



North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

9504 – 49th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2M9

Phone: 780-442-6363 Fax: 780-495-0610

water@nswa.ab.ca

<http://www.nswa.ab.ca>

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Jan Agenda item

December 12, 2012

Reeve Steve Upham
Reeve, County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue
St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A4

Dear Reeve Upham:

I am pleased to provide you with this update on the planning activities of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) and to request your financial support for 2013.

The NSWA was appointed by Alberta Environment in 2005 as the *Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC)* 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. In 2012 we sent you a copy of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)* for the North Saskatchewan River watershed. This major undertaking is aimed at protecting the long-term supply and quality of water resources throughout this region for future generations. The NSWA has also been heavily involved in the development of the *Water Management Framework for the Capital Region and Industrial Heartland*. In particular, the NSWA developed the water quality management objectives for the North Saskatchewan River that are being used in this process.

The NSWA has also supported the completion of the *Vermilion River Watershed Management Plan (VRWMP)*. This is the first sub-watershed planning and management project in the North Saskatchewan River basin. We worked closely with rural and urban municipalities in the Vermilion basin to identify local water management issues, and to create a locally-developed and supported watershed plan. You will receive a copy of this report shortly.

In 2012 we were pleased to send you a copy of our newest educational publication: "*Atlas of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta*". This *Atlas* provides a broad overview of the watershed, its natural attributes and the nature of human activities affecting it. We hope the *Atlas* will increase public awareness about the watershed and the need to manage it carefully.

We expect that the information and advice generated through all of these planning efforts will be utilized in the development of the forthcoming North Saskatchewan Regional Plan under the Land Use Framework. Please refer to our new website www.nswa.ab.ca for regular updates and further information.

The NSWA has developed significant watershed planning capacity and knowledge, and is positioned to support regional and local watershed planning projects. It is our goal to identify and prioritize all sub-watersheds in the North Saskatchewan River basin for future watershed planning initiatives, and to that end we are pleased to work with municipalities to help shape those priorities. We encourage your membership in NSWA and your involvement in future watershed planning and management activities.

The City of Edmonton and EPCOR provide strong financial and in-kind support for NSWA's operations, based on a \$0.50 per capita contribution; the Government of Alberta also provides an annual operating grant. Twelve other municipalities provided direct financial support to NSWA in 2012 based on the same per capita contribution. The approved 2011-12 financial statement is posted on our website.

The NSWA respectfully requests 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 2013.

The 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.

Thank you,



Dr. Les Gammie
President
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society

Cc: Ms. Sheila Kitz, Chief Administrative Officer, County of St. Paul No. 19