Our Water – Our Legacy

The Meander

THE MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA

WINTER 2020

2020 MILK RIVER diversion failure report

On Sunday, May 17, a concrete drop structure failed on the Bureau of Reclamation's Milk River Project St. Mary Canal, just south of Whiskey Gap in northern Montana. For the first time in over 105 years, our community has been entirely reliant on natural flow on the Milk River. Projections for irrigated crop production losses were in the 2.5 to 3-million-dollar range during May but timely rains had helped producers limit loss in production.

The MRWCC wishes to thank all irrigators for their assistance in providing water use information and making weekly usage projections to provide near real-time and accurate information to the provincial regulator and International Joint Commission. We would also like to thank conservation minded producers who had voluntarily implemented best management practices to adjust timing and application of water prior to the July 24th cut-off. By August 1st flows had dropped to zero at the eastern crossing of the Milk River and fluctuated at or near zero at the Town of Milk River for most of the month of September. Groundwater/spring upswelling has maintained some localized flows in different reaches of the river.

Repairs began almost immediately to the failed Drop 5 and near failed Drop 2 along the St Mary Diversion. Weather delays did slow progress on Drop 5 but crews made up additional time with the help of both MP Glen Motz and Associate Minister MLA Grant Hunter when permission was granted to source aggregate materials from Del Bonita/Whiskey Gap and concrete from Cardston using the Emigration Gap irregular crossing which saved significant budget for the US and travel time from over 20 miles of dirt trail to less than 2 miles. We are pleased to report work is now complete on the repairs.

Montana water is stored in the Fresno Reservoir near Havre and supplies around 140,000 acres of irrigation along the Hi-Line in eight irrigation districts. The system supports Bureau of Reclamation pump contracts, private contracts, stock water, habitat projects, the cities of Havre, Chinook and Harlem as well as providing water to the Fort Belknap and Blackfeet Indian communities.

The St. Mary diversion is one of the oldest and the most complicated projects in the US. Jennifer Patrick with the Milk River Joint Board of Control noted "After the failure, we met with agencies to develop a plan," she said, Sletten Construction and HDR Engineering of Great Falls were hired to be the leads on the construction contracts. There are also multiple collaborative efforts and partnerships with the Blackfeet Tribe, TERO employees and subcontractors to completely replace two Drop structures. She said that upon inspection, Drop 2 was found to be in worse shape than anticipated, so that was included in the project.

Starting in June, Sletten poured approximately 2,066 cubic yards of concrete sourced from Cardston Alberta at Drop 5, as well as incorporating 200 tons of steel.

"The Bureau reached out to the Tribe, Tribal Council, TERO and Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Officer John Murray," Lunak said, "so we got in on the start. With 30 years in the St. Mary Working Group, it created a relationship to address the issue on the front end."

"There were many decisions in the partnership," Patrick agreed, "for example cultural decisions, and they were all contracted through the Tribe. That's the biggest plus, the partnerships that were created. Some people don't understand where the Milk River water comes from, so it's good to see people learning how it gets there and why."

Having taken 22 weeks from start to finish, stored water was run through the system in October with St Mary water reaching the North Milk River on October 13th Patrick notes that: "everyone should be very proud of it."

Photos by Jennifer Patrick, MRJBOC
Drop 2 First Water Oct 2020

Drop 5 First Water flowing in Oct 2020

Drop 1 with a new concrete overlay

Total repair costs for the project are anticipated just under 10 Million USD. Under the original authorization at the start of the last century, most of the funding for the diversion and The Milk River Project comes from users, primarily the irrigators, who now pay for about 75 percent of the costs with the federal government picking up about 25 percent.

Repair work now completed was declared an emergency project, so the federal government will pick up the first 35 percent with the remainder split between the users and the federal government. Montana elected officials are trying to shift the funding for the system from about 75 percent provided by the users and 25 percent by the federal government, so the federal government picks up about 75 percent of the cost of operation and maintenance.

Though a significant step in the right direction, over 150 million USD of needed upgrades are still outstanding and continue to be fix on fail. This is a major continuing threat to water security for Alberta water users that needs to be addressed. The Milk River Watershed Council Canada will continue to work with our partners at all levels of government and in both countries to facilitate on going improvements to water management and security.

Repair work, Drop 5

Drop2 Retaining wall final pour with Alberta Concrete

Water monitoring

Long Term Water monitoring is critically important to understand potential impacts of farming and ranching, industrial activities, towns and villages, as well as water management impact on the aquatic environment and all water users. The 2019 annual Water Quality Monitoring report compiled by the MRWCC research and monitoring team is now available at www.mrwcc.ca

Ongoing monitoring for the 2020 season has just recently wrapped up. Trends will be analyzed over this coming winter. The unique conditions of this summer have helped affirm natural flow conditions not seen in the Milk River for over 100 years. Early observations included the ribbons of green as filamentous algae took hold with increased water clarity from slower lower flows.

High mineral and salt content from river baseflow that largely came from upswelling of groundwater and spring fed drainages was apparent from the North Fork Milk River to the meandering sand bed reaches of the Milk River Canyon in the east. Natural flow water was noted with Specific Conductivity and Total Dissolved Solids measures that exceeded safe irrigation guidelines in August and September. Specific conductivity is the measure of minerals (e.g., sodium, chloride, magnesium, potassium) dissolved in the water (total dissolved solids), or the salinity. Sources include soil and mineral weathering, surface runoff from saline soils, groundwater discharge, municipal and industrial effluents, agricultural runoff and aerosol fallout. Excessive salts applied to soils through irrigation may interfere with the extraction of water by plants. At high concentrations, salts may have a laxative effect in humans and livestock. The irrigation guideline for conductivity is 1000 uS/cm

One positive trend was despite low flow and high-water temperatures water quality only occasionally reached about guidelines for contact recreation of Fecal Coliforms. Impact from natural sources of Fecal Coliform bacteria were largely localized and naturalized Fecal Coliform bacteria were not as expressive with increased water clarity.

More work will need be done to evaluate the data, watch for further updates on our website and social media.

Time Lapse Camera Monitoring - MRWCC

Stonecat Catfish, Fisheries Survey Aug 2020 - MRWCC

Community observations of fish during low flows, Summer 2020 - MRWCC

Milk River Natural Flow Community Observations and Assessments

The MRWCC continues to coordinate monitoring along the Milk River. Time lapse cameras were strategically placed from the North Fork Milk River through to the Milk River Natural Area and Pinhorn Grazing Reserve. Fisheries Assessments have been conducted. Water Quality monitoring is ongoing including enhanced monitoring of dissolved oxygen, water temperatures, bacteria, algae. Directly after the failure of the St Mary Diversion we made an effort to reach out to community partners, researchers, university and college partners to collect as much information as possible about river conditions. Shortly after, a call went out for community observations to be submitted to our office for record. Many thanks to community observers who sent in information about the river conditions.

Community observations have been critically important. We have been documenting fish stranding, channel/flow observations, and changes along the river. Over 15 written submissions were collected, nearly 40 photos and videos along the river were submitted and over 15 hours of drone and video footage was collected over the summer and fall.

Some of the general comments were that people were observing more larger fish in large pools during June and early July, though as August and early September progressed there were less larger fish to be found in the same spots. There were some reports of stranding fish and larger dead carcasses found especially farther east, particularly past Gold Springs Park. Water even at zero recorded flow levels had few cut off pools along the north fork and gravel bed reaches of the river; which may have helped for smaller fish to find escape cover and maintain connected habitat. The channel did migrate significantly through the sand bed reach to the eastern crossing.

Watch out for opportunities this winter to learn more about natural flow observations and environmental challenges at www.mrwcc.ca or our social media pages.

Seine net survey along the Milk River - Colynn Kerr

St. Mary and Milk Rivers International Apportionment Update, 2020 Season

By Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)

While the failure of Drop 5 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's diversion canal made 2020 a very unusual year, Milk River apportionment in the year 2020 was similar to recent years. Because the diversion from the St. Mary River was not operating, Canada received considerable surplus flow on the St. Mary River.

The natural flows of the Milk River are apportioned at the eastern crossing in accordance with the Boundary Waters Treaty and 1921 Order of the International Joint Commission (IJC), with Canada (Alberta) entitled to only 25% of those natural flows during the irrigation season when they are less than 666 cubic feet per second (18.86 cubic metres per second). In addition, the Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Accredited Officers of the St. Mary and Milk rivers allows some flexibility between balancing periods. When the St. Mary Diversion Canal is operating, natural flows at the eastern crossing can only be estimated, using a documented calculation procedure that has several components, including an estimate of water use occurring upstream within Canada and the U.S. Without the St. Mary Diversion Canal operating, the calculation becomes simpler, using just the recorded flows at the eastern crossing station and not needing to estimate evaporative losses or remove the St. Mary diverted water amount, but still relying on estimates of upstream water use.

Currently, the estimated consumptive use numbers used for Alberta are averages derived from the metering project from 2007 to 2012. An attempt was made by the Milk River Watershed Council Canada and water users to collect actual water use information weekly following the Drop 5 failure.

Unfortunately, logistical challenges and uncertainty around whether water users who did not report were actually using water prevented the consideration of those numbers in apportioning the water.

Similar to irrigation seasons in recent years, the U.S. was only able to incur a small deficit to Canada on the St. Mary River by the May 31st deadline in the LOI. This deficit was 145 acre-ft (equivalent to 179 dam3) and was quickly depleted as Milk River measured flow declined through July, and thus the natural flow estimates. The AOs required irrigation to cease as of July 24th, 2020.

AEP began communications with water users in late May, following the Drop 5 failure when the magnitude of the failure became clearer. This was followed by a 'virtual' online Town Hall held on June 17th, when the situation and estimated timelines for repairs were described and water users had an opportunity to ask questions. Communications continued leading up to the July 24th irrigation shutdown as AEP worked to inform Alberta licence holders what was happening.

Questions were raised by some water users about the accuracy of flows being reported, including at the eastern crossing station. The best information for the eastern crossing station is reported by the current station operator (USGS) here: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/water-dashboard/surface?state=mt,wy, which provides access to complete data for the station, including actual measurements performed at the station through the year. Reported flows for that station on AEP's https://rivers.alberta.ca/ website may not always be updated as quickly to reflect the latest flow measurements, as there is always a time delay between the actual site visit/measurements and the information available to AEP.

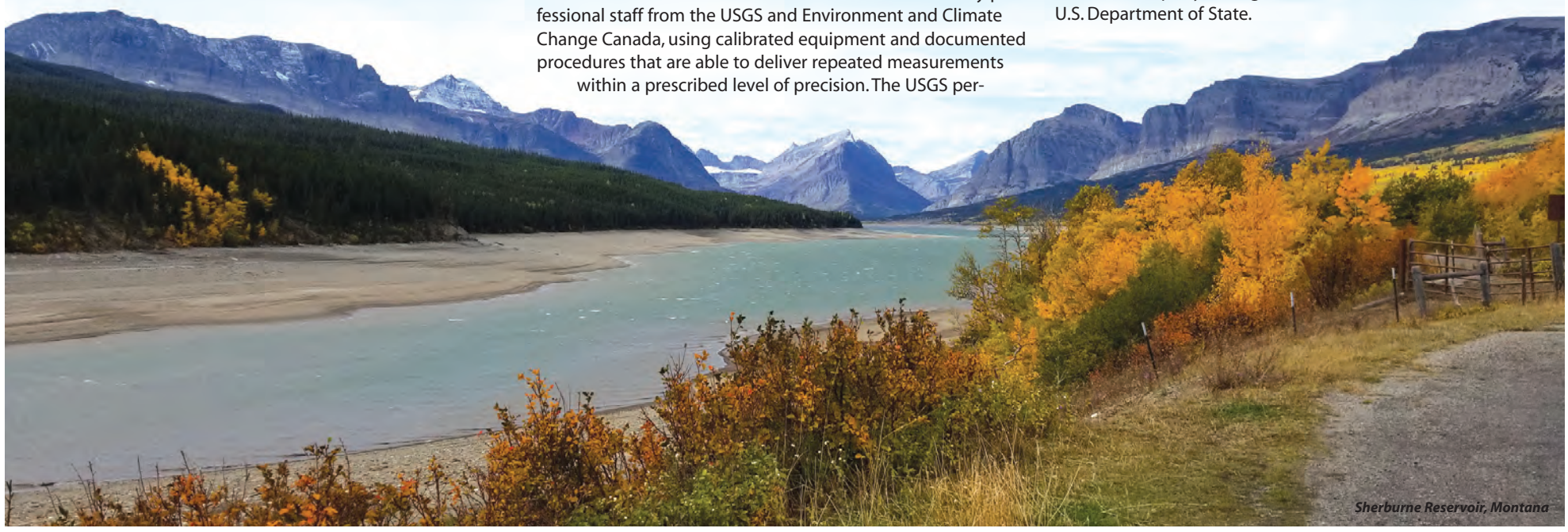
Flow measurements for Milk River stations are made by professional staff from the USGS and Environment and Climate Change Canada, using calibrated equipment and documented procedures that are able to deliver repeated measurements within a prescribed level of precision. The USGS performed ten flow measurements at the eastern crossing station between the end of May and end of September to support the apportionment calculations. This included a flow measurement on July 23rd to confirm flows and the deficit being incurred by Canada that led to the requirement to cease water use.

Bald eagle fishing on the lower Milk River - MRWCC Time lapse camera series

Due to infrastructure repairs and apportionment balance updates, the AOs held nine conference calls between April 15 and Nov 10, 2020, compared to most years when only three calls would be held.

AEP continues to support the technical staff of the AOs in their work to improve natural flow estimates. The AOs are working towards improved estimates of irrigation water use on both sides of the Canada-U.S. boundary. In addition, they have proposed further work that builds on the Montana-Alberta Water Management Initiative.

In June of 2019, the AOs submitted a proposal to the IJC for a study of procedural changes and structural options to increase both the U.S. and Canada's access to water. After further advice from the IJC, a final proposal was accepted by the IJC in November 2019. The next steps are for the IJC to secure funding for the study, and appoint a study board. IJC studies are funded equally through Global Affairs Canada and the U.S. Department of State.



Sherburne Reservoir, Montana

Phase 2 Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Completion

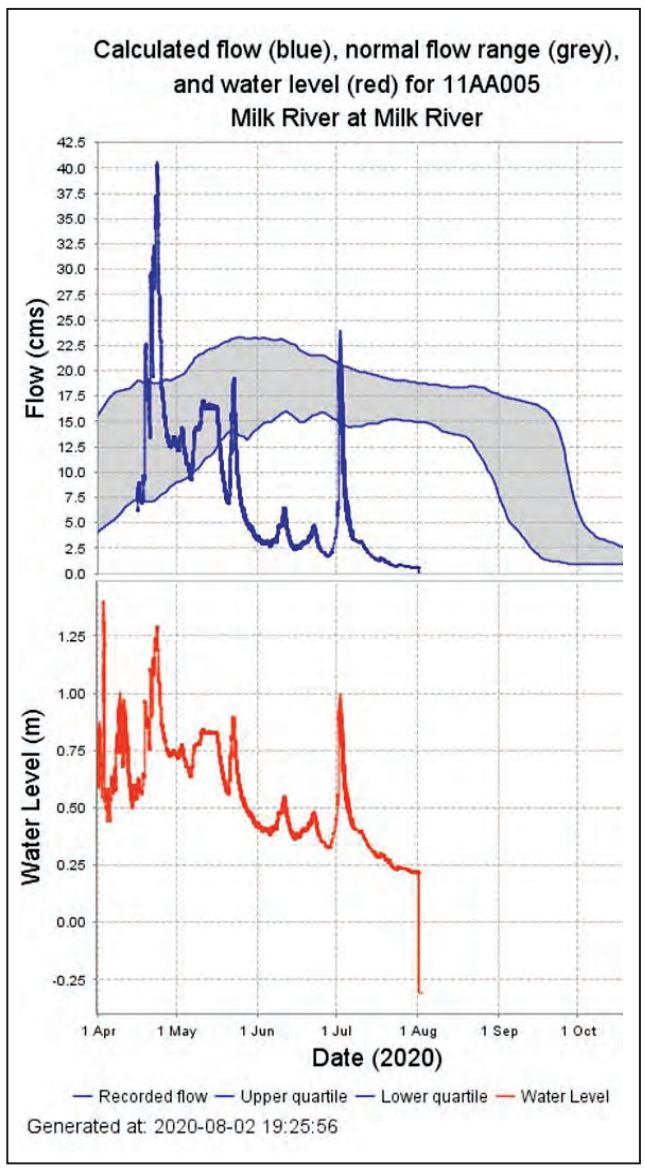
We are pleased to announce that we are finalizing Phase 2 of the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program this winter. Funding for this phase of the program has been fully allocated. The MRWCC wishes to thank Alberta Environment and Parks for this funding which has afforded producer cooperators to implement the stewardship projects improving resiliency to droughts.

Shallow well pump with portable alternative watering system to provide improved water access and grazing timing flexibility.

Phase 2 Program Outcomes:

The MRWCC has been working directly with producers and municipal partners to identify projects and cooperators along the Milk River and its western tributaries. This funding has allowed the MRWCC to assist area producers with projects that make their operations more efficient, both reducing impact on sensitive riparian areas and reducing reliance on the Milk River for livestock water during critical low flow winter months or during periods of prolonged drought.

With the failure of the St Mary diversion on May 17th 2020 flows on the Milk River decreased from approximately 18m3/s to on average less than 2m3/s within days. The Milk River reached zero recorded natural flow on August 2nd 2020. If not for some timely sustained rains during June and July a state of local emergency or drought would have been declared. Livestock producers with Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program projects were better equipped to deal with the low flow periods both regarding access to livestock water directly or alternatively from the Milk River. Producers also seen a management advantage where tools like electric and permanent riparian corridor fencing provide flexibility of grazing timing during the low flow period. This maintained riparian health by continued exclusion during wet conditions and rain events and prevention of lost cattle from crossing of the river or travel and mixing with other adjacent pastures.



Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program producer cooperators were able to maintain pasture rotations and improved management gains better than adjacent land managers without tools provided by the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program/Milk River Watershed Council Canada project. In addition, inquires to available tools such as alternative water developments/solar watering systems, and fencing systems allowed for the MRWCC to easily identify and implement additional projects with the greatest impact on high priority reaches of the watershed.

Producer testimonials will be included within the final Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program project report and lessons learned projects summary.

Project implementation success:

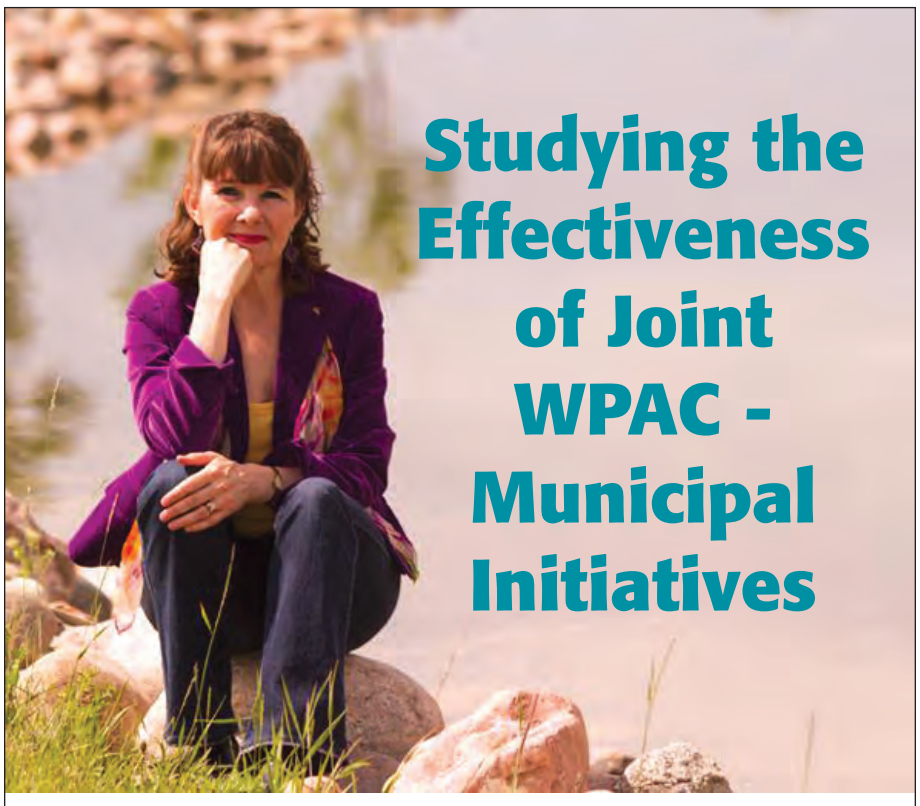
- 16 Producer projects underway or complete across the watershed, both on the Main Stem Milk River and key tributary locations supporting drought management, riparian restoration, and improving resilience.
- Over $162,550.55 direct investment into producer resiliency projects
- Over $124,064.00 producer dollar contributions and in-kind project support
- 8 Portable Solar Watering system installs to support drought resiliency one spring/pasture pipeline system with solar lift assist
- Directly improved management of 2,330 Head of Livestock
- 36.05km fencing to improve management of the Milk River and key tributaries
- Approximately 88.95 acres within riparian exclusion or active riparian restoration *(conservative average width calculation of 100m)

Monitoring Success:

The MRWCC will continue to monitor project success and document riparian health improvements as well as collection of producer testimonials for individual case studies. All producer stewardship project agreements will be maintained for a minimum of 3 years from project completion. Photo plots have been established at all sites with installation to monitor regeneration success. Riparian health assessments have been conducted by MRWCC staff and volunteers in support of monitoring. We wish to thank producer cooperators and technical volunteers for their assistance with monitoring the sites and riparian health assessments. Monitoring information will support the completion of final grant reporting and lessons learned summary document to be completed in winter of 2021. Upon completion of the Phase 2 project, legacy monitoring will continue with MRWCC staff working directly with producer cooperators. There will be future opportunities to share results and possibly tour project sites with peer groups and community members.

The MRWCC plans to continue sourcing Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program funds where possible to help with ongoing watershed conservation efforts.

A selection of the 2020 project sites MRWCC/Producer cooperators



Studying the Effectiveness of Joint WPAC - Municipal Initiatives

Given that municipalities play a central role in the management of land and water, they are crucial Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils' (WPACs) partners. A study, headed by Dr. Lorraine Nicol of the University of Lethbridge, will evaluate the effectiveness of the relationship between WPACs and municipalities. The study, entitled "WPACs and Municipalities – Joint Initiatives and their Effect on Municipal Planning for Sustainable Communities in Alberta" will collaborate with four WPACs. Those WPACs consist of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada, Oldman Watershed Council, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the Battle River Watershed Alliance.

Data collection will take the form of an on-line survey distributed to key individuals in city, town, villages, and rural municipal governments within the four watersheds. The study commenced in October and is scheduled to be completed by July 2021. It is being funded through a grant awarded by the Alberta Real Estate Foundation

Lorraine Nicol has sat on the Board of Directors of the Milk River Watershed Council for several years, acting as the academic representative.

Community Events and Covid19 Challenges

It is hard to believe that we are about to exit the year 2020, hopefully leaving the associated challenges behind. Here is to hoping for a better 2021!!

We found ourselves cancelling most community events that we had planned for 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions. Unsure of what the future brings, we can only hope for a better 2021 and that we will be able to host the community events that we plan to schedule. These events are vital in imparting Milk River Watershed Council Canada information to the community.

Please stay tuned for future plans for the 2021 Community events at www.mrwcc.ca and our social media pages.

Past community events

THANK YOU

to our online auction sponsors!

ONLINE Auction

The MRWCC is a not-for-profit, charitable organization. Your donation will support community driven watershed stewardship initiatives. Individual and corporate donations are essential to leverage project funding from other funders. The MRWCC is committed to ensure your donation is used efficiently, supporting watershed planning, monitoring, and stewardship within our community. Thanks to everyone who supported the online auction by purchasing items.

The MRWCC wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

Platinum Level Sponsor
($500.00 and over)

Gold Level Sponsor
(over $100.00 to less than $500.00)

Judy O'Shea
Ken Miller

Bronze Level Sponsor
(Less than $100)

Bronze Level Sponsor (Less than $100)

- J.T. Wines
- Verna Taylor
- Ed Sloboda
- Mane Street Hair Styles
- Riverside Market (AG Foods)
- Warren and June Cunningham
- Sandi Riemersma
- Kandra Forbes
- Tim Romanow
- William King
- Mary Lupwayi
- Conny Kappler
- Carly Stewart
- Elise Walker
- Rangeland Conservation Ltd.
- Subaru Lethbridge
- Joan Hughson
- Milk River Cable Club
- Richard and Bernice Wright

Please note that the MRWCC is currently accepting donations for our next Online auction. If you would like to donate an item, please contact us at 403-647-3808. We thank you for your generosity!

Are you in Grades 7 to 12?

Compete to win $1,000 cash!

Submit a proposal that answers the question:

"What can you do to improve your watershed?"

- Research your local watershed and come up with a solution to an environmental concern
- Finalists present their idea to win cash rewards
- Nearly $20,000 will be awarded to students and schools who participate
- Funding is also available to help implement student ideas

Southern Alberta contest deadlines:

Contest Entry Deadline:
on or before March 19, 2021
Final Competition:
April 24, 2021

Central Alberta contest deadlines:

Contest Entry Deadline:
on or before March 23, 2021
Final Competition:
April 24, 2021

Enter the contest nearest you. Typically students south of and including Airdrie enter Southern AB and students north of Airdrie enter Central AB.

Free virtual watershed presentations available!

CARING FOR OUR Watersheds®

For more information visit CaringForOurWatersheds.com

With support from community partners:

4-H Alberta
Athabasca Watershed Council
Alberta WaterPortal Society
Battle River School Division
Bow River Basin Council
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ghost Watershed Alliance Society
Inside Education
Lakeland Industry & Community Association
Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
Milk River Watershed Council
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Oldman Watershed Council
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited Canada


Engaging youth

Introducing "My Watershed Video Competition."

Poster Contest. What next?

The MRWCC wishes to thank schools and students that participated in the Poster Contest Program over the years. Each passing year, we witnessed the program grow and become popular with our local schools. Due to the Covid19 restriction this year, we were not able to conduct the poster contest award ceremony. The award ceremony honoured winning students with prizes. Each year, awards cerebration take place at the Annual Community Appreciation Forum. Since the 2020 Community Appreciation Forum was cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions, we were not able to conduct the award ceremony. We would like to apologize to the 2020 participating schools and winning students for this inconvenience. We would like to thank local schools for their participation in the contest over the years. Many thanks to the Alberta Emerald Foundation and Milk River ATB Financial for their sponsorship over the years.

With the uncertainty of how this virus will affect delivery of future programs, we have decided to change things by going digital hence the introduction of "My watershed video competition."

Introducing "My Watershed Video Competition."

About the Contest:

- The MRWCC will introduce a theme of the contest.
- Students from Grades 5 to 12 are eligible to enter the contest.
- Students will be asked to submit a video clip that is less than 5 minutes, discussing the given theme by a given date.
- The video presentation can be in form of a song, poem, or speech, your creativity is your only limit!
- Judging: 3 best videos will be chosen and the winning videos will be awarded prizes.

2021 My Watershed Video Competition:

Theme: Tell us a story about what your family does to conserve water.

- Using the theme, tell us a story no more than 5 minutes.
- The story can be through a song, rap, poem, or just talk!
- Submit the video clip to mary@mrwcc.ca Please include:
- Your Name (first and last name)
- Your Grade
- Name of School

Submit your video before February 26, 2021.

For more information contact Mary at 403-647- 3808 or email mary@mrwcc.ca


Milk River

Milk River Watershed Council Canada
16th Annual General Meeting

May 27, 2021


Past AGM

Call for Nominations!

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada is looking for nominations for the Board of Directors at the 2021 AGM to be held in May 2021. Date to be determined.

The following seats are open for nomination:

- Recreation
- Commercial/Industrial
- Individual Member
- Towns/Villages/Hamlets
- Federal Government
- Academia
- First Nations (Currently vacant)

For membership information, please visit our website at: www.mrwcc.ca

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the AGM or received in advance by contacting Tim at 403-647-4342 or tim@mrwcc.ca

Members are entitled to vote at the AGM.

For more information contact: mary@mrwcc.ca or 403-647-3808

Milk River Watershed Council Canada
2021 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

Nomination submissions should include this application form and written information about the nominee's environmental work/projects for consideration.

For detailed information, check out the Environmental Awards webpage at www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca

Forward nomination form and written submission by mail or email at:

MRWCC

240 Main Street

Box 313

Milk River, Alberta

T0K 1M0

or

Email: mary@mrwcc.ca

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED

BY February 12, 2021

I would like to Nominate:

_____

(Please Print)

Please mark an (x) for the chosen category

Individual_____

Family_____

Commercial Business _____

Environmental Group _____

Contact:

Mailing Address:

_____

_____

_____

Phone (H):_____

Phone (C): _____

Email:

_____

Please provide the following information. (Please print)

Nominator Name:

_____

Nominator's Contact:

Phone (H):_____

Phone (C):_____

Email:

_____

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Nominations will be assessed by a review committee chosen by the MRWCC Board of Directors.

To be eligible for an award, an individual, family, business, or environmental group must have been instrumental in demonstrating responsible environmental management practices by promoting public awareness, understanding and active concern for the enhancement and protection of the environment.

In addition, the review committee will also consider the nominees':

- long-term service and commitment;
- voluntary contributions; and;
- innovative approach.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT

Describe in 400 words or less why your nominee deserves to win the MRWCC Environmental Stewardship Award. Ensure that your summary outlines how the nominee's efforts and achievements fulfil the award criteria as defined in this brochure. You are encouraged to include letters of endorsement and other supporting materials.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY February 12, 2021

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC) is looking for nominations to honour individuals, families, commercial businesses, and environmental groups that are good environmental stewards of the Milk River watershed. Nominations are in the following categories:

Individual • Family • Commercial Business • Environmental Group

Nominate anyone in the above categories that has demonstrated outstanding environmental and conservation efforts to sustain, protect, and enhance the environment within the Milk River Watershed. Self-nominations are welcome.

Milk River Watershed Council Canada

240 Main Street, Box 313 Milk River, Alberta T0K 1M0 or mary@mrwcc.ca (403) 647-3808

Milk River Watershed Council Canada 2020/2021 Board Members

Back row, standing (Left to Right): Ross Ford, Ben Ellert, William King, Joan Hughson, Suzanne Liebelt, Brian Hills, Darcy Wills, Scott MacCumber, Lorraine Nicol, Aaron Domes, and Ed Sloboda
Front row, Seated - Executive Board Members: Warren Cunningham, Will Lindeman, Ron McNeil, and John Ross
Missing: Ken Miller and Stephen Kirkpatrick

CONTACT US

Office Location:
We are located in the Milk River Town Office at 240 Main Street.

Address:
Box 313, Milk River, Alberta. T0K 1M0

Office Hours:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 8am to 4pm
To reach us on Mondays and Fridays please contact us
We are closed weekends and holidays

Staff Directory:

Executive Director: Tim Romanow
Phone: 403-647-4342
Email: tim@mrwcc.ca

Program Coordinator: Mary Lupwayi
Phone: 403-647-3808
Email: mary@mrwcc.ca

MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA 2021 HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

What is the Heritage Tree Program?

- The Heritage Tree Program identifies and records the location of heritage trees as well as details such as age, size, appearance and most importantly their cultural and historical significance. The stories and photos of recognized trees will then be featured on the MRWCC website.
- In addition, the identification of these trees enables the MRWCC and community-minded organizations to locate potential native seed/cuttings sources. Collecting these seeds will ensure the successional planting of legacy trees for future generations to enjoy.
- Identified trees will also be provided with a wildlife/livestock proof fence and recognition plaque.
- Planting new protected legacy trees will also be encouraged under the Heritage Tree Program.

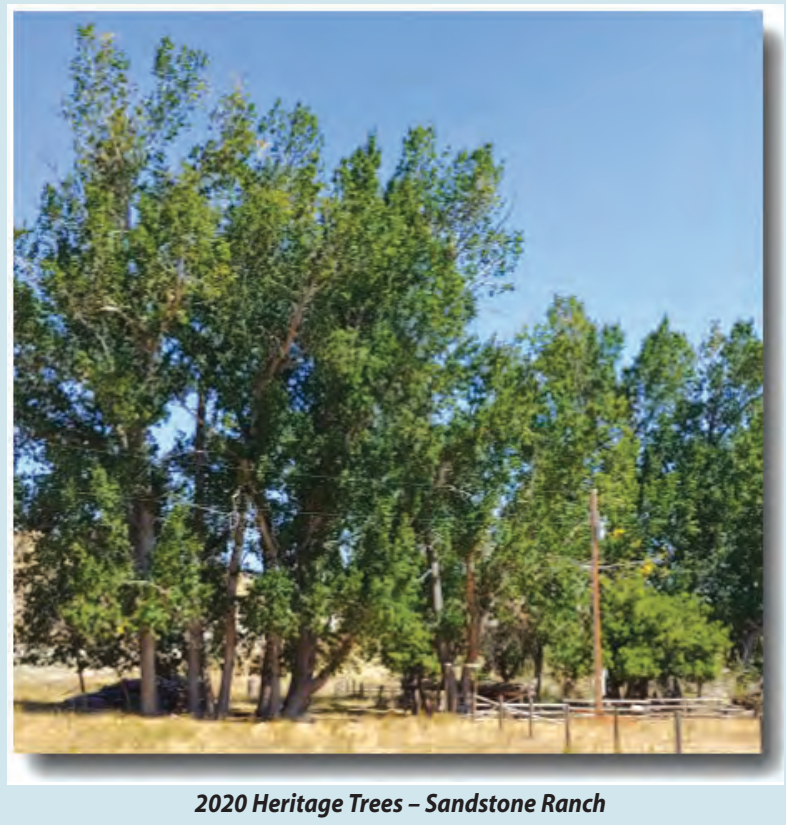
What is a Heritage Tree?

- Notable because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, rarity, significance, or other distinctive features;
- A living relic that displays evidence of significance;
- A prominent community landmark;
- A specimen associated with a historic person, place, event, or period;
- A representative of a farm or farmstead planted by ancestors within the community;
- A tree associated with local folklore, myths, legends, or First Nations traditions;
- A tree that you choose to plant in honour of a loved one that you will care for and watch grow over the years.

Objectives of the Heritage Tree Program

The Heritage Tree Program allows residents of the Milk River watershed to celebrate the pioneering spirit of the community by identifying and nominating trees of local significance within the watershed.

- Heritage trees help ensure the sustainability of our riparian forests for future generations to enjoy.
- Trees also play a role in not only telling the stories of local history, but also play pivotal roles in providing habitat for many wildlife species, and stabilize fragile prairie soils in erosion prone areas.
- Native trees along riparian areas of the Milk River are rare and require additional protection and care for propagation.



2020 Heritage Trees – Sandstone Ranch

Nominate a tree or trees for Heritage Tree recognition, whether it is located on your own property, a friend or family member's property, or in a public space (we will verify with the owner). To nominate or for more information please contact us at:

mary@mrwcc.ca
(403) 647-3808
240 Main Street, Box 313
Milk River, Alberta, T0K 1M0
www.mrwcc.ca

Nomination Deadline is February 12, 2021