



North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

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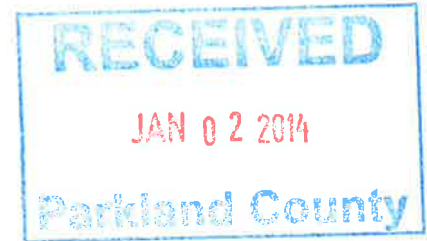
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December 19, 2013

His Worship Rodney Shaigec
Mayor, Parkland County
53109A Hwy 779
Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1



Dear Mayor Shaigec:

I am pleased to send you this update on the planning activities of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) and to request your financial support for 2014.

As you are aware, the NSWA was appointed by Alberta Environment in 2005 as the ***Watershed Planning and Advisory Council*** for the North Saskatchewan River basin under the terms and concepts embodied in *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*.

The NSWA has made good progress under this mandate and in 2012 we released an *Integrated Watershed Management Plan* (IWMP) for the North Saskatchewan River basin. This major undertaking provides advice and direction to protect the long-term supply and quality of water resources for future generations. Implementation of IWMP recommendations is now underway through the development of watershed partnerships with local authorities and stewardship groups, and the development of expert working groups to deal with scientific issues and needs across the basin.

The NSWA also supported the completion and final distribution of the *Vermilion River Watershed Management Plan* (VRWMP) in 2013. This was the first sub-basin planning project in the North Saskatchewan River basin. We worked closely with rural and urban municipalities in the Vermilion sub-basin to identify local water management issues and to create a locally-developed and supported watershed plan.

We are currently working with urban and rural municipalities in the Sturgeon River sub-basin to develop a watershed partnership and watershed management plan for that important area.

NSWA has developed significant watershed planning capacity and knowledge, and is positioned to support regional collaboration on local watershed planning projects. It is our goal to identify and prioritize other sub-watersheds in the North Saskatchewan River basin for future watershed planning initiatives, and to that end we are pleased work with municipalities to help shape those priorities. Rural and urban municipal governments are currently represented on both the NSWA Board of Directors and the VRWMP Steering Committee. We will host a

municipal watershed forum in late winter 2014 to further support municipal involvement in this area of local environmental management.

The NSWA is respectfully requesting your financial support for the forthcoming calendar year. We would appreciate positive consideration by Council for a \$0.50 per capita contribution to NSWA's operations in 2014.

Nine counties and 11 urban municipalities provided direct financial support to NSWA in 2013. The City of Edmonton and EPCOR also provide strong support for NSWA operations, based on the same per capita formula. The Government of Alberta provides an annual operating grant to NSWA. In-kind contributions from municipalities are also acknowledged. Our complete 2012-13 financial statement is posted on our website.

NSWA would be pleased to discuss any watershed issues of concern to your municipality and to provide any further information requested by your Council or Administration. Please feel free to contact Mr. David Trew, Executive Director (Phone: 780-496-3474 or email: david.trew@edmonton.ca) in this regard.

We have enclosed two copies of NSWA's 2012-13 Annual Report for your information. It can be found on our website at www.nswa.ab.ca.

Thank you for your consideration.



Reeve Pat Alexander
President

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society

Cc: Mr. Pat Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer, Parkland County