

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 2.1 In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 3.1 Adoption of the October 7, 2026, Agenda

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Adoption of the September 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes

5. DELEGATIONS

Estimated Time:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 5.1 Battle River Watershed Alliance | 6:05 PM |
| 5.2 Anam Rural Youth Association | 6:25 PM |
| 5.3 Red Deer River Municipal Users Group | 6:45 PM |
| 5.4 Servus Credit Union Public Library/Blackfalds Public Library | 7:05 PM |
| 5 minutes break | 7:25 PM - 7:30 PM |
| 5.5 Red Deer Watershed Alliance | 7:30 PM |
| 5.6 Central Alberta Economic Partnership | 7:50 PM |
| 5.7 Blackfalds Senior's Club | 8:10 PM |
| 5.8 Beyond Food Community Hub | 8:30 PM |
| 5.9 Friends of the Blindman River Watershed Alliance | 8:50 PM |

6. CONFIDENTIAL

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings/Events:

- Regular Council Meeting – October 13, 2026
- Standing Committee of Council Meeting – October 19, 2026

MINUTES

A Standing Committee of Council meeting for the Town of Blackfalds was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 5018 Waghorn Street in Council Chambers, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Laura Svab
Deputy Mayor Jim Sands
Councillor Shane Hanson
Councillor Ryan Brown
Councillor Aaron J. Hoyte
Councillor Cory Twerdoclib
Councillor Brenda Dennis

ATTENDING

Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
Justin de Bresser, Director of Corporate Services
Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services
Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
Renan Bravo, IT Technician

REGRETS

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Emilie Daitl, Waterworth Innovations
Mackenzie Read, Heart of Blackfalds Society
Tricia Willis, Heart of Blackfalds Society

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Sands welcomed everyone to the Standing Committee of Council Meeting of September 15, 2026, and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty 6 territory.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Withdraw item 6.1 Request for Direction, Council Policy – Community Grant Program Policies

087/26 Councillor Hoyte moved That Standing Committee of Council receive the agenda for September 15, 2026, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

088/26 Councillor Dennis moved That Standing Committee of Council adopt the Minutes for August 17, 2026, as amended, to include the notation of virtual attendance beside Councillor Brown's name in the Closed Session attendance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

089/26 Councillor Brown moved That Standing Committee of Council adopt the Minutes for August 26, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES**5. DELEGATIONS****5.1 Waterworth Innovations**

Emilie Daitl with Waterworth Innovations provided a presentation to the Committee on their dashboard for the Town of Blackfalds wastewater and water utility.

5.2 Heart of Blackfalds Society – Heart Garden Proposal

Mackenzie Read and Tricia Willis, representing the Heart of Blackfalds Society, presented their Heart Garden proposal.

6. BUSINESS**6.1 Request for Direction, Council Policy – Community Grant Program Policies**

Withdrawn from Agenda

6.2 Request for Direction, Proposed Revisions to Off-Site Levy Bylaw 1357.26 for 2nd Reading

Director Weran presented the proposed revisions to the Off-Site Levy Bylaw for Committee's consideration.

Councillor Hoyte moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Administration revise the Off-Site Levies report's average rate to \$131,439.79/Ha, to be used for Second Reading of the Off-site Levy Bylaw.

Prior to a vote on the foregoing resolution, the following amendment was introduced

090/26 Mayor Svab moved that \$131,439.79/Ha be struck and replaced with \$126,945.72/Ha.

DEFEATED
***In favour: Mayor Svab,
Councillor Brown and Councillor Hanson***

The original motion was back on the floor

100/26 Councillor Hoyte moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Administration revise the Off-Site Levies report's average rate to \$131,439.79/Ha, to be used for Second Reading of the Off-site Levy Bylaw.

CARRIED
***Opposed: Mayor Svab,
and Councillor Brown***

6.3 Request for Direction, Annual Budget and Taxation Process Policy

Director de Bresser presented the Annual Budget and Taxation Process Policy for Committee's consideration.

101/26 Mayor Svab moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend that the Annual Budget and Taxation Process Policy be directed to a Regular Meeting of Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

102/26 Councillor Hanson moved That the Standing Committee of Council recommend that Council rescind Budget Process Policy 135.19.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

6.4 Request for Direction, Council Policy - Duty to Document

Director de Bresser presented the Duty to Document Council Policy for Committee's consideration.

103/26

That Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council that Council Policy – Duty to Document be forwarded to a future Regular Council Meeting for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. CONFIDENTIAL

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Sands adjourned the Standing Committee of Council Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Jim Sands, Deputy Mayor

Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Catherine Peirce, Executive Director, Battle River Watershed Alliance
SUBJECT: **Battle River Watershed Alliance**

BACKGROUND

Catherine Peirce, Executive Director of the Battle River Watershed Alliance, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *BRWA Presentation*
- *BRWA 2025-26 Annual Report*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE 2006-2026



2027 Annual Budget Delegation
Town of Blackfalds Council

October 7, 2026

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE SOCIETY

- Independent, non-profit since December 6, 2006
- Governed by a multi-sector, 15-member Board of Directors
- Land & Water Committee, with 12+Community Organizations



HONORARY RIVER-KEEPER

Leonard Standingontheroad, Montana First Nation



Battle Lake, Headwaters of the Battle River

WATERSHED PLANNING & ADVISORY COUNCIL

Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability

CONVENOR & COLLABORATOR



8,460 Members
2,570 Partners & Volunteers
65 Employees

*Collaborating with First Nations in Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8 & 10
and Otipemisiwak Métis Government*

EDUCATION, LITERACY & ENGAGEMENT



28,000 Albertans Engaged
13,240 Youth Participated
5,830 People Trained
30,000 Native Species Planted
1,330 Hectares Restored for
Flood & Drought Resilience

ASSESSMENTS & REPORTING

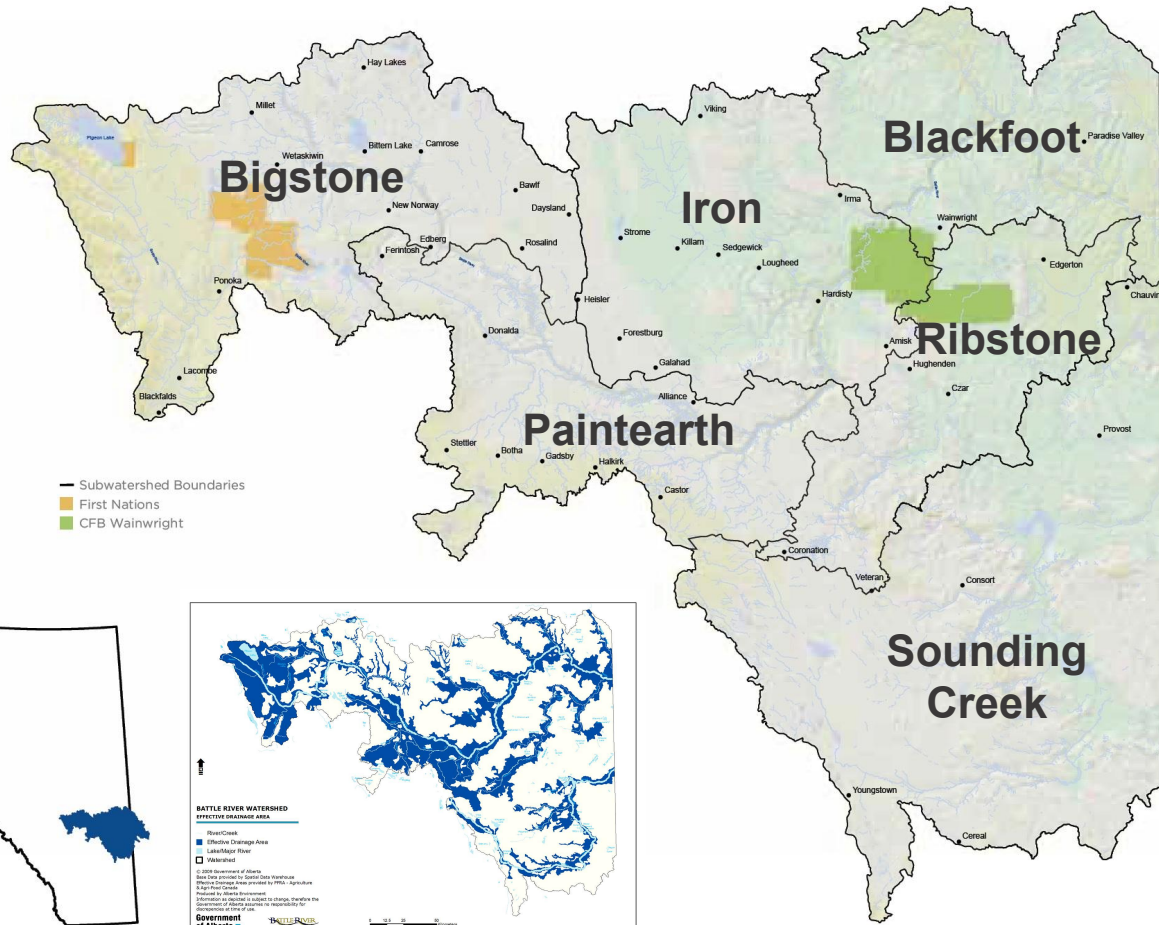


11 State of the Watershed Reports
140 Water Quality Sampling Sites
155 Aquatic, Riparian & Other
Range Health Assessments

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING



170 Regional Collaborations
11+ Watershed Management
Plans



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACE

Battle River
Sub Basins
& Contributing Areas

MOVING COMMUNITIES TO ACTION

2000+ Members strong

200+ Funding partners

Thousands of Volunteers

\$850,000 Investment in Riparian Projects, providing

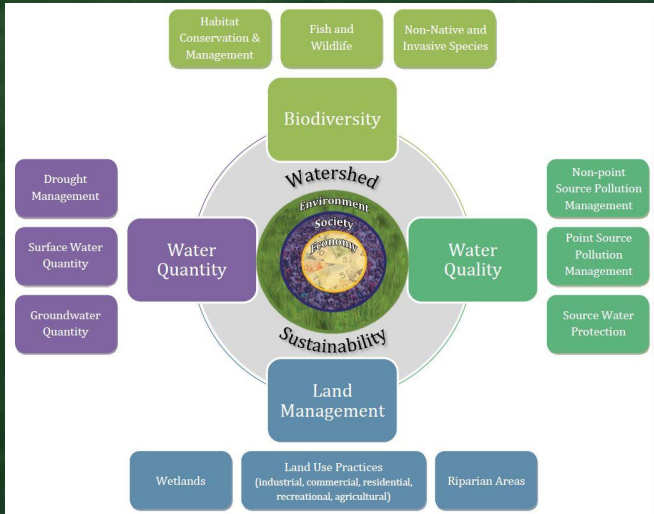
\$33 Million Annual Ecosystem Services

VALUE TO THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS

- A seat at our Board table
 - Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services
BRWA Vice Chair
- Trusted, cost-effective forums connecting municipalities, industry, agriculture, and Indigenous governments
 - Drought Resilience Workshop
 - 40 Municipalities attended Watershed 101 for Elected Officials
 - 40+ planners contributed to Guidelines for Land Use Planning
- Technical input on Town planning
 - MDP Parks & Open Spaces recommendations, July 2026

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING

MDP Resource for Municipalities



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING PRIORITIES

PLAN COMPONENTS

Water Quantity

- Drought Management
- Surface Water Quantity
- Ground Water Quantity

Water Quality

- Non-point Source Pollution Management
- Point Source Pollution Management
- Source Water Protection

Biodiversity

- Habitat Conservation and Management
- Non-Native/Invasive Species Management

Land Management

- Wetland Management
- Riparian Areas Management

LAND MANAGEMENT

Riparian Management Guidelines

Goal: Improve the function and intactness of riparian areas

Objective 1: Preserve the ecological and hydrological function of riparian areas

Objective 2: Minimize damage to riparian areas from aggregate extraction development

Definitions:

Bioengineering techniques, development, ephemeral water body, environmental impact assessment, erosion and sediment control plan, geotechnical report, hazard lands, high water table, legal bank, littoral, lot grading and drainage plan, native species, natural assets, natural state, passive wetland restoration, riparian area, riparian intactness runoff, upland area, wetland.

Actions/Strategies:

- Identify and incorporate existing riparian area intactness survey information into MDP mapping.
- Establish and monitor riparian area intactness targets.
- Explore partnerships with organizations, including *Cows and Fish* to share information about Beneficial Management Practices for grazing in riparian areas.

Policies:

- Establish a minimum riparian intactness target of 75%.
- New development within riparian areas is discouraged.
- Where development is allowed within riparian areas, require the development to comply with the established minimum intactness target.
- Require landscaping plans to include design features that support riparian intactness.
- Discourage aggregate extraction development within riparian areas.

- Riparian Lands are the transitional areas between upland and aquatic ecosystems.
- These areas can have variable width and extend both above and below ground.
- These lands are influenced by and/or exert an influence on associated water bodies, which include alluvial aquifers and floodplains, when present.
- Riparian areas provide valuable ecosystem services that can reduce municipal costs, support water quality, and maintain biodiversity.

Roadmap for Sustainable Water Management In the Battle River Watershed

Surface water quantity model for the basin



Photo by: Forrest Hagen
Meeting Creek Valley

WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

14,000 Youth | 4800 Teachers



BENEFITS FOR RESIDENTS

Free,
curriculum-aligned
programs for Grades
5–12



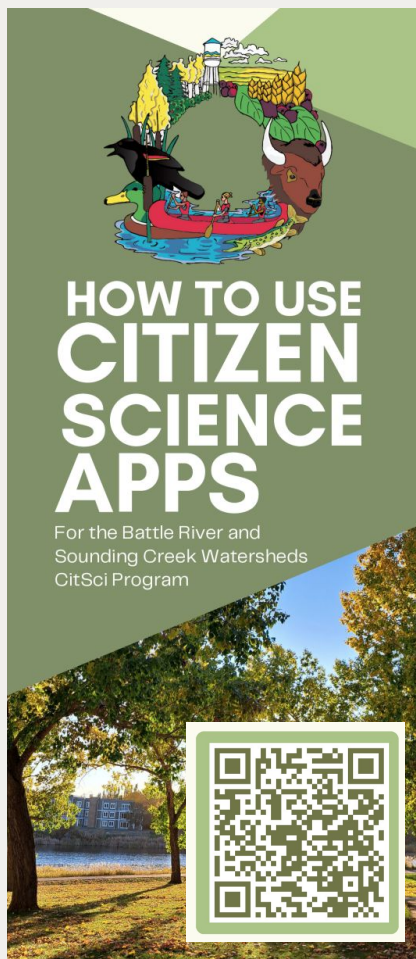


PROGRAMS BY GRADE

- Discover Your Wetland (Gr. 5)
- Weather Watchers in the Watershed (Gr. 5)
- Habitat Tour (Gr. 6)
- X-Stream Science (Gr. 7-12)

*4 Iron Ridge Intermediate classes
booked for spring field trips*





CITIZEN SCIENCE

Volunteers Opportunities for Residence

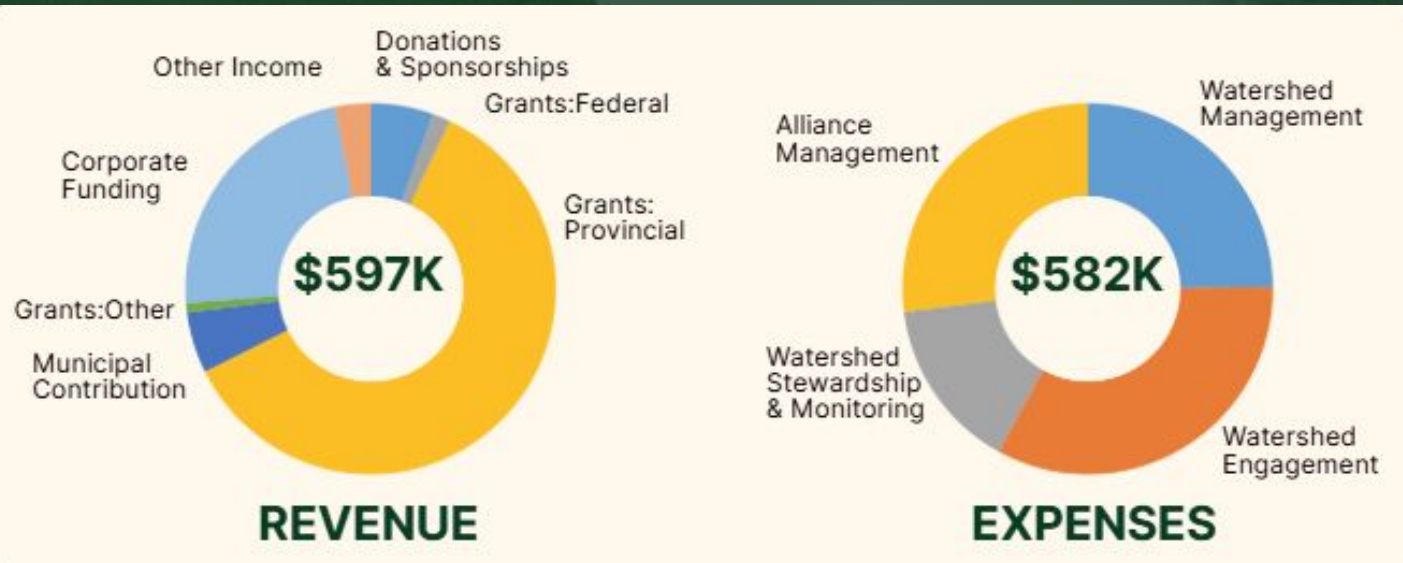
Five programs to monitoring biodiversity and water quality:

- River Observer
- Lake Observer
- Invasive Species Monitoring
- Bird Monitoring using eBird
- Biodiversity Monitoring using iNaturalist

Opportunity to host a community science event in a park or natural space near you.

ORGANIZATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Municipal funds are part of a diverse/essential funding base





WHAT THE TOWN FUNDING MAKES POSSIBLE

Long-term water security, environmental sustainability, and economic growth

- Unlocking & match provincial and corporate dollars to enhance stewardship
- Supporting technical leadership for policy guidance and beneficial management practices
- Enhancing the accessibility of nature-based watershed education programs
- Governance to support local priorities

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWN'S STRATEGIC PLAN (2026-2030)

Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion

MDP Review
Phase 1:
Parks & Open
Spaces

Rec & Culture
Indigenous
Co-leadership
LWC

Inclusion &
Belonging
ED Programs

Sustainable Services & Infrastructure

SOW Data &
Watershed
Knowledge to
inform the
Town's Water
& Wastewater
Master Plans &
Asset
Management
Strategy

Leadership, Engagement & Advocacy

Regional
Collaboration
and advocacy

BRWA's
convening
role supports
the Town's
initiatives for
sustainable
infrastructure
funding

Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity

Reliable
water supply
& Sound land
use policy
underpinning
the Town's
economic
readiness &
development
planning

WITHOUT FUNDING FROM BLACKFALDS

- Reduces Battle River Watershed Alliance's ability to leverage matching provincial and corporate dollars
- Weakens the Town's direct seat at the regional planning table
- Fewer Stewardship & Education Program Opportunities

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

>>>>>
>>>>> 20 Years of Watershed Stewardship



2025-2026 Annual Report



Request to this Committee

- Invest 50
- Provide Council Input at the Road Map for Water Sustainability - Online Session October 23, 10:30-Noon
- Attend our 20th Anniversary Celebration December 6th, 4-6pm in Camrose

Annual Report shared today & available
at: www.battleriverwatershed.ca

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT!***



Battle River Watershed Alliance

Otis@battleriverwatershed.ca

www.battleriverwatershed.ca

@BattleRiverWatershed

BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



20 Years of Watershed Stewardship



2025-2026 Annual Report





Battle River Watershed Alliance is a not-for-profit organization and designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council under *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*. With a focus on the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watershed, our role is to convene & collaborate with community partners for state of the watershed reporting and watershed management planning. We also provide watershed education programming to enhance watershed literacy and stewardship.

VISION: We exist to have a watershed that sustains all life by using sound knowledge, wisdom, and wise actions to preserve our watershed for future generations.

MISSION: We achieve our vision by providing relevant science, social science, policies, and education for a diverse community of people to create solutions to our watershed's challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGING PEOPLE & LANDS

The Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds have been the home, meeting ground and travelling route for many Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We gratefully acknowledge the ancestral territory and ongoing presence of Indigenous Peoples and Nations within these watersheds. Their experiences, teachings, knowledge and wisdom inform and enrich our collective efforts to care for the land and water of this region. These watersheds are located in Treaty 6 and 7 territory, and the Métis Homeland. Fulfilling the spirit and intent of these treaties is an ongoing process, and the Battle River Watershed Alliance is committed to building strong and respectful relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of this land, with all living beings, and with the land and water on which we all depend.





Message from the Board

” *The success of the BRWA will depend upon the people who live and work within the watershed. I invite you to become a member of the alliance. There is no cost except for your time and commitment to making a difference within our watershed.*

Jeremy Enarson, Chair in 2007, BRWA's first Annual Report



The Board of Directors reflects with pride on two decades of stewardship, collaboration, and leadership in support of watershed sustainability and water security. As an independent organization, BRWA now has more than 2,000 members, and together with the long-standing representation of community partners on the Board and Land & Water Committee, brings diverse voices together to build consensus and advance watershed management that balances social, economic, and environmental priorities.

Over the years, the work of the Board, committees, and staff has taken many forms, from raising awareness over a slice of Saskatoon pie and bringing communities together to establish a watershed management framework, to delivering award-winning engagement and education programs, as well as providing municipalities with practical tools such as Riparian Health Assessments and Land Use Planning Guidelines. Guided by passionate leadership and dedicated governance, BRWA has grown significantly over the past 20 years, expanding its reach, impact, and ability to foster a culture of stewardship in communities across the watershed.



CHAIRS / CO-CHAIRS

Jeremy Enarson, 2006-2011 from the Bigstone subwatershed

Hugh Sanders, 2011 - 2017, Bigstone

Barb Bosh, 2017 - 2021, Paintearth

Al Corbett & Ryley Andersen, 2021 - 2026, Bigstone & Blackfoot



Battle River downstream of Driedmeat Lake



Message from the Executive Director



Behind every partnership and initiative are people who care deeply about the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds and the communities connected to this land. Over the past 20 years, BRWA's dedicated staff, including seasonal team members who bring energy and passion to outreach and youth education, emerging STEM leaders, and expert consultants, share their knowledge and research to help us understand the state of the watershed so our community leaders can make sustainable land management decisions for a safe secure water supply and strong economy.



Contract Team

Special recognition goes to Susanna Bruneau, Sheila Logelin, Sarah Skinner, and past Executive Director David Samm for their strong connection to place and longstanding commitment to the sustainability of our community, each contributing 15 or more years of service.



>>>>> State of the Watershed

>>>>> Battle River & Sounding Creek Watersheds



”

Characterizing the current state of one's watershed, its problems, and the pressures upon it can provide the basis for developing effective management strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the goals of Water for Life.

Handbook for State of the Watershed Report, Government of Alberta



BRWA compiled comprehensive State of the Watershed Reports in 2011 and 2022. The data identifies significant areas of concern that require conservation and restoration efforts to protect water supplies, ecosystems, and biodiversity, supporting resilient communities and a sustainable economy.

Assessments, Monitoring & Engagement

Partner organizations contribute key data, including Government of Alberta water quality and flow information and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute's Human Footprint Inventory. BRWA also shares this information with decision-makers and the public while working to address data gaps.

2007 Battle River Fish-based Index of Biological Integrity

2008 Aerial Videography Riparian Assessment of the Battle River

2010 Battle River Basin Socio-Economic Profile

2011 Economic Activity and Ecosystem Services in the Battle River Basin Report

2015-2025 Important Bird Areas Monitoring Initiated

2017 ECHO Network, focus on community & public health data in SOW Reporting

2019-2025 Landcover Dataset & Shoreline and Riparian Condition Assessments

2020 Winter LakeKeepers Monitoring, Battle Lake (Headwaters of Battle River)

2021 LakeWatch Monitoring, Battle Lake (Headwaters of Battle River)

2021 Riparian Web Portal & training sessions

2023 Sounding Creek Riparian Area Assessment Report

2024 BRWA Citizen Science Monitoring Program Initiated

In 2026, State of the Watershed Information Sheets and Data Walk were completed with funding from the Battle River Community Foundation. Check out our website.



HWY 855, County of Paintearth No. 18
by Preston Weran



Watershed Management



Success Stories

- Framework for Watershed Management Planning (above)
- Approved Water Management Plan for the Battle River Basin, GOA
- Camrose Source Water Protection Plan
- Guide to Watershed Management in Land Use Planning for Local Governments in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds



Moving Communities to Action

In 2012, a Watershed Management Planning Steering Committee was established to guide the planning process including consultation with local businesses, industry, government, Indigenous Nations and land-holders to develop an adaptive management planning framework with four areas of focus - water quality, water quantity, land management and biodiversity. This set the stage for research, policy advice, and guidelines for watershed management to move communities to action.

Watershed Management Guidelines are tools for decision-makers to support a healthy ecosystem, biodiversity, and safe secure water supply.

Visit our website for guidelines on: Wetlands, Riparian Areas, Source Water Protection, Drought Adaptation and Management, Non-native and Invasive Species Management, and Non-point Source Pollution Management



Watershed Management

BRWA Land & Water Committee

Established in 2023, the BRWA Land & Water Committee is a multi-sector advisory group that supports state of the watershed reporting, watershed management planning and implementation.

Committee Representation: Augustana Campus (University of Alberta), Beaver County, Camrose County, City of Camrose, County of Paintearth, County of Vermilion River, Drainage Council, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Flagstaff County, Government of Alberta, Lacombe County, Montana First Nation, Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, Samson Cree Nation, Town of Wainwright, and BRWA Board members

Funded By: Camrose County, Battle River Community Foundation, the Grattidge Family Fund, the Ken and Irif Drever 50th Anniversary Fund, and the Ralph and Kaye Rud Fund.

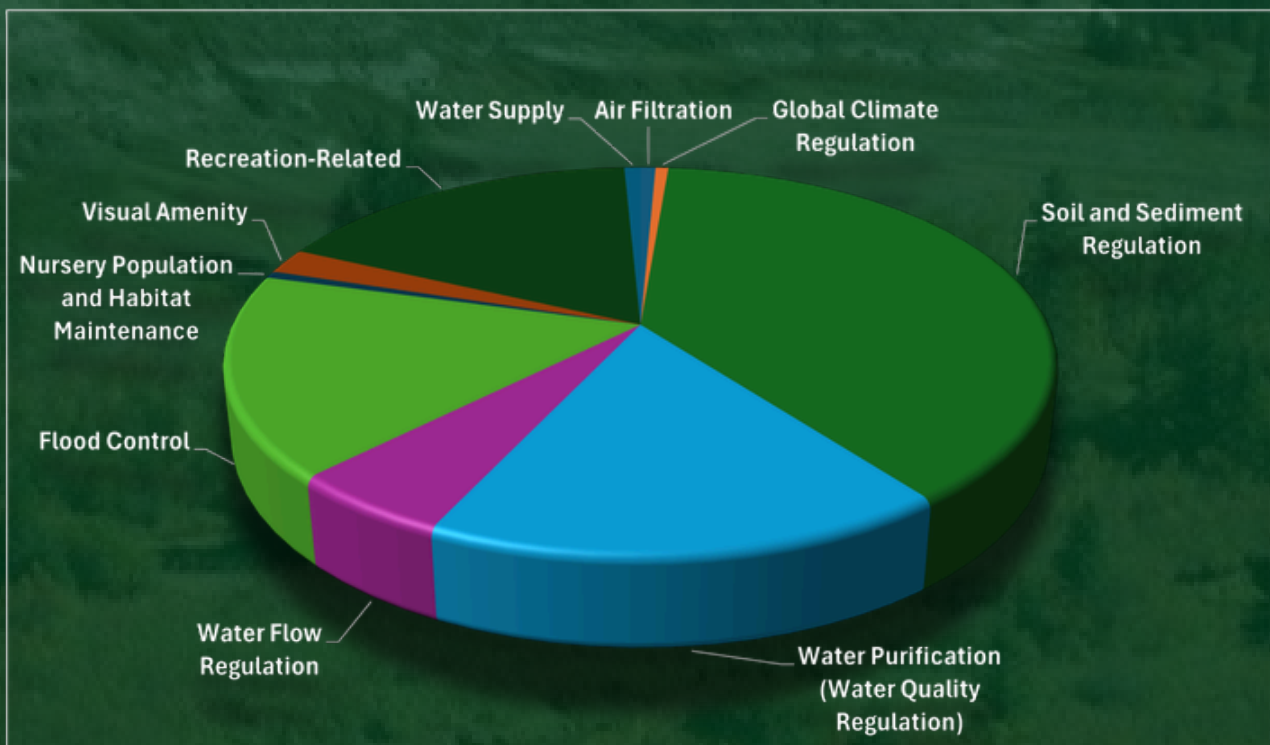


»»»»» Riparian Stewardship Projects 2012-2025, 650 Acres

Investment **\$850,000**

Annual Ecosystem Services Value **\$33,275,917**

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUE BY TYPE



Oldman Watershed Council's Ecosystem Value Calculator, created with support from Government of Alberta

FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Federal-Provincial Growing Forward 2 & Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program, Provincial Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program, & Land-holders Battle River Watershed Alliance

COLLABORATORS

Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society | Cows and Fish Riparian Management Society | Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society | Flagstaff County ALUS
Pipestone Creek School | Montana First Nation



>>>>> Outstanding In Stewardship

OTIS Awards, 50+ Recipients across 30 Communities

2025 RECIPIENTS



Agriculture

Erin & Casey
Murphy-
Thompson
Thompson WP
Farms, Grassland
Stewardship



Organization

Louis Bull Tribe
Climate Risk &
Resilience
Assessment



Individual

Anjah Howard,
Camrose County
Planning Leadership
for Watershed
Management



Youth

Laurie Phillips,
Terrace Ridge
School
Future Stewards

2012-2024 RECIPIENTS

Darcy & Candace Goodrich
Carol Wilson
Kaitlin Lomas, Katie & Vicki Wyering, Melissa Gartner
Lacombe County
Mike Black
Maven Boddy and Golden Prairie 4H
County of Vermilion River
Blue Dot Camrose
Roy and Judy Louis
Brooklyn Green and Mina Shin
Chinook Applied Research Association
Susan Ellis
Lougheed Colony School
MSW Farms
Buffalo Lake Nature Club
Tom Tomasweski
Katelyn Cook
Nica's Hair Salon
Tin Forest Farms
Don and Marie Ruzicka
Wainwright Girl Guides
Brenda Bohmer
City of Wetaskiwin
Pres Winter
Grove Grizzlies
Camrose Energy
Millet & District Museum and Archives
Glen Hvenegaard
Hughenden Public School
Dan and Harriet Liddle
Wainwright Wildlife Society
Lorne Ferguson
Round Hill Renaissance Agriculture Foundation
Michael & Clara Hampson
Robert Gibbs
Ecoplast Solutions Inc.
Altario School
Darrel Fipke
Rebecca King
Scandia Roadside Native Prairie Restoration Project
Nipisihkopahk Wellness, Samson Cree Nation
Terry & Peggy Vockeroth
Ian Rawlinson
Belle Dodds



Nominations for
2026 open
July 1st.



Education & Literacy

BRWA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NO. OF YEARS

Waste in Our Watershed Tour (Gr. 4)	10
Discover Your Wetland (Gr. 5)	15
Weather Watchers in the Watershed (Gr. 5)	1
Habitat Tour (Gr. 6)	3
X-Stream Science (Gr. 7-12)	10
Caring For Our Watersheds (Gr. 7-12)	19



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- In 2025, the Recycling Council of Alberta, R's of Excellence Award was given to the Waste in Our Watershed partners: Centra Cam Vocational Training Association, City of Camrose, GFL Environmental Inc., City of Wetaskiwin, and Aquatera Utilities.
- Weather Watchers in Our Watershed was developed with guidance from the Maskwacis Elder Advisory Committee.



Blackfalds



Education & Literacy

” Students who may struggle to engage in a traditional classroom setting often thrive outdoors. I have seen students step into leadership roles, ask thoughtful questions, and demonstrate confidence and curiosity in ways I might not otherwise witness. Many students develop a genuine connection to nature through this experience, gaining a deeper respect for the environment and an understanding of how humans and wildlife coexist within shared spaces. **Taren Lindstrand, Junior High Teacher, Round Hill**

**14,000 Youth
Participants**
over 20 years



COMMUNITY PARTNERS BRINGING CLASSROOM CURRICULUM TO LIFE
BATTLE RIVER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | CAMROSE ENERGY | CARGILL
CAF AMERICA | ENBRIDGE | HEARTLAND GENERATION | NUTRIEN



Mirror Lake, City of Camrose

>>>>> Convening and Collaborating

2025-26 ENGAGEMENT: TAKING ACTION IN YOUR WATERSHED

Bringing people together to inspire stewardship and community action, BRWA connected many groups to deliver hands-on learning and engagement opportunities, including:

Caring for Our Watersheds Alberta Contest (19th year), sponsored by Nutrien, 11 teachers at 9 schools engaging 267 students.

Watershed 101 Webinar for Elected Officials featuring municipal leadership perspectives from Ponoka County and the City of Camrose.

Winter LakeKeepers Monitoring with Alberta Lake Management Society, Augustana Community Service-Learning students, and local volunteers.

Nature Science + Sports Skills Camp in partnership with Augustana Campus, University of Alberta and Camrose and District Fish and Game Association.



Piping Plover Monitoring with Alberta Conservation Association and volunteers.

Great Divide Tree Planting and Pipe Ceremony at Beaver Hills Biosphere with Miquelon Lake Watershed Stewardship Committee and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.

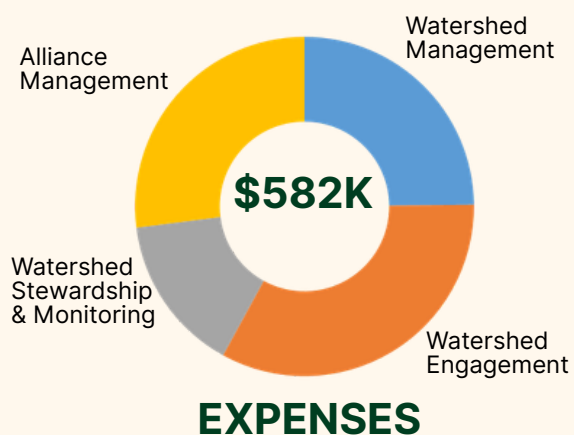
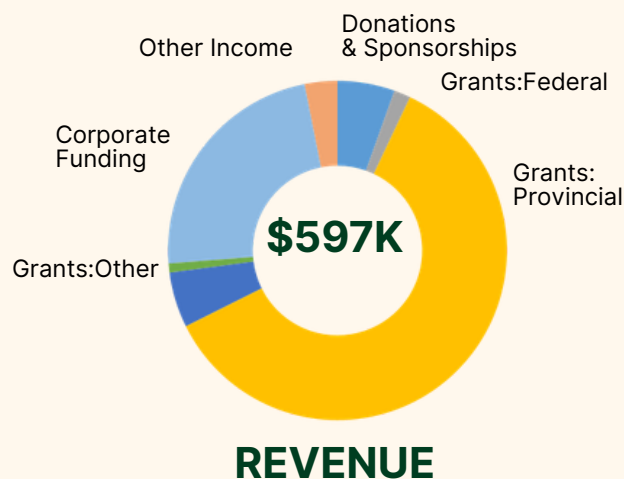
Stoney Creek Riparian Restoration with support from Camrose Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society, Cows and Fish Riparian Management Society.





Financials

With a significant goal of sustainability for our watershed and water security, the organization launched in 2006 with a modest operating budget of \$100k. With support from community partners this budget has grown to as high as \$800k annually.



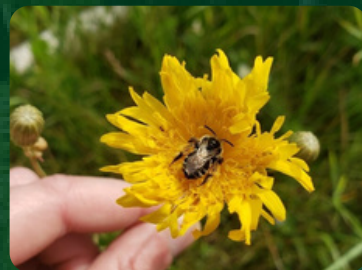
Fayban Trestle, MD of Wainwright No. 61
by Dale Pederson

>>>>> Financial Contributions & In-Kind Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial and in-kind support of our sponsors over the past 20 years, whose partnership helps advance watershed stewardship, healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, and long-term water security for our communities.

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Agrium Inc
Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society
Alberta Beef
Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities
Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice
Alberta Community Bat Program (Wildlife Conservation Society Canada)
Alberta Community Partnership grant partners (Camrose County, Flagstaff County, Lacombe County)
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Council for Environmental Education
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Alberta Lake Management Society
Alberta Real Estate Foundation
Alberta Trappers Association
Alberta Wilderness Association
ALUS County of Vermilion River
ALUS Lacombe-Red Deer
ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc
Andrukow Group Solutions
Anglican Church
Aquaterra
Association for Life-Wide Living of Alberta (ALL)
ATCO Power
Battle Lake Natural Area Preservation Society
Battle Lake Watershed Synergy Group
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development
Battle River Community Foundation
Battle River Implements
Battle River Research Group
Beaver County
Beaver Hills Biosphere Interpretive Community of Practice
Bouma Meats
Buffalo Lake Nature Club
Bunge Canada
Camrose & District Horticultural Society
Camrose & District Support Services
Camrose and District Fish and Game Association
Camrose Arts Society
Camrose County
Camrose Energy
Camrose Open Door Association
Camrose Rotary Club
Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Society
Canadian Agricultural Partnership
Canadian Forces Base Wainwright

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Capital Power
Cargill
CAF America
Centre for Race & Culture
Change for Climate Edmonton
Chinook Applied Research Association
City of Camrose
City of Edmonton
City of Lacombe
Conoco Phillips
Country Accent
County of Paintearth
County of Stettler
County of Vermilion River
County of Wetaskiwin
Cows & Fish Riparian Management Society
Dalton Seed Farm: Pioneer Seed
Diplomat Mine Historical Society
Don & Marie Ruzicka
Drainage Council
Ducks Unlimited Canada
EastAlta Co-op
ECHO Collective
ECHO Network
ECO Canada
Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Enbridge
Encana
Enerplus
Erminskin Cree Nation
Everest Trucking
Evergreen
Farm Credit Canada
Government of Alberta
Government of Canada
Flagstaff County
Forestburg Fitness Institute
Friends of Little Beaver Lake
Gaylene Halter
George Poruchnek
Girl Guides of Canada Wolf Willow District
Glenys Smith - Donation
Government of Alberta
Government of Alberta - Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas



>>>>> Financial Contributions & In-Kind Sponsors, Continued

Government of Canada
 Heartland Generation
 Henry & Judy Fenton – Donation
 Hugh & Marg Sanders
 Inside Education
 Ireland Farm Equipment
 Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society
 Janet McGreer
 Jean Malcolm-McDonald (Plant Expertise)
 Lacombe County
 Lake Winnipeg Basin Program
 Lakeland College
 Land Stewardship Centre
 Leduc County
 Louis Bull Tribe
 M.D. of Wainwright
 Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council
 M.D. of Provost
 Montana First Nation
 Muldoon Trucking
 Myron Badrey
 Nature Alberta
 Nature Canada
 Nature Conservancy of Canada
 North American Waterfowl Management Plan
 North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
 Nu Edge Construction
 Nutrien
 Owl Link Media Corporation
 Paintearth Economic Partnership Society
 Parkland Airshed Management Zone
 Peaceful Valley Advisory Committee
 Penn West Exploration
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
 Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan
 Steering Committee
 Ponoka County
 Ponoka Fish & Game Association
 Populus Community Planning Inc.
 Prairie Mines & Royalty ULC
 Prairie Mines & Royalty ULC.
 Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy (University of Lethbridge)
 Project Learning Tree
 Real Canadian Superstore
 Recycle with Centra Cam
 Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
 RED The Agency
 Regenerative Agriculture Lab (Rural Routes to Climate Solutions)

Rotary Club of Camrose
 Samson Cree Nation
 2nd Floor Computers
 Special Areas Board
 Stafford Plumbing
 Strathcona Raptor Center
 Summer Village of Argentia Beach
 Summer Village of Crystal Springs
 Summer Village of Golden Days
 Summer Village of Grandview
 Summer Village of Itaska Beach
 Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach
 Summer Village of Norris Beach
 Summer Village of Paradise Valley
 Summer Village of Poplar Bay
 Summer Village of Silver Beach
 Town of Blackfalds
 Town of Hardisty
 Town of Killam
 Town of Lacombe
 Town of Ponoka
 Town of Sedgewick
 Town of Viking
 Town of Wainwright
 UFA
 United Nations
 University of Alberta, Augustana Campus
 Vernon Malone Fund
 Village of Alliance
 Village of Bawlf
 Village of Bittern Lake
 Village of Botha
 Village of Chauvin
 Village of Consort
 Village of Donalda
 Village of Edberg
 Village of Edgerton
 Village of Ferintosh
 Village of Forestburg
 Village of Gadsby
 Village of Halkik
 Village of Hay Lakes
 Village of Loughheed
 Village of Rosalind
 Village of Strome
 Vision Credit Union
 Volunteer Alberta
 Wainwright Wildlife Society
 WaterSmart
 Xylem Inc.



MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Louise Rellis, Founder & Executive Director, Anam Rural Youth Association
SUBJECT: **Anam Rural Youth Association**

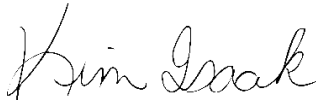
BACKGROUND

Louise Rellis, Founder & Executive Director, Anam Rural Youth Association, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Report to the Community*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



2026

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS

Report to the
Community



MISSION

Anam engages with marginalized and at-risk youth and young adults in building capacity for them to break negative cycles and behaviours fostering their ability to recognize their worth.

VISION

Empowering youth and young adults to recognize their full potential.

SUPPORT SERVICE

Providing a mobile, one-on-one, trauma-integrated, mental health support service to marginalized, at-risk, system-disconnected youth, and young adults aged 13-25.



OVERVIEW

Anam Rural Youth Association (ARYA) provides a mobile, one-on-one, trauma-integrated mental health support service for marginalized, at-risk, system-disconnected youth and young adults aged 13–25 in the rural communities of Central Alberta. Our focus is delivered in a way that meets individuals where they are, literally and emotionally.

Anam has 3 core principles;

1. Mobility: Anam is a mobile model of support. Research consistently shows that adolescents often speak more openly when they are side-by-side rather than sitting face-to-face. Studies also show that the best time to talk to a teenager is while you're driving. So sessions take place in a vehicle. Anam travels to the individual and picks them up from home, school, or another pre-arranged location. This approach removes several common barriers to care.

Transportation is a significant challenge in many rural communities, and many parents are not able to take time off work, can't afford to afford additional travel costs, or manage the logistics of transporting youth to appointments.

It also reduces conflict within the home. Parents would often say, "I can't drag him into the office."

By meeting youth and young adults where they are, we remove that point of conflict and make engagement possible.

The vehicle setting also lowers perceived social threat, which helps many individuals regulate enough to engage in meaningful conversation.

2. Regulation & Connection: When I meet with clients I take them for something to eat via the drive-thru. Anam pairs sessions with food because chewing stimulates parasympathetic regulation and lowers conversational threat. It aids building connection and maintains a casual, informal setting.

3. Education & Navigation: Anam is bridging systems and awareness, internally. When we are in session the conversations are around the development of the brain, impact of trauma and lived experience and the reasons 'why' behind behaviours, struggles and emotions.

It is an introspective education as opposed to counselling.

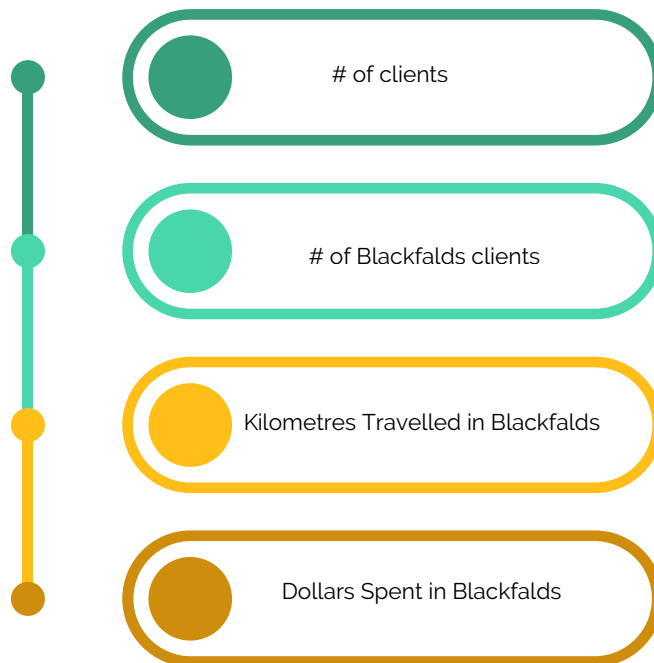
Every youth and young adult is unique. Their personal history, resilience, and relationships shape how they respond to life's challenges. ARYA's one-on-one approach focuses on uncovering and nurturing each individual's strengths, while remaining sensitive to cultural and developmental needs.

Core Principal: Trauma-Integrated

Core Focus: At-Risk, Marginalized, System-disconnected youth and young adults



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



SUMMARY

We are deeply grateful to the Town of Blackfalds for its ongoing support of Anam Rural Youth Association and for the continued belief of Administration and Council in the importance of accessible mental health support for young people in our community.

Because of this ongoing partnership, young people in Blackfalds can access immediate, one-on-one support when they need it — without wait times.

This year, the Town of Blackfalds provided \$5,000 in ongoing support to Anam. That contribution was matched with an additional \$5,000 from the Community Foundation grant, creating \$10,000 in combined community investment in accessible youth support.

Our mobile, one-on-one model is not a traditional program. We don't wait for young people to come to us — we go to them, in real time, removing barriers to access. Every connection is personalized, and every session is shaped around the unique strengths, circumstances, and needs of the young person in front of us.

Your ongoing contribution directly fuels this work. It helps create safe, supportive spaces for youth and young adults who might otherwise fall through the cracks. More importantly, it represents a community choosing to show up for its young people.

It is because of the Town of Blackfalds' continued trust and belief in Anam that we are able to keep showing up, meeting young people where they are, and helping them recognize their worth and break negative cycles.



MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Rudy Friesen, Executive Director, Red Deer River Municipal Users Group
SUBJECT: **Red Deer River Municipal Users Group**

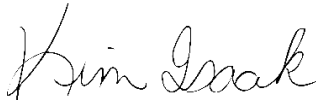
BACKGROUND

Rudy Friesen, Executive Director, Red Deer River Municipal Users Group, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *RDRMUG Presentation*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

RED DEER RIVER MUNICIPAL USERS GROUP (RDRMUG)

Presentation to Town of Blackfalds
October 7th, 2026

Red Deer River Municipal Users Group (RDRMUG)

WHO WE ARE

- In 2006 a group of Municipalities formed an association of rural and urban municipalities to share concerns relating to water issues within the Red Deer River Basin. RDRMUG was instrumental in:
 - Having the Province of Alberta review and change the supply of water to Cross Iron Mills Mall
 - Identify the Red Deer River as a full basin within the South Saskatchewan River Basin

RDRMUG

WHO WE ARE – ***Broad Membership is key for Strong Voice for the River***

- RDRMUG works closely with all water related agencies including Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Alberta Water Smart
- Membership is composed of municipalities within the Red Deer River Basin and communities who receive water from the Red Deer River either directly or through regional water systems
- Municipalities are represented through their elected officials with support of some administration and technical staff.
- RDRMUG has a strong voice. 33 municipal members representing a population base of approximately 300,000 people within the Red Deer River Watershed
- **We are self funded through member municipalities contribution of .25 per capita This rate has remained the same since the group's inception**

RDRMUG

We continually advocate the importance of our watershed

The Red Deer River is described as unique, in that it is the only river within the South Saskatchewan River Basin that still has “License Allocations” available.

- The demand on water from the Red Deer River continues to grow – municipalities are one of many sectors requiring water and competing for future water needs
- Cost to supply and maintain potable water continues to increase; poor water quality requires costlier treatment
- Sustainable communities are dependent on the availability of safe, secure potable water

RDRMUG

Purpose – The value of membership

- Provide comprehensive and consistent information to members
www.rdrmug.ca
- Provide a forum for municipalities to discuss water supply, water use, water quality and water sustainability
- Serve as an advocate to all levels of government for municipal interests in the supply, use, delivery and quality of water from the Red Deer River
- Provide stimulating and educational guest speakers and presentations at our membership meetings
- **RDRMUG mandate focuses strictly on the municipal perspective of water related issues.**

RDRMUG

Current Initiatives

- Working with WaterSmart to measure growth potential in the watershed
- Supporting the MD of Acadia and Special Areas in the investigation of a new irrigation district in Eastern Alberta
- Supporting the Ardley Dam feasibility study that was approved in the 2025 provincial budget
- Monitoring water licence applications for the Red Deer River

RDRMUG

RED DEER RIVER Where does it fit?

- Part of the South Saskatchewan River Basin
Old Man, Bow, South Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers
- Red Deer River is the largest in area of the 4 Basins
- Smallest in flow volume and the only system that is allowed to issue new allocation licenses
- The total allocation figures show that 56% of the Red Deer River allowable allocations have been made or committed
- Municipal usage is approximately 12%

RDRMUG

RED DEER RIVER MUNICIPAL USERS GROUP

A group with a vested interest in the municipal perspective of the Red Deer River basin; working to ensure future water needs are met to provide for sustainable population and economic growth of our communities.

We are stronger together

We believe our mission aligns well with your strategic plan, specifically around the key pillars of vitality, advocacy and sustainable services

Thank You

Questions

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026

PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor

PRESENTED BY: Nicole Rice, Library Administrator, Servus Credit Union Public Library/
Blackfalds Public Library

SUBJECT: **Servus Credit Union Public Library/Blackfalds Public Library**

BACKGROUND

Nicole Rice, Library Administrator, Servus Credit Union Public Library/Blackfalds Public Library, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Library Presentation*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

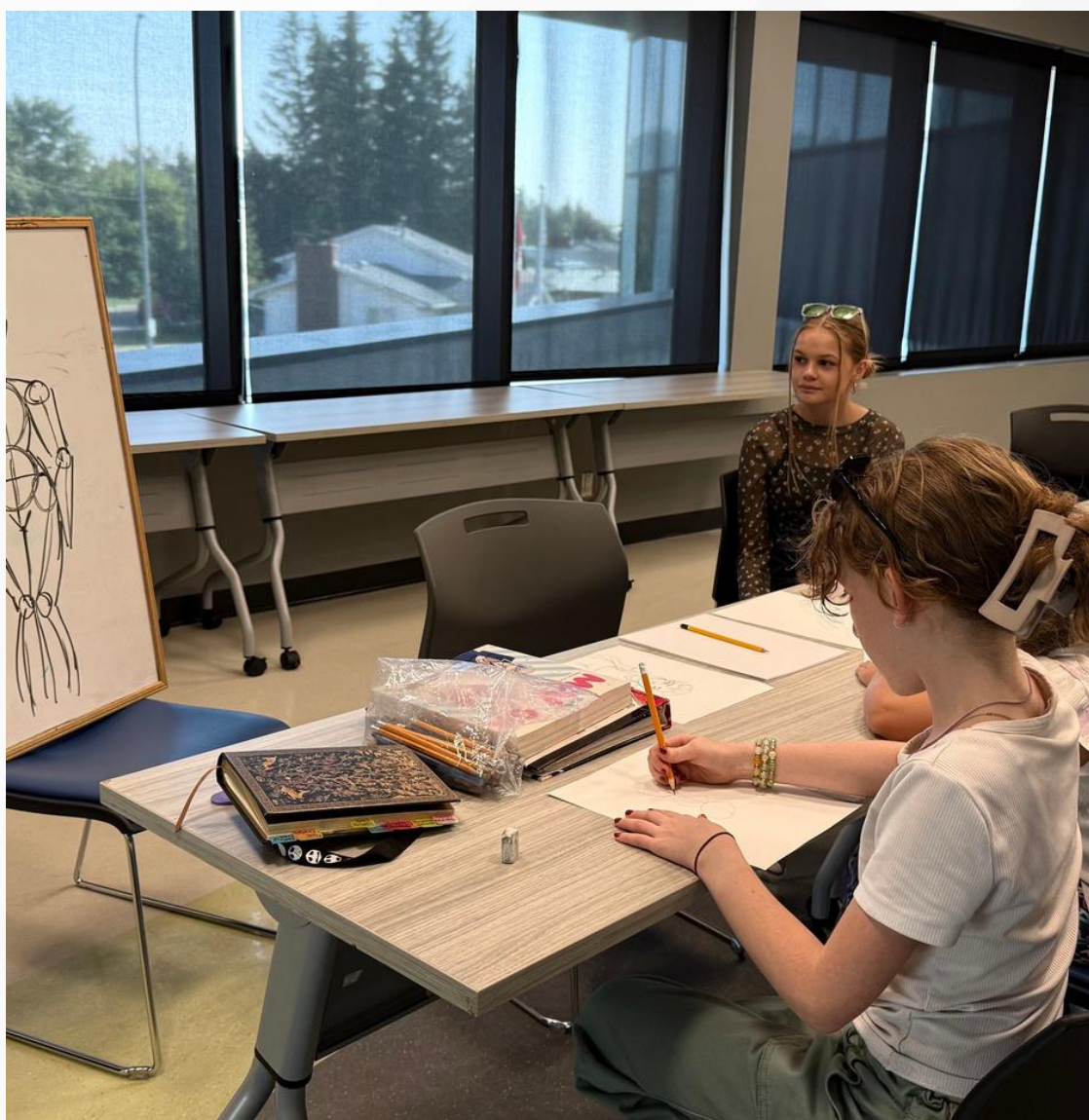
TOWN OF BLACKFALDS COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2026





LEARNING
TOGETHER





2,950

OPEN HOURS



1,679

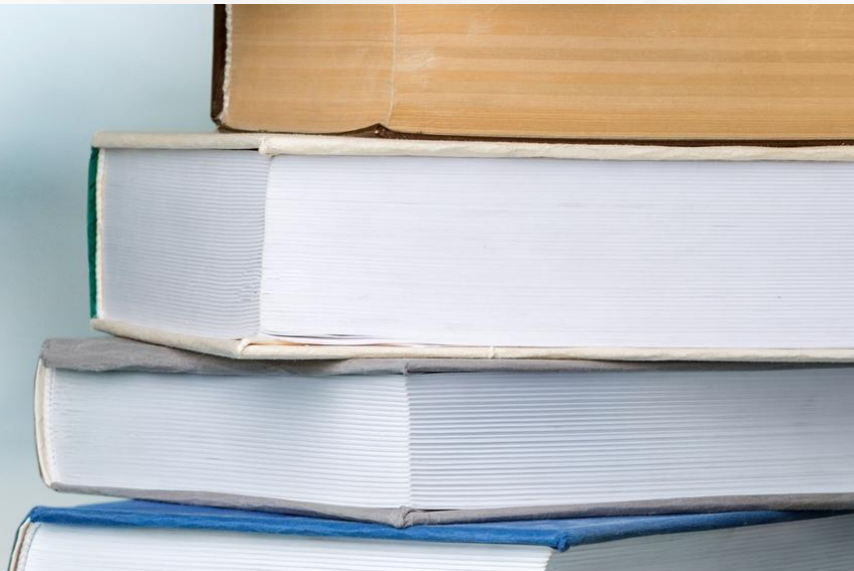
ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDS



**SUPPORTING
COMMUNITY
IN 2025**

2,028

NEW COLLECTION ITEMS



22,517

TOTAL COLLECTION ITEMS



Patron *Feedback*

The library had opened many doors for our family, access to resources, endless stories, knowledge, activities & opportunities to connect with our community. (The Bryan family)
my family visit the library once a week.
my boys love to check out books, read & explore.



An open book with its pages fanned out, resting on a green surface.

6,800

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A stack of several books with green and blue covers.

20,254

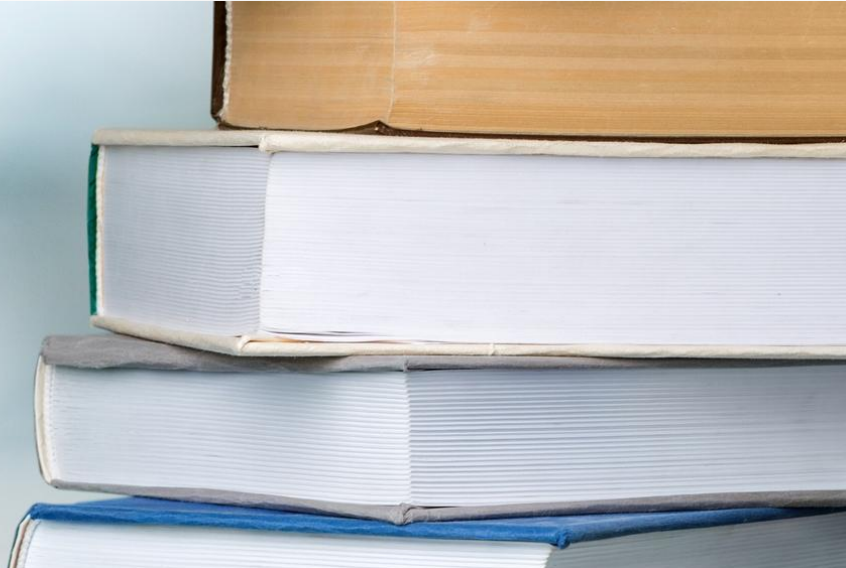
ITEMS BROUGHT IN
FROM OTHER LIBRARIES

A tall stack of books with various colored spines (yellow, red, blue, white).

LIBRARY SERVICES IN 2025

11,167

E-CONTENT DOWNLOADS

A stack of books with white and blue spines.

83,827

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



New Bookkeeper



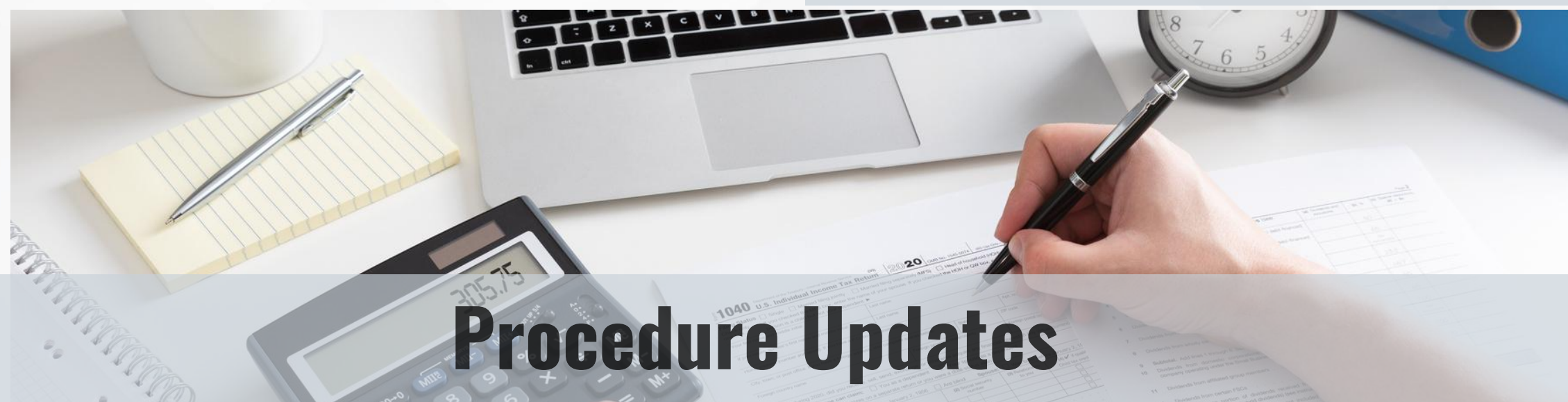
New Assistant Manager



**NEW
PROJECTS**



Policy Updates



Procedure Updates



1,248

LIBRARY PROGRAMS OFFERED



23,565

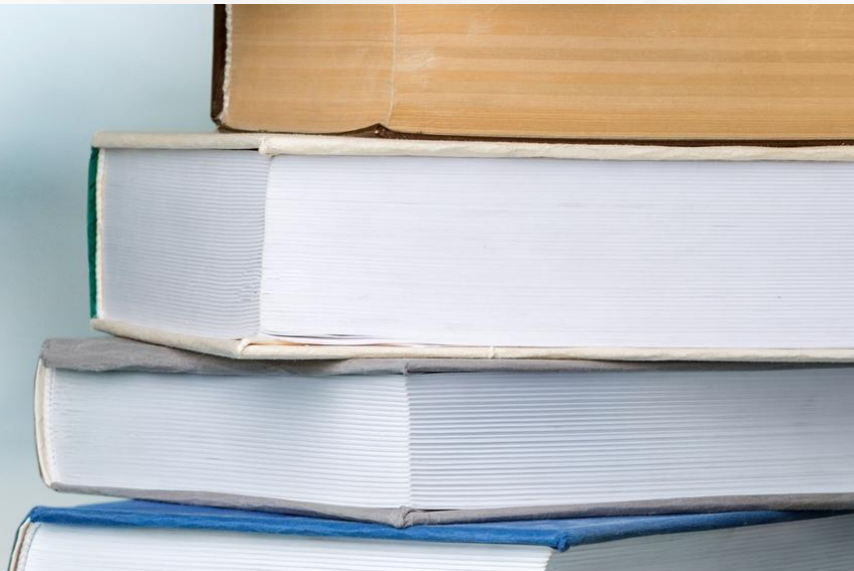
WEBSITE VISITS



**LIBRARY
SERVICES IN
2025**

12,523

PROGRAM ATTENDANCES



57,274

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

Patron Feedback

Thank-you for
the space and
support this
year! Bre

SAWyer

mikind

Behhe++

Sophia

Cooper

Thanks for
Being so
welcoming
to the
Homeschool
community!
-SARAH

THANK YOU!!!!
Blackfalds Library we
appreciate the use of
the upstairs room for
Our Homeschool Co-op!
What FUN we've had!

Emerson

Aden
Isabella

Nixon
Gabe
Aubrey
Hunter

So Looking
forward to
Next year!!
THANK YOU!!
Krisay
Klarich



PUBLIC LIBRARY
BLACKFALDS

Rise and Flow
YOGA IN THE LIBRARY

On Friday May 15th-29th
From 10:00am – 11:30am

Ages 18+,
Registration is required

Come to the library after that morning school drop-off for some yoga and wind down before the weekend. Feel free to bring your own mat and blocks if you have them, if not we do have some!

FREE



NEW PROGRAMS

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUB

A graphic for an After School Art Club. The words "AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUB" are written in large, white, blocky letters. The background is black with orange and white splatters and the words "AFTER SCHOOL" repeated in a smaller, orange, blocky font.

SPRAYED EDGE WORKSHOP

ADULT PROGRAM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Have that one book that you really loved... but it needs a little more "*je ne sais quoi*"? Come to the Library for a workshop on how to get those pretty sprayed edges, that you can do yourself!! Bring a book (hardcover or paper back) to paint the edges and your imagination!!

Monday January 12th at 6-8 PM

For more info:
jdecoteau@blackfalddslibrary.ca

servus
credit union
PUBLIC LIBRARY

A graphic for a Sprayed Edge Workshop. The text is overlaid on a circular frame that shows a bookshelf with books that have colorful, patterned edges. The background is dark with white stars.



**PUBLIC LIBRARY
BLACKFALDS**

**Tuesday, March 11th
from 10:30am – 11:10 am**

**TODDLER
SENSORY
TIME**

**Exploring sensory bins
with jello, pasta, and
more...**

Ages 2–3; Drop-In

NEW PROGRAMS

**FRIENDS OF THE
BLACKFALDS SERVUS LIBRARY PRESENT:**

TRIVIA FUN

**FOR AGES 8–17
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

**Audio Tech
Workshop**

 On Thursday, April 2nd
From 5pm–6pm

 At 5302 Broadway Avenue,
Blackfalds

Looking to kickoff a new hobby?

Then join a free workshop lead by a volunteer instructor to gain knowledge about car audio fundamentals and electronics!

Learn the theory and get hands on experience!
No prior knowledge is required.







67,964

PRINT ITEMS CIRCULATED



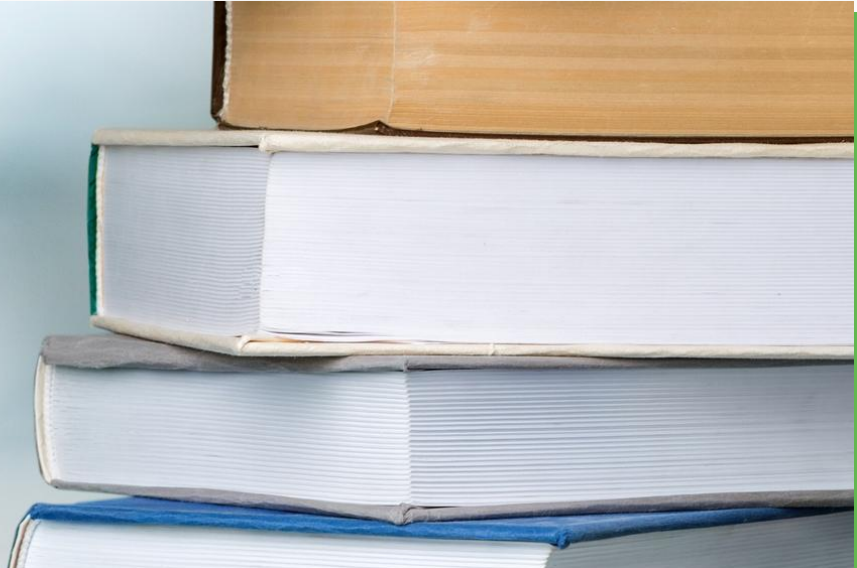
23,565

WEBSITE VISITS

**LIBRARY
STATISTICS
IN 2025**

12,523

PROGRAM ATTENDANCES



57,274

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

Patron Feedback

Happy CLWD!
Hailey Halberg ☺

Thank you for all you do!

Olya.

You are awesome!

☺ Paige

You help your
community grow,
learn & connect
every single day!

Patty ☺

Amazing work!
Karyn

Thanks, you rock!
Jessica

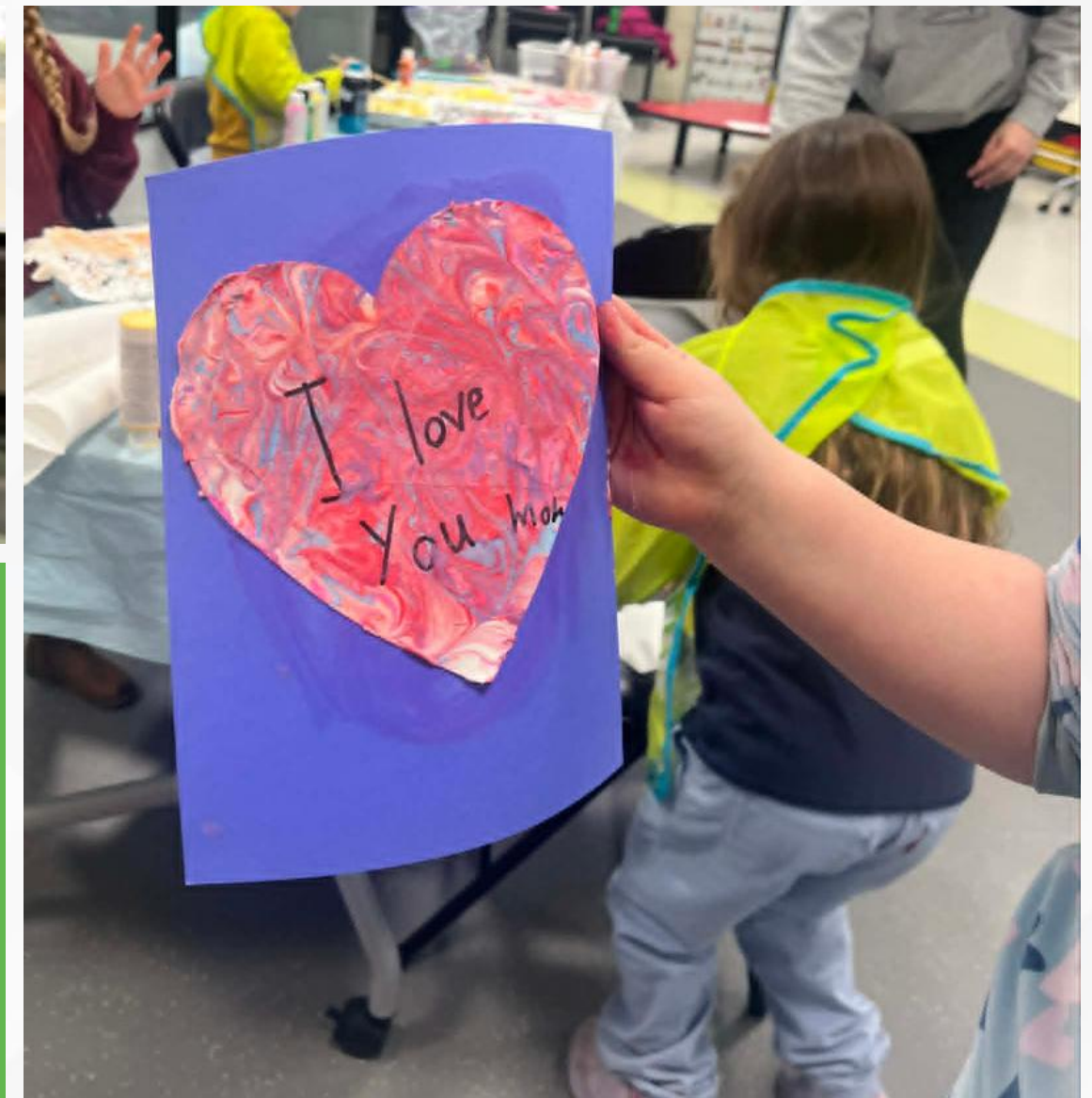
Ron R.





COMMUNITY





**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME
WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO ARRANGE
A TOUR OF THE LIBRARY.**



@Blackfaldslibrary



blackfaldslibrary.ca



403-885-4386



5302 Broadway Avenue

Thank You

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Francine Forrest, Executive Director, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
SUBJECT: **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance**

BACKGROUND

Francine Forrest, Executive Director, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *RDRWA Presentation*
- *RDRWA 2025-2026 annual report*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



RDRWA – Update

Francine Forrest, M.Sc. Executive Director

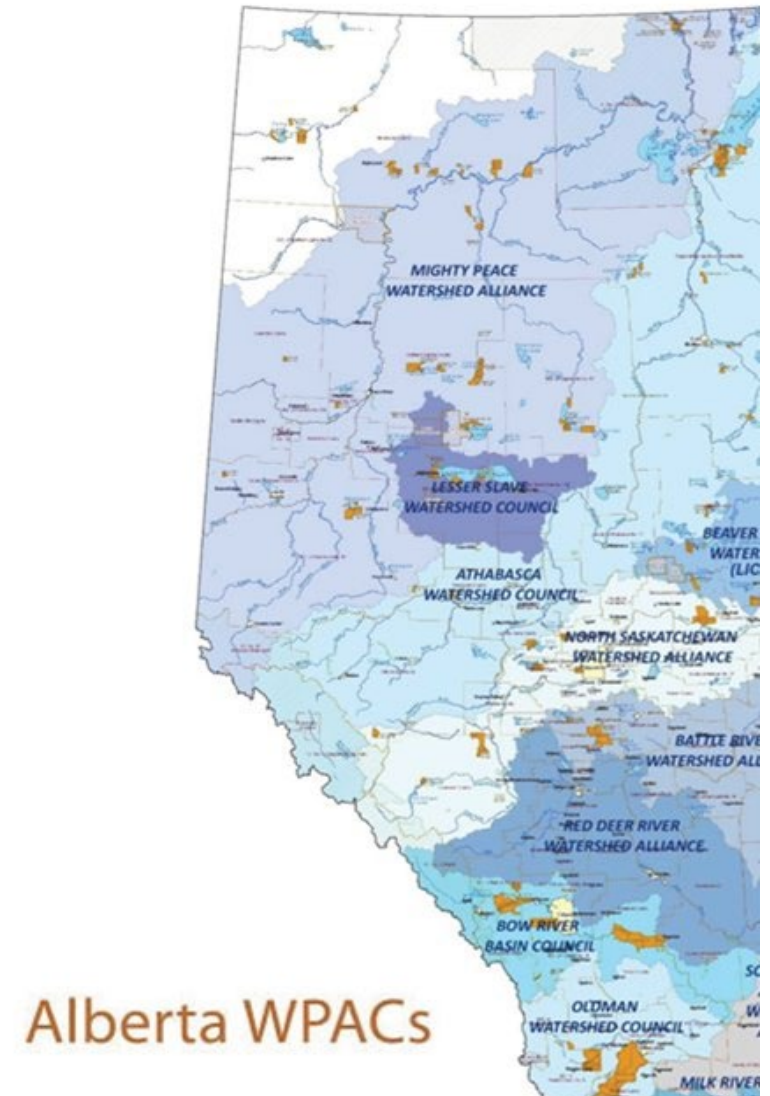


Outline

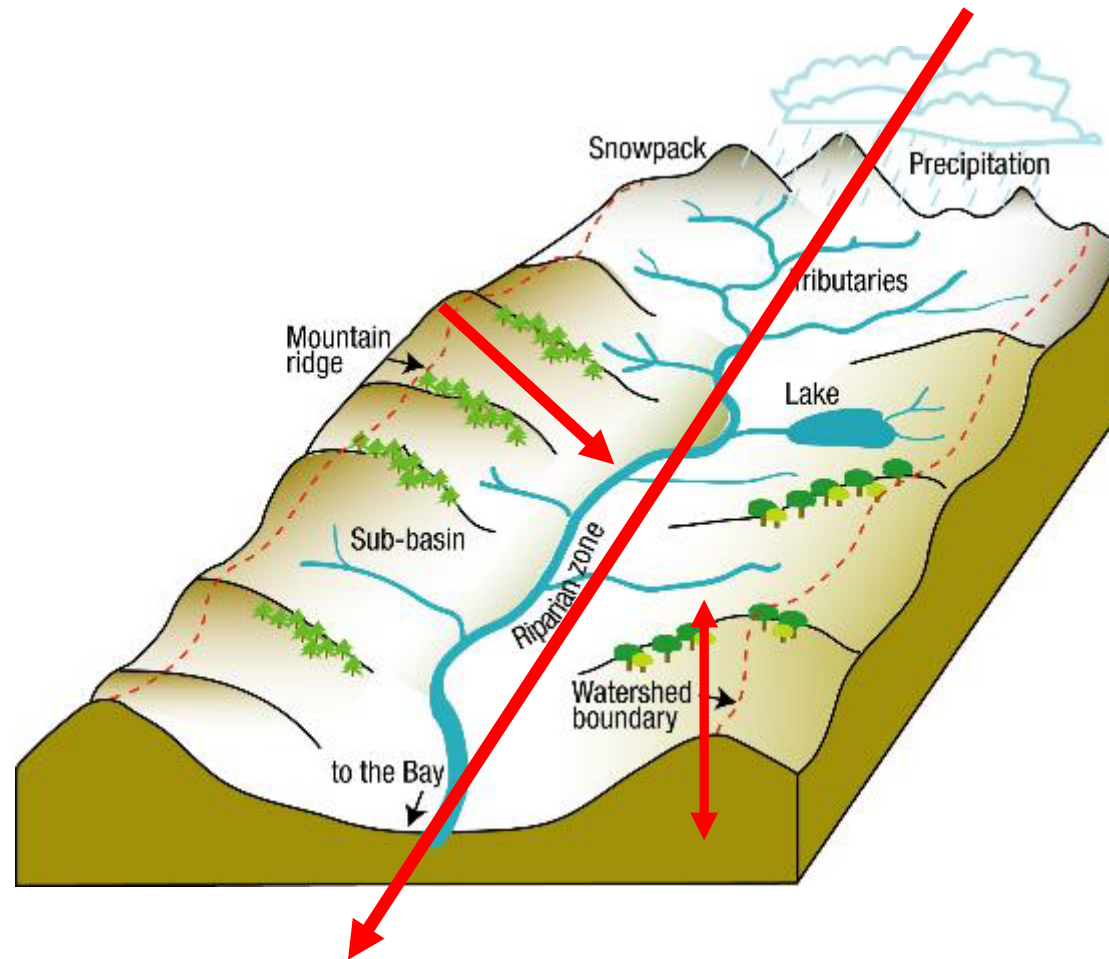
- RDRWA - Who we are
- Mandate and Roles
- Value to your citizens and municipality
- Working together

Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA)

- Designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) for the Red Deer River Basin
- Multi-sector, not-for-profit, science-based organization
- *Vision: “healthy, dynamic and sustainable watershed through the efforts of the entire community”.*



What is a Watershed



Municipalities : Shared Interests in a Healthy Watershed

The health of the Red Deer River watershed is vital to:



Sourcewater
Protection



Fisheries and Lake
Management



Stormwater
Management



Flood Mitigation



Wetlands and
Riparian Areas



Drought Mitigation

- **Water is *vital* for**
 - **Economy**
 - **Environment**
 - **Community**
- **The decisions we make today, will shape tomorrow**

Municipalities are leaders and important land use decision makers

Value through our Mandate and Roles

- **Convener & Collaborator**
- **Water Literacy & Education**
 - **Watershed Planning**
- **State of Watershed Reporting**

Convenor and Collaborator

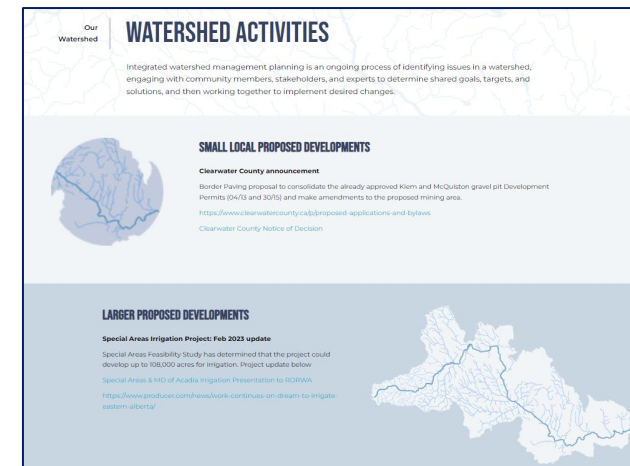


- AGM: Presentation by Dr. Masaki Hayashi on Surface water-groundwater interactions with 47 attendees in Red Deer
- Fall Forum and 20-year Celebration (October 8): Community performances, partner presentations, and a board director panel discussion with 51 attendees in Red Deer
- Spring Forum (March 4): Held at Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake, focused on State of the Watershed engagement and knowledge-sharing with 45 attendees

Water Literacy and Education

Build public understanding and action for watershed health and resilience

- Outreach & Education Programs
- Videos & Website Resources
- E-Newsletters and Social Media

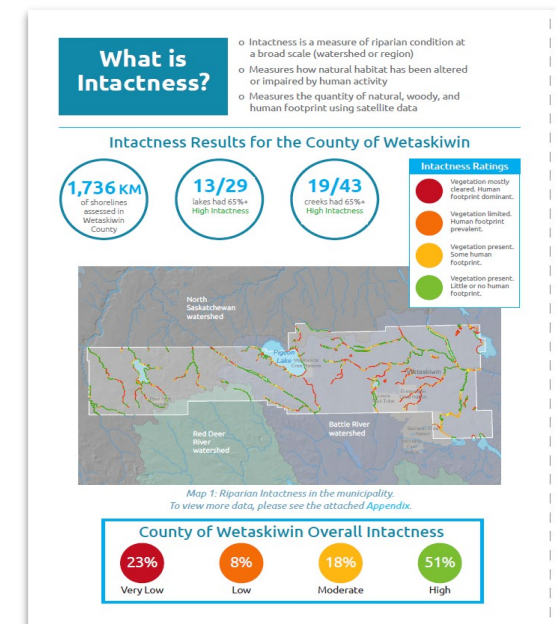
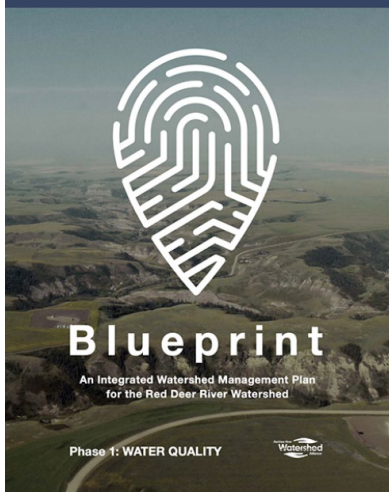


Watershed Planning & Implementation

As a science-based organization, we work collaboratively to advance understanding of key watershed issues through research, analysis, and engagement, and to guide practical actions to improve watershed health outcomes.

IWMP recommendations:

- Increase monitoring in tributaries
- Increase shoreline health assessments



>10,000 km of shoreline riparian health mapped !

Supporting Blackfalds' Municipal Development Plan Update

Key Areas of Input:

- Aquatic features, wetlands and natural infrastructure
- Source water protection
- Groundwater consideration
- Watershed sensitivity and growth management
- Environmental review and environmentally significant areas
- Intermunicipal coordination and adaptive management

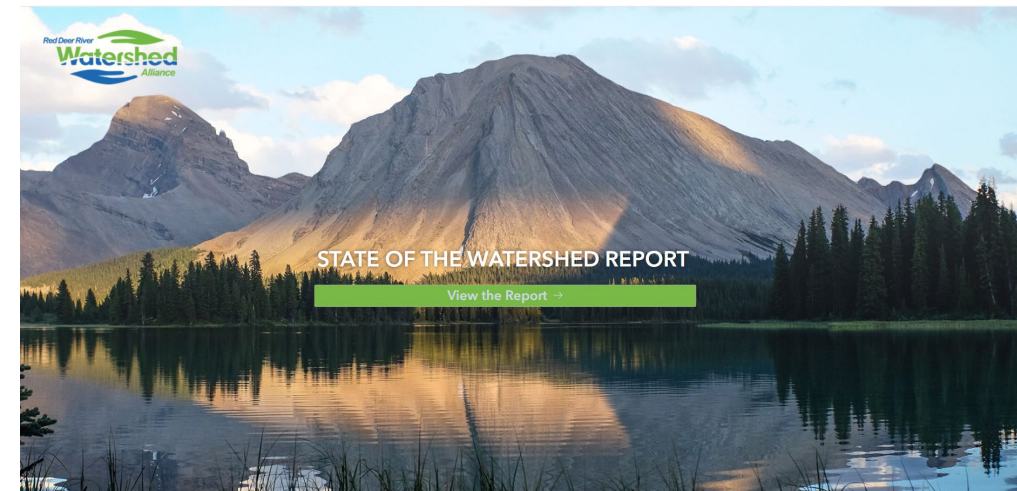


Source Water Protection Plan

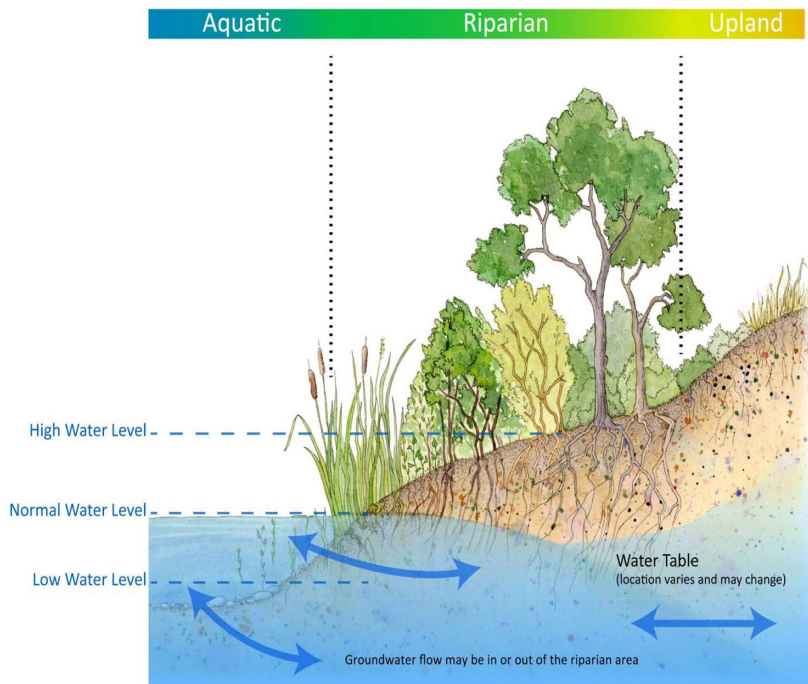
Protecting our source watershed through proactive collaboration

Other sources:

Red Deer County MDP 2020
RDRWA Riparian mapping



Riparian Areas Provide Goods and Services



Goods and Services: Riparian areas benefit people and communities.



Affordable drinking water



Increased resiliency to flood and drought



Recreational, cultural or wildlife viewing opportunities



Livestock shelter, forage and grazing opportunities



Water storage



Groundwater well security



Hunting and angling opportunities



Erosion and sedimentation control

<https://rdrwa.ca/state-of-the-watershed/>

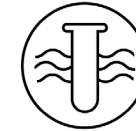
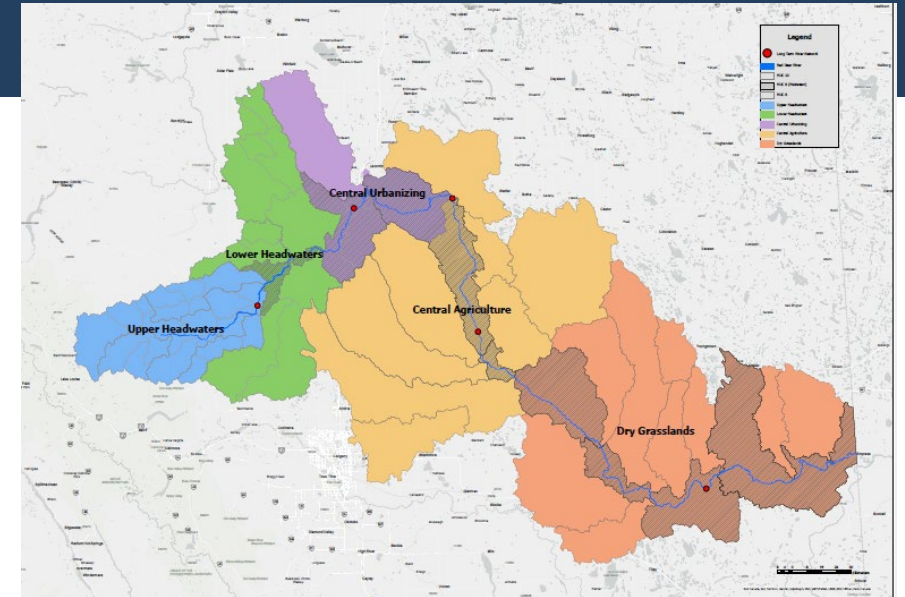
Images courtesy of Riparian Web Portal

Watershed Assessment & Reporting

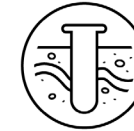
State of the Watershed – a decision support reference

- Online & Interactive
- Phased Approach
- Collaborative Effort
- Watershed Health Issues & Projects Committee (WHIP)

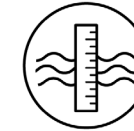
New Wetlands &
Riparian/shoreline
health chapter



Surface Water
Quality



Groundwater
Quality



Surface Water
Quantity



Groundwater
Quantity



Riparian and
Wetland Intactness



Landcover



Aquatic
Biodiversity



Terrestrial
Biodiversity

Partnerships and Scales of Watershed Work

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	REGIONAL	MUNICIPAL	LOCAL GROUPS, OTHER
  	  	   	  	     

SW
GW
RIPARIAN
GIS



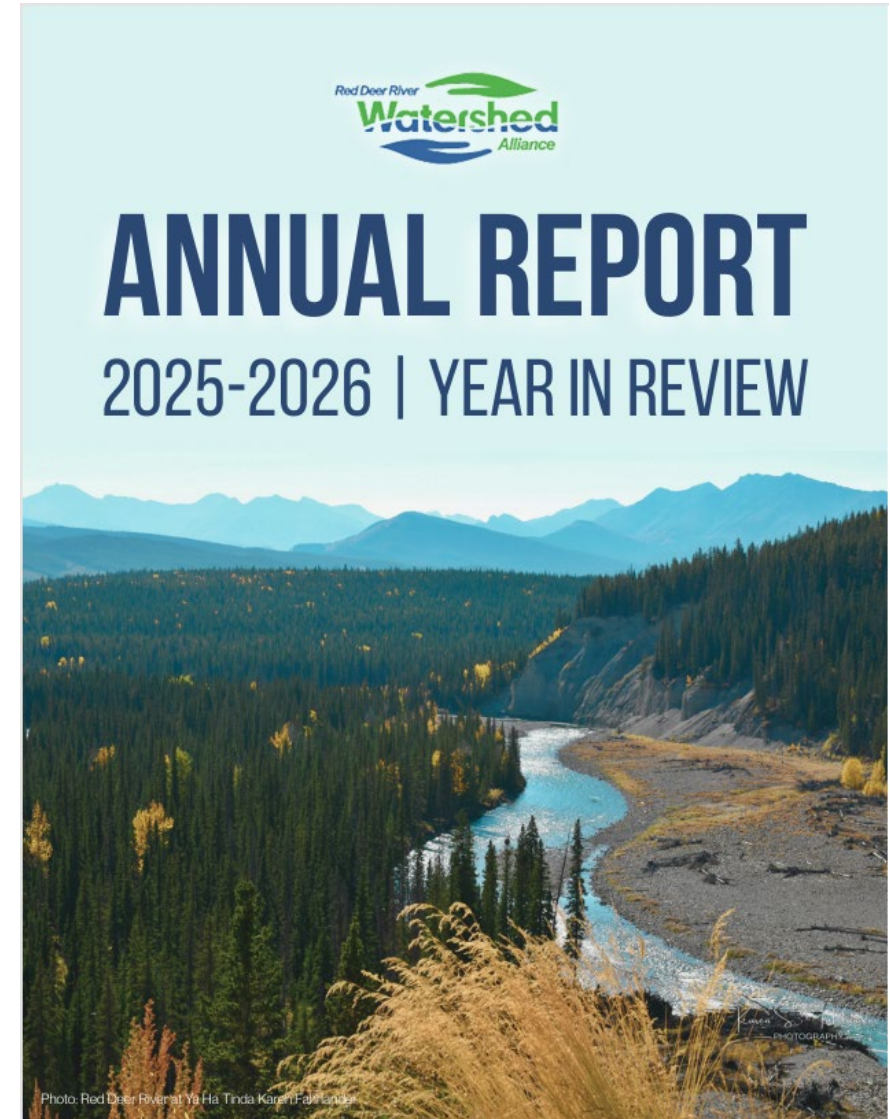
Municipal Support for Watershed Management

- **Strength in numbers** -Support watershed initiatives by donating \$0.50 for every resident
- **Longterm funding** enables continued work on watershed planning, developing resources and tools, delivering environmental education programming, major projects, engaging with community members, hosting regular forums and events, and helping to meet your needs.
- **Major funders** - approximately 30% of the RDRWA's annual funding
- **Enables partners** -Secures grants, leverage funds, and strengthens ability to provide support to partner municipalities, engage different sectors and lead water literacy and environmental education efforts.

Summary – RDRWA Regional Watershed Partner

- Convenor & Collaborator
 - Forums
- Education and Water Literacy
 - [E-News](#) & [Events](#)
 - Website Materials www.rdrwa.ca
- Watershed Assessment and Planning
 - State of the Watershed update
 - Fill in gaps and update IWMP

Thank you, together we can make a difference!



Thank you to our Funders



- Blindman Beef and Bison Ltd.
- Borouge International/Nova Chemicals
- Clearwater County
- County of Newell
- Government of Canada
- Lacombe County
- Medicine River Watershed Society
- Mountain View County
- Red Deer County
- Rocky View County
- Special Areas Board
- Starland County
- Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
- Town of Sundre
- Wheatland County
- Summer Village of Burnstick Lake
- Summer Village of Gull Lake
- Town of Coronation



2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year End



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026 | YEAR IN REVIEW



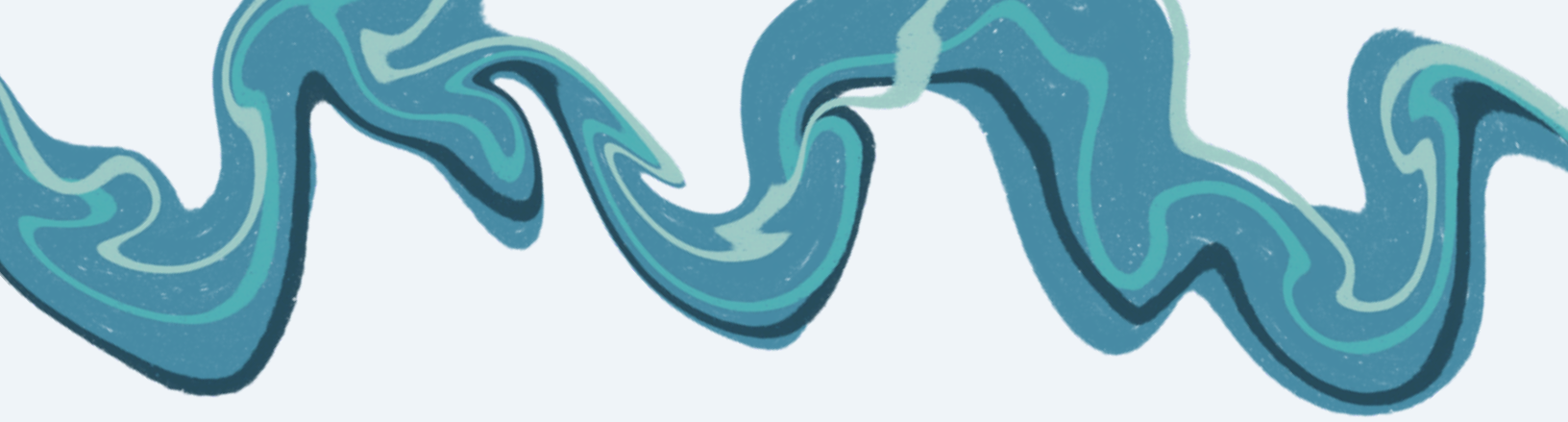
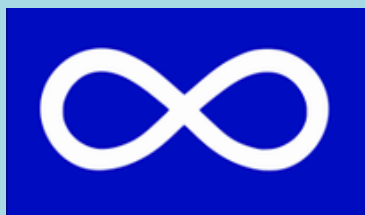


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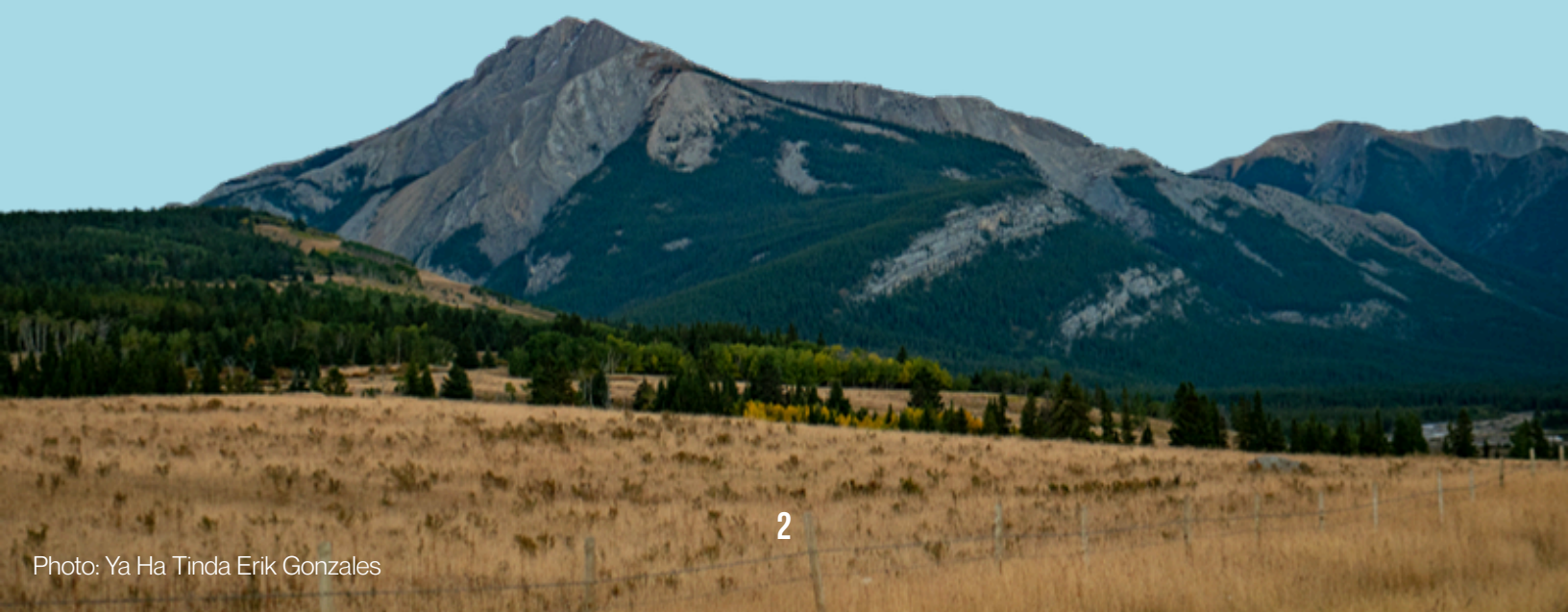
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance acknowledges all the Indigenous Peoples whose footprints have marked these lands since time immemorial. The Red Deer River Watershed in which we live and work spans what is now known as Treaty 6 of the Dene Suliné, Cree, Nakota Sioux and Saulteaux peoples, and Treaty 7 of the Blackfoot [Siksika, Piikani, Kainai], the Tsuu T'ina, and the Iyârhe Nakoda [Bears paw, Chiniki and Wesley] peoples and is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 2, 3, and 4.

Together we can learn and honour traditional knowledge and work to further their recognition as original ways of knowing of Indigenous Peoples and work to further the recognition as the original stewards of the land and water.



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2025-2026 year included celebration, growth, and collaboration, for the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA). Through strong partnerships, dedicated staff, contractors and volunteers, and the continued support of our municipalities, industry, and government funders and individual donors, RDRWA advanced key initiatives to improve watershed understanding and resilience across the basin.



RDRWA made significant progress on the State of the Watershed (SoW) Project, supported completion of the shallow groundwater research project, collaborated with partners on enhanced watershed monitoring, refined outreach and water literacy programming, and strengthened relationships with partners across the basin and beyond. RDRWA also celebrated its 20th anniversary, recognizing two decades of collaborative watershed stewardship and science-based decision support.



Throughout the year, RDRWA remained committed to its role as a neutral convener and collaborator, bringing together technical experts, governments, watershed stewardship groups, Indigenous partners, municipalities, researchers, and the public to support informed watershed management.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRANCINE FORREST



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

This past year has been very significant and demanding as we continue the extensive work required to update the 2009 State of the Watershed Report. I am pleased to report on the tremendous effort undertaken by our staff, working with consultants to define and document the current state of the watershed throughout the Red Deer River Basin.

The resulting State of the Watershed assessment provides an essential foundation for future planning and decision-making. It establishes a clear picture of watershed health, identifies emerging challenges and opportunities, and creates a benchmark against which future changes can be measured. Most importantly, it equips communities, governments, industry, agricultural producers, and environmental organizations with credible information to support sustainable management of water and watershed resources.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to this project. The dedication, professionalism, and perseverance demonstrated throughout the process have strengthened our organization's role as a trusted source of watershed information and leadership within the Red Deer River Basin.

As we move forward, to the completion of the State of the Watershed Update marks not an endpoint, but a beginning. The knowledge gained through this work will guide priorities, inform collaborative action, and support ongoing efforts to protect and enhance our watershed's health for future generations.

As we are all aware, the continual drought years have taken a toll on the watershed. We continue to monitor, discuss and work as a team on assessment and scientific reporting to other agencies and the government at every available opportunity.

Thank you to our members, funders, partners, staff, and volunteers for your continued support and commitment. Together, we are building a stronger understanding of the Red Deer River Basin and laying the groundwork for informed stewardship in the years ahead.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

RICHARD WARNOCK - MAYOR - TOWN OF SUNDRE

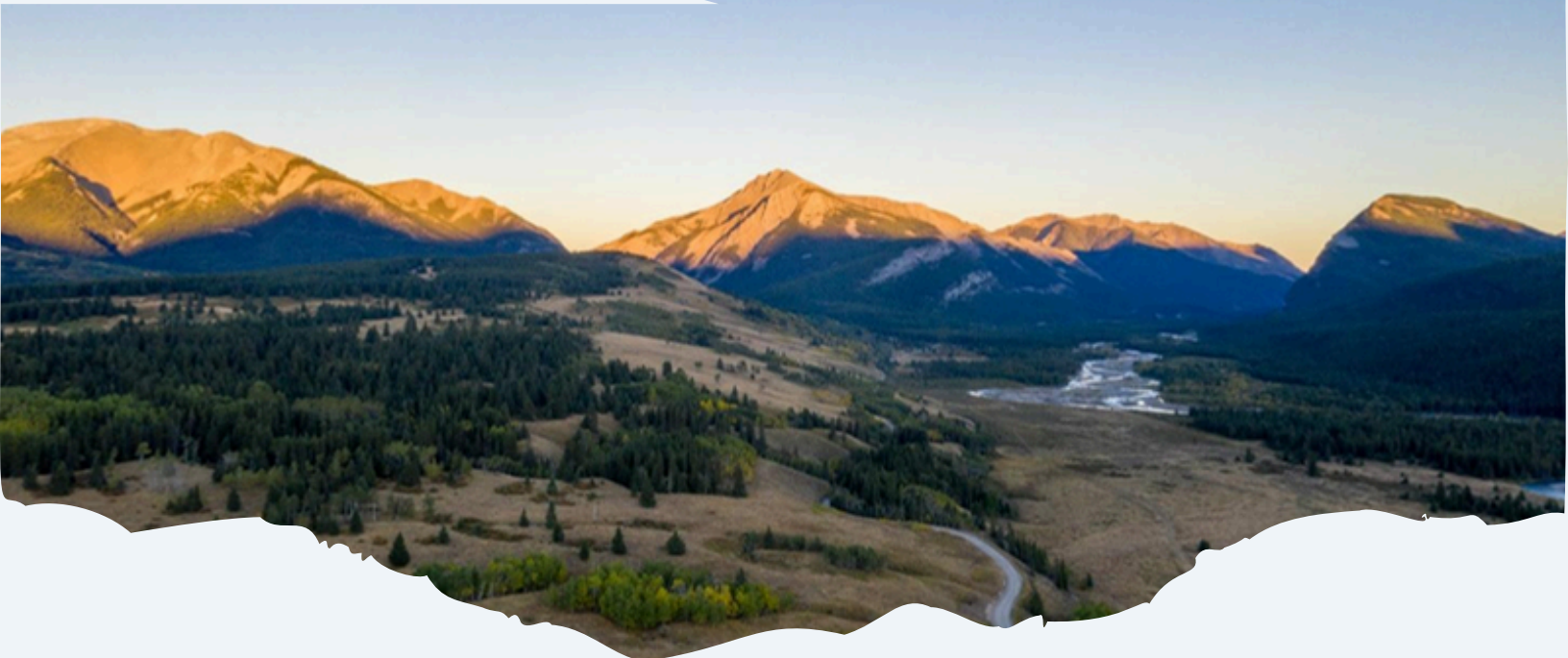


ABOUT THE RDRWA

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA) was created in 2005 as a non-profit society. The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance is one of Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) working collaboratively to improve the long-term health and resilience of the Red Deer River watershed through:

- Water Literacy and Education
- Convener and Collaborator Events
- State of Watershed Reporting
- Integrated Watershed Management Planning

The RDRWA consists of staff and members who work collaboratively with all stakeholders to improve the Red Deer River watershed. The RDRWA is governed by a board of directors from various stakeholder sectors. We are a science-based organization and share information on watershed management and health in the Red Deer River basin for the public.



WELCOME TO YOUR WATERSHED

The Red Deer River watershed includes an area of approximately 50,000 km² in central Alberta. The Rocky Mountains feed the headwaters of the Red Deer River which flows eastward through over 724 km to join the South Saskatchewan River. The South Saskatchewan River continues through to Lake Winnipeg, and eventually to Hudson's Bay.

Within Alberta, the Rocky Mountains in Banff National Park feed the headwaters of the Red Deer River which travels through four other natural regions, including the Foothills, Boreal, Parkland, and Grassland. The watershed is home to approximately 300,000 people, includes some of Canada's best farmland, supports many industries and includes important cultural areas. The Red Deer River watershed covers 8% of Alberta's landmass and many factors including climate, topography, geology and land use significantly influence the watershed's overall health and water resources.

OUR VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

Our Vision:

The Red Deer River watershed will be healthy, dynamic, and sustainable through the efforts of the entire community.

Our Mission:

The Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA) is an inclusive, collaborative partnership that promotes a healthy watershed to ensure a legacy of ecological integrity and economic sustainability.

Strategic Goals 2023-2027:

- Assess State of the Watershed and Integrate with Planning
- Develop and Maintain Watershed Partner Relationships
- Secure Adequate and Stable Funding
- Build and Strengthen the Organization – Board and Staff



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Environmental and Stewardship

Helge Nome – Alberta Freshwater Alliance

Jessica Hayes – Nature Conservancy of Canada

Kelsey Kure – Public at Large

Agriculture and Business /Industry

Dara Kudras – Independent Producer

Tom Parker – Parallax Energy Operating Inc.

Tim Ainscough – Mountain View Regional Water Services
Commission

Municipal Government

Peggy Johnson – Mountain View County

Kraymer Barnstable – City of Red Deer

Richard Warnock – Town of Sundre

Ryanna Hansen – Red Deer County

Provincial, Federal and Academia

Arin MacFarlane-Dyer – Government of Alberta

Emily McIvor – Environment Climate Change Canada

Robert (Bob) Mills – Independent

Indigenous and First Nations

Individual

Karen Fahrlander – Independent

Adam Minke (until Jan) - Independent

Ex Officio

Ryan Hallett – Starland County

Jordon Christianson – Special Areas

RDRWA FULL TIME STAFF 2025-2026



FRANCINE FORREST

Executive Director



ABISOLA ALLISON

Watershed Science
Program Coordinator



CRYSTAL KERSEY

Watershed Specialist



SAMANTHA BENNETT

Summer Watershed
Outreach Program

The following contractors also provided continued or significant support to the RDRWA: Cassandra Edwards, Heather Marshall, Emily Genereux, Brenda Gonzalez, Anna Lentz, Jeff Meier, Jacquie Harrison and Zoe Anderson.



RDRWA COMMITTEES

The RDRWA has five committees: Executive, Governance, Board Recruitment, Outreach, and Watershed Health, Issues and Projects (WHIP) committees.

The Executive, Governance, and Board Recruitment Committees met to manage board and organizational affairs. The Executive Committee met regularly throughout the year and the Governance Committee worked to update the Safety manual. The Watershed Health Issues and Projects (WHIP) and Outreach Committee worked closely with RDRWA staff to achieve operational goals.

This past year the WHIP Committee convened to provide input and direction on the State of the Watershed project. Updates on regional watershed activities were also shared.

The Outreach Committee strives to achieve outreach, education, engagement, and stewardship goals. The committee met in the spring and fall to plan, share and collaborate on public engagement events, education and stewardship initiatives.

These efforts contributed directly to achieving progress on our mandate and roles, strengthened relationships and the culture of the organization. Furthermore, they increase community's understanding and support for the RDRWA's vision and strategic priorities.

MEASURING PROGRESS

ONGOING	MAJOR PROJECTS
Convenor and Collaborator	Watershed Assessment and Planning
Host core events (AGM, Fall Forum, Spring Forum)	Produce State of Watershed Report chapters and publish online
RDRWA Communications (e.g., website, e-newsletter, social media)	Continued promotion of natural assets and ecosystem services with mapping resources
Engagement with GOA, Indigenous Communities and key stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, stewardship groups, etc.)	Continue to support strategic monitoring and assessment tool development
Literacy and Education	Literacy and Education
Communications (e.g. website, e- newsletter, social media)	Deliver outreach and education programs with partners with a focus on State of Watershed findings
Governance	
Funder engagement and reporting (e.g., AEPA, municipalities, grant providers, etc.)	
Continued improvement in clear, sound, and practical governance practices	



WATER LITERACY & EDUCATION

RDRWA remained dedicated to raising awareness about water, watershed health, and the vital roles that various sectors play in watershed management.

Education and Outreach:

RDRWA engaged directly with over 1,960 individuals and participated in 25 outreach events. We participated in booth, school, and experiential events including:

- **School-Based Events:** We conducted in-school visits delivering engaging and interactive presentations on water, watershed health and wetlands. Programs included pond dipping allowing students to do hands on science-based exploration of their local wetlands. RDRWA participated in many events including: Farm Safety School Tours, Sundre Watershed Expo, Aggie Days, and Envirothon.
- **Public Events:** Public events broadened our reach, providing opportunities to engage with diverse audiences and raise awareness of watershed issues in accessible, meaningful ways.
- **Watershed Activities:** RDRWA supported local stewardship groups including the Medicine River Watershed Society and Friends of the Blindman River in water quality sampling and reporting to raise awareness of watershed health.

WATER LITERACY & EDUCATION

Communications and Public Awareness

RDRWA continued to strengthen communication and public awareness through:

- Monthly e-newsletters: reaching >550 monthly subscribers with updates, resources, and event highlights.
- Social media updates: Connected with >1020 followers on Facebook.
- Website resources: Promoted local activities and shared important watershed resources. >4000 page visits
- Translating watershed science into accessible information and connecting the public with technical resources and expertise



Photo: Farm Safety School Tour

CONVENER AND COLLABORATOR

RDRWA continued to serve as a trusted and neutral convener by hosting events on watershed topics and connecting municipalities, stewardship groups, researchers, provincial agencies, industry, and local residents across the basin.

- **AGM (June 20):** RDRWA's Annual General meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Masaki Hayashi (University of Calgary) on surface water–groundwater interactions, operational updates and other AGM procedures. (47 attendees: Red Deer)
- **Fall Forum and 20-Year Celebration (October 8):** RDRWA celebrated two decades of collaborative watershed stewardship with community performances, partner presentations and a board director panel discussion while also providing an opportunity to network and reflect on the organization's history and accomplishments. (51 attendees: Red Deer)
- **Spring Forum (March 4):** The Spring Forum was held at Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake and focused on engagement and knowledge-sharing related to the State of the Watershed Project. Despite a power outage during the event, the forum brought together partners, technical experts, and community members. (45 attendees)



FALL FORUM AND 20-YEAR CELEBRATION



A heart
waters
provides
benefit
ecological
economic

STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORTING

The State of the Watershed project remained one of RDRWA's most significant initiatives during 2025–2026. The report provides a snapshot of current basin conditions and pressures and will inform the future watershed management plan. Key updates are listed below:

- Online GIS platform: RDRWA is using an online platform (Experience Builder) to improve public access to watershed science through interactive maps, technical indicators and online visualization tools. This platform is also amendable to future updates.
- Technical Support: RDRWA hosted several technical advisory teams with representatives from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Geological Survey, University researchers, Municipal technical staff, Industry representatives, Watershed stewardship groups, technical consultants, and others to help ensure that watershed information reflects scientific information and regional knowledge.



STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORTING



- **Wetlands and Riparian Areas:** Wetland data from the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, riparian condition using satellite imagery (Fiera; Riparian Intactness) and local riparian assessment data (Cows and Fish) have been summarized, reviewed and put on online. The riparian work builds on WRRP projects that mapped approximately 10,000 km of riparian intactness across the basin.



- **Surface Water:** Hydrology and allocation content was published in October. Follow up engagement has included local presentations and watershed factsheets. The Surface Water Quality chapter which includes a summary of mainstem and tributary conditions has been drafted and reviewed by a technical advisory committee.



- **Groundwater:** Groundwater quantity and quality chapters were developed by research partners with support from a technical committee. The chapters are currently in their second draft.



- **Biodiversity:** Spencer Environmental prepared the Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity chapters this spring and technical advisory teams have provided feedback on first drafts.



- **Other Chapters:** Outlines for other chapters including Ecosystem Services, Climate Change and Governance and Stakeholders are underway.



- **Indigenous Wisdom:** RDRWA is exploring ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and watershed stories into the State of the Watershed report. Activities included relationship building and fundraising to support several engagement workshops across the basin.



MONITORING PARTNERSHIPS

RDRWA collaborated with partners to enhance water literacy, develop watershed management tools, encourage adoption of best management practices and fill data gaps through monitoring and research. Information will be incorporated into our watershed management plan. Some highlights are included below:

Enhanced and Strategic Monitoring

RDRWA worked with partners to fill physical, chemical and biological data gaps in the headwaters and tributaries of the basin. We used innovative, cost efficient, strategic monitoring and reporting to fill gaps throughout the basin.

Eastern Slopes Biomonitoring Model Development Initiative

RDRWA continues to support the ongoing Eastern Slopes CABIN model development initiative in collaboration with other Alberta WPACs and partners. The initiative supports long-term ecological monitoring and watershed health assessment across Alberta's eastern slopes and upland regions. Once created, this tool will quantitatively evaluate the state of watershed conditions and potential impacts in the eastern slopes. 3 samples were collected in the fall of 2025.

Watershed Stewardship Monitoring Support

RDRWA collaborated on sampling again with the Medicine River Watershed Society (MRWS), and Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission (MVRWSC). This was the second year of enhancing the citizen science monitoring program with the inkind chemical analysis of grab samples by the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission. Invertebrates, nutrient, metal and major ion analysis were summarized.

RDRWA also supported the Friends of the Blindman River Watershed with their monitoring program.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Research Partnership: Assessing historic patterns and future trends of anthropogenic (and climate) impacts on shallow groundwater quality in southern Alberta

RDRWA partnered with researchers at the University of Calgary, Alberta Biomonitoring Institute, Alberta Geological Survey, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, and the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich on the final year of a three-year Alberta Innovates funded study. The objective of the study was to support groundwater management by investigating regional changes in groundwater quality. The research team integrated the investigation of groundwater quality trends with hydrogeological flow models, while linking the findings to changes in land use and climate in the study area. The project revealed locations where groundwater quality changed over time, which indicators tracked these changes (e.g., nitrate, chloride, sulfate), and whether changes were from human activities or natural processes. Project findings will support the development and implementation of new water policy, regulations, practices and strategies.

RDRWA played a key knowledge mobilization role throughout the project. Groundwater principles and research findings were shared at RDRWA and local stewardship events, reaching over 450 participants. Researchers also contributed content to the State of the Watershed report, helping translate scientific findings into accessible information for watershed partners, decision makers and the public.

PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

RDRWA worked collaboratively with municipalities, watershed partners and local stakeholders on recommendations from our integrated watershed management plan. Key areas of work included riparian restoration, conservation as well as engagement on initiatives to improve watershed health and resiliency.

Riparian Mapping, Restoration and Conservation Planning

In June of 2025, RDRWA completed its third WRRP riparian mapping project. In total, > 10,000 km of riparian intactness areas were mapped and five restoration events were hosted with our partners. Technical reports are now available on our website along with mapping data for regional municipal planning projects. This information serves as a baseline for our state of the watershed report and can be used by municipalities and other partners to help target conservation and restoration areas to provide ecosystem services such as flood and drought resilience.

Municipal and Regional Engagement

RDRWA continued to connect and provide input on municipal and regional initiatives on topics such as watershed-related policy, drought and resiliency planning, riparian restoration and management. Examples included: input on source water protection and environmental master planning for City of Red Deer. RDRWA met with the City of Red Deer and Red Deer River Municipal User Group, to discuss source water protection and drought communications throughout the year. This collaboration supported planning and aligned communications.

Provincial Government Communications

RDRWA continues to participate on the Intrabasin Water Coordinating Committee (IWCC) and Drought Emergency Management Support to bring questions forward and receive updates on water management planning and climate predictions for the season. RDRWA participated in province-led drought planning discussions and brought questions and local concerns forward. RDRWA also supported with GOA update communications including *Water Amendment Act* communications.

UP NEXT IN 2026-2027

The RDRWA's work in 2026-2027 will continue to be guided by our four-year strategic plan and our mandate and roles. Core priorities in the workplan are summarized below.

ONGOING

Convenor and Collaborator:

- Core events (AGM, Fall Forum, Spring Forum)
- Engagement with Indigenous Communities and key stakeholders e.g, municipalities, stewardship groups, etc.

Literacy and Education:

- Communications (e.g., website, e-newsletter, social media)

Governance:

- Funder engagement and reporting (e.g., AEPA, municipalities, grant providers, etc.)
- Continued improvement in clear, sound and practical governance practices.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Watershed Assessment and Planning:

- Complete State of Watershed Report content and online publication with framework to facilitate future updates.
- Continued promotion of natural assets and ecosystem services with mapping resources
- Continue to support strategic monitoring and assessment tool development in tributaries, particularly in the Eastern Slopes

Literacy and Education:

- Deliver outreach and education programs with partners and a focus on experiential activities.
- Roll out key findings from the State of the Watershed Report to the public and stakeholders.



2025/2026 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended March 31, 2026*

REVENUE		RDRWA 2024 - 2025 (FUNDING BY %)	
Government of Alberta	320,000		
Municipal	101,581		
Other contributions and income	54,343		
Total (\$)	475,924		
OTHER INCOME			
Interest income	15,327		
Total (\$)	15,327		
Excess of revenue over expenses (\$)	43,369		
EXPENSES		SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION	

Board and governance	2,636		March 31, 2026*	March 31, 2025*
Human resources and administration	223,336	Assets	932,243	913,579
Office space and operations	100,192	Liabilities	124,518	149,223
Watershed assessment and planning	92,517	Net assets	807,725	764,356
Outreach, convenor and collaborator	29,201			
Total (\$)	447,882	Total (\$)	932,243	913,579

*unaudited

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS 2025-2026

Over \$100,000

Alberta  Government

Over \$20,000

The City of Red Deer

\$500 - \$15,000

Blindman Beef and Bison Ltd.
Borouge International/Nova
Chemicals
Clearwater County
County of Newell
Government of Canada
Lacombe County
Medicine River Watershed
Society
Mountain View County
Red Deer County
Rocky View County
Special Areas Board
Starland County
Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
Town of Sundre
Wheatland County

Under \$500

Summer Village of Burnstick Lake
Summer Village of Gull Lake
Town of Coronation

Thank you to everyone for your in-kind support on board governance, committee work, and at events.

Together we are working towards a healthy and resilient watershed for generations to come.

GET INVOLVED

Learn more about the watersheds:

Visit our new Resources page www.rdrwa.ca to discover RDRWA or our partner resources.

Use your voice:

To advance conversations about water and land use in central Alberta. Participate in RDRWA events and stay up to date on engagement opportunities.

Build community:

Check out our online community calendar (<https://rdrwa.ca/events>) for upcoming workshops, education, and environmental stewardship programs on offer from RDRWA and our partners.

Follow us on social media:

Follow us on X at @RDRWA and we are also on Facebook under Red Deer River Watershed Alliance.

Subscribe to our E-newsletter:

Sign up today for our monthly news letter for the latest national water news, academic articles, employment opportunities, events, and more. <https://rdrwa.ca/news>

Donate to the RDRWA:

Every contribution makes a difference! We are a registered charity and provide receipts for all donations greater than \$20. <https://rdrwa.ca/donate/>

BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of the RDRWA! Membership is FREE!
We offer both individual and organizational memberships.

Become a member to:

- Join an active community of people supporting the watershed.
- Vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- Run for our Board of Directors.
- Access information and learn about the Red Deer River Watershed.
- Assist with fundraising and volunteering events.



Scan the QR code, or visit
<https://rdrwa.ca/> to join

Or visit <https://rdrwa.ca/> to join



CONTACT RDRWA



www.rdrwa.ca



info@rdrwa.ca



403.340.7379



Red Deer River Watershed Alliance



MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Paul Salvatore, Executive Director, Central Alberta Economic Partnership
SUBJECT: **Central Alberta Economic Partnership**

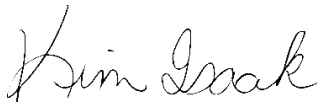
BACKGROUND

Paul Salvatore, Executive Director, Central Alberta Economic Partnership, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *CAEP Presentation*
- *CAEP Business Plan*
- *Team Central Alberta Strategy*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Central Alberta
Economic
Partnership

A background image of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a hazy atmosphere, spanning the width of the slide.

Town of Blackfalds Council Meeting

October 7, 2026

About CAEP

Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) is a regional economic development organization whose mission is to **strengthen and grow the economy across Central Alberta**.

Originally created by the Government of Alberta, we are now an independent, not-for-profit organization. We are:

- **A network that provides economic development tools and training to support our community's economic goals**
- **A catalyst** for investment readiness and attraction with access to 4 million Albertans within 1.5 hours of Calgary and Edmonton
- **Industry connectors** – improving industry outcomes - leading opportunities for our members
- **The voice for 25+ municipal** and industry members representing 300,000 Central Albertans, 175 elected officials and the region's 25,000 businesses, **positioned as Alberta's 3rd largest economy**.
- **Government Advocates** – promoting economic development projects for our members.

Your CAEP Team



Paul Salvatore, Executive Director (full-time role)

Main focus: building and strengthening CAEP's membership, regional partnerships, and government relations

Also oversees CAEP Operations:

- Administration and Finance
- Marketing and Communications
- Membership Management and Development
- Project Development and Implementation

Marta Bristow, Director of Strategic Initiatives (0.25 role)

- Support for CAEP's Operations
- Leads special initiatives, e.g. research, grants, projects, courses and workshops, meetings/events

CAEP's Board of Directors



- CAEP is overseen by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors elected by CAEP members.
- Positions are three-year terms, with elections held annually at our Fall General Meeting to fill vacant positions (terms are staggered).

Jean Barclay – Chair

Town of Innisfail

Chad Krah

City of Red Deer

Ben Allan (*Associate Member Rep*)

Red Deer Polytechnic

Barry Kletke – Vice-Chair

Town of Trochu

Jordon Northcott

Clearwater County

Amy Merrill (*Business Rep*)

Kneehill County

Bob Murray – Secretary

Town of Didsbury

Justin Sinclair

Town of Rocky Mountain House

Kevin Stalker (*Business Rep*)

Town of Rocky Mountain House

Lee Girard – Treasurer

Red Deer County

Chief Leonard StandingontheRoad

Montana Nation

Brenda Knight

Lacombe County

Neil Young

Village of Beiseker

CAEP Three-Year Business Plan (2026-2028)

What is it?

A strategic road map for CAEP to transition from a provincially supported body to a self-sustaining, member-valued organization.

What's its purpose?

To accelerate shared economic prosperity across Central Alberta by building the regional capacity, connectivity, and credibility that enable members to successfully compete in the global marketplace.



Five Strategic Objectives

- 1 Build Trust and Deliver Wins
- 2 Build a Regional Data Hub
- 3 Attract Investment Through Team Central Alberta
- 4 Build Member Capacity and Strengthen the Regional Ec Dev Ecosystem
- 5 Become Financially Independent

Each objective comes with **key performance indicators (KPIs)** that will be tracked and reported at each CAEP general meeting.

Key CAEP Initiatives for 2026 - 2027

- Launched the new **Economic Data Portal** with current data for CAEP members
 - **Every CAEP municipal member has a dedicated community profile of key economic data** to support economic development efforts, improve overall investment readiness, and help members respond to investment inquiries.
- **Regional Land Development and Investment Attraction Strategy** for Central Alberta
 - Phase 1: series of workshops to develop 3 aspects of the strategy (to be held this winter):
 - Identifying investment-ready sites
 - Opportunities and trends in commercial real estate
 - Creating conditions for affordable housing
- Build the **Team Central Alberta Regional Investment Attraction Brand**
 - Engage industry and regional partners to work together with CAEP members; these include local businesses, large companies, industry associations, post-secondary institutions and innovators
- **Fall General Meeting – November 18, 2026**
 - **Meeting Theme: Trade, Resilience & Regional Opportunity: Positioning Central Alberta for What's Next**, featuring expert speakers on tariffs and new market development

New Initiatives for 2026 – 2027 (cont.)

- **Strategic advocacy and international market development**
- **Economic development workshops** and other events
 - Continue delivering the Secret Sauce: Economic Development for Elected Officials session
 - New EDA workshops; Lunch and Learns with regional industry partners
- Build the **CAEP Members-only Website Portal** with economic development tools and resources
- Launch a **digital marketing plan** to enhance CAEP communications and **promote Central Alberta as a great place to invest – through Team Central Alberta**
- Completion of an MOU with Red Deer Polytechnic

Other focus areas:

- **Government Advocacy:** Continue building and strengthening relationships with federal, provincial and municipal governments to advocate for policies and projects that will support regional economic growth in Central Alberta
- **Modernizing CAEP's Articles of Association:** changes will be emailed to members shortly for approval

Central Alberta Economic Development Ecosystem

PARTNERS. PROGRAMS. POSSIBILITIES.



Municipalities & Regional Partners

Local leadership. Competitive communities.



Central Alberta
Economic
Partnership

25+ CAEP Municipal Members

Tools | Training | Data & Intelligence | Network Supports



Provincial Government

Investment, trade and industry support.



Export
Development

Trade &
Investment

Industry
Growth

Workforce
Development



Federal Government

Trade, innovation and business supports.



Global Affairs Canada
Trade Commissioner
Service



Export
Development
Canada



PrairiesCan
PrairiesCan
Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Market Access | Financing | Risk Management | Innovation



Post-Secondary & Research

Talent, research and commercialization.



Applied Research | Talent | Technology Transfer | Commercialization | Training



Business Support Organizations

Advice, connections and growth programs.



Central Alberta
Economic Partnership



Excellence in
Manufacturing
Consortium



Project Collaboration | Strategic Partnerships



Central Alberta Businesses

Start • Grow • Innovate
Export • Invest



Regional Economic Development

Collaboration for a stronger Central Alberta.



Team
Central
Alberta

Regional Marketing | Trade Development | Business Activation
Investment Attraction Focus



Private Sector & Industry Partners

Capital, expertise and market access.



Industry
Leaders



Industry
Associations

Capital | Partnerships | Supply Chains | Global Markets

STRONG BUSINESS | STRONG COMMUNITIES | A STRONGER CENTRAL ALBERTA



CAEP FALL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Lacombe, Alberta**

*Register on CAEP's website:
www.investcentralalberta.ca/event-list*

The background of the left side of the image is a scenic photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests and are reflected in a calm body of water in the foreground. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**2026 Fall
General
Meeting
Nov 18**



Central Alberta
Economic
Partnership

Thank you!



www.investcentralalberta.ca

CAEP Three Year Business Plan for Regional Economic Growth

Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) has launched a three-year business plan to **Empower Investment Attraction in Central Alberta**. The table below summarizes how CAEP will build a stronger regional investment proposition, improve investor readiness across CAEP member communities, and advocate for projects, infrastructure, and government policies that support regional growth.

	Strategic Objectives				
	Build Trust and Deliver Wins	Build Regional Data Hub	Attract Investment Through Team Central Alberta	Build Regional Economic Development Capacity	CAEP Becomes Financially Independent
Year 1 (2026-27)	Initiate Regional Investment Attraction Strategy - Phase 1 Workshops: 1. Land Development 2. Commercial Development 3. Affordable Housing Update CAEP's Articles of Association to expand Board representation. Launch annual members survey to get input on CAEP programming and services, and track member satisfaction. Deliver CAEP Report Cards at AGM/FGMs and an Annual Report that clearly demonstrate CAEP's ROI. Continue enhancing CAEP website, focusing on promoting investment in Central Alberta.	Launched new and improved Economic Data Portal on CAEP website (<i>completed</i>). Create community profile reports for each CAEP member that can be downloaded from the Economic Data Portal (<i>completed</i>). Deliver three Lunch and Learn sessions to show CAEP members how to use the Economic Data Portal tools to support their own economic development and investment attraction work. (<i>completed</i>)	Continue expanding Team Central Alberta (TCA), CAEP's industry partnership program (target 10 new industry members in Year 1). Identify key investor site selector events for Team Central Alberta to attend. Establish process for tracking and following up on regional investment opportunities and leads.	Begin developing regional investment attraction tools and resources for CAEP members. Continue government advocacy for projects, infrastructure and policies that support regional growth. Deliver economic development courses and workshops based on member needs. Host Spring and Fall Meetings that bring together members, industry partners, government and investors, for networking, learning, and strategic dialogue. Develop an economic development advisory service for members who require tailored support.	With provincial government operational funding in its final year, pursue other funding sources: • New Team Central Alberta (TCA) memberships and industry partnerships. • Continue growing municipal memberships. • Pursue other grant opportunities to co-fund regional economic development projects. NOTE: CAEP membership fees were held at \$0.90 per capita for 2026-2027

Year 2 (2027-28)	Based on the workshops delivered in Year 1, develop a Regional Land Use and Investment Attraction Strategy for Central Alberta. Continue delivering Report Cards at AGM/FGMs and an Annual Report that clearly demonstrate CAEP's ROI. Continue enhancing CAEP website, focusing on promoting regional investment attraction.	Continue improving and expanding regional data on website data portal	Develop a Central Alberta International Market Development Strategy, targeting priority markets aligned with regional sector strengths. This will include: • market research briefs for priority industry sectors in Central Alberta. • a regional investment prospectus with business cases highlighting investment opportunities in Central Alberta. Continue expanding TCA industry partnerships.	Continue developing regional investment attraction tools and resources for CAEP members. Deliver ec dev courses and workshops. Continue hosting Spring and Fall meetings that offer networking, learning and strategic dialogue on critical economic development topics Continue delivering ec dev advisory services. Continue regional advocacy to prov and fed governments.	In the absence of provincial government operational funding, continue growing: • New Team Central Alberta memberships and industry partnerships. • New municipal memberships. • Other grant opportunities to co-fund regional ec dev projects. Raise CAEP municipal per capita membership rate in line with other Regional Economic Development Alliances (<i>proposed</i> per capita rate: \$1.65, TO BE CONFIRMED)
Year 3 (2028-29)	Refine the Regional Land Use and Investment Attraction Strategy for Central Alberta based on member and investor input. Continue delivering Report Cards at AGM/FGMs and an Annual Report that clearly demonstrate CAEP's ROI. Continue enhancing CAEP website to promote regional investment.	Continue improving and expanding regional data on website data portal	Continue implementing the Central Alberta International Market Development Strategy. Update and enhance the regional investment prospectus and the market research briefs as needed. Continue expanding TCA partnerships; work with partners to identify new regional marketing opportunities.	Deliver ec dev courses and workshops. Continue hosting Spring and Fall meetings that offer networking, learning and strategic dialogue on critical economic development topics. Continue delivering ec dev advisory services. Continue regional advocacy to prov and fed governments.	Continue growing: • New Team Central Alberta industry partnerships. • New municipal memberships. • Other grant opportunities to co-fund regional ec dev projects. Raise CAEP municipal per capita membership rate (<i>proposed</i> per capita rate: \$2.40, TO BE CONFIRMED)



Team Central Alberta Regional Investment Attraction Strategy

Marketing the region. Matching the investor. Converting locally.

Team Central Alberta is the shared investment marketing vehicle for 25+ Central Alberta municipalities and our industry partners. It packages local sites, projects and sector strengths into one regional proposition, takes them to priority markets and routes qualified opportunities to the community best positioned to deliver.

25+

municipal communities

300,000

regional residents

#3

regional economy in Alberta

35,000

square kilometres of opportunity

WHAT OUR PARTNERS GAIN

01

More reach

A credible regional story in national and international campaigns, trade missions and investor channels.

02

Better leads

One front door that qualifies investor needs, matches them to the right community and convenes the right partners.

03

A stronger close

Shared data, site packages, project partners and advocacy that help a local deal move from interest to decision.

PRIORITY REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY PORTFOLIO

INVESTMENT LANE	MARKET-READY AND HIGH-POTENTIAL EXAMPLES
INDUSTRIAL AND LOGISTICS Red Deer County and City Innisfail	Junction 42: fully serviced, development-ready highway land. Southwest Innisfail: serviced industrial land for sale with flexible lot sizes. Springbrook South: 85+ acres advancing toward shovel-ready status.
AVIATION AND MANUFACTURING Springbrook Red Deer	Red Deer Regional Airport: serviced airside and groundside parcels for MRO, cargo, aerospace, drones and advanced manufacturing. RDP CIM-TAC: product development, prototyping and scale-up support.
AGTECH AND VALUE-ADDED FOOD Olds, Didsbury, Lacombe County	Olds College Smart Farm and OCCI: a 3,300-acre living lab with applied research, labs and incubator capacity. Regional openings include processing, cold chain, ingredient and precision-agriculture investment.
ENERGY AND LOW-CARBON INDUSTRY Joffre Innisfail Didsbury area	NOVA Joffre supply-chain and industrial decarbonization opportunities; scale-up around Deep Sky Alpha's operating carbon-removal centre; E3 Lithium's Clearwater Project.
TOURISM, HOUSING AND GROWTH Blackfalds Innisfail Rocky Mtn House	Sylvan Lake retail, industrial and waterfront redevelopment; a 34-unit residential development site in Hazelwood Estates; additional housing, hospitality and mixed-use opportunities across growth communities.

Opportunity status: Examples reflect public municipal and project information current September 2026. Availability, terms and readiness are confirmed with the municipality or proponent before investor release.

TEAM CENTRAL ALBERTA BUILDS THE MARKET. Municipalities convert the investment with current site facts, fast responses, clear approvals and a local deal team.

PUT YOUR BEST OPPORTUNITY IN THE REGIONAL PIPELINE.

Start with one decision-ready site, project or sector play. We will sharpen the investment story, identify the target market and coordinate the first action.

Paul Salvatore, Executive Director
403-334-4922 | psalvatore@investcentralalberta.ca
investcentralalberta.ca/team-central-alberta



SCAN TO CONNECT

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Carol Jackson, President, Blackfalds Senior's Club
SUBJECT: **Blackfalds Senior's Club**

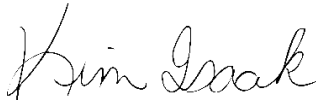
BACKGROUND

Carol Jackson, President, Blackfalds Senior's Club, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Letter to Council*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Good evening Mayor Svab and Town Councillors,

My name is Carol Jackson, President of the Blackfalds Senior's club. I would like to let you know we are a very busy club three days a week. Mondays and Thursdays we floor curling, carpet bowl, chair volleyball, play cards or some just sit, watch the games and chat. Then on the 2nd and 4th Thursday we have our Music Jam where we have 18 to 27 musicians come from all over Central Alberta, just to play for us. We have around 80 to 100 people join us from Blackfalds and other centres around here. Four times through out the year we host an Intergenerational event with the day home kids from Blackfalds. They come to make crafts, plant flowers, read stories and play games. The Seniors come in and help with this and we have so much fun.

In the spring of this year we had a bench made by Pentagon Farm Centre Lacombe and then presented it to the Lacombe Hospital which they put in the front walkway. We have also donated to the Lacombe Hospital Tree of Hope, to the Blackfalds Food Bank and to Big Brothers Big Sisters to help with games for their events they provide for kids in our area and Lacombe.

We have a membership of 74 members and 58 of them are active members. We have lost so many of our members because they had to move out of Blackfalds because there is no senior housing or Lodge for them to go to. What we really need is senior low income housing and a Seniors Lodge. We know that we have the Bolt bus for transportation to Red Deer but it doesn't go to Lacombe where a lot of us have doctor appointments and have to find other means of transportation because they don't drive.

Thanks for your time this evening and all that you do for our Seniors and our community.

Blackfalds Senior's Club

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Chris Keim, Executive Director, Beyond Food Community Hub
SUBJECT: **Beyond Food Community Hub**

BACKGROUND

Chris Keim, Executive Director, Beyond Food Community Hub, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Moving to Food Security*
- *Age Group Graph*
- *Age Group Data Table*
- *Household Size Graph*
- *Household Size Data Table*
- *Housing Type Graph*
- *Housing Type Data Table*
- *Income Sources Graph*
- *Income Sources Data Table*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Moving to Food Security



Individual Food Security



Community Food Security

Stage 1: This where we are at... Programming like the Food hamper program, the Emergency food hamper program, and the Lunchbox program

Stage 2: Where we are working at: Capacity through our choice market program allows people to choose items that they need. Community initiatives by building relationship and networks that allow both individuals and businesses work together towards societal change.

Stage 3: Where we are working towards and starting to build: We have supportive partnerships and working on valuable conversations surrounding advocacy with our local MLA, MP, and the Town of Blackfalds to address policies and conversations about hunger related issues. Issues that are beyond meeting the short-term needs and into progressive ideas that reduce such needs.

☐ Grouped ☒ Stacked

Age Group: Individuals (Unique)

0-18 Years (384 / 44...)

36-50 Years (198 / 2...)

25-35 Years (109 / 1...)

60+ Years (57 / 6.67...)

19-24 Years (56 / 6....)

51-59 Years (50 / 5....)



0

Age Group: Individuals (Unique)

Label	Count	Percentage	
0-18 Years	384	44.96%	Pivot
36-50 Years	198	23.19%	Pivot
25-35 Years	109	12.76%	Pivot
60+ Years	57	6.67%	Pivot
19-24 Years	56	6.56%	Pivot
51-59 Years	50	5.85%	Pivot

☐ Grouped ☒ Stacked

Household Size: Individuals (Unique)

4 (214 / 25.06%)

3 (191 / 22.37%)

5 (126 / 14.75%)

2 (114 / 13.35%)

6 (66 / 7.73%)

1 (48 / 5.62%)

8 (40 / 4.68%)

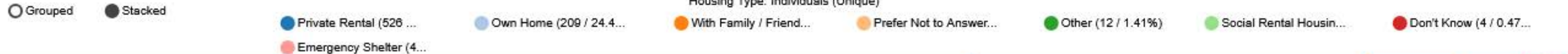
7 (35 / 4.1%)



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Household Size: Individuals (Unique)

Label	Count	Percentage	
4	214	25.06%	Pivot
3	191	22.37%	Pivot
5	126	14.75%	Pivot
2	114	13.35%	Pivot
6	66	7.73%	Pivot
1	48	5.62%	Pivot
8	40	4.68%	Pivot
7	35	4.10%	Pivot
11	11	1.29%	Pivot
9	9	1.05%	Pivot



Housing Type: Individuals (Unique)

Label	Count	Percentage	
Private Rental	526	61.59%	Pivot
Own Home	209	24.47%	Pivot
With Family / Friends	47	5.50%	Pivot
Prefer Not to Answer	38	4.45%	Pivot
Other	12	1.41%	Pivot
Social Rental Housing	11	1.29%	Pivot
Don't Know	4	0.47%	Pivot
Emergency Shelter	4	0.47%	Pivot
Unhoused	2	0.23%	Pivot
Group Home/Youth Shelter	1	0.12%	Pivot

☐ Grouped ☒ Stacked

Income Sources (Primary): Household (Unique)

☒ Employment Income (2...

☐ No Income (94 / 14.4...

☐ Aish (87 / 13.38%)

☐ Social Assistance (8...

☐ Other (64 / 9.85%)

☐ Old Age Pension (63 ...

☐ Ei (49 / 7.54%)

☐ Long Short Term Disa...



Income Sources (Primary): Household (Unique)

Label	Count	Percentage	
Employment Income	201	30.92%	Pivot
No Income	94	14.46%	Pivot
Aish	87	13.38%	Pivot
Social Assistance	80	12.31%	Pivot
Other	64	9.85%	Pivot
Old Age Pension	63	9.69%	Pivot
Ei	49	7.54%	Pivot
Long Short Term Disability	11	1.69%	Pivot
Canada Child Benefits	1	0.15%	Pivot

MEETING DATE: October 7, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jessica Robinson, Legislative Advisor
PRESENTED BY: Assar Grinde, President, Friends of the Blindman River Watershed Alliance
SUBJECT: **Friends of the Blindman River Watershed Alliance**

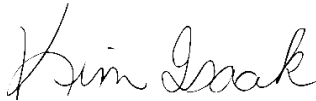
BACKGROUND

Assar Grinde, President, of the Friends of the Blindman River Watershed Alliance, will provide an overview of their organization and the value of Town funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Friends of the Blindman River Watershed Alliance Presentation*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Fall 2023-Summer 2024

Letters to Env. Minister & AER

Fall 2024

Public town hall

Spring 2025

Began to form a watershed society

Spring 2026

First Annual General Meeting



What we do:

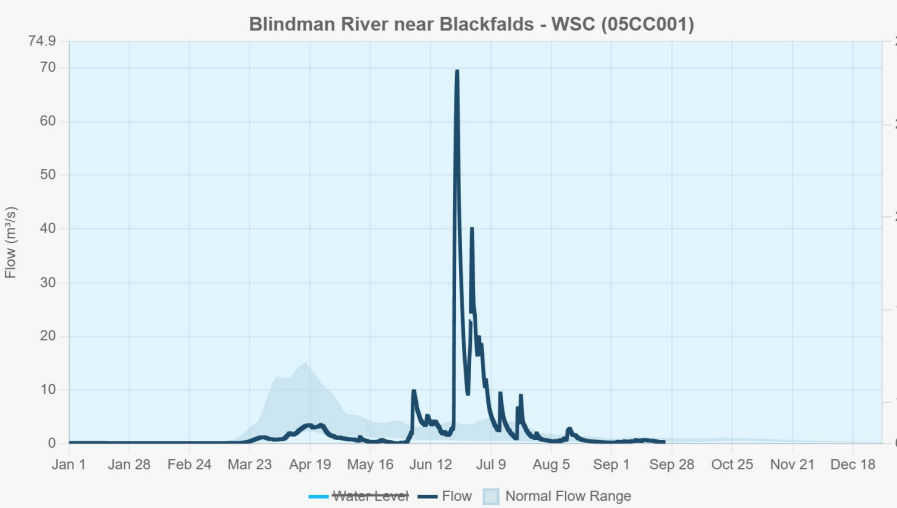
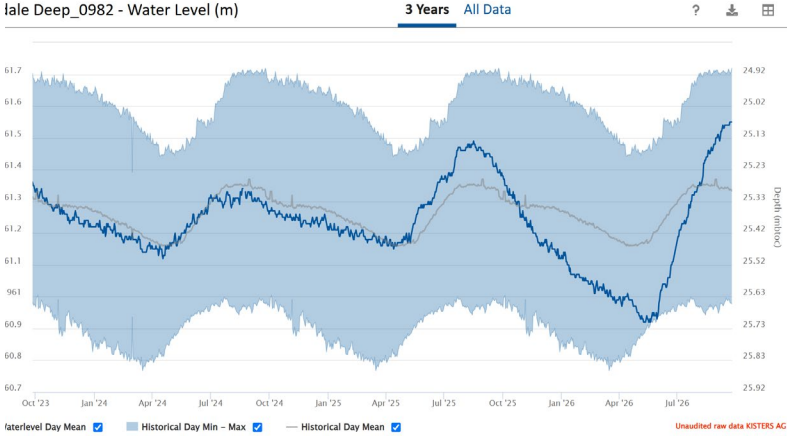
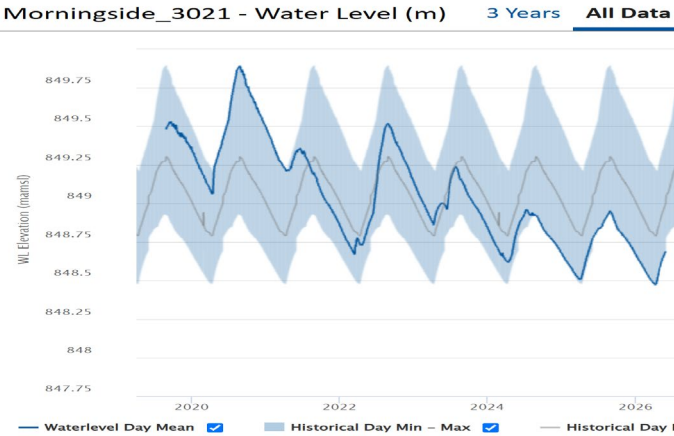
Monitor: Water quality, quantity, demand and risks

Educate: Inform public about how water is managed and importance of long-term sustainability for nature and our economy.

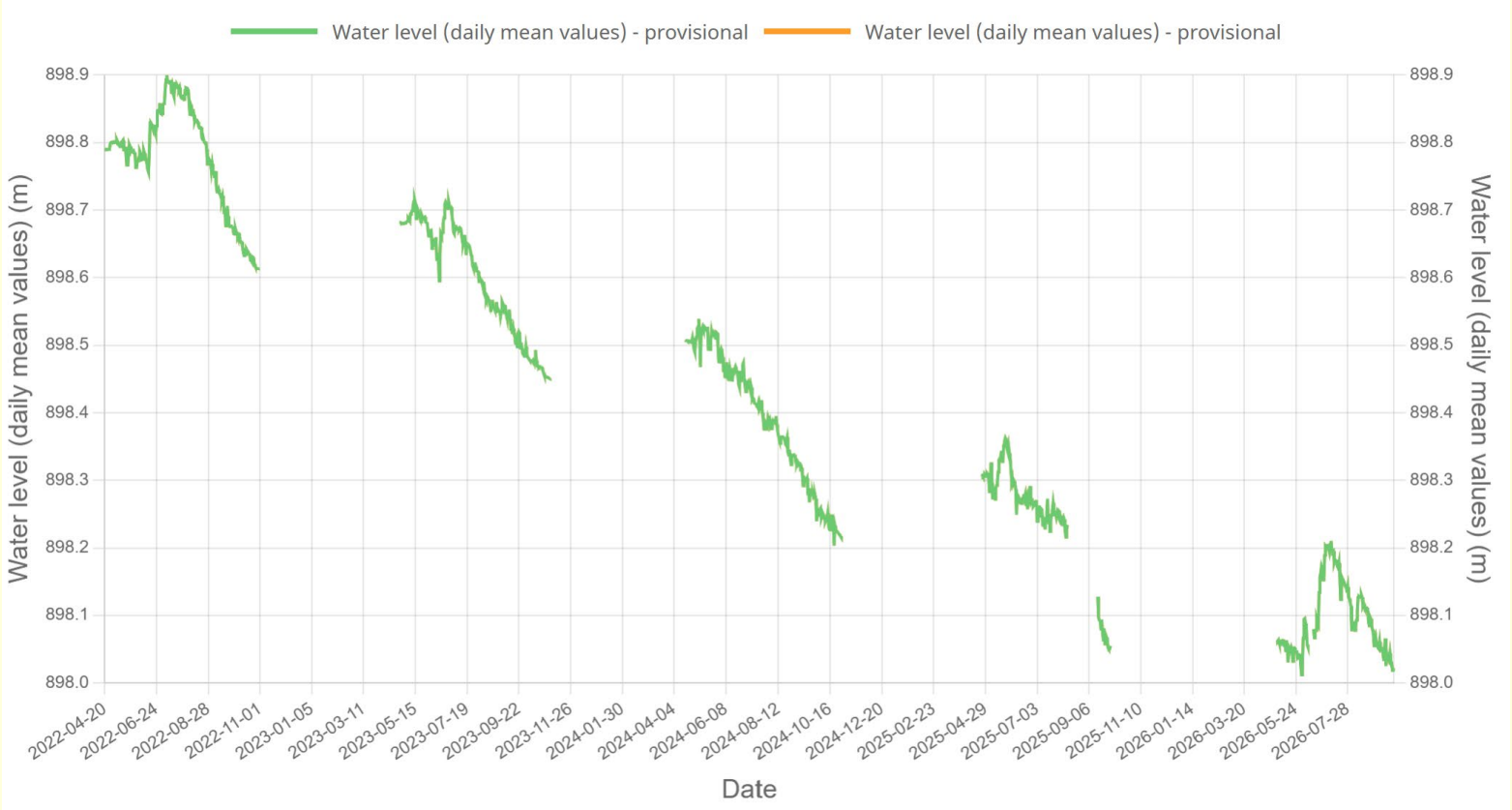
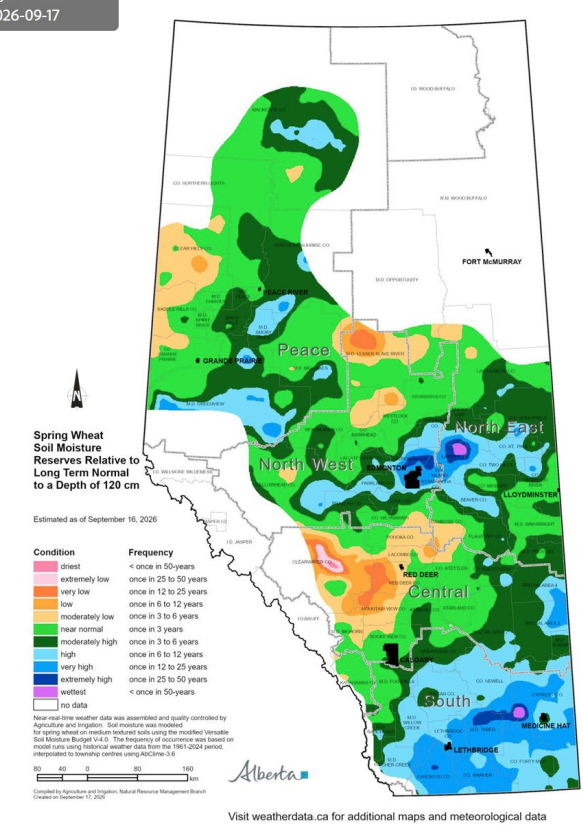
Advocate: Lobby government for more transparency in licencing, better monitoring and protections for surface and groundwater

Monitoring temperature, chemistry and biology of the Blindman River

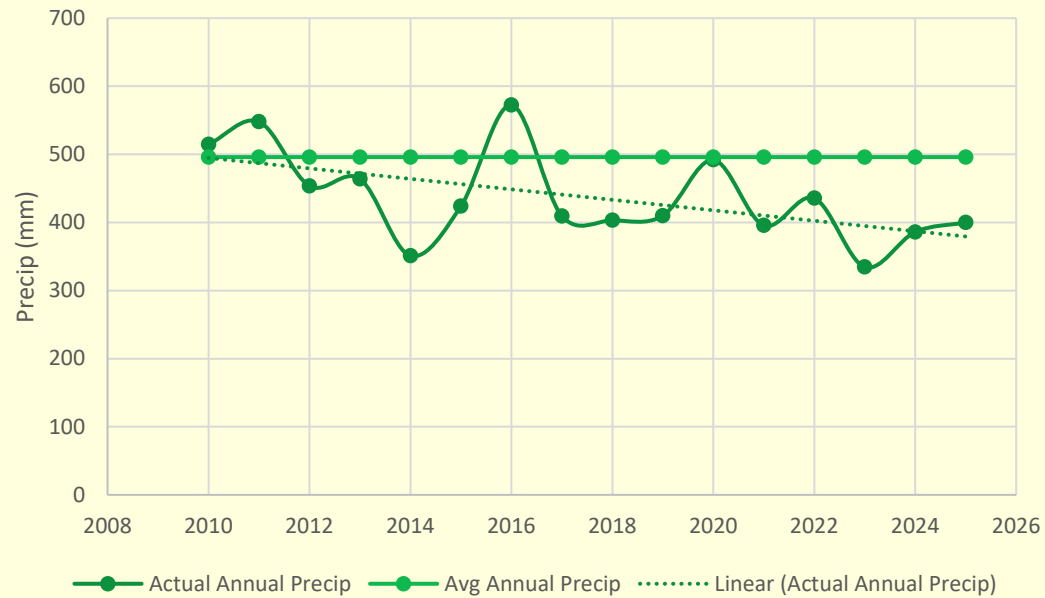




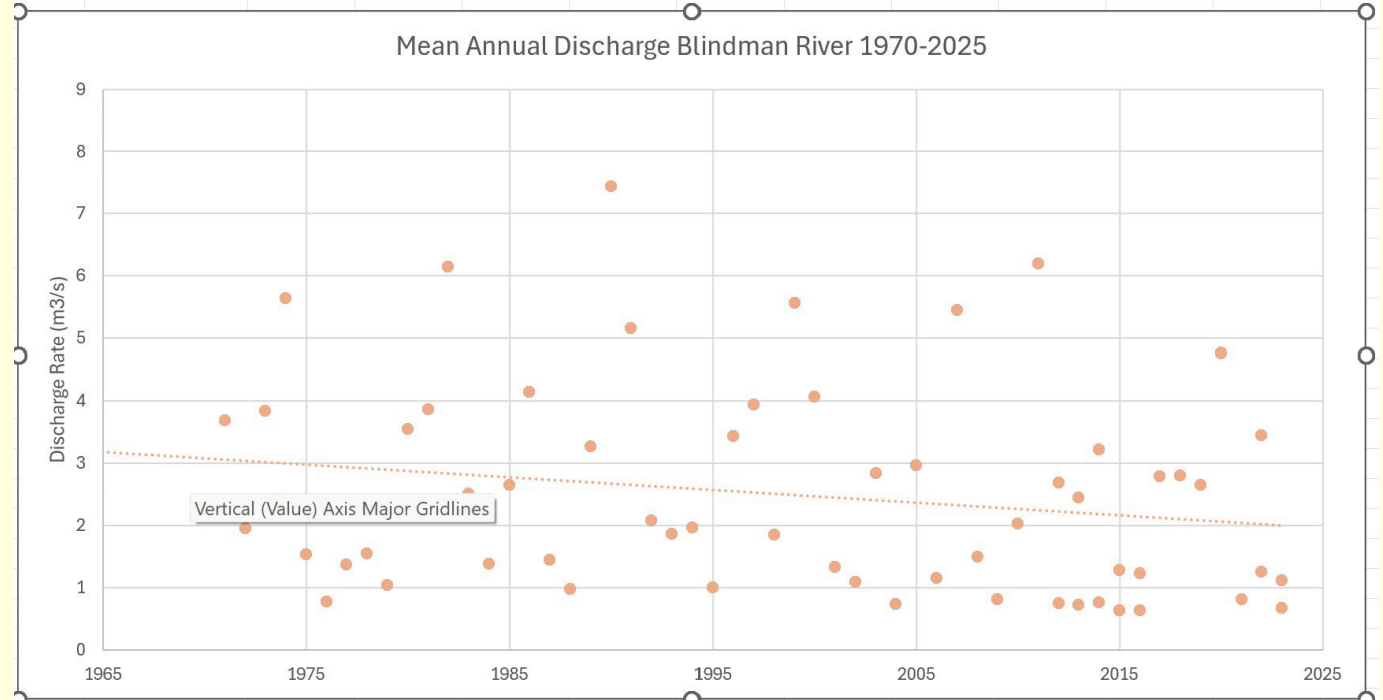
Monitoring short term trends



Annual Precipitation Rimbey Alberta

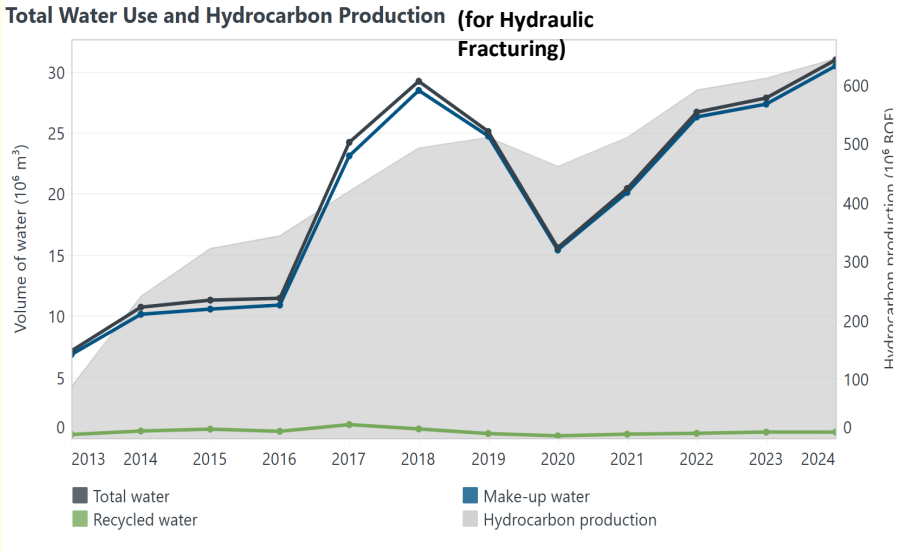
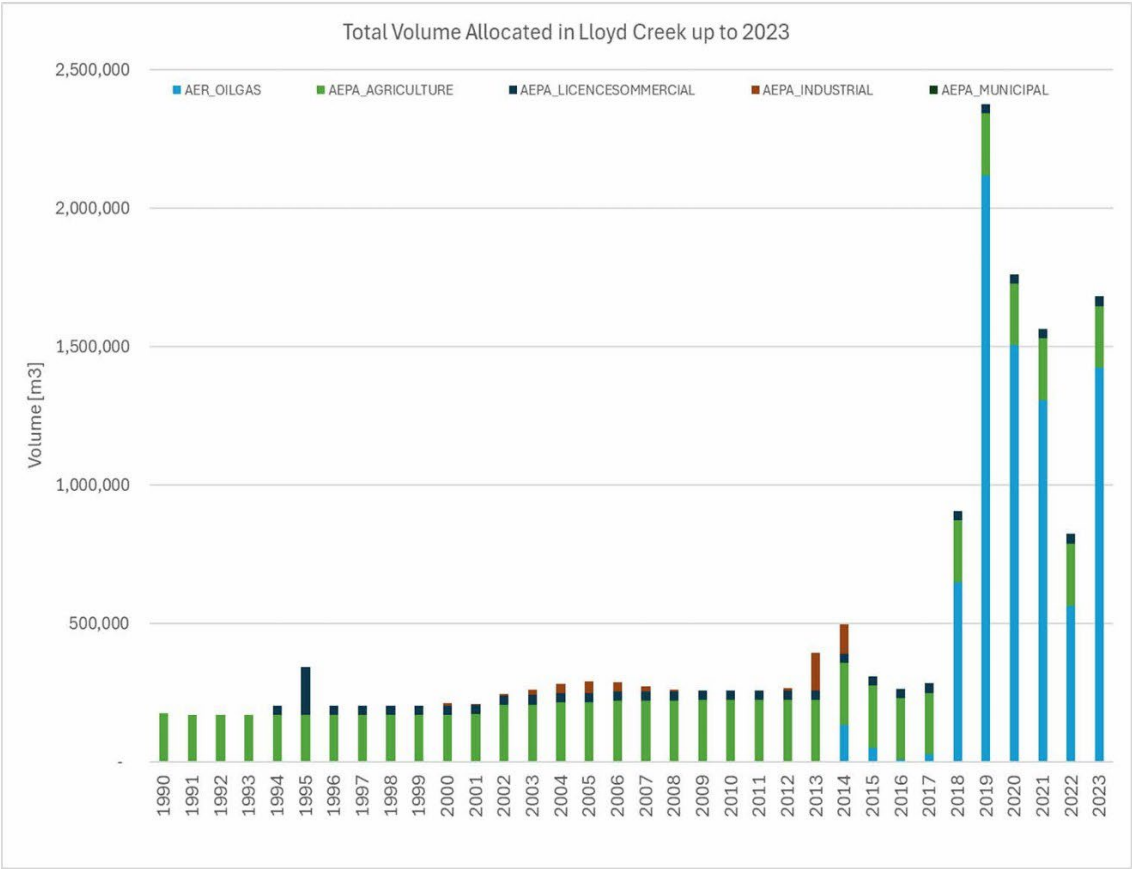


Mean Annual Discharge Blindman River 1970-2025

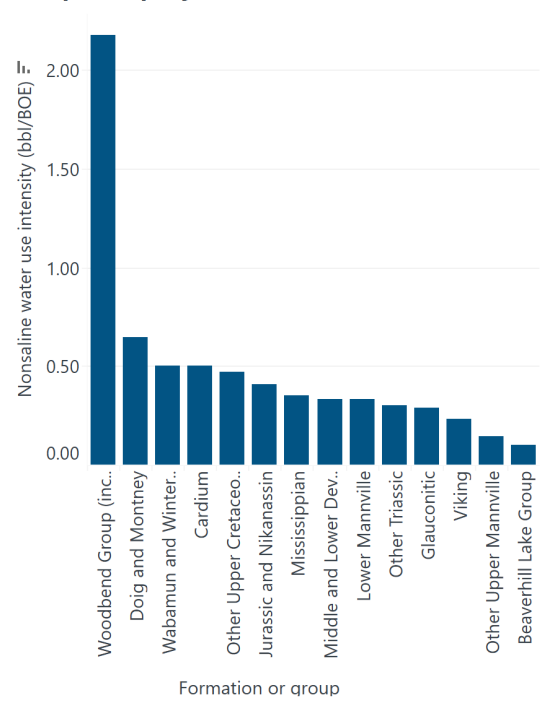


Monitoring long term trends

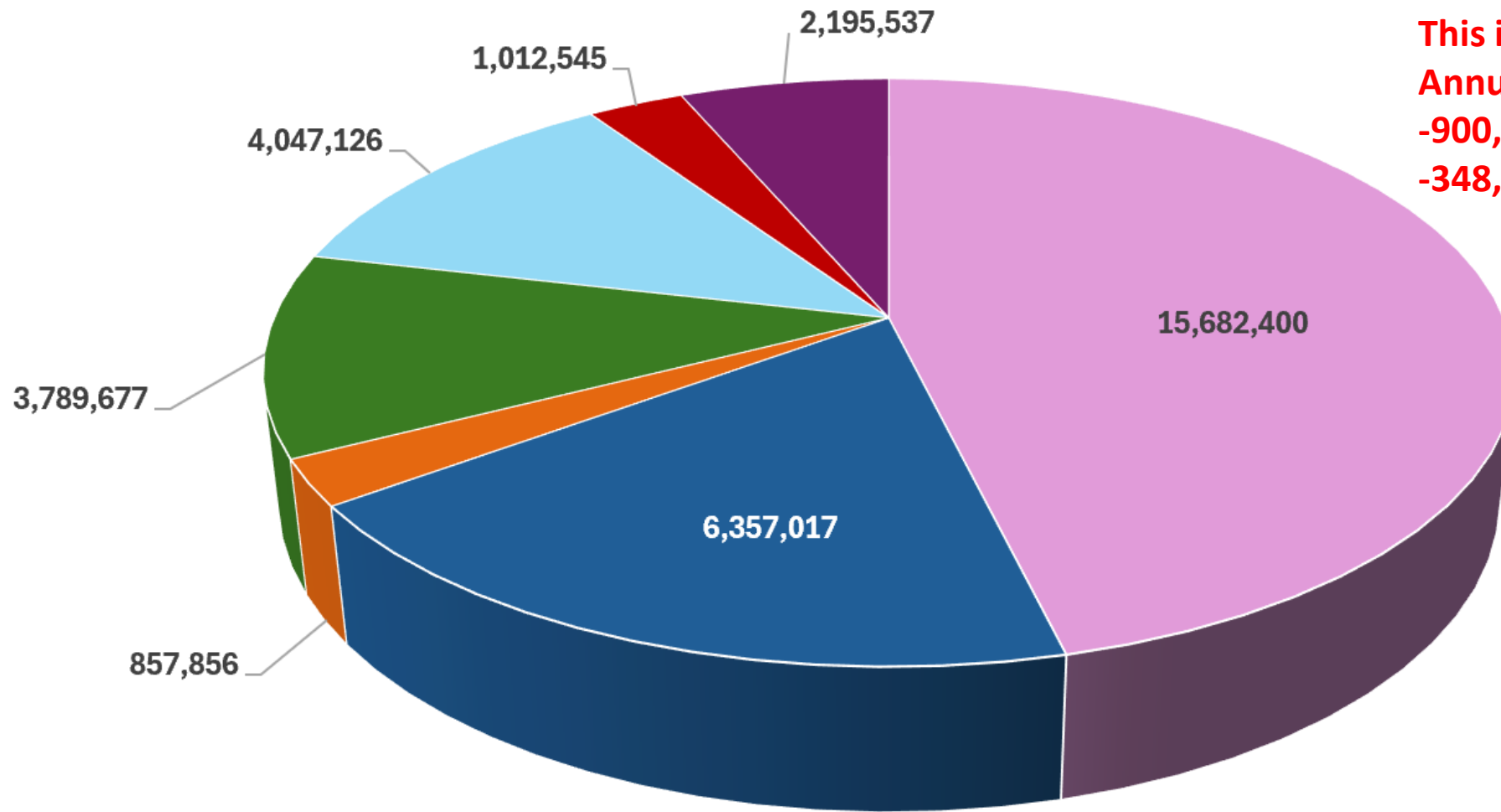
Monitoring changes in demand



Nonsaline Water Use Intensity by Formation or Group, Company Size - All, 2024



Total Freshwater Allocations in Medicine-Blindman Basin 2025 (m3)



This is concerning!
Annual water demand for:
-900,000 cattle
-348,000 people

■ Hydraulic Fracturing ■ Lake Stabilization/Habitat ■ Commercial ■ Agriculture & Irrigation ■ Municipal & Parks ■ Industrial ■ Enhanced Oil Recovery

What does it matter to Blackfalds?

- **Water security is of utmost importance for economic development – water demands are only increasing, supply is decreasing.**
- **This issue is going to get more important, so it is critical to build water literacy in advance.**

Who does our work impact?

- **Watersheds tie communities together. We work from Winfield to Red Deer and partner with other watershed groups like MRWS and RDRWA.**
- **Everyone living, working or recreating in the watershed is affected by water security and water quality.**

What is our budget and ask?

- **We are in our first year and have minimal expenses: a website, AGM expenses, some promotional materials and monitoring equipment.**
- **The AGM costs, some communication materials and monitoring equipment has been covered by a RDRN grant. The extent of monitoring and outreach into the community is dependent on donations.**
- **Our ask would be to support us in monitoring the Blindman in the lower stretches, through monetary donation for monitoring/sampling equipment and lab analyses of collected samples AND/OR helping us with annual expenses such as Not-for-Profit insurance.**