

**Fall 2013**

**"News You Can Use"**

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**Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact WWMC for  
venue.

# Lakescape

newsletter of the



## WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Next Steps toward a Watershed Management Plan for Wabamun Lake

by Kelly Aldridge, WWMC Past Chair

Now that we have completed the State of the Watershed Report for Wabamun Lake, we have begun the process of preparing a watershed management plan, and consider this our top priority. However, late in the summer we learned that Parkland County has undertaken to develop lake management plans. At first this caused us much concern, but after several meetings and discussions, we realized the County's lake management plans are needed to inform their land-use planning process, and our watershed management plan is needed to protect the lake. What follows will help you understand how we intend to proceed.

#### Parkland County Environmental Conservation Master Plan

Parkland County has undertaken a review of its 2004 Environmental Conservation Master Plan to update the Plan regarding environmentally significant areas in the County. The consulting firm, O2 Planning and Design Inc., has been retained by the county to undertake this review. Stakeholder consultations are about to commence to obtain feedback on the consultant's work done to date as well as receive input on best management practices and land and water stewardship. The Wabamun watershed is already identified in the existing plan as an environmentally significant area. The current county map shows a red circle around the lake.

#### **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES – YOU ARE INVITED**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013**

Blueberry Community Hall

53109 Range Road 15

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013**

Entwistle Community Hall

4921-51st Entwistle

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

For more information on the master plan, go to:

<http://bit.ly/1hj7bh5>

#### **Parkland County Lake Management Plans**

Parkland County Council has directed administration to undertake "Lake Management Plans" for lakes within the county. Four or five lakes, including Lake Wabamun have been identified. The county has indicated that it intends to apply to the Provincial Government's Regional Collaborative Grant Program and requests letters of support or council resolutions from 12 municipalities (Wabamun watershed municipalities, Lac Ste. Anne County, SV Southview, SV Silversands, Spruce Grove, and Stony Plain), five regional partners (TransAlta, CN, Paul First Nation, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development [AESRD]), the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) and four watershed stewardship organizations (North Saskatchewan, Mayatan Lake, Jackfish Lake and WWMC).

At a recent meeting with senior Parkland administration officials, we heard that the county intends to develop the first lake management plan, most likely for Wabamun Lake, and to use that plan as a guide or template for subsequent lake management plans.

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Volume 3, No. 4.

**Editor:** Don Meredith  
([wwmc@donmeredith.ca](mailto:wwmc@donmeredith.ca))

**Submissions**

*Lakescape* welcomes contributions from WWMC members and others who wish to inform members about issues or events in the Wabamun area. Please keep submissions brief and to the point. All submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity. For more information, contact the editor: Don Meredith  
[wwmc@donmeredith.ca](mailto:wwmc@donmeredith.ca)

**Deadline for the winter edition is January 15, 2014.**

We are advised that these lake management plans are in essence land use planning documents or tools similar to area structure plans. They will provide a high-level land-use planning overlay on the watershed and will likely cover watershed land-use practices that fall under the jurisdiction of the county. This is intended to be a collaborative undertaking with the results being adopted and applied by municipalities within the watershed and potentially transferable to watersheds in other municipalities.

Parkland County's grant application is for \$225,000. They are hoping to receive resolutions and letters of support in the near future in order that the grant application can be considered expeditiously. Depending on provincial government priorities and budgeting, the review and a decision could take from two to five months. The grant funding, if approved, will not be available for watershed management plans.

**WWMC Watershed Management Plan**

Parkland County understands and supports the WWMC's direction to undertake a Watershed Management Plan for Wabamun Lake. We recognize that elements of our WMP will need to be completed in sufficient time to allow the findings and recommendations to be considered and incorporated into the development of the County's Lake Management Plan for Wabamun Lake.

WWMC Executive members have been meeting and working with AESRD and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance to gain a better insight into the watershed planning process and protocols. Now that Parkland County Council has formalized its intentions to proceed with watershed planning, the WWMC has a clearer role and objective and a workable roadmap. The process will be collaborative and will ultimately be directed by a steering or management committee that will include stakeholder representation.

Over the next few weeks it will be necessary to determine what watershed management planning resources are available, what a realistic budget will be and how that budget will be funded. As a result of discussions at the November WWMC board meeting, the members of the Executive Committee will look into each of these components and will report back to the board at the December 18th Board meeting.

**AGM Elects New Board**

The WWMC held a successful Annual General Meeting on October 16 at the Wabamun Seniors' Centre. Guest speaker Gary Byrtus of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development delivered a presentation about aquatic invasive species. He concentrated on the newly recognized threat of invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels and what Alberta is doing to prevent them from getting into our lakes.

Board elections were held. The WWMC welcomes new members Paul Cardinal, Randy Heil, John McNab, Ken Petruk, and Charlene Smylie. All members of the board are listed in the left column.

At the November 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the board elected its officers for 2014 as follows: Chair, Stan Franklin; Vice Chair, Dan Saunders; Treasurer, Neil Fleming; Secretary, Jack Latham; Past-chair (non-elected), Kelly Aldridge.

**Help Your Lake**

Become a member of the WWMC and make a donation to help us proceed to a watershed management plan and ensure the health of the lake. Go to [www.wwmc.ca](http://www.wwmc.ca), click on the Get Involved tab (at the very top) and download a membership application. We can use the support and there will be a lot of opportunities to volunteer your time and expertise to help with projects keeping Wabamun healthy and the beautiful lake it is.

## Corporate Members

The WWMC thanks the following businesses and organizations for partnering with the WWMC as corporate members and helping the council to achieve its goals.



**Camp Oselia Society, Falher Drugs, Kokanee Springs RV Park, Seba Beach Ice Cream Stop, Shoreside Management Ltd., Summer Village of Point Allison, Wabamun & District Lions Club**

If you own or represent a business or organization that is concerned about Wabamun Lake and would be willing to help maintain its health, become a corporate member of the WWMC for just \$100 a year. Corporate members will be acknowledged at WWMC functions, in each newsletter and elsewhere. For more information contact Kelly Aldridge by e-mail, [ktammaa@hotmail.com](mailto:ktammaa@hotmail.com) or telephone, (780) 953-2695.

If you are already a corporate member and would like to see your logo here, please send a digital copy to Don Meredith at [wwmc@donmeredith.ca](mailto:wwmc@donmeredith.ca)