

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

nswa.ab.ca

**ALBERTA COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP (ACP) GRANT**

**PARKLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
PRESENTATION**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



PRESENTATION AGENDA

NSWA Background

Who I Am + My Role

SRWA
History + Where We Are Now

Overview of Alberta Community
Partnership (ACP) Grant





Alberta's Water for Life Strategy

“Water is not only a resource, it is a life source. We all share the responsibility to ensure a healthy, secure and sustainable water supply for our communities, environment and economy.”

Goals:

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

Key Directions:

- Knowledge and research
 - Partnerships
 - Water conservation
- 



Alberta Environment and Parks
WATERSHED PLANNING & ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Minister and the Crown provide this information (with certainty or representation as to any matter including but not limited to whether the data is current, accurate or complete) solely for the purpose of providing information and do not warrant, represent or guarantee its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Information is provided as is and is subject to change. The Government of Alberta assumes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Based on the 2015 Provincial Geographical Data, Environment and Parks, August 20, 2015. Base Map Data provided by the Government of Alberta under the Open Government License - Alberta. © 2015 Government of Alberta.

WPACs:

Independent, non-profit organizations that are designated by the Alberta government to report on the health of our watersheds, lead collaborative planning, and facilitate education and stewardship activities.

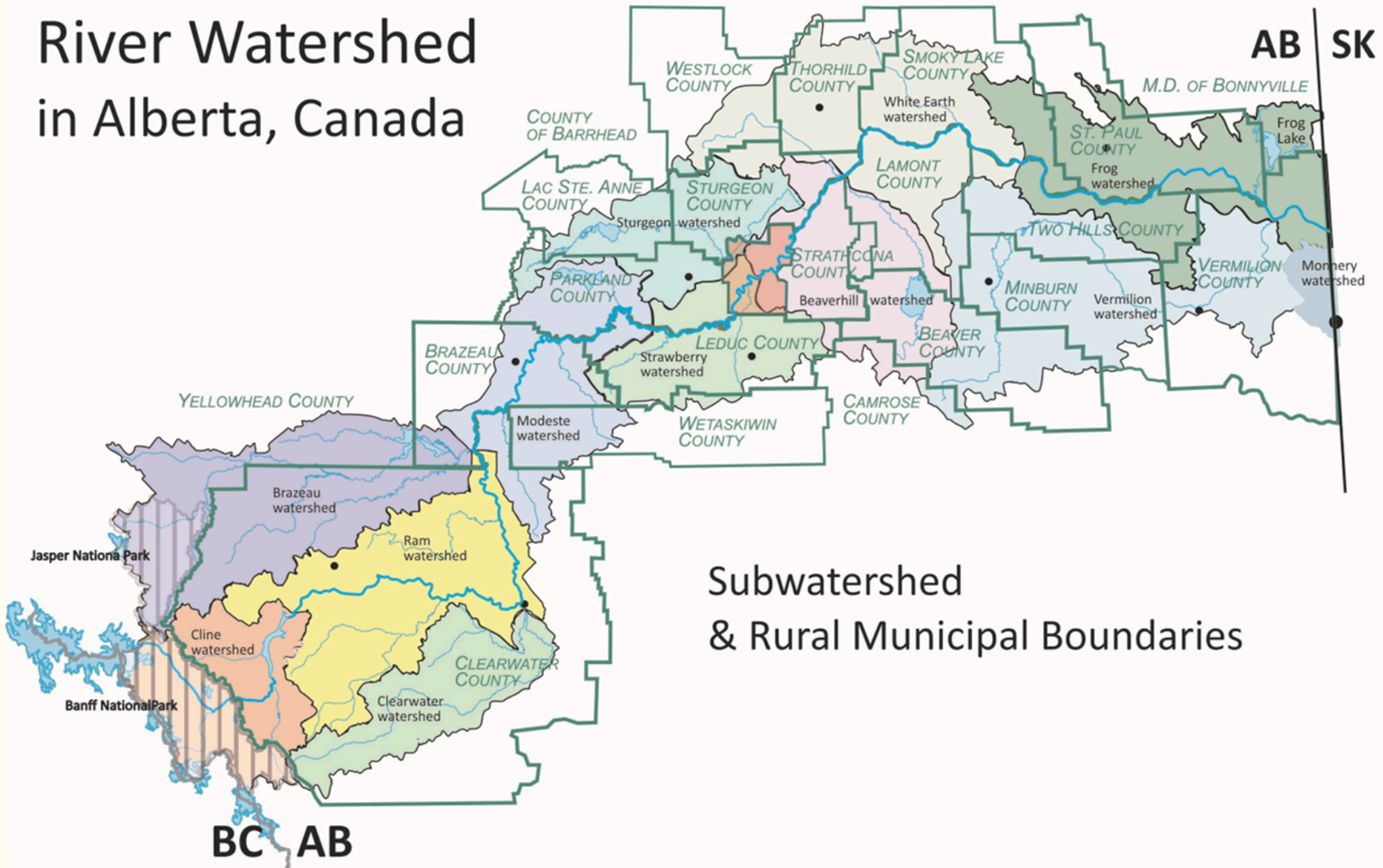


Working together for a healthy and resilient watershed!

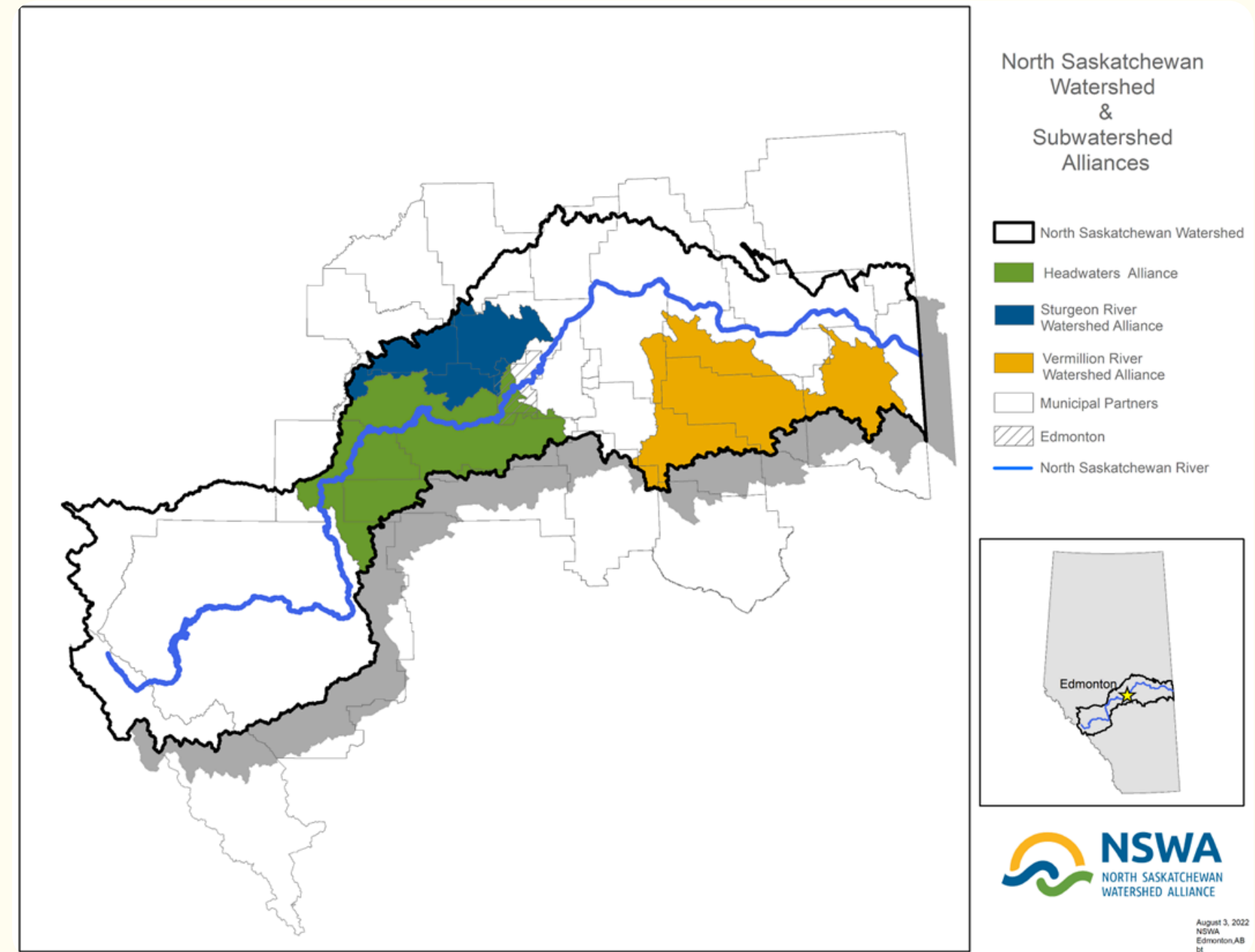
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE (NSWA)



North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta, Canada



Subwatershed & Rural Municipal Boundaries



North Saskatchewan Watershed & Subwatershed Alliances

- North Saskatchewan Watershed
- Headwaters Alliance
- Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
- Vermilion River Watershed Alliance
- Municipal Partners
- Edmonton
- North Saskatchewan River




August 3, 2022
NSWA
Edmonton, AB
bt

Who I Am + My Role Watershed Planning Coordinator kelsie.norton@nswa.ab.ca

Facilitates and supports the municipally-supported Watershed Stewardship Group,
the **Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance**

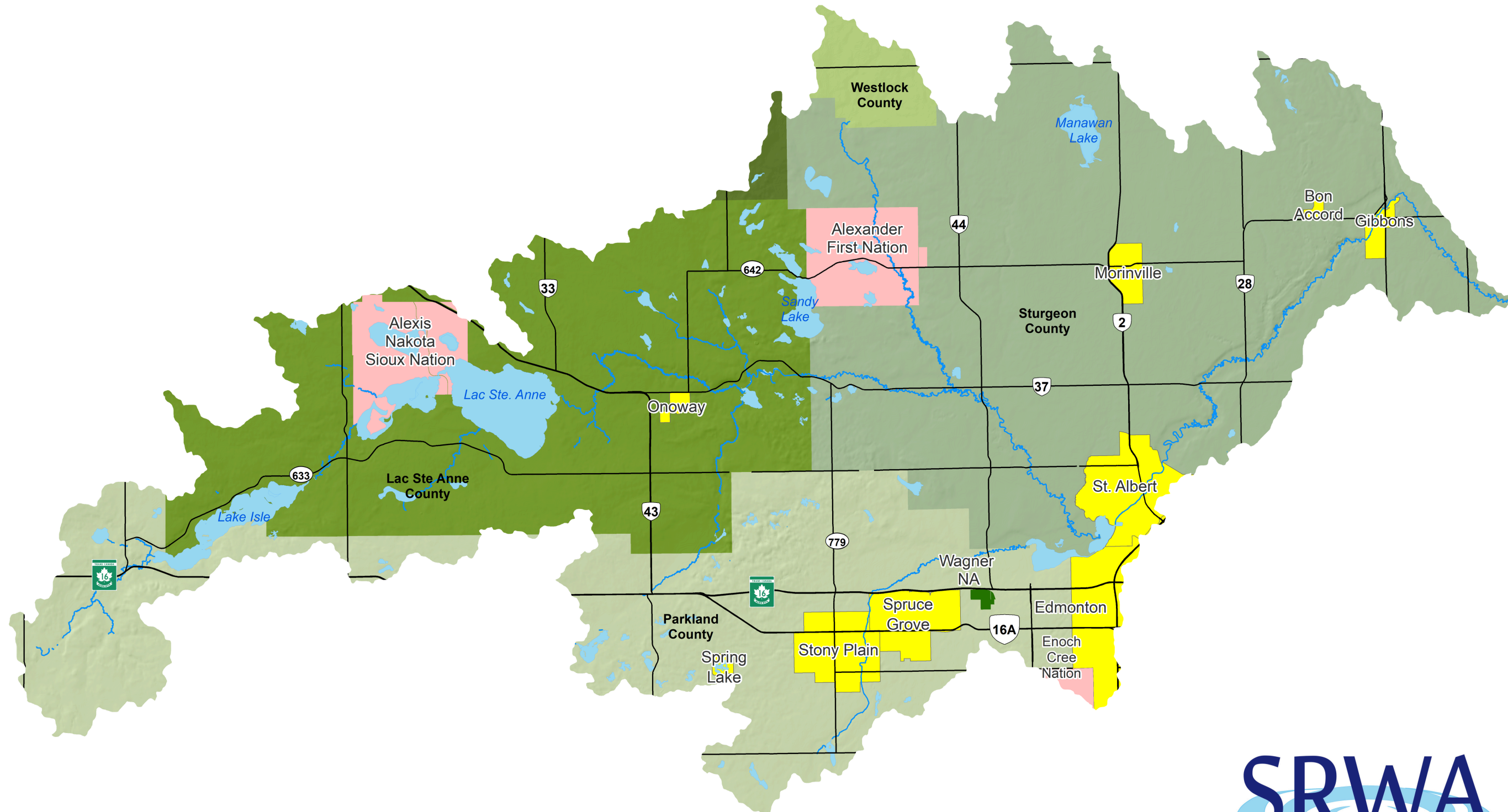




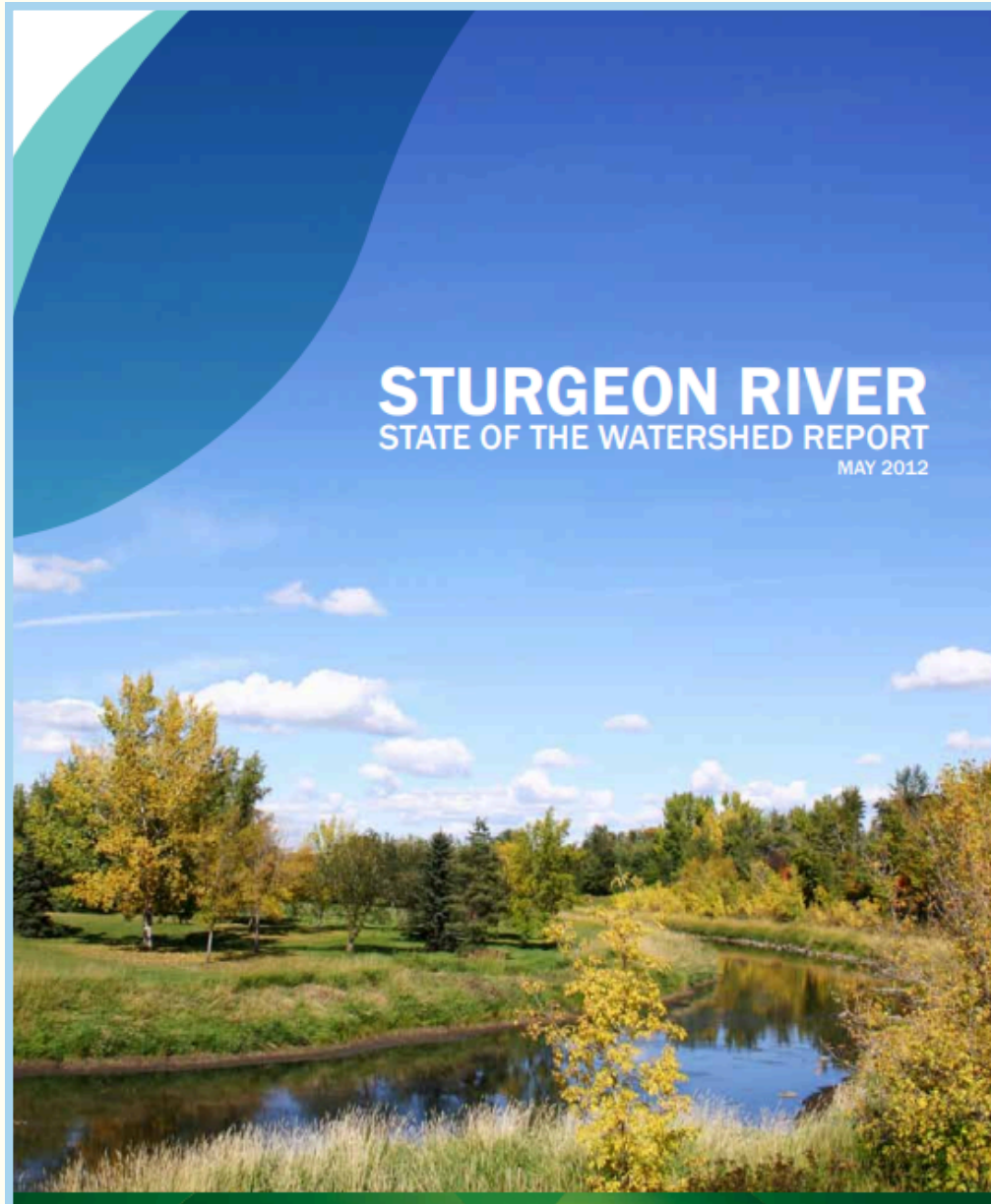
Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

History + Where We Are Now

Sturgeon River Watershed



State of the Watershed Report



Four indicator categories to help us assess our watershed's health.

- land use
- water quantity
- water quality
- biological

Indicator Category	Indicator	Assessed Health Rating
Land Use Indicators	Land Use Inventory	Fair
	Linear Developments	Fair
	Livestock Density	Fair
	Riparian Health	(Insufficient Data)
	Wetland Inventory	Fair (with uncertainty)
Water Quantity Indicators	Water Allocations by Sector	Good
	Groundwater Diversions	Fair
Water Quality Indicators	Surface Water Quality Index	(Insufficient Data)
	Nitrogen and Phosphorus	Poor
	Pesticides	Good
	E. coli	Good
Biological Indicators	Vegetation Types	Poor
	Aquatic Macrophytes	(Insufficient Data)
	Fish	Poor (with uncertainty)
	Benthic Invertebrates	(Insufficient Data)
Overall Grade		Fair

For more detailed information, please visit section eight of the technical report, Issues and Challenges.

Assessed overall ecological health using 15 indicators and gave an overall grade of **FAIR**

Key Recommendations

- Establish a municipally led watershed group
- Fill information gaps by completing technical studies
- Develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

The Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) is a *municipally-supported* watershed stewardship group established for the Sturgeon River subwatershed. It partners with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA).

The SRWA is guided by a Steering Committee made up of elected municipal officials from the Sturgeon subwatershed, and a Technical Advisory Committee made up of environmental groups and staff, along with researchers.

List of Research Reports

Isle Lake & Lac Ste Anne State of the Watershed Report

Assessment of Existing Water Supply & Demand Data for the Sturgeon River Basin)

Sturgeon Watershed Riparian Assessment Report

Planning Tools for the Sturgeon River Watershed

Natural Areas Mapping for the Sturgeon River Watershed

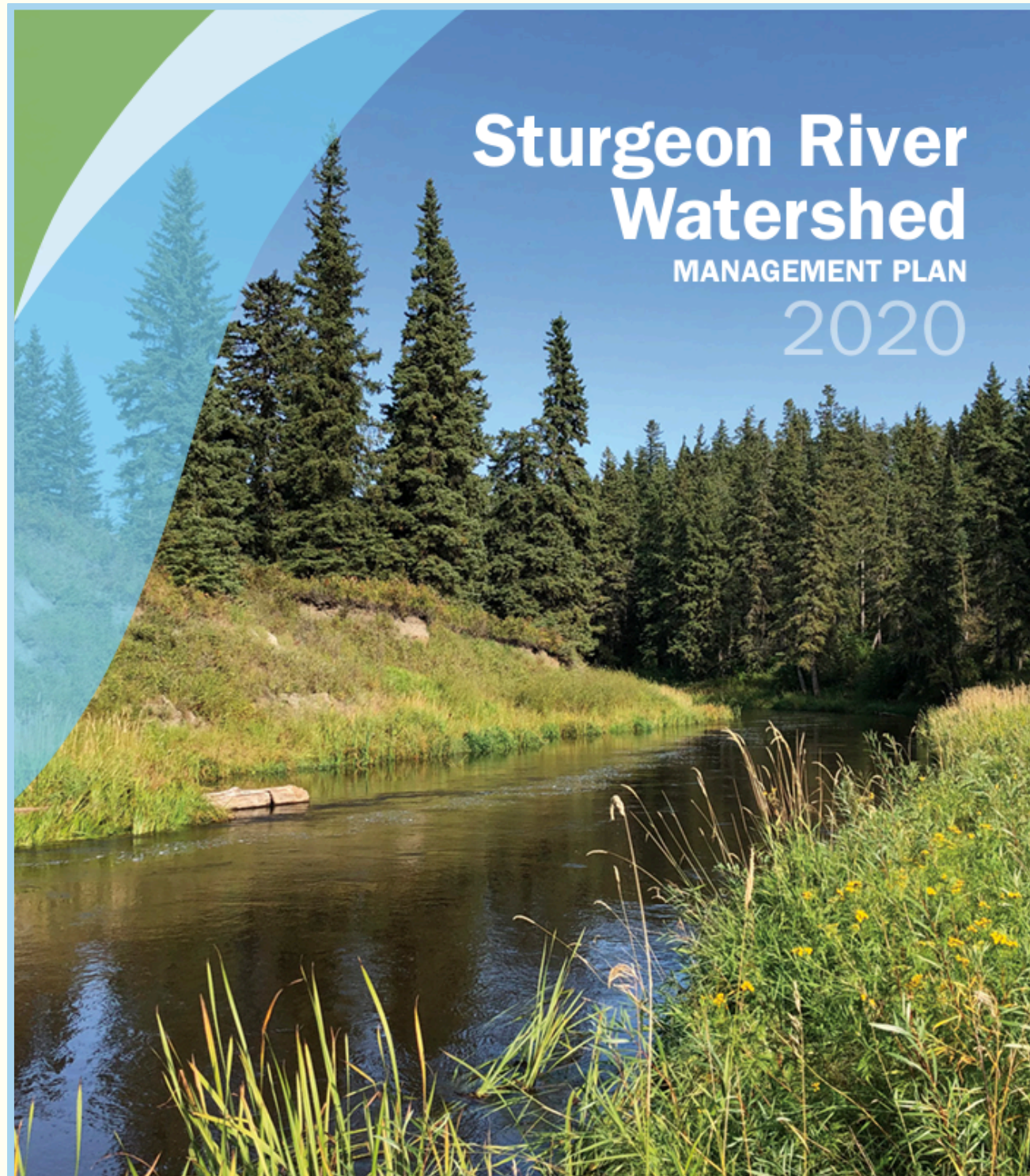
Sturgeon River Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment Final Report

NSWA coordinated grants and consultants for 10 technical studies and 4 technical bulletins
Municipal staff vetted reports and their implications

SRWA partnership secured over \$500,000 in grants

All reports available on www.nswa.ab.ca





VISION: The Sturgeon River watershed is recognized and valued as a natural prairie river system that connects our communities and adds to our quality of life. It is healthy, sustaining its ecological structure, processes, functions, and resiliency, within its range of natural variability. It is collaboratively stewarded by rural landowners, urban residents, and Indigenous communities, and is managed with knowledge and ecological integrity as the foundation for decision-making that balances our social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being.

- **Watershed Approach**
- **Informed Decision Making**
- **Clear goals and performance measures**
- **Voluntary alignment of policies and plans**
- **Coordinates intermunicipal collaboration**
- **Promotes local and regional stewardship**
- **Encourages work to address knowledge gaps**

2020-2023



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

The Sturgeon River
Watershed Management Plan
2024 Progress Report

**STRATEGY TO
IMPROVE
WETLAND
MANAGEMENT
in the
NORTH
SASKATCHEWAN
RIVER WATERSHED**

SEPTEMBER 2023



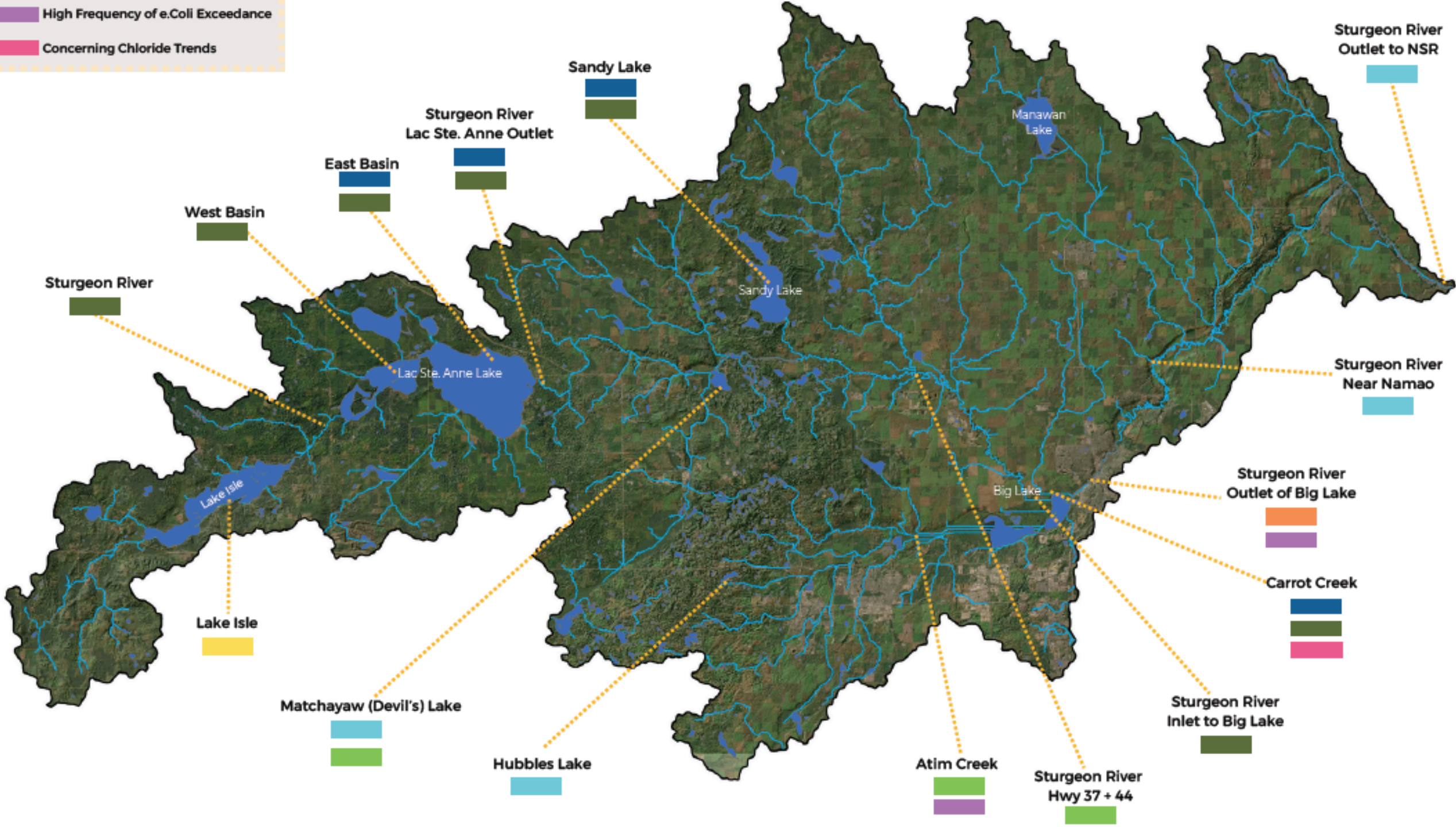
Sturgeon River Water Monitoring Project

Research Highlights of Water Quality Analysis

Completed: December 2023

KEY

- Concerning Dissolved Oxygen Trends
- Improving Dissolved Oxygen Trends
- Increasing Total Phosphorus
- Decreasing Total Phosphorus
- Increasing Total Nitrogen
- Decreasing Total Nitrogen
- High Frequency of e.Coli Exceedance
- Concerning Chloride Trends





Parkland County History of Support

Represented on the Steering + Technical Committee since the creation of SRWA in 2013

Past SRWA Chair - AnnLisa Jensen (Former Parkland County Councillor)

Current SRWA Chair - Parkland County Councillor Kristina Kowalski





Overview of Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant

The objective of the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) is to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities.

Key program outcomes include:

- new or enhanced regional municipal services
- improved municipal capacity to respond to priorities
- effective intermunicipal relations

Funding Component

Intermunicipal Collaboration (IC) project eligibility is focused on projects that result in regional municipal service delivery foundations or frameworks that align with broader regional or municipal priorities and initiatives.

Application Deadline: October 1, 2024

The maximum grant available per project is \$200,000.



SRWA is not an eligible entity.

Role of Managing Partner

The managing partner is the partnership member that submits the grant application on behalf of the partnership, enters into the grant agreement, receives and manages the grant funds on behalf of the partnership, and reports to the ministry on project expenditures and outcomes.

Successful Intermunicipal Collaboration funded projects will receive an initial payment of 75 percent of the grant, with the remainder released upon project completion and the submission of satisfactory reporting.

Project Components

Project Timeline: 2025 - 2028

Project Title

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance Intermunicipal Watershed Planning Project

Component 1

Sturgeon River Watershed Water Quality Evaluation

Further examination into trends, flow, and land use influences
point source + non-point source assessment

Component 2

Infrastructure Management Framework for Watershed Health

Highlight infrastructure hot spots for flooding water quality and riparian health and guide solutions.

Workshops (classroom + field) that delve into water quality and flooding concerning watercourse crossing infrastructure

Relation to Watershed Management Plan



Sturgeon River Watershed MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020



OUTCOME 3. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING OUR RIVERS, LAKES, WETLANDS AND OTHER WATER BODIES, ARE HEALTHY.

Strategy 3.1.1. Improve understanding of the health and resiliency of the Sturgeon River watershed by monitoring, evaluating and reporting on water quality and other aspects of aquatic ecosystem health.

OUTCOME 5. WISE LAND USE ENSURES THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ARE MITIGATED, THE LAND IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES ARE WELL PREPARED FOR FLOOD AND DROUGHT EVENTS.

Strategy 5.1.2. Use land use planning and development processes to ensure built landscapes maximize water capture, infiltration and slow release

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

Thank you!

