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September 12, 2019

Reeve Stephen Upham  
County of St. Paul No. 19  
5015 - 49 Avenue  
St. Paul AB T0A 3A4

RE: Municipal Contribution to NSWA

Dear Reeve Upham,

I am pleased to provide a copy of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) 2018-19 Annual Report, which summarizes the projects and collaborative partnerships that NSWA has conducted in your watershed during the past year. This important work was accomplished thanks to the generous support of over 40 municipalities in our shared watershed. We would again appreciate positive consideration by your Council for a \$0.50 per capita contribution to NSWA for 2020.

In addition to financial contributions from individual municipalities, our non-profit alliance depends on an annual operating grant from the Government of Alberta and contributions from EPCOR. More information about the NSWA, our bylaws, finances and projects can be found online at [www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca).

**How your financial contribution benefits your community**

In 2005, Alberta Environment appointed NSWA as the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council for the North Saskatchewan River (NSR) basin under *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*. NSWA has made significant progress under this mandate, and in 2012 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 local municipalities and stewardship groups.

NSWA partners with individual municipalities and three sub-watershed alliances to assess local watershed conditions and issues, coordinate inter-municipal projects, and develop harmonized land policies to support long-term sustainability of watershed resources. NSWA also provides technical expertise, grant application support, consultant coordination and facilitation services for meetings and workshops.

NSWA, in collaboration with its regional partners, successfully applied for over \$2.0 million worth of provincial and federal grants to support municipalities and local stewardship groups. See the attached table for some examples of current watershed projects that NSWA is facilitating with local municipalities.

NSWA is helping to address many local watershed management issues including:

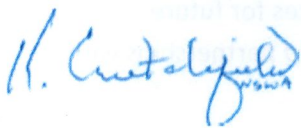
- Riparian and wetland habitat conservation and restoration
- River and creek hydrology studies
- Natural areas and groundwater recharge areas protection
- Fisheries habitat and aquatic health assessments, including invasive species issues
- Long term impacts of land use changes on watershed health
- Best management practices and planning policies related to riparian, wetland and natural area protection, stormwater management and flood protection and water conservation.

NSWA is also involved in many major intergovernmental projects such as the North Saskatchewan Regional Land Use Framework, Edmonton Metro Region Growth Plan, Industrial Heartland Water Management Framework and EPCOR's Drinking Water Protection Plan. This involvement, plus its close working relationship with many Alberta government agencies, allows NSWA to connect municipalities such as yours with the best resources to address watershed issues.

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. If an elected municipal representative would like to serve on the NSWA Board of Directors, there will be an opportunity at the 2020 NSWA Annual General Meeting for the election of new board directors.

Please feel free to contact NSWA's Executive Director, Ms. Leah Kongsrude at 587-525-6827 or [leah.kongsrude@nswa.ab.ca](mailto:leah.kongsrude@nswa.ab.ca) in this regard. Ms. Kongsrude has over 30 years' environmental experience including ten years in municipal government and appreciates the challenges and opportunities that municipalities face with local watershed management issues.

Thank you for your consideration. We have taken the liberty of enclosing an invoice.



Mr. Ken Crutchfield, President  
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society

Cc: Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: Examples of current NSWA Coordinated Watershed Studies  
Invoice for 2020 Contribution to NSWA



## Examples of current NSWA Coordinated Sub-Watershed Projects

SUB-WATERSHED	MAJOR WATERBODIES	MUNICIPALITIES	PROJECTS
<b>Headwaters</b>	North Saskatchewan River Cline River Clearwater River Ram River Brazeau River Modeste Creek Strawberry Creek Wabamun Lake	Clearwater County Brazeau County Parkland County Leduc County Wetaskiwin County Town of Drayton Valley Town of Rocky Mountain House Town of Devon Town of Thorsby Village of Wabamun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$140,000 Alberta Water Resiliency and Restoration Program grant was used to map the health of riparian areas along the Modeste and Strawberry Creeks. This data will be used to conserve or restore high priority riparian areas that will provide greater flood/drought resistance, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. The GIS data will be made accessible through an online web portal with information friendly format for the public and a detailed technical format for municipal planners. The Riparian Report for Modeste and Strawberry subwatersheds are available on the NSWA website</li> <li>The Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan is being finalized with involvement of local municipalities and lake stewardship groups</li> </ul>
<b>Sturgeon River</b>	Sturgeon River Isle Lake Lac St. Anne Birch Lake Matchayaw Lake Sandy Lake Kilini Creek Riviere Qu'Barre Atim Creek Carrot Creek	Lac St. Anne County Parkland County Sturgeon County City of Edmonton City of St. Albert City of Spruce Grove Town of Stony Plain Town of Onoway Town of Morinville Town of Gibbons Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne County East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$300,000 Alberta Community Partnership grant was used to summarize information on surface water and groundwater hydrology, wetland and natural areas within the entire watershed. This grant also provides funds to assess and recommend consistent environmental and watershed protection planning tools for municipalities that align with federal, provincial regulations and reflect best management practices in Alberta. The grant will also be used to complete an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Sturgeon River Watershed (Fall 2019)</li> <li>\$147,000 Federal Environmental Damages Fund grant – reports now finalized assessing water quality, fisheries habitat and aquatic health of the Sturgeon River and its tributaries. This information provides an up to date and comprehensive assessment of aquatic health of the watershed. Reports available on the NSWA website.</li> <li>\$65,000 Alberta Water Resiliency and Restoration Program grant mapped the health of riparian areas along the Sturgeon River and its tributaries, as well as 17 lakes, for a total of over 1700 km of shoreline. This data will be used to conserve or restore high priority riparian areas in order to provide greater flood/drought resistance,</li> </ul>



			<p>improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Final reports available online at <a href="http://www.nswa.ab.ca">www.nswa.ab.ca</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A shared \$75,000 Water Resiliency and Restoration Program grant with Vermillion River Watershed Alliance to assess long term land use changes in the watershed and its effect on the hydrology of the basin. This study uses ALCES, a cumulative assessment simulation assessment tool, to show the impacts of land use decisions. This tool has also been used by the Edmonton Metro Regional Board to support its planning discussions and policy</li> </ul>
<b>Vermillion River</b>	Vermillion River Waskwei Creek Cotton Creek Birch Creek Campbell Creek Deer Creek Stretton Creek	County of Vermillion River County of Minburn Beaver County County of Two Hills County of St. Paul Town of Vermillion Town of Vegreville Town of Two Hills Town of St. Paul Town of Elk Point Town of Bruderheim Village of Holden Village of Innisfree Village of Myrnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A four-year, \$1.4 million Water Resiliency and Restoration Program grant to promote riparian and wetland restoration projects in the watershed. To date over 100 ha of wetlands and riparian areas have been enhanced or restored through this project.</li> <li>A shared \$75,000 Water Resiliency and Restoration Program grant with Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance was used to assess long term land use changes in the watershed and its effect on the hydrology of the basin. This study uses ALCES, a cumulative assessment simulation assessment tool, to show the impacts of land use decisions. This tool has also been used by the Edmonton Metro Regional Board to support its planning discussions and policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Beaverhill</b>	North Saskatchewan River Beaverhill Creek Astotin Creek Beaverhill Lake Cooking Lake Hastings Lake Antler Lake	Strathcona County Lamont County Beaver County City of Fort Saskatchewan Town of Bruderheim Town of Tofield Town of Ryley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Land Stewardship grant was used to complete a lake management plan for Antler Lake.</li> </ul>