

NSWA GOALS AND 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SUMMARY

1. THE NSWA SUPPORTS COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Focus collaborative efforts on partnerships that can most effectively address the directions and actions of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan*.

2. THE NSWA IS A LEADER IN WATERSHED PLANNING

Complete a 2025 *State of the Watershed* report to provide an update on the watershed health and implementation status of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan of the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

3. THE NSWA PROMOTES WATERSHED KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Focus and align communications efforts on key stakeholders who have the greatest influence on watershed health.

4. THE NSWA REMAINS A FUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

NSWA GOALS AND 3-YEAR STRATEGIES

1. THE NSWA SUPPORTS COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

To achieve this goal, the NSWA will:

Focus collaborative efforts on partnerships that can most effectively address the directions and actions of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan*.

Description: The NSWA will concentrate its support on partnerships that are most likely to positively impact the ability to protect and improve water quality, water quantity, and the health of the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

Rationale: The highest potential to positively affect watershed function and management lies in the ability to combine and leverage the most effective work occurring in the watershed. This work maintains the momentum of the NSWA in using a partnership approach in its work.

- Subwatershed Alliances (e.g., municipalities, Indigenous communities, NGOs)
- Partner NGOs that support on-the-ground watershed work (e.g., ALUS, Ducks Unlimited, Cows and Fish, AWES, EALT)
- Partner projects (e.g., WaterSHED, IH/CR Surface Water Quality Framework, Watershed Integrity Project)

2. THE NSWA IS A LEADER IN WATERSHED PLANNING

To achieve this goal, the NSWA will:

Complete a 2025 *State of the Watershed* report to provide an update on the watershed health and implementation status of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan* of the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

*Description: The NSWA will use the process of updating the *State of the Watershed* report to gather data from new sources, address emerging watershed issues and evaluate the progress of the *Integrated Watershed Management Plan*.*

*Rationale: It has been 20 years since the original *State of North Saskatchewan River Watershed* report was produced. There have been advances in watershed science, monitoring and GIS datasets that would be able to provide a more detailed picture of the NSRW. There is also an opportunity to collect information from new sources such as academia, indigenous communities, municipalities, and citizen science, as well as address emerging issues such as climate change, invasive species and cumulative impacts. This process would also allow for an evaluation of the progress of the IWMP. Been 10 years since IWMP was put together with mixed progress across the plan. Good linkage to the W4L Action Plan.*

- Information from academia, Indigenous communities, municipalities, and citizen science
- Highlight emerging issues such as climate change, invasive species and cumulative impacts
- Use the opportunity to report on the progress of the IWMP

3. THE NSWA PROMOTES WATERSHED KNOWLEDGE SHARING

To achieve this goal, the NSWA will:

Focus and align communications efforts on key stakeholders who have the greatest influence on watershed condition.

Rationale: This approach ensures good reach for minimal cost, while also promoting mutual partnership objectives.

Description: The NSWA will concentrate its efforts on building relationships with and providing knowledge to those most likely to improve water quality, water quantity, watershed health. The NSWA will combine forces with watershed partners with quality education and knowledge platforms, to maximize the reach of NSWA's knowledge and programming.

- Align communications with watershed planning partners such as AEP, Alberta Water Council and other WPACS
- Leverage communications from NGO partners such as Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS), Cows and Fish, Ducks Unlimited, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) and others

4. THE NSWA REMAINS A FUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

To achieve this goal, the NSWA will:

- Seek to broaden and diversify its funding sources.
- Enhance the organization's stability by effectively supporting NSWA staff.
- Provide strong society governance mechanisms and structure.

Description: The NSWA will address three key areas of the organization to ensure its long-term sustainability and ability to adapt to change.

Rationale: To continue to be an effective Watershed Planning and Advisory Council the NSWA must have a strong governance structure, long term funding and committed, qualified staff.