



# ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

## E-NEWSLETTER

April 2015 | ISSUE 13

*"News about water can't be dry"*

Working together to ensure and sustain

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



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

### Water Pipes

Your link to AWC business.



## Drips and Drops

### Next AWC Board Meeting

The next AWC board meeting will be held Thursday June 18, 2015 in Edmonton.



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### 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 how the AWC works, including an update on its projects, and to respond to questions. If you are interested in such a presentation, please contact staff or email [info@awchome.ca](mailto:info@awchome.ca)

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### Newsletter

The AWC'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

## THE WATERFALL

### Director profile of Al Kemmere, Rural sector

Al was born in Calgary but grew up on the outskirts of Vancouver before returning to Alberta to pursue farming opportunities. Coming from a family of farmers, Al has a strong background in agriculture with extensive experience running a purebred dairy farm as well as a combination of mixed and custom farming and trucking. He and his wife Kathy have raised their three children on a farm north of Olds.

He was elected Councillor and Reeve of Mountain View County in 2004 and re-elected as Councillor for a third term in 2010. In his six years on county council, Al has been involved in numerous committees such as the Central Alberta Economic Partnership as Chair, Municipal Area Partnership (founding member), Mountain View Waste Commission as Chair, Vice Chair of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Mayor/Reeves committee, and a member of the AAMDC Standing Issues Committee on Social Issues to name a few. The AAMDC is an independent association comprising Alberta's sixty-nine counties and municipal districts. Since 1909, they have helped rural municipalities achieve strong and effective local government. Recently elected as President of the AAMDC at the fall 2014 convention, Al has been working to ensure that the interests, needs, and concerns of rural communities are represented in important decision-making processes.

He says the beauty of working with the Alberta Water Council (AWC) is getting the opportunity to be exposed to various perspectives on water from different sectors. In turn, he is able to validate his views and ensure that municipal aspects are being considered in decision making processes. As part of the Alberta Water Council (AWC), Al represents the rural sector on the board of directors and is a newly elected member of the AWC's executive committee. To date, he has participated on the Riparian Land Conservation and Management project team, the Water Reuse symposium



feedback to [info@awchome.ca](mailto:info@awchome.ca). We look forward to hearing from you!

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committee, and the Water Literacy project team. Al shared that the consensus decision making process is good and useful; however there are times when members may need to venture away from the process in order to make tough decisions that cannot be accomplished through consensus. However, in those instances the consensus process may lead to the identification and clarification on areas of consensus and non-consensus with alternative proposals for consideration.

His advice to anyone who may be thinking about volunteering on AWC's committees, working groups, or project teams is to keep an open mind, acknowledge that there will be different perspectives at the table, but there are also rewards at the end of the process. Through engagement on the AWC board and project teams, Al has developed awareness of various water issues and their related projects. The Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity plans was a good way to get sectors engaged in planning and managing water for Alberta's future generations. Al thinks that this particular project was a significant accomplishment for the AWC, as members around the table took a hard look at long terms changes and how they could better manage water in Alberta. While implementation will be a challenge, these plans are a step in the right direction. When managing our water resources for the future, Al hopes that the impact of population growth on the environment and in turn water resources is taken into consideration.

## ***THE CONFLUENCE***

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Project Team completes jurisdictional review**

The **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Project Team** was established in October 2013 to identify gaps and opportunities for improving awareness, communication, and coordination of AIS activities in Alberta. As part of this project, the team identified a need to document the current prevention and management approaches for AIS in a selection of North American jurisdictions. Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Limited was retained to undertake this work and ten stakeholders from six jurisdictions (Ontario, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas and Utah) were interviewed on a wide range of AIS prevention, management, and communication topics.

Amongst the large number of indicated individual approaches, methods, structures and strategies, a few stood out as they have been tested and



proven effective for AIS prevention or management in a number of jurisdictions. These approaches were readily adopted by a majority of jurisdictions. Some main findings revealed:

- o A focus on prevention
- o One lead agency, collaborating with a large range of other groups and stakeholders
- o Mandatory inspections that are enforced
- o Outreach targeted specific groups
- o Risk assessments to inform program priorities and allocate efforts to the right species, pathways, and location



- o Readiness for active, rapid response
- o A single piece of legislation with a wide range of prohibitions
- o Reliable sources of funding, including operational government and user-fee derived funds

The most important barriers to a successful AIS program were found to be insufficient funding, personnel, legislative and legal authority, and insufficient partner coordination, while resistance to behavioural changes and lack of political will were also mentioned. The results of the jurisdictional review, demonstrated that the technical components of AIS management are well known and developed, but that the resources, strategies, and structures to implement them were limiting program success.

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

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## Water Literacy Project Team looks at program "Success Factors"

The AWC established the Water Literacy project team in March 2014 to enhance knowledge and provide recommendations to improve water literacy in Alberta. A stated activity of the team was to summarize the learnings obtained from a program inventory survey to determine factors that make a water literacy program 'successful'. For this work, success factors were described as "processes that represent the most effective way of achieving a specific objective (water literacy)". This might include practices that program organizers use and are proud of and that are known to generate good results.

While most survey respondents could identify whether or not their

program was highly, moderately or not successful, how they make this assessment was harder to discern. When asked how they might measure if a program has been successful or not, respondents provided the following measures:

- o Anecdotal evidence that people like the program i.e. participants were noticeably excited and interested
- o Comments or ratings received via feedback mechanisms (e.g. satisfaction surveys)
- o Increasing participation rates, attendance versus registrations, re-bookings, returning participants, program is popular, and program is in high demand
- o Media attention, number of website, social media hits, and resource downloads
- o Number of enquiries
- o Number of sessions held and the longevity of the program
- o Awards won and grants received
- o Number of information items and educational kits distributed
- o Number of partnerships established and volunteers
- o Percentage of participants that agree they have tools and capacity to engage others and influence behavior change in others as a result of program
- o Number of publications in reputable international journals, presentations (conferences and public), and enrolment or evidence of interdisciplinary approached to teaching and learning
- o Number of applications for employment

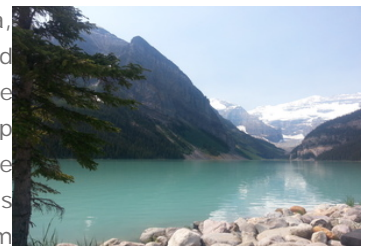
After reviewing and discussing survey results, the team is working to develop a checklist of success factors for consideration by organizers as they design, implement and evaluate a water literacy program.

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

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## Lake Management Project Team kicks off

In October 2014, the AWC established a Lake Management Project Team to document and assess the current state of lake management planning and governance in Alberta; identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for improvements in lake management; and develop recommendations to support effective lake management in Alberta; including roles and responsibilities. The project team



kicked off with their first meeting in February 2015 by looking at project outcomes and current policies that relate to lake management in Alberta and discussing what lake management entails.

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

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## **WATER PIPES**

### **New member representatives join the AWC board**

The AWC is comprised of twenty-four members organized into four broad categories; Industry, Non-Government Organizations, Government, and the Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities. Each member represents a discrete sector and identifies a director, and if they wish, an alternate to represent their interests on the Council. The AWC brings together the expertise and experience of all members, under a consensus based partnership to provide leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations, and governments to achieve the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the AWC board:

Deanna Cottrell  
Lorna Young  
Nancy Stalker  
Cheryl Fujikawa  
Earl Graham  
Rob Hoffman  
Chris Ward  
Silvia D'Amelio

On behalf of the AWC, we would also like to acknowledge the contributions of directors and alternates who stepped down in 2014:

Al Schulz  
John Skowronski  
Apu Sharma

Ken Brown  
Greg Sears  
Rob Pritchard  
Mark Brostrom  
Jeff Surtees  
Martin Chamberlain

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

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## Proposed Legislation would protect Alberta's waterways

Alberta has introduced **legislation** that would make boat and watercraft inspections mandatory on major highways coming into the province. The proposed amendments to the *Alberta Fisheries Act* will help protect Alberta from the looming threat of a zebra and quagga mussel infestation.

In addition to mandatory boat inspections, a prohibited species list, including aquatic invasive fish, invertebrates and plants of concern, will be added to the Act. Also law enforcement officers would be given greater authority when dealing with contaminated watercraft, and greater clarity regarding their role in ensuring compliance with the law and providing education about it.

The proposed amendments were recently passed at the end of March 2015.

For more information go to:

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=378243144E0E5-E3A5-C639-C08F8CD6D422B8D7>

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