

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Athabasca Watershed Council gratefully acknowledges our primary funding partner: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.



The Athabasca Watershed Council also gratefully acknowledges the support and contributions of the following partners, without which we could not function:

Aboriginal Alliance of Alberta
Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta WPACs - Peer Advisory Group
Association of Summer Villages of Alberta
Athabasca Bioregional Society
Athabasca River Basin Research Institute
Central Athabasca Stewardship Society
Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca
Agriculture Industry of Alberta
Lac La Biche Community
Lesser Slave River Municipal District
Mediation and Restorative Justice Center
Natural Resources Conservation Board
Science Outreach Athabasca
Sun Gro Horticulture
Treaty 8 First Nation
Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards

OUR VISION

The Athabasca watershed is ecologically healthy, diverse and dynamic.

OUR MISSION

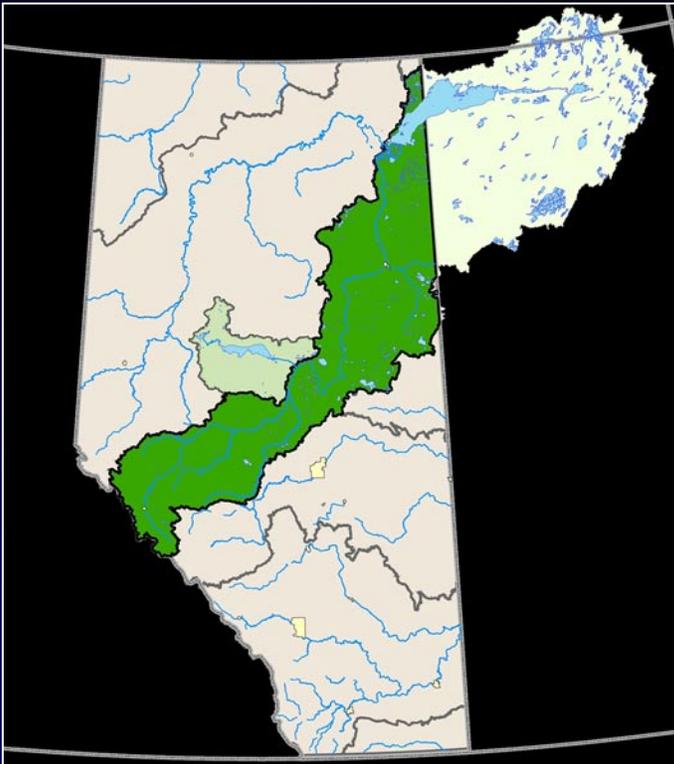
The Athabasca Watershed Council promotes, fosters respect for, and plans for an ecologically healthy watershed by demonstrating leadership and facilitating informed decision making to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability.

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

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THE ATHABASCA WATERSHED



-  Athabasca Watershed Council
-  Lesser Slave Watershed Council
-  Athabasca River Basin Saskatchewan





Top left to right: Dean Lindsey, Bill Grieve, Brian Deheer, Kai Ma, Doug Badger, Janice Pitman, Tom Weber, Tim Polzin
Bottom left to right: Bob Savage, Dave Loyie, Donna Mendelsohn, Connie Simmons
Missing: Lorraine Johnson-Mackay, Warren Walker, Garry Horten and Bob Yontz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Badger (Secretary) - Treaty 8 First Nation
Brian Deheer - Lac La Biche Community
Bill Grieve (Treasurer) - Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards
Garry Horton - MD of Lesser Slave River
Dean Lindsey - Metis Nation of Alberta
Dave Loyie - Aboriginal Alliance of Alberta
Kai Ma - Natural Resources Conservation Board
Lorraine Johnston-MacKay (Past President) - Hinton Historical Society
Donna Mendelsohn (President) - Central Athabasca Stewardship Society
Janice Pitman - Agriculture Industry
Tim Polzin - Other Sector
Bob Savage - Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Connie Simmons - Athabasca Bioregional Society
Warren Walker - Sun Gro Horticulture
Tom Weber - Clearwater River Heritage Society
Bob Yontz - Association of Summer Villages of Alberta

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Donna Mendelsohn, President
 Connie Simmons, Vice President
 Doug Badger, Secretary
 Bill Grieve, Treasurer
 Lorraine Johnston-MacKay, Past President

COMMUNICATIONS and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Janice Pitman and Doug Badger, Co-Chairs
 Wayne Brehaut
 Brian Deheer
 Paula Evans
 Bill Grieve
 Dean Lindsey
 Connie Simmons
 Robert Yontz
 Donna Mendelsohn, ex officio

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Kai Ma, Chair
 Dave Loyie
 Dave Mussell
 Janice Pitman
 Jana Tondu
 Donna Mendelsohn, ex officio

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, the Athabasca Watershed Council membership delivered a strong mandate to the Board of Directors to improve communications, transparency and accountability of the organization. I took this mandate very seriously and am honoured and humbled that I was elected as President of the Board.

Our Board of Directors has worked exceptionally hard this year to improve all governance documents, clarify and incorporate due process and encourage representation inclusive of the diverse interests and perspectives of all who live, work and play in the Athabasca Watershed. It has often been difficult work, but the Board has successfully accomplished the rebuilding of a firm foundation for the AWC. The Council is now ready to move forward with the Athabasca Integrated Watershed Management Planning process.

It has been my great privilege to serve with some very talented and dedicated fellow Board members. I cannot in a few words do justice to all, but would like to say thank you to all who made the effort, followed through on their commitments, and helped to establish a stronger, more resilient organization. I also would like to thank two interim Directors, Garry Horton of the MD of Lesser Slave River and Bob Yontz of the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta. These Directors were appointed to the Board in mid-term, and had no idea how much work they were getting themselves into, but both have acquitted themselves admirably!

A special thank you also goes to all of the volunteers who have supported and assisted the AWC Board of Directors during this term. Volunteers included Executive Directors and Program Managers of several Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils across Alberta, in addition to talented and dedicated individuals from several community, educational and stewardship groups.

I wish the Athabasca Watershed Council good fortune and success, and hope that the lessons learned this term in good governance, fairness, inclusivity and respect for all who engage in this important work will serve the organization well into the future.



Donna Mendelsohn

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The Annual General Meeting held on June 27th, at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort near Stony Plain, with a total of 45 attendees. Twelve seats of the Board of the Directors were open for election. Kai Ma with the Natural Resources Conservation Board and Mary Jane Siebold with Lac La Biche County were elected in the Government category. Connie Simmons with the Athabasca Bioregional Society and Tim Polzin from Lac La Biche were elected in the 'Other' category. Doug Badger was re-elected and Dean Lindsey and Dave Loyie were elected in the Aboriginal category. Janice Pitman was re-elected and Bill Grieve and Brian Deheer were elected in the Industry category. Donna Mendelsohn was elected in the Non-Government Organization category. One government position was left vacant.

Bev Yee, Deputy Minister (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, ESRD) delivered a keynote address on the important contribution that Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) provide to the people, communities and watersheds of Alberta. Alberta WPACs also provide an essential advisory role for the Government of Alberta in the development of water and watershed management policies. Watershed stewardship is at the heart of people who, despite differing values and perspectives, are committed to working together on a common goal of integrated watershed management planning.

Ms. Yee commended the Athabasca Watershed Council Board and membership for their passion and dedication to watershed management that would help to achieve the principles of Alberta's Water For Life Strategy: safe, secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and a reliable, quality water supply for a sustainable economy. The AWC's Interactive Atlas, public and stakeholder engagement, and participation with the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan were noted as important contributions to this end. Ms. Yee concluded that the AWC is well positioned for Integrated Watershed Management Planning and ESRD is looking forward to helping with this work.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2014-15

This past year, a significant accomplishment of this Board term has been the release to the public of two important Athabasca State of the Watershed Reports that contribute to the complex task of water quality assessment:

1. *AWC State of the Watershed Report - Phase 3: Water Quantity and Basic Water Quality in the Athabasca Watershed, and State of the Watershed Assessment*
2. *Phase 4: Organic Compounds in Surface Water and Sediments, and Trace Metals in Sediments.*

Both of these reports are available on the AWC web site:

<http://www.awc-wpac.ca>

Further to the release of these reports, the AWC Communications Committee released:

- *Info Sheet 8, Athabasca Watershed Soils*, in recognition of 2015 being named by the United Nations as International Year of Soils. This Info Sheet is also available on the AWC web site.
- two AWC newsletters to inform and update the AWC membership on what is happening in the Athabasca watershed.

The AWC Board has implemented cost saving measures to improve fiscal responsibility and sustainability, and updated and improved foundational governance documents including:

- Approved Terms of Reference for the Board and all standing committees, including clarity on sector representation
- AWC Employee Handbook
- AWC Board of Directors - Process Guidelines
- Preparation for special resolutions for membership review and approval at the 2015 AGM to improve and strengthen the society's Bylaws.
- A three-year Strategic Plan to develop the watershed community's Terms of Reference for the Athabasca Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- A 2015-16 Operational/Project Work Plan



LOOKING FORWARD: AWC STRATEGIC GOALS

Over the next three years, the Athabasca Watershed Council is looking forward to initiating the development of Terms of Reference for the Athabasca Integrated Watershed Management Planning (IWMP) process. As an important first step, the AWC will be working on a strategy to accomplish significant outreach and engagement in the greater watershed, and then get out there to do it.

The intent of this important work of engagement and listening will be to share information; foster a deeper understanding of watershed science and local knowledge; listen, and where possible and allowed, share aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge; build strong partnerships; listen to concerns and issues in the watershed from all perspectives and interests; and incorporate these concerns into the development of the IWMP Terms of Reference. This first year of work will be focused primarily on building important relationships with communities, sectors, stakeholders and watershed residents, and through these relationships, create a watershed community Vision statement for the Athabasca IWMP.

The goals for this three year process include:

GOAL 1: Promoting engagement and sharing knowledge

- An open and safe place is provided for people to exchange ideas and knowledge.
- The public and AWC membership are informed and aware of AWC resources and activities.
- A strong stewardship ethic exists in individuals, communities, local governments and sectors throughout the watershed.
- Improve capacity of communities and sectors for watershed stewardship.

GOAL 2: Integrated watershed management planning

- Identify major challenges to ecological integrity in the Athabasca Watershed.
- Planning decisions affecting the Athabasca Watershed are supported by the best available information.
- Integrate cultural wisdom, traditional, community and scientific knowledge.
- A common understanding of ecological integrity is agreed upon by all partners.
- Action on environmental outcomes is undertaken.
- Sectors and communities work collaboratively to achieve shared environmental outcomes in the Athabasca watershed.
- Practices that enhance or protect watershed health are implemented by all sectors, communities and governments.
- AWC is involved in regional planning initiatives.

GOAL 3: AWC is functional and sustainable

- Diversity of communities and sectors are represented on the Board and within the membership.
- AWC is fiscally sustainable and responsible.
- Bylaws, Policies and Terms of Reference are current, approved and followed.
- The AWC's WPAC designation and Society status are maintained.
- AWC is viewed as a credible and transparent organization.
- AWC has sustainable and talented staff.

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2015

(Unaudited)

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Index to Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

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Shoemaker, Viney & Friesen

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

John S. Shoemaker Professional Corporation

Tina J. Viney Professional Corporation



Timothy J. Friesen Professional Corporation

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Athabasca Watershed Council

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Athabasca Watershed Council as at March 31, 2015 and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Westlock, Alberta
May 14, 2015

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 45,673	\$ 25,152
Term deposits	-	92,624
Accounts receivable	9,427	3,500
Goods and services tax recoverable	-	7,516
Prepaid expenses	1,883	1,746
	56,983	130,538
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 4)</i>	1,207	2,011
	\$ 58,190	\$ 132,549
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,998	\$ 18,461
Short term debt	-	1,477
	2,998	19,938
NET ASSETS		
General fund	53,985	110,600
Invested in equipment fund	1,207	2,011
	55,192	112,611
	\$ 58,190	\$ 132,549

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ *Director*

_____ *Director*

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

	2015	2014
RECEIPTS		
Grant Revenue	\$ 200,200	\$ 258,074
Donations	915	16,507
Contract Revenue	-	125,000
	<u>201,115</u>	<u>399,581</u>
EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	-	2,556
Amortization	804	7,541
Automotive	24,886	19,825
Bonuses	828	419
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	2,150	2,961
Donations	14,025	8,240
GST Expense	1,545	1,587
Insurance	1,455	1,123
Interest and bank charges	60	124
Meetings and conventions	4,918	3,460
Office	3,971	3,911
Professional fees	19,820	22,067
Rental	13,365	8,700
Repairs and maintenance	665	90
Salaries and wages	141,811	266,974
Sub-contracts	10,783	19,960
Supplies	1,714	-
Telephone	3,637	5,206
Travel	15,443	14,651
	<u>261,880</u>	<u>389,395</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(60,765)</u>	<u>10,186</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Expense recoveries	2,237	3,363
Interest from other sources	1,109	431
Other Income	-	1,053
	<u>3,346</u>	<u>4,847</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (57,419)</u>	<u>\$ 15,033</u>

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

	General Fund	Invested In Equipment Fund	2015	2014
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 110,600	\$ 2,011	\$ 112,611	\$ 97,578
Deficiency of receipts over expenses	(57,419)	-	(57,419)	15,033
Amortization	804	(804)	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 53,985	\$ 1,207	\$ 55,192	\$ 112,611

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Statement of Cash Flow
Year Ended March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

	2015	2014
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenses	\$ (57,419)	\$ 15,033
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	804	7,541
	<u>(56,615)</u>	<u>22,574</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(5,927)	147,783
Prepaid expenses	(137)	(1,028)
Goods and services tax recoverable	7,516	1,016
Accounts payable	(15,463)	(11,640)
Wages payable	-	(3,619)
Deferred Income	-	(67,027)
	<u>(14,011)</u>	<u>65,485</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>(70,626)</u>	<u>88,059</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(2,413)
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Short term debt	(1,477)	1,477
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	(72,103)	87,123
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>117,776</u>	<u>30,653</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 45,673	\$ 117,776

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2015

(Unaudited)

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Athabasca Watershed Council is a registered not-for-profit organization. The major objectives of the Society are to provide timely, credible information about the Athabasca Watershed and to promote plans for a healthy watershed. The Society is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act. Accordingly, there is no provision for income taxes in these financial statements.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Cash and short term investments

Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of commercial paper and deposits with an original maturity date of purchase of three months or less. Because of the short term maturity of these investments, their carrying amount approximates fair value.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Property, plant and equipment is amortized at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	3 years	straight-line method
Furniture and fixtures	3 years	straight-line method

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(continues)

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2015
(Unaudited)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Revenue recognition

Athabasca Watershed Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Donations are recorded on the date they are received by the society.

Government grants are recorded in the fiscal period for which they are allocated by the Government.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the organization's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2015.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers and other related sources.

4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2015 Net book value	2014 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 15,488	\$ 14,281	\$ 1,207	\$ 2,011
Furniture and fixtures	5,774	5,774	-	-
	\$ 21,262	\$ 20,055	\$ 1,207	\$ 2,011

ATHABASCA WATERSHED COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2015

(Unaudited)

5. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Society relies heavily on monies provided by the Provincial Government. Should the Government decide to cease its funding of the Society, it would be unlikely that the Society would continue to function.

6. GOING CONCERN

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the going concern assumption that the Society will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of operations.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In the current year, the Society was forced to cut down heavily on their activities due to change in government funding, and were unable to come to an agreement with the government for part of the year. If this persists, continued operations of the Society may be difficult.

8. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The prior year comparative figures were audited by another firm of public accountants.







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Photo: KYLE ASHMEAD