



Wabamun Watershed Management Council

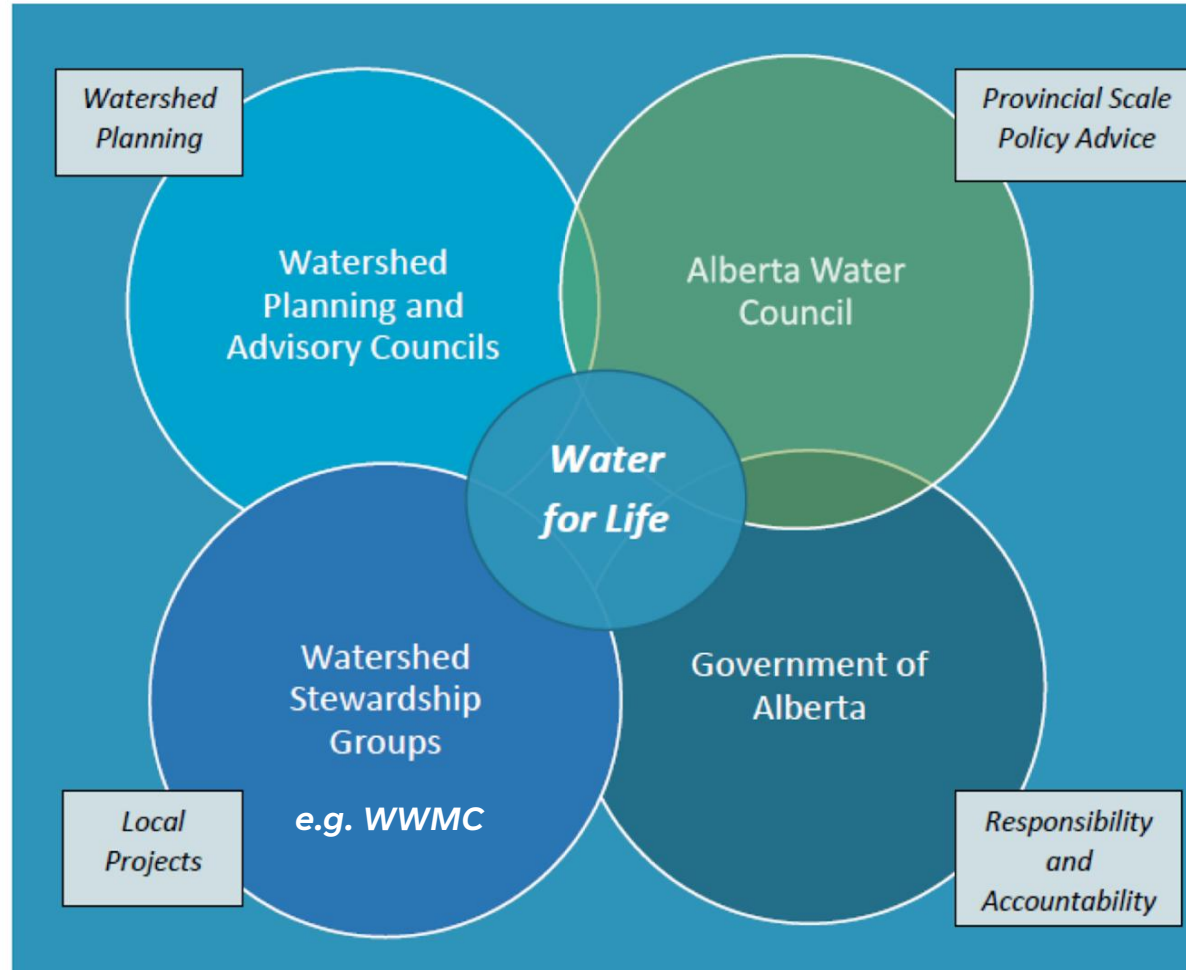
Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

Parkland County

Tuesday February 3, 2026



WWMC – Who are we?



Formed in 2006; Alberta Society incorporation 2010;
CRA registered charity 2022

Vision

The Wabamun Lake Watershed is a healthy ecosystem with a community that shares its collective responsibility to be the best stewards of that environment

Mission

To guide the development, management, and stewardship of Wabamun Lake through collaborative watershed planning, research, and public education

Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan 2020

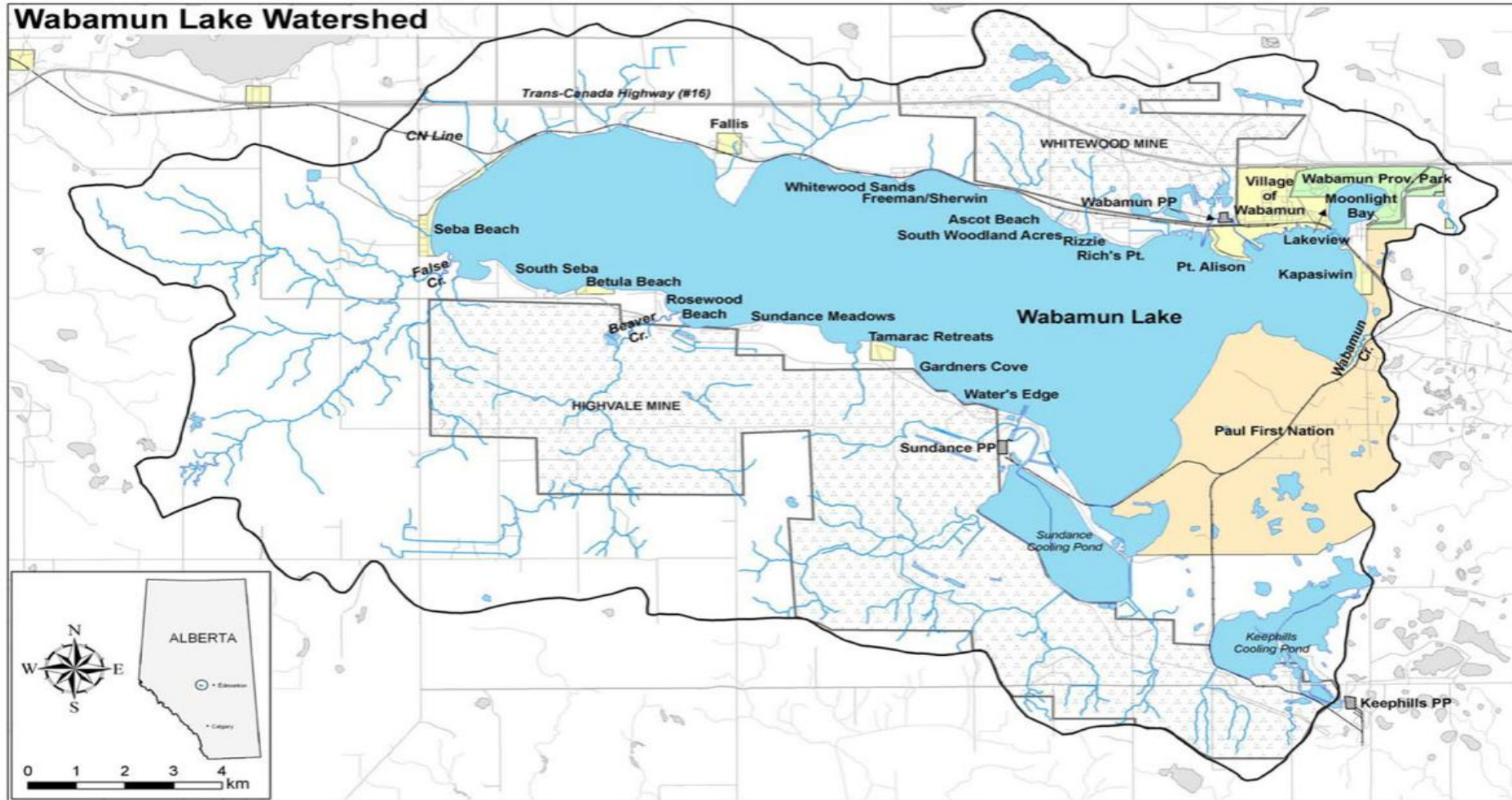


What the WWMC Provides Parkland County

- **Watershed based information**
 - Local data and knowledge, monitoring, and analysis that help inform land-use planning, infrastructure decisions, and long-term resiliency
- **Early identification of risks & opportunities**
 - Insight into emerging watershed issues (water quality, shoreline pressure, cumulative effects) before they escalate into regulatory or community concerns
- **A neutral forum for collaboration on watershed health**
 - Brings together municipalities, Indigenous partners, industry, regulatory agencies, and residents to align interests and reduce conflict
- **Alignment with provincial priorities**
 - Ensures local actions support Alberta's core *Water for Life* goals (safe drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and sustainable economic growth)
- **Capacity without added burden**
 - WWMC supports stewardship, research, education and coordination – without creating new regulatory responsibilities for municipalities



Wabamun Lake Watershed Boundary





Wabamun Lake Watershed Boundary





Key Risks for Wabamun Lake



Invasive Species



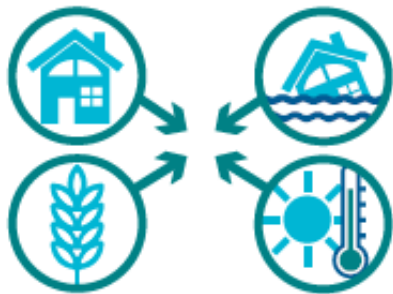
Blue-green
algae blooms



Excess nutrients



Climate change



Cumulative impacts



Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan 4 Main Goals



Good Water Quality



Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
and Biodiversity



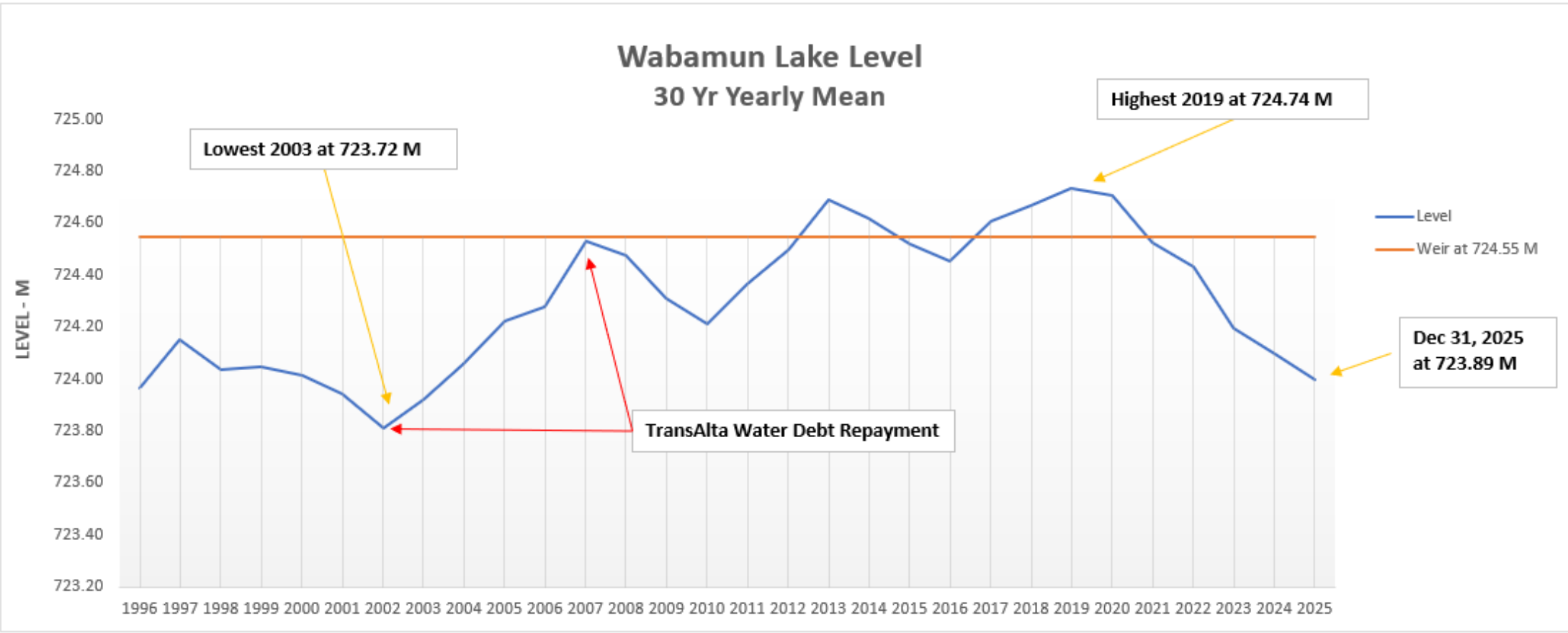
Wise land-use



Engaged Stewardship



What the 30-Yr Lake Level Record Tells Us





What the 110-yr Lake Level Record Tells Us

Maximum Lake Level

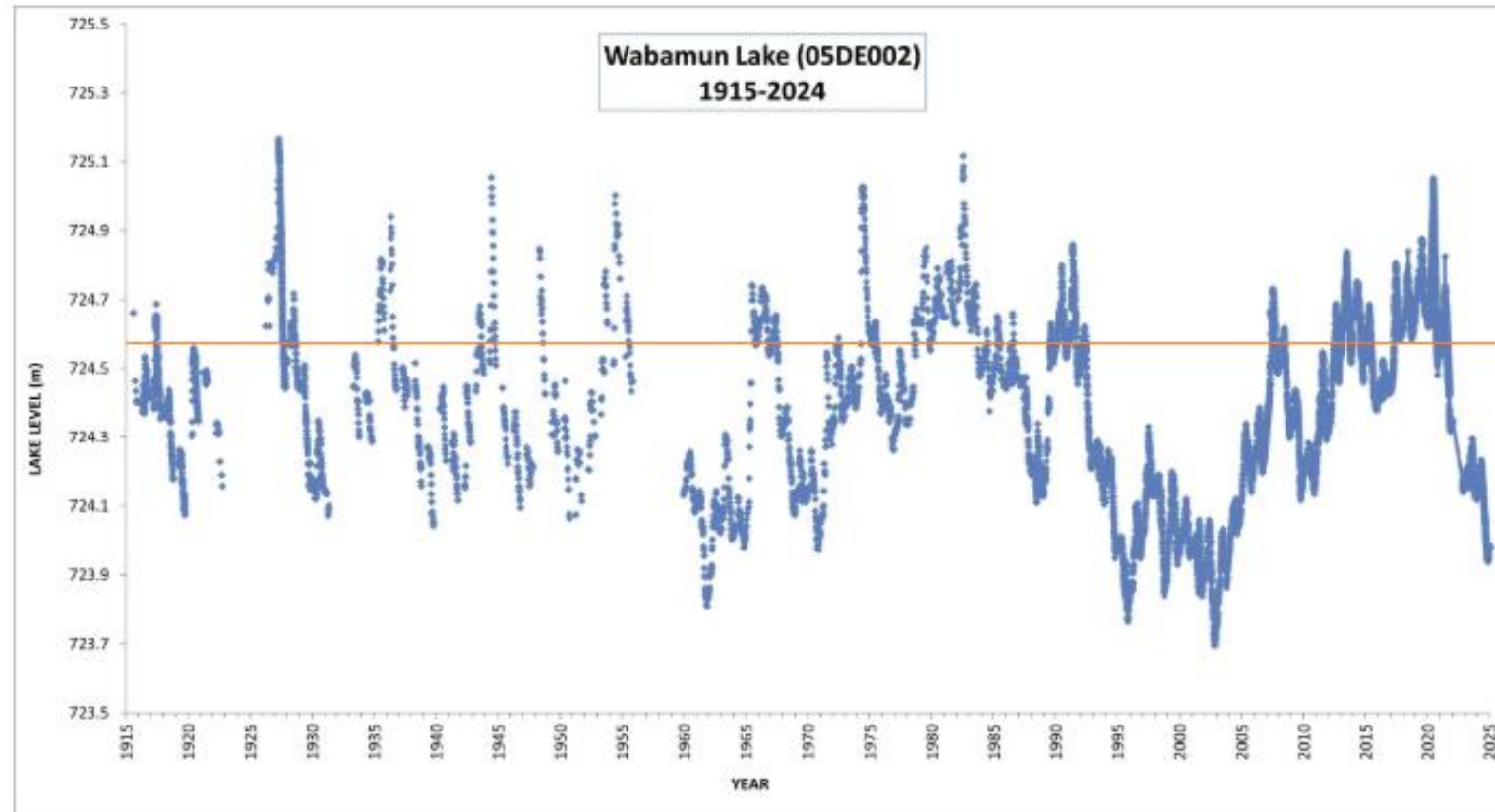
1927 = 725.17

Minimum Lake Level

2003 = 723.72

Current Lake Level

Dec 31, 2025 = 723.89



Weir at 724.55

**Long Water
Residency**

(No Flow over
the weir since
May 2021)



WWMC Perspective: Key Risks & Concerns about Wabamun Waterfront Development Project “A”

- **WWMC Position**

- Supports collaboration and responsible, low-impact development.
- The Wabamun marina & swim pond, known as Project “A”, should be terminated for the following reasons:
 - **High-risk impact on Wabamun Lake health**
 - Dredging requirements pose significant risks to: Important fish habitat and aquatic vegetation, wetlands and shoreline stability, release of contaminated sediments (heavy metals, PAHs), potential federal Fisheries Act breaches, increased turbidity and water quality degradation.
 - **Scientific concerns are well documented**
 - Independent reviews & prior studies (Schindler, Hatfield, Golder/TransAlta) caution against excavation in this outlet canal area due to sensitive fish habitat and known sediment contamination.
 - **Significant information gaps remain**
 - No clear mapping of dredge zones or volumes, vegetation removal not well defined, key scientific findings omitted from submission to federal DFO, affected stakeholders not meaningfully consulted.

- **WWMC Asks**

- Terminate Project “A” and use any remaining federal funds for site clean-up.
- Impose a restrictive covenant on these County owned parcels to prevent contamination release and to protect critical fish habitat and biodiversity and pursue zoning these lands as natural use/conservation area.



WWMC Perspective: Need for Public Review of the Highvale Mine Reclamation Plan by the AER

- **WWMC Position**

- Reclamation must meet the highest standard, with decisions informed by science, local knowledge, and transparent review by the AER to protect the long-term health of Wabamun Lake and its watershed.
- **Hydrology is central to Wabamun Lake viability**
 - Mine footprint comprises more than 30% of the watershed. Reclamation outcome – particularly end-pit lakes – will directly influence the lake's water quality, levels, and ecosystem health forever.
- **PUBLIC CONFIDENCE in the final reclamation plan requires a robust public review by the AER**

- **WWMC Asks**

- Parkland County to take the lead in advocating for a public review by the AER of the final Highvale Mine reclamation plan.
- Parkland County assume a leadership role in convening a working group of local stakeholders to prepare for and participate in a public hearing by the AER as part of the approval process for the final reclamation plan.



Summary of WWMC Asks of Parkland County

- **Project “A”**

- Terminate Project “A” Wabamun marina & swim pond and use any remaining federal funds for site clean-up.
- Impose a restrictive covenant on the affected County-owned parcels to prevent the release of contamination, to protect critical fish and biodiversity habitat over the long term and pursue zoning these lands as natural use/conservation area.

- **Highvale Mine Reclamation**

- Parkland County to take the lead in advocating for a public review by the AER of the final Highvale Mine reclamation plan.
- Parkland County assume a leadership role in convening a working group of local stakeholders to prepare for and participate in a public hearing by the AER as part of the approval process for the final reclamation plan.



Thank you for listening and for your continued leadership in supporting the long-term health of Wabamun Lake and its watershed

We welcome your questions and discussion

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