



# North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

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RECEIVED DEC 29 2014

December 23 2014

Reeve Steve Upham  
County of St. Paul  
5015 - 49 Avenue  
St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A4

Dear Reeve Upham:

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 2015.

In 2005 the NSWA was appointed by Alberta Environment as the ***Watershed Planning and Advisory Council*** for the North Saskatchewan River basin under *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. IWMP implementation is now underway through strategic watershed partnerships with municipalities and stewardship groups. We also have expert working groups to deal with scientific issues and needs across the basin.

In April 2014 we launched the *Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance*, a collaborative of three rural and six urban municipalities in that sub-basin. In February 2015 we will formally launch the *Headwaters Alliance*, a similar collaboration of five rural and three urban municipalities in the upper portions of the North Saskatchewan River watershed. Both *Alliances* will assess local watershed conditions and issues, develop harmonized land policies, and support long-term sustainability of regional water resources.

The NSWA also supported the preparation of the *Vermilion River Watershed Management Plan* in 2013. This was the first sub-basin planning project in the North Saskatchewan River basin. We worked closely with the 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. An Implementation Team has commenced work, led by six rural and three urban municipalities.

NSWA has developed significant watershed planning capacity and knowledge, and is positioned to support regional collaboration on local watershed planning projects. Our goal is 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 to work with municipalities to help shape those priorities. Rural and urban municipal governments are also represented on the NSWA Board of Directors.

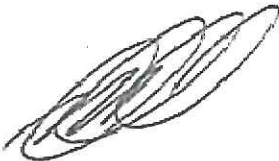
The NSWA is respectfully requesting your financial support for the forthcoming calendar year. We would appreciate positive consideration by your Council for a \$0.50 per capita contribution to NSWA in 2015 and, should this result, we would be pleased to provide an invoice.

Nine counties and 17 urban municipalities provided direct financial support to NSWA in 2014. The City of Edmonton and EPCOR also provide strong support for NSWA operations, based on the same per capita formula. In-kind contributions from municipalities are also acknowledged. The Government of Alberta provides an annual operating grant to NSWA. Our 2013-14 Financial Statements are posted on our website at <https://www.nswa.ab.ca/content/nswa-society>.

NSWA would be pleased to discuss any watershed issues of concern to your municipality and to provide a briefing if 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](mailto:david.trew@edmonton.ca)) in this regard.

We have enclosed one copy of NSWA's 2013-14 Annual Report for your further information. It can also be found on our website at <https://www.nswa.ab.ca/content/nswa-society>.

Thank you for your consideration.



Reeve Pat Alexander  
President  
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society

Cc: Ms. Sheila Kitz, CAO