's website at www.awchome.ca. Way to go Moving from Words to Actions team members!

Working Group Members: Michelle Gerlitz, Edzo Kok, Ethel Ni

Project Team Members: Bob Cameron, Lisa Maria Fox, Les Gammie, Margaret Glasford, Earl Graham, Curtis Horning, Brian Ilnicki, Bob Phillips, Shirley Pickering, Joe Prusak, David Samm, Terry Sly, Judy Stewart, Sharon Willanen, Jamie Wuite

Uncovering the state of non-point source pollution knowledge in Alberta

The Non-Point Source Pollution project team is bringing together diverse stakeholders to explore innovative ways to assess management of non-point source pollution. Phase 1, which is now underway, involves assessing the current “state of” non-point source pollution knowledge. The team has engaged a consultant to lead this work, and the consulting firm has met with the team members and begun its data collection and research work.

The project team has applied for a grant from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to expand their consultant budget. A delay in the grant approval process required an extension of the team's timeline to October 2012.

The team members are eager to see the results from the Phase 1 report in the fall and will then launch Phase 2 of the project.



Progress continues for Alberta's major water using sectors

Alberta's seven major water-using sectors are contributing to several of the *WFL* strategy's goals with water conservation, efficiency and productivity (CEP) plans being developed through their various sector associations.

Three sector plans are now complete: Oil and Gas and Oilsands Mining, Urban Municipalities, and Irrigation, all of which can be found on the Council's website www.awchome.ca. The remaining sectors continue to make progress developing their water CEP plans. The power generation and forestry

sectors intend to present their plans to the Board at the October 2011 meeting. The chemical and petrochemical sectors are on track to meet their revised timelines and aim to present their plans at the March 2012 Council meeting.

Water CEP team members have started discussions about their final report which will also be brought forward to Council in March 2012.



Project Team to look at riparian land management

Over the last few months the Riparian Land Conservation and Management Working Group has been busy scoping this issue and developing terms of reference for a project team that would make recommendations for improving riparian land conservation and management in Alberta. The working group presented draft terms of reference at the June Council meeting. The Board approved the terms of reference, in addition to the creation of the Riparian Project Team.

The terms of reference outline four key deliverables for the project: a definition of the term *riparian lands*; a description of the current state of riparian lands, management, and stewardship in Alberta; riparian management and stewardship “best practices” (policy, practices and procedures) in other jurisdictions; and recommendations for improving riparian land conservation and management in Alberta. The Riparian terms of reference can be found on the Council's website www.awchome.ca. Watch for the call for membership for the Riparian Land Conservation and Management Project Team coming shortly!

Working Group Members: *Norine Ambrose, Rick Bonar, Greg Bowie, Bill Franz, Brendan Ganton, Brian Hills, Tony Machacek, Donna Mendelsohn, Julienne Morissette, Dwight Oliver, Grant Pearsell, Judy Stewart, Martin Shields, Stephanie Neufeld, Wayne Tuck, Karen Yakimishyn*



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WATER PIPES

Water for Life Implementation Review kicks off

The Council's fourth review of implementation progress of the *WFL* strategy is now underway. The *WFL* Implementation Review Committee met in June to begin reviewing and assessing the status, effectiveness, and progress of activities being implemented under the strategy. The Committee will provide advice and recommendations for improvement based on this assessment. As a part of the Council's core business, regular review of the implementation progress of the province's *WFL* strategy is an integral part of the Council's functions. Previous implementation review reports are available on the Council's website www.awchome.ca.



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