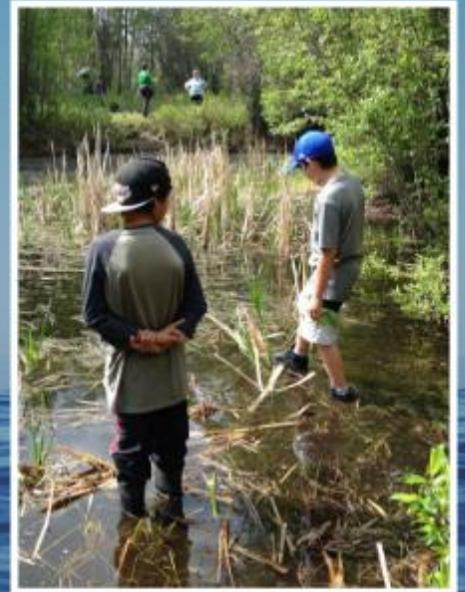


Lesser Slave  
Watershed Council

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



# Thank you to our 2018-19 Financial Supporters



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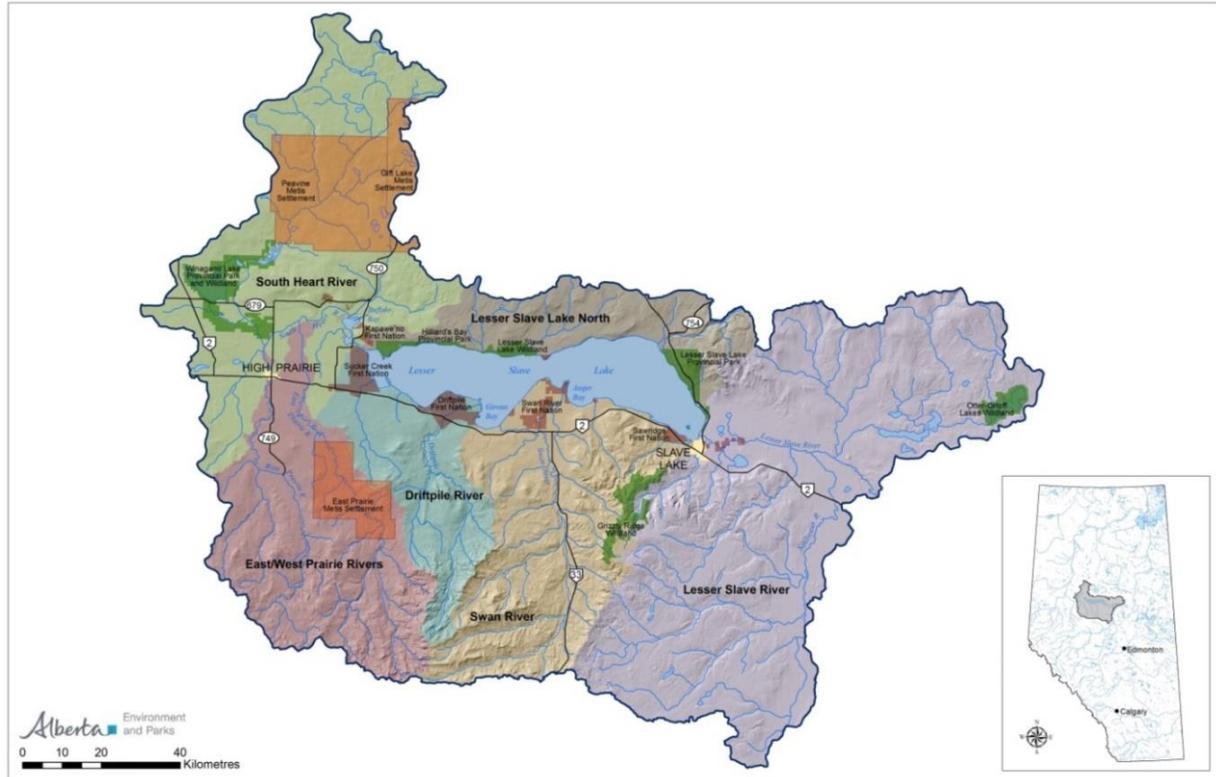
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*In 2019 the LSWC bid farewell to Bob Popick as he and his wife move on to new adventures in central Alberta. Bob has been a part of our organization since 2015 as a representative for the oil and gas sector and will be dearly missed. Bob served as Vice Chair for four years and has been very supportive of our staff and our work in the watershed. Bob has been a great volunteer and always stepped up to help out at events. In the photo to the left, Bob (left) is pictured with Richard Simard at the 2018 High Prairie Gun & Sportsman Show. Bob was an amazing help at our Kids Can Catch Ice Fish events. He is not afraid of the cold!*



## The Lesser Slave Watershed



*The Lesser Slave Watershed is centered around Lesser Slave Lake. Water in Lesser Slave Lake comes from several major tributaries including the South Heart River, the East and West Prairie Rivers, the Driftpile River, and the Swan River. The Lesser Slave River is the only outlet of Lesser Slave Lake and it flows from the Town of Slave Lake to the Athabasca River about 75km East of Slave Lake.*

*Lake Levels and river flows are driven by snow pack and seasonal precipitation. Stream flows are generally higher from April to June and decline from July to October due to lower precipitation. Lesser Slave Lake levels are influenced by water coming in from the tributaries, water withdrawals, and climate. Consumptive water use in the basin only amounts to about 1cm of change in lake levels in a year where as evaporation during summer months can account for up to 25 cm of lake level decline in a year.*



Ice fishing on Lesser Slave Lake. Photo by Claudia Comeau Matula

## Message from the Chairman



I have been a Director with the LSWC for several years but 2018/19 was my first year as Chairperson. Throughout the year our Board of Directors met for nine regular board meetings, our annual general meeting in June, a watershed information session in September, and a meeting with forest industry representatives in October to learn about and provide input into the regional forest management plan that is currently being developed.

One of our major accomplishments was the completion of the integrated watershed management plan for the Lesser Slave watershed. Thank you to the steering committee, technical advisory team, municipal working group, our watershed planner Sandi Riemersma, Executive Director Meghan Payne, and all of the stakeholders and individuals who provided input into this plan. I look forward to working with the many partners in the watershed to take on implementation of recommendations to promote a healthy and sustainable watershed. The LSWC provides a strong voice for our lake and watershed and the people around our table volunteer their time to ensure the organization is achieving our goals and objectives. Their valuable input from their diverse backgrounds and experiences makes for diverse and well-rounded conversations. I look forward to working with this incredible group of people into 2019/20.

~ Todd Bailey



January 2019, federal Member of Parliament Arnold Viersen joined the LSWC at our Board of Directors meeting to learn about our organization, and the issues and challenges facing the Lesser Slave Watershed. From bottom left to bottom right: Duane Nichols, Agriculture; Brian Rosche, MD of Lesser Slave River; Anastasia Boshman, Cottage Owners and Country Residential; Tammy Kaleta, Recreation and Tourism; Todd Baily, Forest Sector (chairman); Meghan Payne, LSWC Executive Director; Shawn Gramlich, Town of Slave Lake; Richard Simard, Big Lakes County; MP Arnold Viersen; Brian Gilroy, Town of High Prairie and Wendy Freeman, Member at Large.

## Message from the Executive Director



2018/19 was another busy year for the LSWC and with our 2 full time staff we took on a lot of work in the watershed. From water quality monitoring, working with landowners on watershed resiliency projects, meeting with stakeholders and municipalities to talk about watershed management, holding educational events and working with partners to deliver youth education in schools across the watershed, our staff stayed busy.

I am very proud that we completed the integrated watershed management plan! Several years of work went into this plan and all of the time and work the many, many people involved have put into it have culminated into a document outlining actions and management strategies that, once implemented, will improve watershed health, sustainability and resiliency. I am excited to be moving into the implementation phase of planning and tackling on the ground work with the many partners who have a role in watershed management.

I really enjoyed the Lesser Slave Lake 101 event we held in April 2018 in Slave Lake. We had 58 people attend and learn more about water quality, fish health and sustainability, lake stewardship, agricultural partnership work and more. It was great to have a room full of people interested and engaged with the great information that was shared. Another highlight for me was our Kids Can Catch 2019 event on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Despite the frigid temperature being nearly -20, we had over 100 people come out and enjoy the event and have fun with their families.

Working with our provincial WPAC partners is something that I really value. The staff of the eleven WPAC's meet quarterly, usually in Red Deer, with agenda items that have provincial scope, and have value to all of our organizations. Things like sustainable funding, strengthening our collective voice, and engaging with our elected officials have merit and value to all of us. We invite representatives from Alberta Environment and Parks or the Alberta Water Council to join us to ensure that there is adequate information sharing and exchange between *Water for Life* partners.

I really appreciate the support and commitment from our Board of Directors. They are volunteers who genuinely care about the work we are doing in the watershed. They are very supportive of our staff and do a great job positively representing the organization.

~Meghan Payne



Winagami Lake, AB Photo by Jen Palichuck

## 2018-19 LSWC Board of Directors

Sector or Organization	Director	Alternate Director
Big Lakes County	Richard Simard	<i>Robert Nygaard</i>
MD of Lesser Slave River	Brian Rosche	<i>Brad Pearson</i>
Town of Slave Lake	Shawn Gramlich	<i>Rebecca King</i>
Town of High Prairie	Brian Gilroy	<i>Judy Stenhouse</i>
Alberta Environment and Parks	Jamie Bruha	<i>Lisa Bergen</i>
Driftpile First Nation	April Isadore	<i>Vacant</i>
Sucker Creek First Nation	Charmaine Willer-Larsen	<i>Vacant</i>
Tourism and Recreation	Tammy Kaleta	<i>Rowan Robertson</i>
Oil and Gas Industry	Bob Popick (Vice Chair)	<i>Spencer Zelman</i>
Cottage and Cabin Owners	Anastasia Boshman	<i>Shane Knutson</i>
Agriculture	Duane Nichols	<i>Brianne Brault</i>
Forest Industry	Todd Bailey	<i>Vacant</i>
Non-Government Organizations	JD Dennis	<i>Jule Asterisk</i>
Commercial Fishermen	Vacant	<i>Vacant</i>
Member at Large	Wendy Freeman	<i>Manuela Campbell</i>
Trappers	Vacant	<i>Vacant</i>

*\*Peavine and East Prairie Metis Settlement, Swan River First Nation, Kapawe'no First Nation, and Sawridge First Nation also have a board seat should they choose to participate on the LSWC Board of Directors.*

The Lesser Slave Watershed Council is a nonprofit (2007), charitable organization (2010) governed by a Board of Directors. The LSWC was recognized by the government of Alberta as the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) under the Water for Life Strategy on January 1, 2007. The directors are responsible for the oversight and success of the organization and each represent a sector or organization in our watershed. The directors provide governance and strategic oversight to the organization, bringing their experiences and knowledge of the watershed to the table, making for well-rounded inclusive discussion. The LSWC board of directors is guided by the Society Bylaws (2016) and the LSWC's Board of Director Terms of Reference which can be found online at [www.lswc.ca](http://www.lswc.ca).

## Provincial WPAC Partners

### Alberta WPACs



It is important that the eleven Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils have a strong and united voice. The Executive Directors and Managers of the WPAC's meet quarterly to engage on provincial scale watershed challenges, engage with provincial government representatives and provide feedback and input into Alberta Water Council projects. Although we are working in different watersheds across Alberta, we face similar operational challenges like long term secure funding, and work on projects similar in nature such as: state of the watershed reports, integrated watershed management plans, watershed restoration and resiliency projects with landowners, and deliver all kinds of education and outreach programs and events.

Below are the 11 WPAC Executive Directors together in 2018



From left to right: Meghan Payne (Lesser Slave Watershed Council); Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier (Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance); Tim Romanow (Milk River Watershed Council); Jeffery Hangar (Red Deer River Watershed Alliance); Janet Pomeroy (Athabasca Watershed Council); Mark Bennett (Bow River Basin Council); Shannon Frank (Oldman Watershed Council); Colin Hanusz (Beaver River Watershed Alliance); Leah Kongsrude (North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance); David Samm (Battle River Watershed Alliance); Marylou Montemayor (Southeast Alberta Watershed Alliance).

The 11 WPAC's put together a joint annual report that showcases our work across Alberta, our total financial investments, and our joint membership. The 2017 report can be found at:

[https://www.lswc.ca/about\\_us](https://www.lswc.ca/about_us)

## Summary of Operations

From April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 the LSWC board and staff worked to implement our operational plan and meet our four strategic goals. Below is a summary of accomplishments and activities from our 2018-19 fiscal year.

### Goal 1. Establish an ongoing collaborative planning and management framework for the Lesser Slave Watershed.

- The LSWC and Palliser Environmental completed the Lesser Slave Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- Municipalities in the watershed provided a letter of support for the Watershed Plan to the LSWC.
- The LSWC met with Big Lakes County in September 2018 to review municipal recommendations in the plan and prioritize actions that are high priority for the County.
- The LSWC met with Alberta Environment and Parks staff in December 2018 to review recommendations in the plan that are within provincial jurisdiction and determine priority pieces of work going forward.
- LSWC Executive Director participated on the Regional Forest Management Plan Public Advisory Committee facilitated by West Fraser.
- The LSWC board of directors engaged with the forest companies developing the 2010 regional forest management plan at an information session in September 2018.
- The LSWC developed a tracking and reporting system for the watershed plan recommendations.
- The LSWC has initiated discussion with Trout Unlimited Canada and Swan River First Nation to plan and execute stream crossing remediation work in the Swan sub basin.

### Goal 2. Facilitate watershed research that addresses issues and enables management actions within the watershed.

- The LSWC completed the **second year of a five year tributary monitoring program** as recommended by the Integrated Watershed Management Plan. This program includes monitoring of 15 sites at upstream, midstream and downstream locations on the five main tributaries of Lesser Slave Lake. More information and water quality summary documents can be found on the LSWC website.
- The LSWC partnered with the Walter Gordon Foundation and Mackenzie Datastream to upload our 2017 tributary water quality data to their online platform where it is publicly available to be viewed or downloaded.
- The LSWC shared the 2017 Tributary Water Quality Report with funders and stakeholders in the watershed and made the report available online.



### Goal 3. Promote watershed awareness and literacy through education, outreach and stewardship programs.

- The LSWC Watershed Coordinator participated on the **Wetland Education Networks Public Education Action Group**.
- The Little Green Thumbs Program, supported by Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan had a successful sixth year with **eleven classroom gardens**.
- We engaged with **644 people** at the 2018 High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show.
- The LSWC and our partners delivered **32 classroom presentations and field trips** with schools in the watershed.
- The LSWC hosted a workshop in Slave Lake in April 2018 called **Lesser Slave Lake 101** that was **attended by 65** people keen to learn more about our watershed and the great work being done by the LSWC and partners in the watershed.
- With support from the Alberta Conservation Association, Tolko Industries and local organizations the LSWC planned and hosted a **Kids Can Catch ice fishing event** in Jossard on Lesser Slave Lake on February 16, 2019 and it was attended by **120 people**.
- The LSWC & Peace Country Beef and Forage Association held a **fall watering systems and beaver management field day** that was attended by 22 local landowners.
- LSWC staff attended the 2018 WPAC Summit held in Peace River Alberta. Executive Director Meghan Payne presented on the LSWC's Tributary Monitoring Program.
- LSWC Executive Director attended the "Advancing Citizen Science in Alberta" workshop held by Alberta Environment and Parks Environmental Monitoring and Science Division and the Mistakiis Institute.
- The LSWC **engaged the Slave Lake Junior Forest Wardens** group in a day of weed control and riparian fencing in High Prairie at our project site on the West Prairie River.
- The LSWC held its 11<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting** in June of 2018 and **32 people** joined us for presentations, AGM business and dinner.
- The LSWC continued the work with land owners on **six riparian projects** with support from Cows and Fish, PCBFA and Big Lakes County.
- The LSWC participated in the Water North Coalition and led the Public education subcommittee.
- The LSWC grew our Social Media influence. At the end of March 2018 we had **470 Facebook "likes"** and **811 followers on twitter**.
- The LSWC was invited to Swan River First Nation's culture camp in July 2018 where we shared information about the watershed and engaged with community members.
- LSWC Watershed Coordinator attended the annual Alberta Lake Management Society workshop and engaged with lake stewardship groups from around the province.
- LSWC executive Director attended the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute stakeholder forum to learn about their programs and products and how WPAC's can better engage with the ABMI.
- Our Executive Director was invited to the Milk River Watershed Council's community appreciation forum to talk about the LSWC and the similarities and differences in WPAC

**Goal 4. Establish a strong operational model in which the LSWC is sustainable, has clear governance, capacity and funding.**

- The LSWC held nine regular meetings of the board and an annual general meeting during the fiscal year.
- LSWC completed all grant and financial reporting throughout the year as required by our funders.
- LSWC's Watershed Coordinator attended the provincial education and outreach staff gathering to work on collaborative WPAC education initiatives and learn the successes of the other WPAC's.
- LSWC Society Annual Return and Canadian charitable annual return were completed for the 2018-19 fiscal year.
- The MD of Lesser Slave River contributed \$5,000 to the LSWC and we received \$15,000 from Big Lakes County's Ag. Service Board in Environmental Stream funding in 2018.
- Executive Director attended quarterly WPAC manager meetings to address provincial scale collaborative opportunities and discuss common challenges.
- LSWC Executive Director and two directors attended the Northern Region Alberta Environment and Parks and WPAC meeting in March 2019.
- The LSWC Board of Directors met for an information session in October 2018 where they heard from Alberta Environment and Parks regarding WPAC roles, Alberta WaterSMART on the impacts on climate change and land cover changes on river flows and lake levels, from AEP operations regarding the options for flood mitigation on the lower East prairie River, and from Chief Roland Twinn from Sawridge First Nation on cultural connections to water in the Lesser Slave Lake region.

- LSWC Watershed Coordinator participated in Project WET and X-stream Science training.
- Representatives from the LSWC met with Minister of Environment and Parks Shannon Phillips in Slave Lake, AB to share information about our work and how the department can support the LSWC and Alberta WPAC's to enable stronger partnerships and more effective watershed management.

For more information about any of our programs or project please get in touch with our staff.  
 Call: (780) 523-9800 or  
 Email: [info@lswc.ca](mailto:info@lswc.ca)

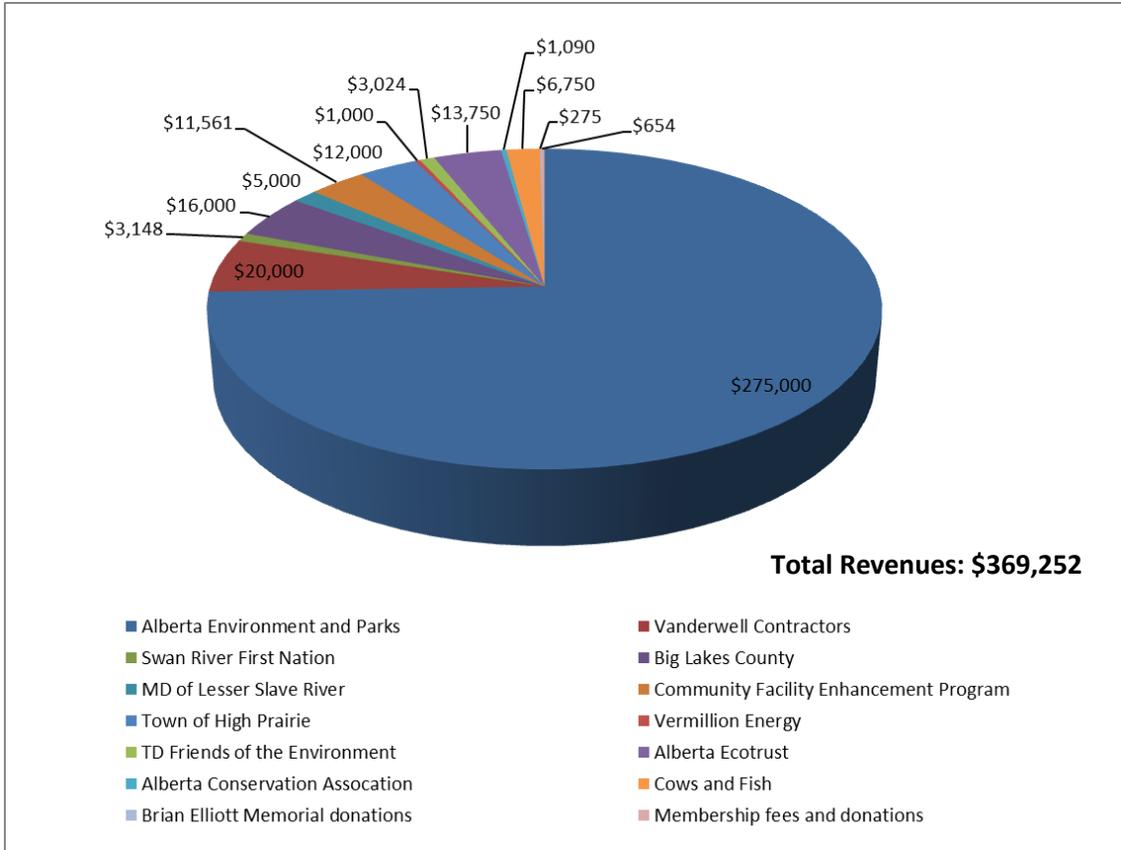


## Financial Report

The LSWC receives the bulk of its financial support from the Government Alberta through Water for Life partnership grants. The LSWC also receives support from other grantors and foundations, through sponsorship, donations and in kind from many people and organizations.

### 2018-19 Revenue

The below graph show the LSWC’s total revenue for the fiscal year. Our Alberta Environment and Parks operational grant makes up 74% of our 2018/19 revenue.



LSWC Vice Chair Tammy Kaleta accepts a \$1,000 donation from Vermillion Energy staff in 2018. This is the second contribution made to the LSWC as a part of their five year commitment to support our water quality monitoring program. We appreciate the support we receive from our partners in industry for this work. Our Government grants do not support monitoring expenses at this time.

**In Kind Support**

The LSWC tracks all of the in kind support we receive from our partners, volunteers and committee members. Manpower contributions are calculated at \$85 per hour for board members and technical team members, and \$45 per hour for other things such as education and outreach and volunteer time towards projects. Travel expenses are calculated at \$0.535 per km.

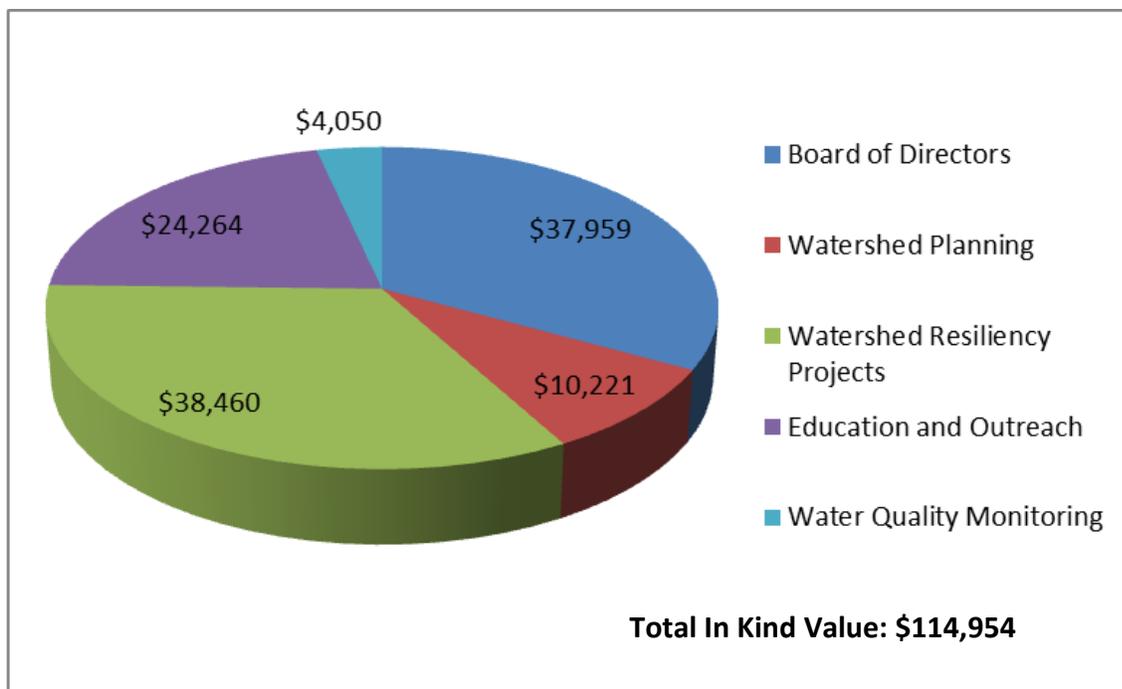
Directors contribute their time for meetings, review of correspondence and WPAC related events. They are all volunteers and without them much of this important work would go undone.

The Integrated Watershed management Plan (IWMP) is a big project with many people involved. We have tracked time and travel contributions of the Steering Committee Members, Municipal Working Group Members, Technical Advisory Committee members for each meeting, call and review of documents.

The LSWC works with many partners to deliver education and stewardship programming in the watershed. The in kind time contributions from teachers, educators, volunteers, and partner organizations help us achieve our goals of enhancing watershed literacy in our region.

The LSWC works with Peace Country Beef and Forage Association, Big Lakes County, Cows and Fish, and landowners in the watershed on projects and events that will lead to watershed health improvements. We track in kind for these projects as well as a part of our grant reporting requirements. Time contributed by our water quality program volunteers is also tracked.

**2018-19 In-kind contributions to the LSWC**



## 2018-19 Statement of Financial Position

Kaft CPA completed our April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 financial review engagement. The LSWC's revenues and expenses for the fiscal year are outlined below.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Brian Elliott Memorial Donations	<b>275</b>	-
General Donation Income	<b>559</b>	4,699
Municipal Government Income	<b>36,000</b>	21,000
Non Government Grant Income	<b>36,754</b>	26,021
Other Government of Alberta Grants	<b>11,561</b>	-
Alberta Environment and Parks Operational Grant	<b>375,000</b>	255,000
Revenue deferred from previous period	<b>87,104</b>	119,532
Revenue deferred to subsequent period	<b>(227,293)</b>	(87,104)
Water Quality Monitoring Program Revenue	<b>29,666</b>	-
	<b>349,626</b>	339,148
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	<b>1,200</b>	1,195
Advertising and promotion	<b>7,505</b>	3,917
Amortization	<b>560</b>	747
Donations	<b>10,000</b>	5,000
Education and outreach	<b>11,570</b>	17,736
GST Expense	<b>3,726</b>	4,902
Insurance	<b>3,984</b>	3,768
Interest and bank charges	<b>386</b>	213
Office	<b>5,971</b>	5,342
Professional fees	<b>2,000</b>	2,014
Project Expenses	<b>27,299</b>	27,581
Rental	<b>14,105</b>	12,000
Repairs and maintenance	<b>227</b>	360
Riparian projects	<b>37,936</b>	22,212
Salaries and benefits	<b>137,633</b>	145,875
Stakeholder engagement	<b>7,808</b>	6,082
Telephone and internet	<b>3,183</b>	3,073
Training	<b>655</b>	1,430
Travel	<b>2,964</b>	6,605
Water quality monitoring	<b>26,425</b>	26,362
Watershed planning	<b>21,904</b>	61,364
	<b>327,041</b>	357,778
<b>EXCESS(DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$22,585</b>	<b>(18,630)</b>

## Watershed Management Planning

The **Lesser Slave Integrated Watershed Management Plan** (IWMP or Plan) is a guidance document and planning tool for resource managers. It sets out common goals and objectives for the long-term management of land and water resources in the basin. The LSWC and Palliser Environmental Services finalized the Lesser Slave watershed plan in 2018 after thorough review and discussion with watershed partners, local and provincial government.

The Lesser Slave IWMP:

- Takes a strong, comprehensive watershed approach.
- Encourages municipal influence by providing recommendations related to municipal development planning, including land use bylaws, for future lakeshore (subdivision) development that is consistent with goals and objectives of the plan.
- Considers wildlife and fisheries management.
- Provides specific recommendations that are accompanied by greater implementation detail, as opposed to general recommendations that are not easily implemented.

2018/19 planning activities included:

- Presentation of the final draft plan to the Alberta Government's Water for Life Cross Ministry Steering Committee in March 2018.
- Presentation of the final plan to local municipalities.
- Development of an IWMP summary document and postcard for plan engagement and sharing.
- Each of the four local municipalities provided a letter to the LSWC endorsing the watershed plan and making a commitment to utilize the watershed plan as a guidance document.
- Meeting with Big Lakes County to review municipal plan recommendations and prioritize them.
- Meeting with Alberta Environment and Parks staff to review provincial government recommendations and discuss future work plans and priorities.
- Development of a watershed plan implementation tracking system that will be kept current with all of the implementation activities underway by implementation partners.
- The LSWC board met with Regional Forest Management Plan development team members to engage in their planning process and ensure IWMP recommendations are considered in the process.
- Print and distribution of the final watershed plan
- Establishment of the IWMP Implementation Committee and development of a committee Terms of Reference.

Visit [www.lswc.ca/iwmp](http://www.lswc.ca/iwmp) to view and download the watershed management plan and summary document. Past planning and engagement work associated with the plans development can also be found online.





### Preliminary Data Trends

A series of wet, dry and average precipitation years are needed to adequately characterize water quality for tributaries in the Lesser Slave watershed. Some of the observations we can make from the data collected to date include:

- Higher river flows transport higher sediment and nutrient loads.
- A strong correlation was observed between total phosphorus and total suspended solids at all sites.
- Routine parameters (dissolved oxygen, pH and conductivity) met guidelines at all sites.
- Similar to total phosphorus concentration, total suspended solids concentration tend to increase from upstream to downstream on each river system.
- River flows are higher from April to July and lower from August to October.



*These samples collected on the Swan River in June 2018 show the change in sediment load and turbidity from upstream to downstream.*

### Data Sharing

One of the goals of the LSWC's Water Quality Monitoring Program is to share water quality data and reports with stakeholders and the public. The LSWC's web site has a water quality page ([www.lswc.ca/water\\_quality\\_monitoring](http://www.lswc.ca/water_quality_monitoring)) where each year's summary report is posted.

In order to make our data sets available for viewing and download the LSWC has partnered with the Walter Gordon Foundation's Mackenzie DataStream. Their mission is to promote knowledge sharing across watersheds and advance collaborative decision-making, so our waters remain healthy for generations to come. LSWC sample locations can be found on the map and all water quality data associated with each site is available for viewing and download. Check it out by visiting: <https://mackenziedatastream.ca/>

Mackenzie  
DataStream

The LSWC has delivered presentations on tributary water quality at our Lesser Slave Lake 101 event in April 2018 and the Big Lakes County Agricultural Services board. The LSWC staff will be developing water quality fact sheets later in the program that will be used for education and outreach.

### Thank you to our 2018 project funders:

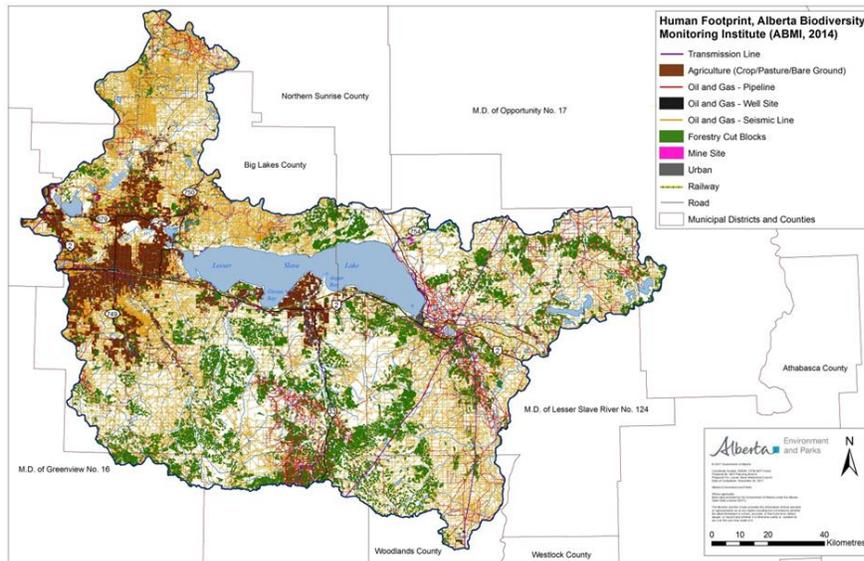


*With operational support from the Alberta Government*

## Watershed Resiliency – Promoting Watershed Stewardship

The LSWC has formed a working partnership with Big Lakes County, Cows and Fish and Peace country Beef and Forage Association to work with landowners to implement projects that improve watershed resiliency while enhancing their operations and land management practices.

The LSWC received financial support from the provincial Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program to implement projects in our watershed. The primary objective of the program is to increase the natural ability of the province's watersheds to reduce the intensity, magnitude, duration and effects of flooding and drought through watershed mitigation measures. Additionally, the program aims to address impacts of past flooding and/or droughts through the restoration of degraded areas in



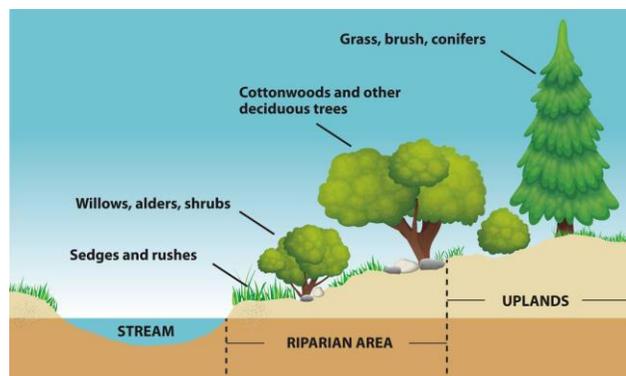
priority watersheds, which will enhance communities' ability to withstand future flooding or droughts. Finally, the program seeks to promote the ongoing stewardship and preservation of key components of Alberta's watersheds.

There are many activities taking place across our watershed, as shown in the landuse

map above. Every use has an impact on land and water resources. We focus our work in the agricultural areas in Big Lake County and work one on one with land owners, mainly beef producers, to implement projects that include things like off stream water systems, riparian fencing, grazing management, weed control, erosion reduction, and livestock crossings.

### What is a riparian area and why do we care?

Riparian areas are the lands adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, where the vegetation and soils are strongly influenced by the presence of water. Although they make up only a small fraction of the land, they are among the most productive and valuable of all landscape types. Healthy riparian areas filter runoff and trap sediment, they protect stream banks from erosion, they reduce the velocity of flood waters and store water and release it in times of drought, shade streams to moderate water temperature, and provide habitat for 80% of the species we have in Alberta.

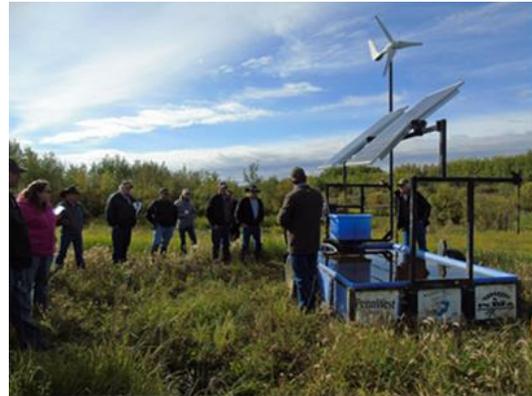


Nutrient loading and sedimentation are major water quality concerns for Lesser Slave Lake. Improving riparian health has a positive impact on overall lake and watershed health.

### Project highlights

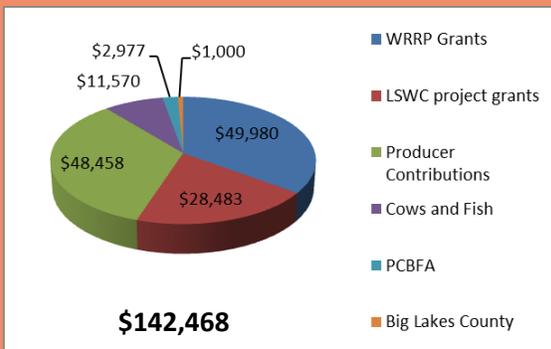
From 2016 to 2019 the LSWC and our partners have worked with five landowners on watershed resiliency projects. The LSWC, with the grant support we receive from the WRRP program and Big Lakes county, covers the cost is the pre project riparian health assessment that examines current riparian health and makes management recommendations. We encourage producers to complete an Environmental Farm Plan to opens up project funding opportunities under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Staff from our partner organizations can aid in completing an EFP, and assist with grant applications. The LSWC is able to share project costs like fencing materials, watering systems, vegetation, and other eligible costs not covered by grants.

To showcase the great work being done we hold an annual field tour and check out the projects that are complete or underway in the region. They are well attended by interested landowners.

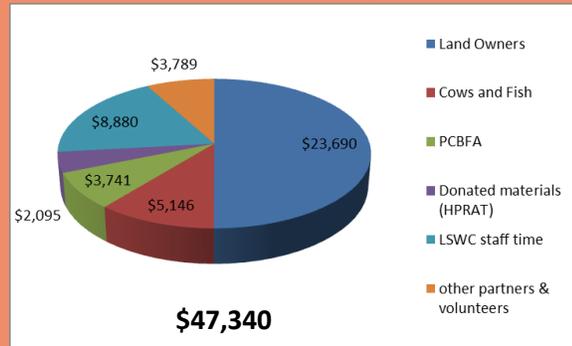


### 2016-19 projects financial summary

Total cash investment



Total value of in kind & donated goods and services



Learn more about our work at: [www.lswc.ca/riparian\\_and\\_wetland\\_resiliency](http://www.lswc.ca/riparian_and_wetland_resiliency)



## Kids Can Catch 2019

The LSWC held the second annual Kids Can Catch Ice Fishing Celebration on February 16, 2019, Alberta's free fishing weekend. The Jossard Community Association graciously let us use the community hall where all of our anglers met to check out equipment, listen to a briefing on fish handling, and pick up information and resources from the Alberta Conservation Association and LSWC.

Out on the ice, local volunteers helped out our anglers by drilling holes, helping bait hooks, and getting people situated in the tents and shacks we had available. Our friends from Tolko ensured our anglers stayed warm by building a bonfire and providing hot coco and we didn't let anyone get hungry with hotdogs and marshmallows to roast. In the hall our friend's from the High Prairie & District Children's Resource Council set up an awesome water themed craft project for the kids to build and take home with them after the event.



The LSWC received a community grant from the Alberta Conservation Association to put towards costs of holding the event. We also received financial support from Tolko in High Prairie and their staff came out to volunteer for the day.

Overall the event was a big success. Despite cold temperatures we have about 100 people join us for fishing and we had 17 amazing volunteers helping for the day.



*This young lady shows off the Walleye she caught at her hole.*



*This lucky kid won \$50 from LSWC Vice Chair Tammy by catching the first fish of the day*



*Many families came out to enjoy the day, even though not everyone caught a fish.*

## Little Green Thumbs Classroom Gardening Program



In 2018 the LSWC supported the Little Green Thumbs program in 13 classrooms in schools around the watershed. We equip teachers with the tools, skills and training to grow classroom gardens. A Little Green Thumbs garden supports inquiry-based, hands-on and

cross-curricular learning. Youth unlock the magic of food and agriculture education and explore the connections between their health, environment and food system.

In the fall of 2018 the LSWC hosted a teacher’s workshop for our program participants at Christies Gardens and Greenhouses near High Prairie. Our Green Thumb teachers learned about the program, the garden kits and how to be successful with their seeds. LSWC staff worked with teachers to ensure the program ran smoothly throughout the school year, made classroom visits to do presentations, and participated in year end celebrations.

Grade 4 students from High Prairie Elementary listen intently as they learn about greenhouse operations from Sarah Nobert.



Students at St. Mary of the Lake School in Slave Lake are excited to fill their soil boxes, get their garden planted and watch it grow!



Christie’s Pollack, owner and operator of Christies Gardens & Greenhouses has been a fantastic supporter of the Little Green Thumbs Program and LSWC. From providing her expertise to help us grow successful gardens, donating plants for classroom gardening activities and opening up the greenhouse for educational tours and scavenger hunts, she is a great local partner.

Funding support for the LGT Program from:



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



Agriculture in the Classroom  
Connecting Kids and Agriculture



## Partners in Environmental Education



The LSWC has been working with the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society (LSFES) to deliver curriculum based environmental education across our watershed since 2010. Water and wetland related programs make up 25% of the LSFES's work and the LSWC is able to contribute financially to the LSFES as well as provide staff lead programs and presentations.

Programs include:

- “Marsh Monsters” or aquatic invertebrate studies
- Water Quality testing
- Spruce Bog Ecology Hike
- Snow Studies
- Fish Life Cycles
- X-Stream Science
- and more upon request

For many programs we do both a classroom presentation to teach the curriculum portion of the unit then take kids out to local bogs, marshes and beaches so they get a chance for hands on learning and exploration in our amazing watershed.



In 2018 the LSWC donated \$10,000 to the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society to support water and wetland related programs across our watershed. In the photo to the left LSFES Executive Director MJ Kristoff accepts our donation from LSWC Chair Tammy Kaleta and Executive Director Meghan Payne. The LSWC is proud to be able to support our partners each year with a donation and provide our staff to lead field trip stations on water quality and aquatic invertebrates.



*Checking out “marsh monsters” is exciting because they come in all shapes, sizes, and life cycle stages. Learning about water quality and why clean water is important is part of our grade 5 programs.*





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Watershed Council**

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